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*Library staff pictured from left: Digital Services Manager Corin Pearce-Haines, Palmerston North Librarian Linda Palmer (rear), and Assistant University Librarian (Technical) John Charles.*

# Information Commons from innovative new partnership

The Library's new Information Commons will be a significant  addition to the Turitea campus.

Librarian and project manager Linda Palmer says the Information Commons is a joint project between the Library and Information Technology Services. It houses 92 computers providing access to Library resources, Microsoft Word and Excel programs, and bibliographic software.

Situated on level two of the Library building, the Information Commons also provides an environment where students have easy access to both the print and electronic resources necessary to complete assignments and course-work.

Library Digital Services Manager Corin Pearce-Haines is looking forward to seeing the facility in heavier use as students return to campus for Semester One.

It's great to offer students a facility that meets the level of computer access that they expect, he says.

Printing is provided from all computers in the Information Commons and students will be able to access web and email services from the facility. Users will also be supported by professional Library and ITS staff who will offer guidance and assistance.

The Library is open at 8am on weekdays throughout the academic year to maximise access to the facility, which will be officially opened on 23 February.

Date: 01/01/2005

Type: University News

Categories: Library; Palmerston North

# Threading together a family history

When Fashion and Textile Design lecturer Nina Weaver wanted to create a family tree, she opted for the tools of her trade.

Rather than map out her genealogy on paper, she sewed a sculpture to represent her family's descent from Italian migrants.

The three-dimensional work resembles the form of DNA as it spirals down. Bands of green, white and red satin symbolise the colours of the Italian flag. The white fabric is edged with trim reflecting the historical costume era. Embroidery anglaise represents the 1950s and 60s, while gold-edged lace symbolises the 1970s onwards.

My grandparents Nino and Bruna Di Somma moved to New Zealand in 1914, and settled in Christchurch, she says. The sculpture tells the story of their 70 descendents.

Ms Weaver created the sculpture as part of her study towards a Bachelor of Education (Adult Education) and intends it to be understood by anyone, irrespective of their age, language ability or cultural background.

She says her son, Nicholas, who has a learning disability, can trace his connections by following coloured threads. He can see where he is from and how he fits in to our family.

Red threads represent bloodlines while gold symbolises occupations, You can trace my family's occupations from watchmaker to lace maker, tailor and designer.

Each family member is represented with a window, decorated with symbols of their occupation.

I have been inspired by the statement 'we teach who we are', she says. Using fabrics seems a natural way to express my family stories. It helps define who I am and who our family is.

Ms Weaver has submitted her work for selection for Wellington's CrossOver exhibition, which will mark Race Relations Day on 21 March 2005. CrossOver will showcase visual art created by Wellingtonians of all ethnicities, and will be held at the Academy of Fine Arts Gallery.

Date: 01/01/2005

Type: Research

Categories: College of Creative Arts

# New Associate Professor in Social Policy appointed

Dr Robin Peace has been appointed Associate Professor in Social Policy within the School of Sociology, Social Policy and Social Work.

She will lead the development of a new Post Graduate Diploma in Social Policy Evaluation, to be introduced in 2006 and with an emphasis on evaluation research that is unique to national programmes in social policy.

The programme will be designed for people with qualifications in social policy evaluation and who work in local and central government and non-government organizations, and seek to up-skill or diversify into evaluation research training.

Dr Peace was previously the principal analyst at the Ministry of Social Development, and before that, an academic in the School of Geography at the University of Waikato. Her research interests include human geography, poverty and social exclusion, and the interface between research and policy development.

I am developing some research ideas about the impact of social policy practice and economic change in provincial New Zealand, Dr Peace says.

My background in geography has given me an interest in the complexity of social, environmental, economic and political change in rural New Zealand.

"Working in government has taught me the value of running research projects that have multiple inputs. You have a chance of getting a better picture of what's going on.

Head of the School of Social Policy and Social Work in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, Professor Robyn Munford, says the School welcomes Dr Peace, and looks forward to her valuable contributions in research and teaching.

**Created: 4 July, 2008**

Date: 01/01/2005

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences

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# Summer school enrolments top 5770

Five days of lectures, workshops and rehearsals culminated with a full-day of performance, installation art demonstration and farewells for more than 95 students of the Summer School Creative Processes course.

The second-year paper has grown steadily since it was first offered in the University's Summer School Programme in 2001. Course coordinator Dr Angie Farrow says 20 staff were employed to teach and direct students' work in a variety of creative disciplines including film-making and script-writing, theatre and dance.

More than 5770 students enrolled in the 170 papers on offer across the University's three campuses. Commenced in mid-November, Summer School will wrap up on February 19th before the first classes of semester one, 2005, begin on the 28th of February.

Later on this month students of the natural sciences Earth Science paper will travel for an 11-day field trip in the Limestone Downs region of Port Waikato. The field camp is one component in the second-year paper and introduces the principles of stratigraphy and teaches the construction of geological maps. Field trips and block courses are a typical requirement of the summer papers, most of which are extramural based.

College of Business papers proved the most popular this year; more than 1700 students enrolled in Palmerston North and another 1100 at the Albany campus.

Professor Mary Mallon, Acting Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Academic), says the benefits of Summer School are many, for a variety of people.

It's a quiet time for professionals to further study interests or professional development. It's also very flexible and practical for field papers in the sciences.

Other courses are shorter and condensed, she says, and ideal for students trying to finish their course or to get a head start on the year's work. Provisional entry means that secondary school students can also study Summer School before their Year 13 results come in, getting a head start on their first year of University study.

Date: 23/01/2005

Type: University News

Categories: Any

# Massey to monitor cervical screening

Massey University has been appointed to carry out independent monitoring for the National Cervical Screening Programme.

NCSP Clinical Leader Dr Hazel Lewis welcomed the appointment and said the unit looked forward to working with the university to ensure quality independent monitoring.

Dr Lewis said independent monitoring was one of several systems the National Screening Unit used to ensure its programmes were working well.

The University has been providing an interim monitoring service since the previous contract with Otago University ended in early 2004.

Cancer epidemiologist Dr Mona Jeffreys from Massey University's Centre for Public Health Research will lead the monitoring work.

Dr Jeffreys, a member of the Cancer Control Taskforce, says We are delighted to provide independent monitoring to the Screening Programme. Regular cervical screening offers women the best chance to reduce their risk of developing cervical cancer. Our input will assist with ensuring that the programme maintains its current high standard. It is imperative that women in New Zealand know they can trust the cervical screening programme. We hope our monitoring service will help them to do that."

Massey University was selected for the role through an open tender process.

All providers for screening programmes are contractually bound by stringent national policy and quality standards and are required to conduct monthly audits to check the accuracy of data entry against their paper clinical records. They also provide six monthly quality plans and undergo visits by programme staff to follow-up monitoring issues.

**Created: 3 February 2005**

Date: 24/01/2005

Type: Research

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences

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# Taiko on the Chathams

Massey researcher Hayley Lawrence was among the guests at the historic opening of the first marae ever built in recognition of the Moriori people. She flew to the Chatham Islands for the event on January 21 when Prime Minister Helen Clark opened the Kopinga Marae in a very moving ceremony with about 1000 people.

Hayley is a PhD student in conservation genetics based at the Allan Wilson Centre on Albany campus. Her research on the Taiko, one of the world's rarest birds, has taken her to the Chatham Islands three times.

The Taiko was once a significant food source to the Moriori people in the Chathams but predators have led to a serious decline in numbers. Hayley is studying the Hokopapa (Whakapapa) of the Taiko or Tchaik as it is written by the Moriori people, working with both the Department of Conservation and the Taiko Trust.

She has collected DNA samples to analyse in order to learn more about this very rare bird and to assist in its conservation. She also seeks oral history about the birds and their habits from local people. It is this research that led to her invitation from the Hokotehi Moriori Trust to attend the opening of the marae.

Date: 24/01/2005

Type: Research

Categories: Any

*Open-mouthed panting puts lambs at increased risk of contracting pneumonia.*

# Managing heat stress and lambs

The high cost to New Zealand sheep farmers of pneumonia in lambs has prompted research into the reduction of the infectious disease.

Heat stress, brought on during exercise-related activities such as mustering, has been identified as the major cause, often intensified by the fever-inducing effects of high-endophyte grasses.

In a paper published in the New Zealand Veterinary Journal, Associate Professor Maurice Alley and PhD student Kathy Goodwin focused on heat stress as a manageable risk factor to mitigate pneumonia in lambs.

A senior researcher in the University's Institute of Veterinary and Animal Biomedical Sciences, Dr Alley says heat stress is common on sheep farms in New Zealand despite the relatively mild summer climate. The paper concludes that, in the absence of an effective vaccine, one of the most positive management actions sheep farmers can take to reduce losses of lambs is to minimize heat stress.

Unhurried mustering and droving, the provision of shade and reducing access to grasses infected with toxic endophytes are recommended, especially in the farming of heat-susceptible British-bred lambs.

Dr Alley says although pneumonia does occur in cold conditions, in these instances it is preceded by hypothermia. Slaughterhouse data obtained over many years has consistently revealed a higher prevalence of pneumonia and pleurisy in warmer areas of New Zealand. This trend, coupled with the late summer and early autumn pattern of disease distribution, highlights the importance of heat stress as a predisposing factor.

The paper also outlines risk factors such as open-mouthed panting, a cooling mechanism by which sheep use respiratory evaporation to lower elevated body temperature. Panting is associated with the spread of disease among sheep, because they lose their nasal defence systems when they open their mouths to pant.

Records maintained by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry show that heat stress was also common in lambs during transport to the Middle East by sea, a practice stopped in 1994 due to repeated ship-board epidemics of pneumonia. Temperatures of more than 25 degrees Celsius over the Indian Ocean caused temperatures in sheep pens to rise. Ship-board veterinarians recorded deaths from pneumonia about 10 to 15 days into the voyage, after the ships crossed the equator.

Dr Alley says pneumonia is likely to have been a problem in sheep since they were first farmed

intensively. There are two distinct pathological and epidemiological forms of the disease recognised both in New Zealand and overseas.

The first, acute fibrinous pneumonia, occurs in sheep of all ages. However in New Zealand it is most common in older lambs during the late summer and autumn, when it is associated with heat stress, transportation, shearing or mustering in hot conditions. The disease has a rapid onset and affected animals are often found dead without premonitory signs. Clinical symptoms include sheep standing apart from the flock, a nasal discharge or an occasional cough.

The second, chronic non-progressive pneumonia, is the more common form of ovine pneumonia in New Zealand. It is seen mainly in lambs aged between five and ten months. Affected lambs show few, if any, clinical signs but when the disease becomes severe they show reduced weight gain, poor exercise tolerance and may have an occasional cough.

Date: 22/02/2005

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences; Explore - Agriculture/Horticulture

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*Easter Island's large crater lake, a focus geological research to further knowledge of climate change.*

# Getting to the bottom of lakes

The large mat of thick swamp-grass-goo on the surface of Easter Island's big crater lake makes a natural raft for geologists studying its depths.

To do so is both precarious and exciting, and Professor John Flenley is looking forward to leading an expedition of Japanese geologists to Rano Kau Lake this month. While there, Professor Flenley and David Feek will drill the lake bottom to a depth of 50 metres to obtain a core sample for study.

The trip follows a three-day workshop recently hosted by the School of People, Environment and Planning. The 5th Asian Lake Drilling work shop united more than 30 well-known geological scientists from Sweden, Japan, USA, Netherlands, Russia, Poland, China, Australia and New Zealand.

Professor Flenley says lakes are one of the best places to study the environment and the climates of the continents over the ages, a treasure trove of data. The lake bottoms preserve important environmental evidence, including pollen grains from the surrounding vegetation (Professor Flenley's area of expertise), and different layers of sediment that reveal trends in climatic history.

He says the lake drilling projects are part of a global research effort to reconstruct past global climates, from which future climate change can be modelled, mathematically using specific software.

In order to predict climate change in the future we need to know about climate changes in the past. To get deeper is to get further into time.

One of the most important missions is to reconstruct the world's climate in the interglacial period between the last two ice ages, about 125, 000 years ago. Professor Flenley this era is of particular focus because it is believed to have had a temperature slightly warmer than today, and the information gained will have applications as a contemporary model for global warming.

The research also contributes to the study of human impact and natural events on climate change. For example, tsunamis will alter the compositions of ocean floors, which are also drilled in similar projects to lakes. Many lakes are also located in areas of tectonic activity, and drilling and coring these lakes shed light on the behaviour of the earth's crust as continents break up and come together.

The three-day workshops were financed by Professor Yoshinori Yasuda of the Centre for Japanese Studies in Kyoto, Japan, and Professors Flenley and Yasuda edited the accompanying workshop book, *Monsoon - Environmental Variability and Human Adaptation in the Pacific Rim*.

The workshop group also enjoyed a tour through the volcanic centre of the North Island, up to an altitude of 1600m and through a varying range of physical environments.

Date: 22/02/2005

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences

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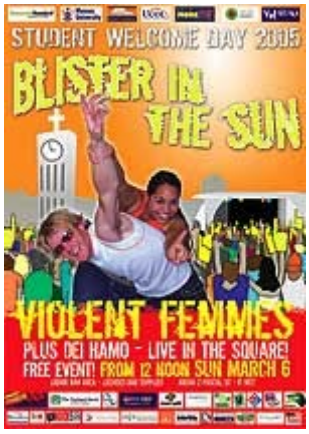
# City celebrates 2005 with student welcome




A free festival and concert launches StudentCity for 2005 featuring legendary USA cult college band Violent Femmes and top New Zealand act Dei Hamo.

The Student City Welcome brings together students, residents, businesses and other organisations for a day of entertainment, education, friendship and fun. The event is on Sunday 6 March in the Square from 12 noon till 8pm.

Student City Coordinator Duncan McCann expects a massive turnout on the day and extends an invitation to all residents of the city. It's not just for students; it's for everybody young and old. We really want to see all sections of the community celebrating Palmerston North as vibrant city and setting the scene for a fantastic year .

Events include:
- Free live entertainment from legendary US cult college band, The Violent Femmes and top New Zealand acts Dei Hamo, The Have, The Dukes and local acts Stitchface, Instep, Relaxo Brothers and Andis 64 Unplugged.
- Stalls for retail, recreation and leisure providers giving local business a great opportunity to engage with students.
- Fun activities, rides and community spirited entertainment.
- Clubs, sports teams and other community organizations highlighting the many activities the city and region have to offer encouraging students to take part in community events.
- Promotion opportunities for other community events upcoming in 2005 such as the Inspire.Net Jets and other sports codes plus our regions theatre and coming events such as the Relay for Life and Festival of Cultures.
- Initiatives to promote health and safety issues to students.
- Information on education opportunities from Palmerston North's tertiary providers.

Just one week after the national Kapa Haka festival, and with an unprecedented calendar of events in 2005 including the British Lions tour, Hurricanes match, Festival of Cultures, motor sport events and much more, the StudentCity welcome is an opportunity to involve students in the wider community.

Student City is an exciting new initiative, bringing together the city's tertiary providers and local-body groups. It will highlight Palmerston North as New Zealand's premier student destination and help new arrivals to the area with orientation of the city. It has been made possible by support and cooperation of many local organisations

Date: 22/02/2005

Type: University News

Categories: Palmerston North

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# New Zealand School of Music appointment

Massey University and Victoria University of Wellington have announced the appointment of Euan Murdoch as Interim Director (Academic) of the New Zealand School of Music.

Mr Murdoch, who is a distinguished teacher and cellist, will lead the new joint School until the appointment of a permanent Director later this year.

Mr Murdoch has stepped aside from his position as Head of the School of Music at Victoria University of Wellington to facilitate the conduct of his new role with the New Zealand School of Music.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Wellington and External Relations) Professor Ken Heskin says the appointment marks a further significant step in the development of the New Zealand School of Music. Mr Murdoch will take up the position immediately.

Date: 22/02/2005

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Creative Arts

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# Making Valentine's Day greener

Massey alumnus Jorge Chiriboga and his father are at the forefront of a burgeoning organic horticulture movement in Ecuador.

They run what they believe is the world's first commercial-scale organic rose operation in the Ecuadorian Highlands, specialising in organically grown red roses.

Biogarden La Pampa aims to grow the cleanest and highest quality roses possible, using natural organic methods. The company is also working with scholars from La Escuela Politecnica Nacional to develop a programme for obtaining and maintaining organic farming standards in Ecuador.

Jorge Chiriboga is general manager of Biogarden and his father Dr. Hernan Chiriboga is executive president. Jorge is an agronomist with qualifications from la Escuela Agrícola Panamericana de El Samoran and from Massey from which he graduated with a Diploma in Agricultural Science in 1990. He lives with his wife and daughter on the Biogarden farm.

The farm's proximity to Chimborazo, the highest mountain in Ecuador, and location in the centre of the world on the Equatorial Line, give it the most favourable natural conditions to produce high quality organic flowers.

The roses are all grown in greenhouses where the climate is maintained at 20 degrees Celsius, with 70 percent humidity. Organic chamomiles, garlic, chilli pepper, and sodium bicarbonate are used as natural pesticides.

Beneficial insects like wasps are released in the greenhouses to combat aphids, creating a natural balance and eliminating the need to spray toxic insecticides. Worm castings, manure, and flower compost are used as natural fertilizers. The water that irrigates the land is drawn from a natural fountain on the property, sourced from a nearby volcano called Altar Mountain.

Biogarden flowers are marketed throughout the United States and were in high demand on Valentine's Day this month.

Date: 22/02/2005

Type: Research

Categories: Alumni; College of Sciences; Explore - Agriculture/Horticulture

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# Thrill of the chase key to problem gambling

Problem gamblers are partly motivated by a need to release tension, says Dr Dave Clarke from the School of Psychology at Albany.

Dr Clarke is part of a research team studying gambling in New Zealand, and recently published a paper in the Journal of Gambling Studies on his research into the motivations of problem and non-problem gamblers.

Dr Clarke collected data from nearly 150 tertiary students in the Auckland region and found a surprisingly high number fell into the category of problem gamblers. Approximately 17 percent were in this category, far exceeding the percentage for their age group in the wider community. He says this figure may be influenced by the availability and accessibility of gambling activities in Auckland.

He found the problem gamblers in his sample group were likely to be depressed and impulsive. They gambled for tension release and excitement and also thought that their parents gambled too much. They wanted to feel important but were unsure of what they got out of their gambling.

Dr Clark says it's widely assumed that winning money is the most important factor for motivating a person to continue gambling. But for the problem gamblers in the sample, seeking release from tension predominated.

Like most addictions, indulging in a pleasurable activity provides temporary relief which in turn reinforces the behaviour. The initial sense of excitement and accomplishment at learning about a game, might be diminished by the boring repetitiveness of the activity, feeling of futility about gambling, and mounting personal problems and reinforcements of tension release.

Playing on poker machines was the most favoured activity of the group classified as gamblers in the student sample group.

Dr Clarke suggested interventions for problem gamblers, including:
- Learning relaxation techniques to reduce tension.
- Meetings, exercises and other actions to raise awareness of things associated with gambling.
- Getting involved in different sensation-enhancing activities such as sports.
- Cognitive therapies to control self-defeating thoughts, behaviours and depression.

**Created: 22 May, 2008**

Date: 22/02/2005

Type: Research

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences

# Student success linked to support services

New research has found that student success is linked to tertiary support services and academic staff development.

The research report was commissioned by the Ministry of Education and was undertaken by a team of Massey University researchers: They are Professor Tom Prebble, Dr Linda Leach and Nick Zepke from the College of Education, Dr Kogi Naidoo and Gordon Suddaby from the Training and Development Unit, and Helen Hargraves.

The Ministry says the research shows tertiary institutions can do a lot to ensure their students achieve success within the tertiary education system.

The research report is called Impact of Student Support Services and Academic Development Programmes on Student Outcomes in Undergraduate Tertiary Study: A Synthesis of the Research. It specifically looks at the impact of student support services and academic staff development on student outcomes in undergraduate tertiary education in New Zealand.

The report notes that students are more likely to succeed when they have access to pre-enrolment advice, academic counselling, opportunities to develop social networks, manageable workloads and good quality teaching.

Other contributors to student success noted in the research include having access to orientation and induction programmes, peer tutoring, and welcoming and efficient institutional behaviours, environments and processes.

An absence of discrimination, so students felt valued, fairly treated and safe was also found to be important.

The research clearly shows that it makes sense for tertiary institutions to continue investing in student support services and academic staff development, says Roger Smyth, Ministry of Education Tertiary Sector Performance Analysis and Reporting Manager.

The report recommends that more research be undertaken on academic staff development and the way it makes a difference to tertiary teaching and learning in New Zealand. It recommends that tertiary institutions be encouraged to use their academic staff development units as centres for research about teaching and learning, as well as centres for training and development.

Gordon Suddaby says there has been very little previous research on the effect on achievement of academic staff development. The research is already attracting attention in New Zealand and internationally, from those working in the academic development area. It is generating a lot of interest.

The release of the report coincides with news that the Government intends to set up a new body to monitor teaching standards at universities and polytechnics.

The planned National Centre for Tertiary Teaching Excellence is expected to look at compulsory teaching qualifications and put in place quality assurance systems.

The research report by the Massey team is available on the Ministry of Education website www.minedu.govt.nz/goto/researchrecord

**Created: 14 March, 2005**

Date: 24/02/2005

Type: Research

Categories: Any

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# New understandings on foetal suffering

New insights into the effect of external stimuli on babies before birth confirm they do react to a range of stimuli but they are not consciously experienced.

The insights are the result of a fresh evaluation of relevant literature conduced by the Animal Welfare and Bioethics Centre at Massey University. A collaboration been Massey researchers and the Fetal Physiology and Neuroscience Group at Auckland University has also produced insights of relevance to human foetuses.

**The human implications**

Research leader Professor David Mellor says there is no doubt that babies before birth react to a range of stimuli because the sense organs of fetuses in the uterus begin to work well before birth.

Touch, sound and other stimuli have various effects on the body, including eliciting movements. But the evidence, accumulated over the last 25-35 years, is that this does not occur at the conscious level. There are many other examples of sensory inputs that have effects on the baby (including body movements) that do not involve consciousness. For instance babies with no cerebral cortex (the part of the brain essential for consciousness) can respond with movements and hormone release and heart rate changes.

Sensory input (resulting from stimulation of touch, sight, sound, taste and other sensory nerves) does occur in the fetus and does have effects. Although the evidence is that this is not at the conscious level, it is possible, and some evidence suggests that it is in fact likely, that such effects persist well beyond birth.

Professor Mellor says such effects will be very significant in nervous system development: There is reason to consider that some might very well be at least benign, and perhaps even positively advantageous, depending on what they are. Playing music and speaking softly could well have beneficial effects.

**The animal welfare implications**

Conclusions from the original Massey research on the potential for suffering in fetal and newborn farm animals will be presented at the Compassion in World Farming Conference in London next month.

Professor Mellor's conference paper notes that sentience and consciousness are prerequisites of suffering. The paper examines the ability of the fetus and newborn to receive sensory information and to 'feel' sensations (noting that these sensations must be sufficiently noxious or aversive to cause suffering). The paper explains that although the required structures and mechanisms do develop by the time of birth, the embryo and fetus are apparently never conscious: Consciousness first appears only after birth, associated with first exposure to air, gravity, hard surfaces, unlimited space and, usually, to cold ambient conditions.

The paper concludes that the embryo and fetus cannot suffer before or during birth, and can only occur in the newborn when the onset of breathing oxygenates its tissues sufficiently. Professor Mellor says there are major positive animal welfare implications in this new understanding.

**Created: 7 March, 2005**

Date: 24/02/2005

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences; Explore - Agriculture/Horticulture; Explore - HEALTH

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# Reporting on bird flu control in Asia

International disease control experts Professor Roger Morris and Dr Ron Jackson have been asked to implement a risk management plan amidst the bird flu epidemic in Asia.

The EpiCentre researchers recently presented a 250 page report for the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization to a meeting of more than 200 people in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.

One year since the first report of the epidemic, there have been more than 3000 outbreaks of bird flu. Professor Morris says the infection is slowly coming under control, with a remaining concentration in South East Asia. The report analyses the situation in each of the infected countries, and proposes a risk management approach based on vaccination, management of markets, and separation of different types of poultry during production to prevent exchange of infection.

The Minister for Agriculture in Vietnam has asked the Massey team to implement their approach and Dr Jackson will revisit Vietnam to provide more detailed guidance. Professor Morris and Dr Jackson conducted research in affected countries for their report, commissioned several months ago when it was thought the epidemic was almost over.

Professor Morris says there is continuing concern about the possibility of the virus gaining the ability to spread between people, and although the disease has been brought under control in some countries, there has been a resurgence in others.

The team of analysts who have worked on the country reports have shown that the epidemic has changed character this year, switching from a pattern that involved wild birds to one in which marketing systems are the main factor responsible for continuation of the epidemic, he says.

A year ago, Japan and South Korea quickly eradicated their outbreaks by slaughtering affected poultry before they could spread the disease further, but now the emphasis has to shift to managing the marketing system using new surveillance procedures, vaccinating at least some high-risk bird populations, and improved biosecurity within poultry populations, with special emphasis on species such as ducks and quail. We have to reduce the amount of virus circulating in these countries, to protect both birds and people.

Professor Morris says people and poultry can be protected, and the virus reduced, if sufficient resources are put in place.

The biggest problem we face is that although there has been a lot of public concern globally, the resources going into controlling this problem are tiny, but the dangers of failing to bring the epidemic under control are enormous. We can only hope that the world community will begin to make a stronger commitment to dealing with this issue at the meeting in Vietnam.

**Created: 28 February, 2005**

Date: 24/02/2005

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences; Explore - HEALTH

# Raising teaching training standards

Strict application of entry standards has meant fewer first year students in Massey University's College of Education's teacher training programmes.

Pro Vice-Chancellor Professor James Chapman says strict adherence to the entry requirements has resulted in fewer students being accepted into teacher training programmes. The strict application of the standards has had a particular effect on intake for the primary training and distance training programmes.

However Professor Chapman says the move to strictly enforce standards is in line with the needs of the education sector. The selection process included screening for literacy and numeracy skills. There's a lot of concern about the literacy and numeracy skills of students training to be teachers. That's not too surprising. Results for the 1996 International Adult Literacy Survey showed that around 10% of college of education graduates across New Zealand performed below acceptable levels on tests of literacy and numeracy.

Professor Chapman says the Massey College of Education is committed to the highest possible quality of students graduating from its programmes. We can significantly improve the quality of our graduates by being more careful in the selection process, he says. We lose too many students because they find our teacher education programmes too demanding. They either drop out or are excluded because of poor performance.

We want to accept into our programmes those students who are likely to succeed. It's not fair on students to take them into the programme if they don't have the necessary skills for learning in the first place.

Professor Chapman also says each candidate for teacher training has been interviewed to make sure they have the right qualities for teaching and working with children.

Even though numbers will be down in the primary area, he says there is strong interest in the secondary and early childhood areas. Numbers are also strong in post-graduate education papers. Massey University has the country's leading post-graduate education programmes, with around 80% of all post-graduate education students in New Zealand enrolled at the University.

Date: 24/02/2005

Type: Research

Categories: College of Education

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# Visiting social work professor makes Massey connection

Emeritus Professor June Thoburn made the most of a week's visit to New Zealand, meeting senior staff in the School of Sociology, Social Policy and Social Work, with whom she collaborates on an international research project.

From the University of East Anglia in Norwich, UK, Professor Thoburn holds the Leverhulme Fellowship to study data on children in out-of-home care in different countries. She is a leading researcher in family support child protection and child placement and in 2000 became a member of the newly formed General Social Care Council for England which has put in place a registration process for social workers.

At Massey, Professor Thoburn shared her experiences of working with the Social Care Council and the task of introducing a new registration process. She discussed with School researchers the changes in the UK and the increasing split between social work with adults and social work with children and families.

With Professor Robyn Munford and Dr Jackie Sanders, Professor Thoburn is part of an international research team to which they contribute findings on studies of families and wellbeing. The School of Sociology, Social Policy and Social Work's participation focuses on community centres and their role in family and community change.

**Created: 24 December, 2004**

Date: 24/02/2005

Type: Research

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences

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# Housing prices likely to stabilise despite new confidence

Confidence in the housing market remains high but Professor Bob Hargreaves predicts that prices will stabilise.

The ASB's Housing Confidence Survey shows a resurgence of confidence in the housing market, as more people now think it is a good time to buy, reversing the situation in October.

The proportion of people who believe conditions are favourable to purchase a house has risen to a net five percent, up from net minus seven percent in October 2004. Twenty-six percent believe it is a good time to buy, compared with 21 percent who think it is not.

In an interview on National Radio, Professor of Property Studies Bob Hargreaves suggested such attitudes are basically driven by the economy which has been going well. However he notes the margin of error for the survey is about four per cent.

Looking at turnover rates, he notes that they have been coming down. So although prices are still fairly high, there's a gradual slowing down in the volume of transactions.

He believes the volume of sales will continue to drop off, saying; It's still positive but much less than it was.
He dopes not think the housing market is heading for a slump but says it looks like it is may go sideways.

Date: 24/02/2005

Type: Research

Categories: College of Business

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# The New Zealand Mindset List

As the university year starts, a team of New Zealand academics has thrown light on the historical, social, economic and cultural mindset of most first year students.

The 2005 New Zealand Mindset List provides insight into events that incoming first-year students have experienced (or not) and how they are likely to see the world as a result. The list also captures a picture of New Zealand and the world in 1986, the year most of them were born.

The list was inspired by a similar list published each year by Beloit College in Wisconsin. The New Zealand academics admired the intent of the Beloit list (which is intentionally American-centric). So they decided to create their own.

"The principal purpose of the New Zealand Mindset List is to raise awareness that our students have grown up in a world different from our own. Their mindset is different, and we need to be aware of this in our teaching and our interaction with them," says team leader Dennis Viehland, Associate Professor of Information Systems at Massey University's Albany campus.

"However, we also had a great time discovering the world of New Zealand in 1986 and how much (or how little) has changed since then. This was especially pertinent since several team members were not in New Zealand in 1986, something that is common in most university staff.

The team is promoting the inaugural Mindset List to their university colleagues as well as to the New Zealand public. Dennis Viehland says: "We think all New Zealanders, whether they were here in 1986 or not, will enjoy reflecting on the world into which the first-year class of 2005 was born."

Most items reflect New Zealand events, such as the introduction of GST and Lotto in 1986, as well as visits from the Pope and the Queen. Other items are derived from global events such as the Challenger shuttle accident, the return of Halley's Comet and the Chernobyl nuclear disaster.

Some items are amazingly relevant, such as the passage of The Homosexual Law Reform Bill in July 1986 which decriminalized homosexual acts: Now, in 2004, Parliament has passed the Civil Union Bill. "In this instance, we've come a long way in a

**The 2005 New Zealand Mindset List:**

- Most students starting university in 2005 were born in 1986.
- New Zealanders have always paid GST.
- Mt Egmont has always been Mt Taranaki too.
- School Certificate has always been on the way out.
- The Queen has always had egg on her coat.
- The Government's attendance of Waitangi Day celebrations at Waitangi has always been controversial.
- New Zealand yachts have always lost major races due to broken masts.
- The United States has always been fighting terrorists.
- MMP has always been the preferred method for national elections.
- These students have never seen the Pope kiss New Zealand soil.
- Telecommunication companies have always struggled to figure out how to manage computer access on local lines.
- These students have never seen Halley's Comet.
- New Zealanders have always been able to play Lotto.
- New Zealand has always had gambling casinos.
- These students have always gone to schools governed by a local board of trustees.
- Chernobyl has always been a nuclear disaster.
- Homosexual sex has always been legal in New Zealand.
- Tenzing Norgay has always been dead.
- France has always been apologetic about blowing up the Rainbow Warrior.
- The Challenger Seven have always been dead astronauts.
- AIDS has always been present in New Zealand.
- Sarah Ferguson or 'Fergie' has always been married or divorced.
- The Mikhail Lermontov has always been a sunk Soviet cruise ship.
- New Zealand railways have always been in financial crisis.

fraction of a person's lifetime," says Judith Hoek, a teacher at Carmel College and a member of the List team. "The world has changed in the lifetime of these students, and all New Zealanders will appreciate this aspect of the Mindset List."

The New Zealand Mindset Team included: Howard Frederick, UNITEC; Judith Hoek, Carmel College; Claire McLachlan, Auckland University of Technology; Dennis Viehland, Massey University (Team Leader).

The 2005 New Zealand Mindset List is the first such list but not the last. The team intends to produce a list at the start of every academic year.

The New Zealand Mindset List is shown below. The list is also published at http://mindset.massey.ac.nz. The term 'Mindset List' is a registered trademark of Beloit College and is used with permission. All rights reserved.

- New Zealanders have always been able to get their warrant of fitness from local garages.
- New Zealand has always had more than 3.3 million people.
- Small domestic manufacturing industries have always been in decline.
- In New Zealand, George Nepia (legendary rugby fullback), Eric Hiscock (renowned New Zealand yachtsman), Lili Kraus (noted Mozart pianist), Viscountess Cobham (popular wife of a Governor General) and Leonard Trent (Victoria Cross airman) have always been dead.
- Internationally, James Cagney, Desi Arnaz, Benny Goodman, Cary Grant, Ron Hubbard, Harold Macmillan, Ricky Nelson and Wallis Simpson have always been dead.

Date: 24/02/2005

Type: Research

Categories: College of Business

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# Einstein's theory still stands

A mathematician working at the Wellington campus held a seminar last week demonstrating some of the diverse applications of Albert Einstein's basic principles about the random motion of particles that still hold today.

This year is International Year of Physics, thanks to the most famous of all scientists, marking a century since the German scientist published his papers on diffusion, relativity and the photo-electric effect.

Geoff Walmsley, 22, who is about to start his masters at Victoria, has spent the summer working with his father, Dr Alan Walmsley, in the Food, Nutrition and Human Health Institute, investigating a new way to parameterise body sway - the movement that occurs in all humans, whilst supposedly standing still.

As we stand, there are small corrective movements that we unconsciously make so that we stay upright, Mr Walmsley says.

The point on the ground below us as we stand, known as the centre of pressure, usually halfway between our feet, actually moves around over time. It performs what is called a 'random walk' - described perfectly by Einstein's equation of diffusion.

Although 'random', the centre of pressure's walk usually moves within a defined boundary. If it doesn't, we fall over.

Dr Walmsley said he and his son wanted to quantify the amount of body sway humans have and test the theory that rather than being truly random and following the normal laws of probability, or Gaussian distribution, centre pressure movements followed stable distribution rules, which have their roots in Einstein's diffusion theories.

Stable distribution has been used to model financial markets and calculate risks.

Dr Walmsleey says practical outcome of research that improved understanding of postural stability could more easily identify the likelihood of a particular person suffering a fall, and find ways to prevent it.

Date: 01/03/2005

Type: Research

Categories: Conference/Seminar

# The New Zealand Supercar Unveiled

*Watch the Close Up video (9:16)*

Invited guests were the first to see a New Zealand supercar at the University's Great Hall today.

For the last two years the Hulme.F1 Champion 1967 has been developed in secrecy, but now Supercars Limited is ready to show the world what it has been creating.

Named in honour of New Zealand's only Formula One World Champion Denny Hulme the Hulme.F1 Champion 1967 is a jaw-dropping racing machine designed for road use.

The public's first chance to see the Hulme.F1 will be at the '2 Hot 2 Handle' motor show to be held at Wellington's Westpac Stadium from 26-27 March. A launch in Auckland will be held on March 31.

Coordinating the design team is Tony Parker, Associate Professor and head of the University's Industrial Design department.

New Zealand has established a reputation for building the best yachts in the world. I believe we also have the technical capabilities and the industrial infrastructure to create a quality, hand-built performance car," says Mr Parker.

At the unveiling Greeta Hulme said that her late husband would have been really chuffed with the spectacular design.

The concept of the Hulme supercar is a mid-engine design with a high-tech powertrain and chassis that gives the driver the feeling of driving a Formula One car on the road. The car features a modified BMW M5 engine joined to a specially designed transaxle, wrapped in a carbon fibre body.

Supercars Limited plans to produce a number of cars for crash testing, with production to start in 2006.

They will then produce 100 cars a year. A minimum of 500 will be built.

A price has not yet been set, but it is expected to sell for somewhere between $400,000 and $600,000.

The idea for a Kiwi-made supercar first came to Auckland entrepreneur Jock Freemantle, who approached Mr Parker in 2002 to co-ordinate the design team.

Tony Parker has been passionate about cars since he was a boy. For many years he indulged his enthusiasm by sketching car designs during weekends. It was only in 2003 when he met Jock Freemantle, fellow car enthusiast and serial entrepreneur, that he began to see how far his hobby might go. Together Jock and Tony not only improved the design, they also developed the dream of recapturing New Zealand's leading position in car design that was lost overseas in the late 70s.

Jock formed SupercarsNZ Ltd with financial backing from a global network of angel investors. Now, two years on, Tony's design has been transformed from paper plans to a revolutionary supercar constructed of the finest lightweight materials. The design captures the essence of Formula One for ordinary road users albeit wealthy ones.

Massey University is supporting the events, which will raise the funds necessary to complete the development path to market. But this is only the first of what is planned to be a long series of world-beating car designs emerging from New Zealand. This vision will be achieved by consistent and significant reinvestment in the knowledge base in New Zealand enter Massey University. SupercarsNZ Ltd has committed to reinvest a significant percentage of all profits in the School of Transport Design at the Wellington campus.

Professor Nigel Long (Assistant Vice-Chancellor - Research) says, "It's a great example of what can be achieved when academic expertise is matched by entrepreneurial drive and enthusiasm. This is an innovative partnership whose value in the long term lies with the critical mass of funded scholarships which not only create knowledge but also maintain it within New Zealand."

Also speaking at the unveiling was Charles W.  Chuck Pelly.

Mr Pelly is a leading American industrial designer. He has worked on everything from go-karts, racing cars, snowmobiles, farm equipment, catamarans and vehicles for GM, Chrysler, American Motors, Mazda, Subaru and BMW.

New Zealanders are true leaders in innovation and design, We've seen that in the yacht industry and now we have a New Zealand design and built car to compete against the best, he says.

Mr Pelly is the founder and former President of Designworks/USA, which he grew from a staff of three to one of the world's best industrial design offices and BMW's U.S. design studio. Under Mr Pelly's leadership, in 1998 Designworks/USA was rated one of the Top 10 World's Best Industrial Design Offices, by D.C. Groupe in Frankfurt, Germany. Mr Pelly is now a consultant with Pelly Design Management, serving as a corporate strategist on design and creative development.

**Feature** - Making his marque - Hulme F1 designer Tony Parker tells his story

More information at http://www.supercarsnz.com

Date: 01/03/2005

Type: Research

Categories: College of Creative Arts; Video Multimedia

# New qualifications in Public Health

New qualifications in public health are now available through the Wellington campus and the Research School of Public Health. They are taught extramurally and by block course.

Senior Lecturer in Public Health, Dr Mona Jeffreys says the Postgraduate Diploma in Public Health (PGDipPH) will appeal to academics wanting a grounding in public health, and to those working in government health agencies such as District Health Boards, the Ministry of Health, ACC, OSH, and Land Transport New Zealand, as well as the non-government sector.

We are responding to demand for a flexible qualification which offers opportunities for the practical experience of developing and conducting your own research, she says.

What makes this programme distinctive is the inclusion of a compulsory, hand-on research component, and its emphasis on Māori and Pacific health issues.

Dr Jeffreys says the field of public health is inherently multi-disciplinary and extends across the biological, quantitative, and social sciences, with a strong policy focus.

We have students working in cervical cancer research, accident prevention, workplace safety, transport safety, and investigating attitudes among Māori women towards alcohol use during pregnancy.

Preventing disease is at the heart of public health, so practitioners also study the social sciences to better understand health-related behaviours and their societal influences. These are critical elements in educating and empowering people to make healthier lifestyle choices.

The Master of Public Health degree will appeal to those who have completed the Diploma or equivalent. It is offered through all of the Centres of the Research School of Public Health (Centre for Public Health Research, Te Pumanawa Hauora, Sleep/Wake Research Centre, SHORE Centre and Whariki).

The Masters degree gives students the opportunity to complete a more substantial piece of research, Dr Jeffreys says.

For more information: http://publichealth.massey.ac.nz

Date: 01/03/2005

Type: University News

Categories: Any

*Four of the Institute of Food Nutrition and Human Health's eight internationally accredited technicians: from left to right: Linley Fray, Wei-Hang Chua, Debjit Dey, James Liu.*

# Accreditation recognises laboratory expertise

Of all New Zealand's university scientific laboratories, four in the Institute of Food, Nutrition and Human Health stand alone under recent international accreditation.

Eight senior technicians in the immunology, microbiology, nutrition and physiology labs in the Human Nutrition cluster, and the nutrition lab in the Animal Nutrition and Physiology cluster, have gained accreditation with International Accreditation New Zealand (IANZ).

The particular standard accredited, ISO17025, is a significant development for the labs and recognises the technicians' expertise. The Institute's quality manager, Anne Broomfield, says the accreditation is highly attractive to the Institute's clients and partners, both in New Zealand and overseas, for whom quality of technical skill and procedure are crucial.

Mrs Broomfield says the IANZ evaluators made an initial assessment in March 2004, and late last year the accreditation was confirmed and the technicians awarded status as Key Technician Personnel.

She says the main difference between commercial and university laboratories, as recognised by external clients, is the strength of research capability.  Our technicians can help develop a project or product further. They have the ability to trouble-shoot and advise.

Date: 01/03/2005

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Sciences

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# Recognition for good practice

Massey University has become the first New Zealand tertiary institutions to be listed in the Australian Universities Quality Agency (AUQA) Good Practice Database.

Three examples of good practice by the University were listed at the end of last year, along with eight from the University of New England and three from RMIT University in Melbourne.

AUQA is an independent, not-for-profit national agency that promotes, audits, and reports on quality assurance in Australian higher education. Its Good Practice Database was launched in November 2003 as a benchmarking resource for higher education organisations seeking information on good practices to adapt and adopt.

The contribution of New Zealand entries is the result of a recent Memorandum of Understanding between the agency and the New Zealand Academic Audit Unit (NZAAU) which provides similar independent validation of New Zealand good practices. AUQA defines a good practice as a discrete system or activity that that has been identified by AUQA or NZAAU as adding commendable value for the institution and that may be beneficially transferable to other organisational settings.

The director of the New Zealand unit John Jennings says the two countries have much that they can offer to and learn from each other.  This level of collaboration is a significant development in ensuring our countries are operating at the highest international standards.

The three Massey University entries selected by AUQA for entry on the database are: The Māori@Massey strategy, the Workloads Policy and Procedures and the review of Academic Policy Formation.

After identification by AUQA, the entries were coordinated by Quality Manager Malcolm Rees, Academic Policy Manager Shelley Paewai, former Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Academic) Professor Luanna Meyer and Policy Analyst for the office of the Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Māori), Kayrn Kee.

The AUQA Good Practice Database can be visited at http://www.auqa.edu.au/gp

Date: 01/03/2005

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: Uni News

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*Captain Ashok Poduval*

# High flyer for School of Aviation

The School of Aviation starts the new year with a new leader and a new structure, and a series of seminars on aviation safety initiatives.

Last year the school was subject to a review and a subsequent restructuring. A key change, which took effect at the end of December 2004, was the consolidation of flight systems and academic activities in Palmerston North. Previously the school had two bases the original base at Milson and a second, at Ardmore in Auckland.

The change had strong support from the aviation industry. The consolidation allows greater interaction between flight systems and Palmerston North-based academic staff in the College of Business, and it is also cost effective.

In Auckland, the school has a joint initiative with Air New Zeaalaand, wherein the airline provides technical training to students who enrol for the Bachelor of Aviation Aircraft maintenance major programme. The school also has a new agreement with the Nelson-Marlborough Institute of Technology which allows students to staircase from the NMIT aviation diploma to the Bachelor of Aviation Management.

As part of the school's renewed focus on contribution to the aviation industry, the first project for 2005 is a series of seminars on aviation safety. The first, run by the school's Flight Safety Group, will be held on 17 March in Palmerston North.

Titled 'Controlled Flight into Terrain prevention through Threat and Error Management , it will include a presentation by the school's new General Manager Captain Ashok Poduval, followed by parallel workshops.

The target audience includes Massey students and instructors as well as participants from the general aviation industry.

Captain Poduval says the school is committed to aviation safety,  not merely for our own institution, but for general aviation all over the country. The philosophy of 'teach them young' is particularly applicable to budding aviators, and we are strong believers in this approach.

On the seminar's focus, Captain Poduval says a controlled flight into terrain, or CFIT, accident is one in which a fully functioning aircraft, under the control of a qualified crew, is flown into terrain with no apparent awareness on the part of crew.  Assuming the mechanical state of the

aircraft is beyond question, we are led to conclude that the problem lies with the functioning of the flight crew, and in a wider sense, the environment and systems within which the crew were operating.

To a non-aviator, such a lapse, leading to an accident, may seem simplistic and easily avoidable. However, they are more complex than they appear and happen with alarming regularity all over the world, more in general aviation than in the scheduled airline industry.

Such accidents occur for a variety of reasons, including crew disorientation, loss of awareness of position in space often associated with flying in inclement weather, and inadvertent descent below minimum prescribed altitudes caused by high workload. Official statistics show that as little as 10 years ago more fatalities were attributed to CFIT than to any other causes and indications are that it continues to be a significant factor in accidents and fatalities.

Captain Poduval says in light of recent general aviation accidents in New Zealand, the School of Aviation regards it as an appropriate time to highlight safety initiatives with a seminar. Those initiatives include Threat and Error Management, also known as TEM, which is training philosophy that prepares flight crew to recognise external and internal threats and to apply appropriate behaviours to achieve required outcomes.

TEM has particular importance for general (or smaller) air operators. Large, so-called scheduled operators have managed to successfully reduce the number of CFIT accidents through the use of sophisticated electronic warning systems that alert the crew to the proximity of terrain. Such equipment is mandated by civil air regulations in most countries. But Captain Poduval says it is expensive: General aviation can ill afford the luxury of these 'clever' warning systems. They have to rely upon human awareness, and making the best use of available procedural 'tools' such as TEM.

Visit: http://aviation.massey.ac.nz

# Safety expert to lead School of Aviation

Internationally experienced aviation manager, and professional airline pilot, Captain Ashok Poduval has been appointed to head the Massey University School of Aviation as General Manager.

Captain Poduval brings a wealth of aviation industry experience, with a practical background as a professional airline pilot, senior management experience in the airline industry, and tertiary qualifications in aeronautics and business administration

His experience includes positions as Head of Human Resources, Head of Corporate Training and Development, and Manager Human Factors Programme with Gulf Air, and Director Flight Operations and Safety Services with the International Air Transport Association (IATA).

Capt. Poduval will lead a renewed emphasis by the school on leading edge research, best practices and contribution to the aviation industry, both nationally and internationally. The Massey University school was established in 1990 and is the only school in New Zealand that provides integrated professional and academic programs offering university-level degrees, as well as graduate and post-graduate programs in aviation management.

During his four-year tenure with IATA, Capt. Poduval was involved with global industry issues relating to airline flight operations and safety, including the IATA Airline Safety Audit programme and the Global Safety Data Base project. He was also Secretary to various IATA committees and working groups, including the Flight Operations Committee, the Safety Committee, Human Factors Working Group and the Flight Crew Training Working Group.

As Manager and training captain on A-320 and B-737 aircraft, with more than 12,000 hours of airline flying experience, he developed and conducted a 'human factors' programme for Gulf Air.

He has also written and presented papers on aviation safety at various international seminars. His varied experience also extends across corporate training, employee development, and human resource management.

Date: 01/03/2005

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Business; Explore - Aviation

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*Palmerston North Registrar, Student Life Dr Sandi Shillington is joined by MUSA President Iain Galloway, Deputy Regional Registrar Janet Thompson, and Deputy Vice Chancellor Professor Ian Warrington on a London double-decker bus that visited the Palmerston North campus promoting the city's free bus service for students.*

# University welcomes new students

The University welcomed new students across all three campuses last month as the 2005 academic year kicked off.

Commencement dinners were held for new students and their families giving them the chance to mix with staff and guests in a relaxed environment.

Greeted by Academic staff, Palmerston North students were addressed at Arena Manawtau by Mayor Heather Tanguay, while Wellington Mayor Kerry Prendergast addressed students in the capital.

A powhiri was also held at the North Shore welcoming new students onto the Albany campus.

Workshops offered throughout the week covered budgets and finances, health, tips for assignment writing, and notetaking from lectures.

Palmerston North Registrar, Student Life, Dr Sandi Shillington says with the increasing diversity of the student population, it is important for universities to provide sufficient support for students, to help them navigate the transition from school, or employment, to university study.

Our focus through the 'Let's Get Going' programme is to help students develop a balance between their study, social life, and extra-curricular interests, while introducing them to the different forms of support available at the University.

Date: 01/03/2005

Type: University News

Categories: Palmerston North

# Olympic athletes to visit

The Palmerston North campus will play host to a civic reception for Sarah Ulmer and Hamish Carter on 2 March.

The Olympic champions are coming to the city for a full-on schedule of events in 24 hours.

The visit is the initiative of Paddy Doyle and Eliz McGuinness, owners of the McDonald's Rangitikei Street. They say they have organised a series of events with a total community focus.

The athletes' schedule includes visits to a number of secondary schools, including Awatapu College, Palmerston North Boys' High School and St Peter's College. There will also be a meeting with cycling enthusiasts from the city, a gala dinner at the Convention Centre and a civic event at the Institute of Rugby on the Palmerston North campus.

Paddy Doyle and Eliz McGuinness say their principal reason for bringing the athletes to Palmerston North was to get them into the schools.

The main event of the day will be the civic reception at the Institute of Rugby, hosted by Massey University and the Southern Cross Hospital. A fleet of complimentary buses (courtesy of Madge Coachlines and Southern Cross Hospital) have been organised to ferry people to and from various locations in the city to the Institute of Rugby.

The organisers are also asking those with vehicles to pool their resources and bring neighbours and friends needing transport. The event at the Institute will run from 4pm-5.15pm on 2 March. There will be a free draw to win one of three Avanti bicycles which will then be autographed by Hamish and Sarah. Mayor Heather Tanguay will present a gift and The RadioWorks team will M.C the proceedings.

The day rounds off with a gala dinner at The Convention Centre at 6.30pm.

Inquiries about events should be made to Eliz McGuiness at 027 2333 720 or emcguinness@xtra.co.nz

Date: 01/03/2005

Type: University News

Categories: Palmerston North; Sport and recreation

# Researching Lives and Lifestyles

The lives and lifestyles of the large proportion of New Zealanders who fall outside of the mainstream labour force are under the scrutiny of a Massey research team.

The Albany based cross disciplinary research team is focusing on groups outside the more visible labour force, in a project with the working title 'Work Life Balance'. Support from the Albany Research Fund has enabled the 11-strong team from sciences, social sciences, business and social agencies to combine their expertise.

The team proposes to produce a book as the result of their study on work and life balance. The researchers are looking at the lives of fulltime fathers, grandparents who find themselves in the role of parenting their grandchildren, caregivers, artists, professional Chinese women in New Zealand and home based workers. They're also interested in learning more about cultural responsibilities, sustaining relationships and the role of voluntary welfare organisations in the wider picture of work life balance.

The team initiated a meeting at the Albany campus with representatives from a number of government departments and agencies likely to find the research interesting in teams of policy and strategy development. They included the Department of Labour, Treasury, The Ministry of Women's Affairs, Te Puni Kokiri, Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs, Office of Disability Issues, Family Commission, Human Rights Commission, the EEO Trust, Federation of Voluntary Welfare Agencies and Massey University's Centre for Women and Leadership.

Date: 01/03/2005

Type: Research

Categories: College of Business; College of Humanities & Social Sciences; College of Sciences

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*Bek Coogan's United Bible Studies; from the series Mitre Vagina, 2005*

# Fine Arts graduates explore our world in a new exhibition at the Bartley Nees gallery.

Our World investigates ideas of the fantastical, imaginary and the banal in everyday life.

Bek Coogan, who completed a Master of Fine Arts in Wellington in 2004, has developed a video still from her graduation work 'Mitre Vagina'. This work examines the tensions between the different ways of reading the land and the body and explores the connections with religion and spirituality. Greg Sharp, who graduated from the School of Fine Arts in 2003 and is now a computer graphics modeller at Weta Workshops, draws from memory and the imagination to create surrealistic drawings creating allusions to what is seen rather than depictions.

Professor Anne Noble presents a fresh take on her explorations in Antarctica, with a set of works exploring artefacts preserved in Shackleton's Hut. Focusing on cataloguing tags attached to objects, the images reflect on the intersection between science and history.

Professor Noble also has work included in an exhibition entitled 'High Chair' at the St Paul St Gallery, Auckland which opens on 23 February. This exhibition, featuring painters, sculptors, photographers and filmmakers, explores the relationship between nature and nurture, freedom and repression, care and control.

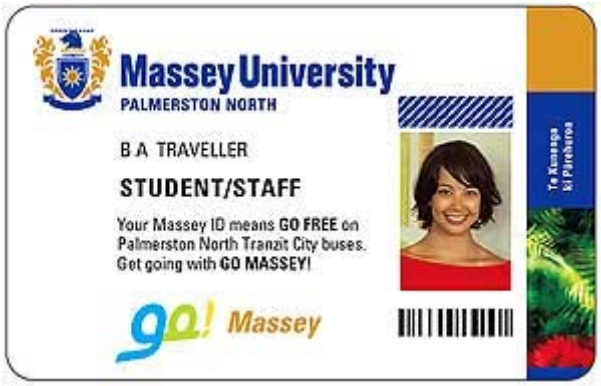
Our World runs until 26 February at the Bartley Nees Gallery,147 Cuba St, Wellington. Information can also be found at: www.bartleyneesgallery.co.nz

Date: 01/03/2005

Type: Features

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences; Exhabition/Show

# Go Massey! free bus service launched




The new ID smartcard for Massey salaried staff and Palmerston North internal students features technology enabling unlimited free bus travel on any Tranzit city bus, anywhere in Palmerston North.

More than 13,000 smartcards have been distributed in the past fortnight. Director of National Student Relations Pat Sandbrook says the technology has been thoroughly trialled, and the cards are of a proven, industry standard.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor Professor Ian Warrington says the initiative of a free city bus service for staff and students is unique among New Zealand universities. There are many successful international free bus schemes operating. The initiative furthers the University's goals towards environmental responsibility and complements the University's and the city's efforts to make Palmerston North a vibrant and student-friendly city. It is anticipated that the service will help to address growing traffic congestion, with more than 11,000 people travelling to and from the Palmerston North campus during semesters.

A new  Go! Massey timetable has been designed to better fit with lectures, and the routes extended to include the city's main concentration of student flats. Connecting services from other parts of the city have also been organised to minimise waiting times. The most popular routes will be recorded via a ticket issued from the matching card-reader installed in each bus, to assist with further streamlining of the system. Campus bus stops have also shifted from the Ring Road to the heart of campus, with the construction of a large station behind the main concourse, at the back of the science towers.

Bus timetables are available at: Massey Contact - Ground Floor, Registry Building; Reception, Tower Block, Massey Hokowhitu; I-Site (Information Centre) in The Square; Palmerston North City Tranzit city buses and depots , and under the Transport link at www.horizons.govt.nz

For further information about the  Go! Massey free bus service, phone 0800MASSEY (0800 627739).

Date: 01/03/2005

Type: University News

Categories: Palmerston North

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# Fostering achievement of Maori youth

A unique educational initiative to foster the high achievement of Maori youth in sport and academia, the Tu Toa Trust will operate under a memorandum of understanding with the University.

The trust will provide an educational programme for secondary school students that is compatible with the demands of top level sport, with flexible timetabling and an emphasis on sporting excellence and commitment to Maori culture.

Co-located at the University's Hokowhitu campus, students will have access to sporting facilites, and the programme's Correspondence School curriculum will be supported by a network of Massey mentors and tutors.

Professor Ken Milne, Dean of the Graduate Research School, represented the University at the signing of the memorandum, which was attended by the Minister of Maori Affairs, Parekura Horomia, Palmerston North MP Steven Maharey and Labour M.P John Tamihere.

At the signing Professor Milne congratulated the team behind the Tu Toa Trust, the Durie family, and emphasised the quality of the concept embodied in the memorandum between the trust and the University. He says the University and the Manawatu region in particular provide an ideal blend of educational and sporting opportunity for the selected secondary school students. He anticipates the relationship between the two parties will further facilitate the transition into tertiary education for students of the trust, and provide a model of good practice for future educational initiatives.

Nathan Durie says the concept grew from the establishment of Sports Dome Developments, a private company founded by his brother Ra Durie to sponsor intensive training for Maori tennis players. The Palmerston North based company features a unique geodesic dome, housing two tennis courts, and offers accommodation for participants. Nathan Durie says the trust builds on this desire to provide specialised education to students who face the demands of their chosen sport.

The trust has links with Aotearoa Māori Tennis, New Zealand Tennis, Netball New Zealand and Netball Manawatu, Sport Manawatu, and rugby at provincial and national levels. It is constituted as a charitable trust governed by a board of seven trustees. Professor of Māori Research and Development Mason Durie has been appointed chairperson of the board.University researchers Awerangi Durie and Dr Farah Palmer are also members.

Date: 01/03/2005

Type: Research

Categories: College of Education

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# Methods of marking New Zealand's wildlife

A team of three from the University's Animal Welfare and Bioethics Centre have compiled a comprehensive guide to marking New Zealand wildlife.

PhD student Ngaio Beausoleil worked alongside Professors David Mellor and Kevin Stafford on the two publications, published by the Department of Conservation.

Methods for marking New Zealand wildlife: Amphibians, reptiles and marine mammals is primarily a guide and reference for wildlife researchers and scientific managers. Its smaller companion, Marking amphibians, reptiles and marine mammals: animal welfare, practicalities and public perceptions in New Zealand, is both a quick reference resource for researchers and a guide for the public. It is available free of charge from DOC Science Publishing (science.publications@doc.govt.nz).

Ms Beausoleil says it is important that people know where to find answers to questions they might have concerning the marking of wildlife. Visitors to a seal colony, for example, might spot an animal with a small transponder glued to the fur on its back, designed to be shed with the seal's annual molt, and native birds wear highly visible coloured leg bands.

DOC approached the Animal Welfare and Bioethics Centre in 2001, at the instigation of DOC. Ms Beausoleil conducted a thorough literature review and consulted the country's wildlife experts to evaluate the critical areas to be covered. From 2003 to 2004 she focused on editing the bulk of information and fine-tuning the material relating to animal welfare.

Throughout this time she has been working on a PhD thesis on the behavioural and physiological responses of sheep to humans and dogs, with a focus on animal welfare implications. She is in the process of analysing data from a collaborative project with animal scientists at the University of Western Australia, and last year presented preliminary findings at a conference in Finland.

The larger of the two DOC publications introduces the practice of marking wildlife as an integral part of wildlife research. The tagging, branding and tracking of New Zealand's native species is necessary to: identify individuals or groups of animals to study demographics, behaviour, ecology; to estimate population size and to determine the rates of survival, reproduction and recruitment within specific populations; and to develop and verify aging techniques, and to ascertain growth rates in individual animals.

The book makes recommendations of best practice methods for specific animals, to ensure the most effective and humane methods are employed, and to minimise disturbance to the animal. The advantages and disadvantages of particular methods are outlined, and a bibliography points to further

Date: 01/03/2005

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences; School of Veterinary Science

# How the kowhai reached the Chathams

A team of scientists, including Steve Trewick from the Allan Wilson Centre for Molecular Ecology and Evolution, is throwing new light on the biological evolution of the Chathams.

Steve Trewick leads the biologists in the team of 22 scientists who have been researching the islands. The project is funded by an $870,000, three-year Marsden grant from the Royal Society of New Zealand. Their Chathams Emergent Ark research survey breaks new ground internationally.

The find, last week, was surprising because kowhai trees are rare in the Chathams. But seabirds are abundant, and the kowhai seeds were found between nests of the northern royal albatross.
- Simon Collins, NZ Herald The group's work and some of their discoveries were the subject of a recent special feature in the New Zealand Herald, titled 'Sisters' Secret is Out', by science journalist Simon Collins.

On one of the tiny rocks called the Sisters, north of the main Chatham Islands, scientists found two kowhai seeds, writes Collins. The find, last week, was surprising because kowhai trees are rare in the Chathams. But seabirds are abundant, and the kowhai seeds were found between nests of the northern royal albatross.

Massey University biologist Steve Trewick believes the seeds were probably spotted by an albatross at sea, swallowed, and regurgitated on the Sisters, along with fish caught on the bird's foraging expedition to feed its chick.

On this remote rock stack in the ocean Trewick had stumbled on a crucial piece of evidence in a 150-year-old scientific debate which still rages. It was the kowhai's plant type, Sophora (formerly Edwardsia), whose widespread distribution around the Southern Hemisphere inspired Charles Darwin to think about how plant and animal species might have spread around the globe.

Contemporaries of Darwin believed the only way to explain such patterns was that there must once have been land bridges between what are now separate land masses, during ice ages when the sea level was lower. But Darwin believed in the role of wind, ocean currents and seabirds such as the albatross. The work of the research team of biologists and geologists appears to confirm his belief.

Since Darwin's time, writes Simon Collins, scientists have recognised that plants and animals can cross narrow seas to colonise new land but no one has been able to show that plants and flightless animals could cross huge distances of ocean - such as that between New Zealand and the Chathams - without land bridges or human intervention.

However  another scientific revolution, genetics, has given biologists a new set of tools to analyse the differences between species of living things.

Steve Trewick says analysis shows that the plants and animals of the Chathams are genetically similar and in some cases identical to those on the New Zealand mainland, despite sometimes different appearances.

There are communities of plants that are specific to the islands. Chathams forget-me-nots really do look different. The pigeons are a bit bigger, he says.  But a lot of the plant species are called a different species because they are on an island.

Steve Trewick believes that beetles, wetas and other creepy-crawlies probably stowed away inside logs which were then washed out to sea and blown eastwards by storms.

Plant seeds may have drifted for days on the ocean and germinated when they reached land. Others may have been swallowed by seabirds and carried to their nesting places, like the kowhai on the Sisters.

What are now flightless birds may have once had the power of flight and reached the Chathams and the New Zealand mainland, then evolved to lose their wings because there were fewer ground predators.

The Herald reports that Steve Trewick's analysis shows a takahe species once found in the North Island was genetically closer to a flying ancestor species than it was to the modern South Island takahe, which must have evolved independently from its flying ancestor.

Trewick concludes new characteristics - such as those caused by changing from flight to ground-dwelling - can happen much faster than previously thought.

The full text of the special feature by Simon Collins can be read at
www.nzherald.co.nz/index.cfm?c_id=5&objectID=10010744

Date: 01/03/2005

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences

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# New text book in social psychology

A new textbook written by social psychologist Dr Keith Tuffin introduces innovative and contemporary developments in social psychology research.

A text for second year social psychology students, Understanding Critical Social Psychology aims to provide a bridge between traditional social psychology and the newer critical approaches to the discipline.

Social psychology is the branch of psychology that studies people and their relationships with others, within groups, and within society as a whole. Dr Tuffin has researched and taught the discipline for more than twenty years and has, in this period, documented changes that have occurred within the discipline. He also identifies the under-explored areas of the discipline, including the language of written journals, diaries and conversation.

In the prologue to the book Dr Tuffin says the longstanding ambition of social psychology has been to unlock the secrets of human social life. This pursuit is then assessed in the textbook through an examination of the philosophy, theories and methods of contemporary social psychology. In conclusion, the discipline has only partly met the promise of revealing the core insights into human social actions.

Four years in the making, Understanding Critical Social Psychology, features key themes of the discipline including prejudice, politics, identity and emotions from critical perspectives. Dr Tuffin says the alternatives offered by critical approaches to social psychology remain controversial in the larger network of social psychologists. He addresses the lack of prominence of critical work in social psychology textbooks and the reluctance of leading British social psychologists to attempt to publish their work in leading mainstream American journals.

Date: 01/03/2005

Type: Research

Categories: Book; College of Humanities & Social Sciences

*Prime Minster Helen Clarke, was first up last year, in the Recreation Centre's cricket academy with Takapuna Cricket Club representative Neil Murray and Professor John Raine Deputy Vice-Chancellor Auckland (at rear).*

# Albany Recreation Centre on par with the best

The Albany campus Recreation Centre has attracted steady interest from the highest levels of all the major sporting codes since it opened just months ago. Already a number of top teams and sportspeople are training in the facility which is on a par with the best in the country.

Now New Zealand top soccer players will be a regular feature at the Recreation Centre following the signing of an agreement with the Knights Football Club (KFC). The University has developed a wide ranging agreement with the Knights that has implications beyond the sporting, to a number of academic courses with a positive impact on the campus.

The soccer players will offer free coaching to students and provide discounted tickets to events. They will provide data to sports science and sports management students and researchers and offer placement within their organisation to students for research.

In turn, the University is offering a scholarship to a team member that meets entry requirements and is offering the team restricted access to the Recreation Centre facilities. Some staff may offer consultancy to the KFC players and management under the agreement.

Netball North Harbour and The Breakers basketball team have already been using the facility and an agreement is likely to be reached soon with the region's top rugby team.

The national cricket team had also inquired about access to the cricket academy within the centre for practice.

Date: 01/03/2005

Type: University News

Categories: Auckland; Sport and recreation

# Senior lecturer's brush with tsunami

An overseas leave report from Ganes Ganesalingam, senior lecturer in the Institute of Information Sciences and Technology had a very different ring to it.

Dr Ganesalingam reported on the statistics conference that he attended and helped organise, in Sri Lanka. He also noted that he, his wife Prema and their three children were in the south-western Sri Lankan coastal city of Galle on Boxing Day when the tsunami hit, smashing through their beachfront hotel, injuring them and flooding the area.

The family was lucky not to be on the beachfront side of the hotel when the wave swept through at 9.30am. In a sequence later reported in the Manawatu Standard, the family were originally given two beach-view rooms, but the toilet in one room and the toilet in another was faulty, so they were moved to rooms across the hall.

When the tsunami hit, the family were preparing to go upstairs to the dining room for breakfast before checking out. The water smashed through glass walls and then doors on the beachfront side before swamping their rooms.

Mrs Ganesalingam suffered deep cuts to her knee and legs and had to have about 30 stitches. Dr Ganesalingam suffered a cut elbow and injured his arm while rescuing others from the deluge. Daughter Varny's Achilles tendon was sliced through, and she was left on crutches. Son Ram and younger daughter Chelvi escaped relatively unscathed.

The family were heartened by the help they received from Emirates airline, which brought their return trip forward a week, and say they were overjoyed to touch down in Auckland and relieved to be back in Palmerston North in one piece.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor Palmerston North and Extramural, Ian Warrington was also in southern Asia in the aftermath of the tsunami. He arrived at Bangkok International Airport on 27 December, a day after the tsunami hit.

Professor Warrington knew of the Boxing Day tsunami before he left New Zealand, but decided to press ahead with his holiday.

He had been planning to stay at Phuket - one of the worst-hit areas in south-west Thailand - but opted for Hua Hin on the eastern coast instead.

He had a closer look at the devastation on New Year's Day, when he travelled to a resort near Krabi.

While in Thailand Professor Warrington delivered a presentation showing how Massey can offer postgraduate training to international students.

Date: 01/03/2005

Type: University News

Categories: College of Sciences

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# New Zealanders more entrepreneurial than most

New Zealand consistently outranks Asian countries and Australia as an entrepreneurial country, says Australian small business expert, Professor Michael Schaper.

The Global Entrepreneurship Monitor placed New Zealand 5th in 2004, and the nation has been placed among the most entrepreneurial in the world since the Monitor began in 1999. The Global Entrepreneurship Monitor covers 40 countries.

Professor Schaper was the keynote speaker at the SME Centre's research symposium held at the University. He holds the Chair in Entrepreneurship and Small Business at the University of Newcastle in Australia and has just been appointed Commissioner for Small Business in Australian Capital Territory.

He spoke about big picture trends and the way in which the sector dominates the business population of most countries. He also discussed the lack of a common definition of what an SME is.

SMEs make a significant contribution to the economy, and in New Zealand 97 percent of all businesses employ 19 or fewer fulltime staff, with 86 percent of all enterprises employing fewer than five staff. Australia and New Zealand have proportionately more SME owners per head of population than most APEC nations.

The Ministry for Economic Development credits small businesses as key job creators, stating that SMEs contributed 84 percent of the net employment change between 1997 and 2003 162,150 out of the 193,980 extra FTE positions.

New Zealand is to congratulated on its active research and education sector focusing on SMEs, Professor Schaper says.
Government has a key role, he says.  Do they treat small businesses as something to be controlled, regulated, accepted or encouraged?

Given that most new businesses start small, governments are wise to offer encouragement.

The analogy I use is ants and elephants. Most of the action is happening at the microscopic level. Jobs are being created in sectors that hardly existed 20 years ago web-based businesses, small public relations firms, aged care, and after-school tuition, for example.

Prior to his academic career, Professor Schaper worked for several years as a professional small business adviser in Australia. In addition, he ran his own business and was involved in a numerous other start-up projects. He also spent several years working as a ministerial adviser at the state and federal level, acting as a policy adviser, speechwriter and consultant to numerous cabinet ministers and Members of Parliament.

Date: 01/03/2005

Type: Research

Categories: College of Business

# A head start growing winning racehorses

Equine researchers have found that exercise in very young horses is beneficial to the health of joint cartilage, and could give pasture-reared horses in New Zealand a head start in terms of their soundness.

The University's specialist equine research centre, led by Professor Elwyn Firth, collaborated with other universities in a study of the effect of conditioning exercise in pastured foals from a few weeks old.

Dr Chris Rogers, a senior researcher at the centre, says that in Australia our thoroughbred horses are known to be tough six percent of the racing population comes from New Zealand but they win almost 80 percent of the most important races there. International attention is focused on how young horses are reared before they are sold at yearling sales, but there is no information on the benefit or harm of conditioning exercise from an early age.

Foals were exercised daily on a grass track, and this caused no ill effects to bones, tendons, muscles or joints. Nor was behaviour or weight and height gain different from foals which did not have the conditioning exercise.

Of most importance was that exercise was beneficial to joint cartilage, with more live cells and less cartilage defects in the conditioned foals.

The team is now determining if the early conditioning had positive effects on injury when the horses were trained for racing. The results of the study will have major implications for horse trainers and the design of training programmes, and for the number of horses remaining injury-free during training.

Date: 01/03/2005

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences; School of Veterinary Science

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# Investigating the health effects of 'first milk'

Christine Crooks is looking for older people on Auckland's North Shore to participate in a study related to immunity.

Ms Crooks, a PhD candidate at the Albany campus, attracted considerable attention last year with her study that showed colostrum supplements may boost immunity levels in marathon runners. Bovine colostrum is the first milk produced by cows after the birth of a calf.

Her ongoing research further investigates the effects of bovine colostrum on levels of the antibody IgA in saliva. This antibody affects immunity levels in people and the new study focuses on the effects of a colostrum supplement on the levels of an antibody found in saliva immunoglobulin A.

"A health concern for older people is that they may experience a higher frequency of 'colds' and other respiratory problems because of a declining immune system. Inadequate nutrition has been found to be a major cause of immune problems with ageing,  Ms Crooks says.

It's now being recognized that an important approach to improving immune health in older people is through the use of specific dietary supplements.

For the study she wants healthy adults aged between 65 and 75 years to take bovine colostrums supplements and to give saliva samples to test the effect of the supplements on immunity antibodies. Interested people may contact Ms Crooks at C.V.Crooks@Massey.ac.nz

Date: 01/03/2005

Type: Research

Categories: Any

*Researcher Margo van den Berg tests her alertness in the new Human Time Isolation Facility at the Sleep/Wake Research Centre. She is using a psychomotor vigilance task device which measures reaction times. The electrodes attached to her head and face measure brain activity, eye movement and muscle tone in order to determine her neuro-physiological alertness and sleep state. These electrodes will not be used in Ms Paine's melatonin study.*

# No rest for sleep researchers

New Zealand's first Human Time Isolation Facility was put to the test at the Sleep/Wake Research Centre in January.

Sleep/Wake researcher Sarah-Jane Paine put three of her colleagues to bed for 18 hours, but sleep was definitely off the agenda. So were coffee, tea, alcohol, chocolate and bananas, as they interfere with melatonin production.

The Isolation Facility removes all the external cues which have the potential to influence the circadian body clock, such as daylight, temperature, noise, television, and clocks. The facility consists of three cubicles in a sound-proofed room, with controlled temperature, humidity, and lighting, and an attached bathroom.

The purpose of the study was to look at melatonin production over the course of the night. Melatonin is a hormone produced at night in the brain, and sunlight and artificial lighting can suppress production. The evening rise in melatonin secretion is one of the most reliable markers of the phase of the circadian body clock, Ms Paine says.

You need to isolate someone from the normal time cues in order to see what their body clock is doing. I enlisted three of my colleagues for the trial run to test out study protocols and procedures.

The circadian clock is the biological clock in the human brain that regulates many aspects of metabolism, physiology and behaviour, including sleep and awake patterns. Ms Paine and her team of researchers Riz Firestone, Heather Purnell, and Margo van den Berg were rostered on through the night to monitor the study. Saliva samples were taken every half hour. These are analysed in Adelaide to measure melatonin levels.

Although the Isolation Facility is designed to remove significant external cues, the unexpected can still occur. A 5.5 earthquake struck during the morning, but didn't last long enough to disrupt the study. We were relieved it only lasted a few seconds, says Ms Paine. If it had been worse we would have had to abandon the study.

For sleep researcher Nat Marshall it was a long night. After 30 hours awake he says he was

hanging out for a sleep. Although confined to bed for the period of the study, he was permitted to watch DVD movies, play games or read.

Ms Paine is a PhD student at Massey, supported by a Health Research Council Maori Health Scholarship. Her full study, which also has support from the Lottery Grants Board, will compare the melatonin rhythms of 30 morning-type people and 30 evening-type people recruited from a questionnaire survey, to see if their differences in sleep patterns are linked to differences in their circadian body clocks.

Researchers Dr Leigh Signal and Margo van den Berg are planning a 40-hour study to investigate the effects of sleep inertia the feeling of grogginess that people with disrupted sleep patterns such as shiftworkers experience.

Director of the Sleep/Wake Research Centre, Professor Philippa Gander says - Bringing the time isolation unit to this exciting stage has involved the active support of a number of key people at the University including Professors Nigel Long, Barrie MacDonald and Neil Pearce, and the Regional Facilities Management team, particularly Liam Halpin, Ian Rudd, and Barrie Jackson. All the Sleep/Wake Research Centre team have also pitched in with an exceptional level of enthusiasm.

Date: 01/03/2005

Type: Research

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences; Explore - HEALTH

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*Director Ryan Hartigan works with Awatapu students*

# Summer Shakespeare hits the road

University staff and cast of the third annual Summer Shakespeare festival, Twelfth Night, visited secondary schools in the Manawatu last week as part of a school tour leading up to the production that will take place in March.

Producing work that is relevant and accessible to contemporary audiences is a key objective in the annual festival. Building on the success of the last two years, excerpts from the production were taken on the tour of secondary schools following director Ryan Hartigan's original initiative.

Visiting Artist Mr Hartigan, accompanied by Dr Sarah Ross from the School of English and Media Studies, kicked off the tour at Awatapu College last Tuesday, joining principal cast members who showcased excerpts from Shakespeare's Twelfth Night. Mr Hartigan also facilitated workshops during which students were encouraged to participate in dramatic excerpts from the text.

Mr Hartigan, a Chapman Tripp Theatre Award winner, has set this year's production in the 1920s, capturing the festive spirit and extravagance of the era.

Shakespeare's Twelfth Night will be staged in the Victoria Esplanade Rose Gardens over two weekends next month: 11, 12, 13 March and 18, 19, 20 March, with Friday and Saturday productions beginning at 6.30pm, and Sunday matinees at 3pm. The event is open to the public, and admission is by donation.

Arrangements have also been made for a wet weather venue. If in doubt on the day, telephone 356 9099 ext 7288 one hour before the start time for venue confirmation.

Date: 01/03/2005

Type: Features

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences; Exhabition/Show

*Shown above: Professor Kinnear greets the delegation from Peking University. From left: Associate Professor Yingzi Zheng, Director of Project Management with the Office of Scientific Research, Professor Hongya Gu, Deputy Dean of the College of Life Sciences, Professor Zhenfeng Xi, Dean of the College of Chemistry and Molecular Engineering, and delegation leader Professor Xing Zhu.*

# Closer partnership with Peking

A visit to the University by senior representatives of Peking University heralds a closer relationship between Massey and the leading Chinese institution.

The Vice-Chancellor Professor Judith Kinnear hosted the visit which she describes as aimed at establishing a long term, mutually beneficial relationship with Peking University, around key areas of research.

She notes that the two universities share common interests in key research areas including genomics, nanotechnology and protein structure and functions. Peking University also works closely with Shihezi University, which has strengths in agriculture research, and Professor Kinnear says Massey is looking to join that partnership.

The delegation was led by Professor Xing ZHU, Dean of the Office for Scientific Research at Peking University. The discussions in New Zealand follow a visit to Beijing by College of Sciences Pro Vice-Chancellor Professor Robert Anderson and Associate Professor Alex Chu in September last year.

The four Peking delegates visited all three of the University's campuses during their time in New Zealand, from 13 to 20 February. However the main emphasis was on the Palmerston North campus where they met with key researchers and Manawatu community leaders, at two formal dinners.

Shown above: Professor Kinnear greets the delegation. From left: Professor Zhenfeng XI, Dean of the College of Chemistry and Molecular Engineering, Professor Hongya Gu, Deputy Dean of the College of Life Sciences, Professor Yingzi Zheng, Director of Project Management with the Office of Scientific Research, and delegation leader Professor Xing Zhu.

Date: 01/03/2005

Type: University News

Categories: Auckland; Palmerston North; University Council; Wellington

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Prime Minister Helen Clarke makes her mark on one of the new interactive whiteboards

# Interactive whiteboards - The future of schools, here today

The innovation of interactive whiteboards make memories of chalk scratching on blackboards seem way, way back in the distant past.

Project Activate, an exciting advance in education, had children linked together via the interactive whiteboards, from a school in Auckland to a group in Invercargill when it was launched by the Prime Minister recently.

Project Activate is a collaborative project involving two school clusters based at either end of the country, ICT and community development organisations and the College of Education at Albany Campus.

The focus of the project is on developing and studying innovative approaches to teaching and learning with the interactive whiteboard technology.

For the schools involved Project Activate brings a number of significant benefits including on line resource sharing and professional development in leading edge applications of ICT to learning and teaching. For the University's College of Education it brings opportunities to carry out innovative ICT projects, build relationships throughout the education sector and build profile.

Date: 01/03/2005

Type: Research

Categories: College of Education

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# Rod off to Otorohanga

Rod the little blonde kiwi under treatment at the University's specialist Wildlife Ward in Palmerston North has a new home waiting for him in Otorohanga. The Otorohanga wildlife park and kiwi house will continue to care for the North Island brown kiwi, with his full face of white feathers around his head, spreading to a scattering on his chest and back.

There, it is hoped he will successfully breed and pass on his rare genetic variety sometimes described as a partial albino. Few documented cases of the colouring variation exist there is a single painting of one found in Otorohanga in the 18th century and a specimen in the Canterbury Museum.

Date: 01/03/2005

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences; School of Veterinary Science

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# Dispensing advice on medication

New research shows a third of New Zealanders base important decisions about medication on information received from television medical dramas such as ER.

The finding is one made by a team of Albany based marketing researchers, led by Associate Professor Lynne Eagle. The team have undertaken the most complex study ever on the role of marketing communications in getting consumers to understand and comply with instructions for taking their prescribed medications.

In New Zealand, 5,000 questionnaires were dispatched and respondents were asked to rate the importance of a range of information sources on medication options. Their doctors were seen as the most important source but a third cited alternative medicine practitioners as very important sources and more than 30 per cent rated the media as a very important information source.

The research also suggests that millions of people are failing to take prescribed medications correctly whether by accident, by design or because they've failed to understand instructions. Ineffective or inadequate communication with consumers accounts for about half of all non-compliance with medications.

The team had previously completed a widely publicized project on direct to consumer advertising of medications. They worked on the recent non-compliance project in collaboration with the Dunedin School of Medicine. Their research was also fuelled by discussions with the Federal Drug Agency in the United States, which confirmed to Dr Eagle that little research had been done on the subject.

The researchers say non-compliance with prescribed medications is a major problem, with significant micro and macro implications world wide.

From a review of existing literature, the team found that compliance/adherence rates internationally are on average no better than 50 percent, with rates for behaviourally demanding treatment regimes being much lower, as are rates for many lifestyle treatments.

Existing data shows that an estimated US$100 billion is lost in incremental health care costs annually due to non-compliance. Indirect costs exceed $US1.5 billion in lost earnings and US$ 50 billion in lost productivity in America annually. Non compliance is the direct cause of 10 percent of all American hospital admissions and in heart disease alone, non-compliance accounts for 125,000 avoidable deaths every year. Around 11 percent of healthcare expenditure in the USA is attributed to medical non-adherence.

A widespread factor is found to be the capacity of patients to understand or be able to comply with medication related to taking their medication. Poor communication between doctor and patients is a reoccurring theme in research literature where there is often a lack of individualized medication counselling and a lack of written as opposed to verbal instructions.

Research to date is part of a major ongoing study. When factors contributing to non-compliance have been more clearly identified, potential interventions and communication strategies can be developed and trialled, say the researchers.

This initial research will be presented by Dr Eagle's team in Germany this year at one of the world's leading marketing conferences.

Date: 01/03/2005

Type: Research

Categories: College of Business; Explore - HEALTH

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# Survey presented to Manawatu exporters

An inaugural study of exporters in the Manawatu surveyed 120 exporters in the region with a focus on aspects of the business that either hinder or facilitate success.

Dr Rom Rudzki and Dr Catherine Wallace from the Department of Management presented the preliminary results of the survey to Manawatu exporters last year and a full report is due in mid-2005.

A collaboration between the University, economic development agency Vision Manawatu and New Zealand Trade and Enterprise (NZTE), the project highlighted significant issues about the nature of the business of exporting. Vision Manawatu chariman Ian Reid says the initiative will lead to greater productivity between the three participants.

This type of research is particulary important to the Manawatu, which has a high number of exporters, and consequently a complicated exporting infrastructure. Local business is often quick to position itself for export as they are already shifting products to regions like Wanganui and Wellington, and the next step to Australia is a consequence.

Funded by the College of Business, the survey highlighted website usage and e-commerce as one of the most helpful business tools, and found the logistics of freighting to be a challenge. From the brand-new to those with more than 120 years of business under their belt, the 120 participating companies identified Australia, the USA, Japan, Malaysia and the UK as the most important markets. Significant areas of red tape included government regulations, obtaining MAF certificates, and the process of customs declarations.

Boosts to business included cooperative relationships with customers and clients, freighting companies, the larger exporting industry cluster and NZTE. Survey participants said potential areas of improvement by the Government included the reduction of the New Zealand dollar, tax and interest rates, and the establishment of an export-credit guarantee scheme.

NZTE could improve exporters' situations by maintaining and enhancing the market presence of New Zealand brands, and by conducting market research. Vision Manawatu could contribute by supporting start-up companies in their early years of business, encouraging the use of local suppliers, and by advising companies of useful government initiatives. Suggestions of increased involvement by the University included the provision of expertise in intellectual property - and the research of business-related problems, such as post-harvest shelf-life.

**Created: 7 February, 2005**

Date: 01/03/2005

Type: Research

Categories: College of Business

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*Pictured (from left) are: Dr Barbara Jordan (Researcher), Ms Karen Laird (Massey Childcare Acting Director), Mrs Cushla Scrivens (Researcher) and Ms Raewyne Bary (Manager, Hoiho - infant section).*

# Massey Childcare becomes a Centre of Innovation

The University's Childcare Centre has been named one of four Centres of Innovation for early childhood education by Education Minister Trevor Mallard.

The new Centres of Innovation aim to support research into teaching and learning, and strengthen effective teaching practice in early childhood education. They will join six other established Centres of Innovation in an initiative that is part of the Government's 10-year strategic plan for early childhood education.

Massey Childcare Centre, Palmerston North, will focus on educational leadership and learning for infants and toddlers. Their research will explore communities of practice and attachment-based learning.

Research associates Dr Barbara Jordan and Mrs Cushla Scrivens will advise the centre, assisting with resources in an 'action research project' intended to improve the centre's practices, as well as research.

Clearly the teachers are the lead researchers, Dr Jordan says, We will support their research through our own relevant research, articles and thinking.

Acting Director of the Child Care Centre Ms Karen Laird describes the project as an 'exciting, timely and challenging development for the Centre'.

Date: 01/03/2005

Type: University News

Categories: Palmerston North

# An electronic inventory of all living things

Massey scientists are leading the way in a landmark international research project that aims to identify every living creature in the world using genetic 'barcodes'.

Borrowing a concept from scannable barcodes on supermarket products, this project will develop an electronic inventory to identify every organism in the world, but will use a molecular barcode instead of a black and white stripe.

At the forefront of the project is a group of New Zealand scientists led by Professor David Lambert from the Allan Wilson Centre for Molecular Ecology and Evolution.

With a cost of US$2.5 million and a time-frame of 20 years, DNA barcoding rivals the Human Genome Project. The practical benefits will be wide reaching, says Professor Lambert. Data will be stored for fast and easy retrieval and is expected to have valuable application in health, national border control, conservation management, food safety and environmental monitoring. These codes could also have a vital role in foiling bioterrorism.

Professor Lambert's team at the Allan Wilson Centre for Molecular Ecology and Evolution will create DNA barcodes for New Zealand's flora and fauna, beginning with native birds and later including other animals, plants, insects and fungi.

The team will also use DNA from ancient bones and soft tissues to identify extinct birds, such as moa, and their genetic similarity to modern species.

DNA barcoding to go backwards in time is an important tool to measure past levels of biodiversity, Professor Lambert says.

We can only interpret the effects that humans are having on the plants and animals of the Earth by knowing precisely what was here in the past, he says.

DNA barcoding makes use of the cytochrome oxidase gene (CO1), which codes for an enzyme involved in the cell's energy conversion system.

The CO1 gene is present in all animals and, in most cases, has a species-specific DNA sequence that varies between, but not within, different species.

Initial research by Canadian biologists showed that a portion of this gene can be 'scanned' to identify species, similar to using a barcode to classify supermarket products.

Allan Wilson Centre researchers will sample these genetic barcodes from every New Zealand bird species and use them to assist the conservation of endangered species, including the kiwi, the North Island Saddleback, and black robins. Their results will be combined with other research groups from around the world to create a standardised electronic database.

Biodiversity, conservation, and biosecurity management can only be conducted against a background of the known species composition of ecosystems, habitats, or countries, Professor Lambert says.

The international DNA barcoding project is expected to be completed in 2025.

Date: 01/03/2005

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences

# Funding for disease research

Dr Roger Pack and Dr Stanislav Tatkov from the Institute of Food, Nutrition and Human Health have received further funding to investigate factors that improve the conditions of patients with Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD).

In the third year of the project, the team has been awarded $140,000 from the Foundation for Research, Science and Technology to continue its collaborative project with South Auckland Health to find treatments for COPD.

In 2002 Fisher & Paykel Healthcare Corporation secured $NZ3.6m in funding to establish a research centre with South Auckland Health, who sub-contract the University in parallel with their clinical research.

COPD includes two closely related diseases of the respiratory system - chronic bronchitis and emphysema. Dr Pack says recent statistics indicate that COPD may be three times more prevalent than previously estimated, and the World Health Organisation estimates that COPD kills more than 2.75 million people worldwide each year, ranking as the fourth leading cause of death.

The funding will allow the continuation of the Institute's research with sheep trachea, a close match to the human trachea, and obtained as a waste product from freezing works. The trachea are used to examine the temperature and humidity of air which needs to be artificially warmed for the treatment of a patient whose breathing systems have to be by-passed.

Dr Pack says humidity affects the beating of the cilia (fine hair) in trachea and also increases the fluidity of mucus, making breathing easier. He will also work with a commercially available special purpose ventilator, supplied by Fisher & Paykel, which superimposes more rapid oscillations on the normal breathing rhythm.

He says smoking is the main cause of COPD and 80 percent of people affected with it are smokers. The other causes are environmental or industrial pollutants or, in rare cases, a genetic predisposition. COPD is progressive and although there is no cure there are treatments which reduce its impact on lifestyle. Dr Pack says the risk of developing COPD can be reducing by avoiding environments containing airborne contaminants, such as paint and garden chemicals.

Date: 01/03/2005

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences

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*Prime Minister Helen Clark tests the new interactive whiteboard, watched by Associate Professor Ken Ryba and Auckland school children.*

# An interactivve approache to teaching and learning

The innovation of interactive whiteboards make memories of chalk scratching on blackboards seem way, way back in the distant past.

Project Activate linked children together via interactive whiteboards, from a school in Auckland to a group in Invercargill, when it was launched by the Prime Minister recently.

An exciting advance in education, Project Activate is a collaborative project involving two school clusters based at either end of the country, Information Communication Technology (ICT) and community development organizations, and the College of Education at the Albany Campus.

The focus of the project is on developing and studying innovative approaches to teaching and learning with the interactive whiteboard technology.

For the schools involved, Project Activate brings a number of significant benefits including online resource sharing and professional development in leading edge applications of ICT to learning and teaching. For the College of Education it brings opportunities to carry out innovative ICT projects, and build relationships throughout the education sector.

Date: 03/03/2005

Type: Research

Categories: College of Education

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*Road test - Kenneth Young and Miriam Albert push Garrick Sutherland in the Team GDMK gravity racer. At 196 cm tall, Garrick says gravity is on his side.*

# Downhill Racers Push the Limits

Industrial design students raced against gravity to see who could design, build and pilot the fastest downhill kart.

The students undertook the project as part of their industrial design technology course. Each of the ten teams designed and built a three-wheeled kart from the ground up, and raced for glory in front of assembled crowds.

Two team members pushed the kart inside a measured push zone, getting it rolling on the hilly course. Gravity, nerve and luck did the rest as racing took place at the Wind Turbine on Hawkins Hill on 4 March.

Design tutors Brandon Syme and Dave Jones say the annual race provides valuable learning experiences in areas such as design, materials, manufacturing techniques and costing.

Aimee Kitson of Team Frotech says the team had put more than 400 hours into their entry.

On our kart the seat and driver can lean into the corners, improving handling and minimising braking.
Karts in previous events have been clocked at speeds up to 77km/h.

**Created: 10 July, 2008**

Date: 03/03/2005

Type: Research

Categories: College of Creative Arts

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# Relaxing in the Limousine Lounger

If you have an enormous appetite for relaxing in the sun, Regan Gentry is the man to see.  I call it the Limousine Lounger, he says.

A technician in the School of Fine Arts in Wellington, Mr Gentry says his recent project  is all about capturing and monumentalising the way I see Aucklanders seeing Waiheke Island: as a resort, a place to get away from it, and to sit on your deck chair for a monumentally long time.

It was one of 25 works selected for the Sculpture on the Gulf show held at Matiatia Bay on Waiheke Island in February.

Described by the Wellington Sculpture Trust as likely to become New Zealand's largest and most prestigious outdoor exhibition of contemporary sculpture, the show was a standout success with more than 15,000 visitors.

The works are proposed with three sites in mind, but the final sites are determined by the curator with the flow of the show and immediate visual references in mind.

Mr Gentry says,  I was delighted when the work sold immediately. It now resides in Remuera in Auckland.

Date: 03/03/2005

Type: Features

Categories: College of Creative Arts

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# Music scholarships for top students

The University's top music students received scholarships and prizes at a ceremony held at the Conservatorium of Music concert hall in February.

Rotary Club of Wellington Music Prizes for students entering their second year of study were awarded to Wellington jazz guitarist Misha Marks and classical guitarist Kath McKay.

NGC Scholarships for students entering their third year of study went to Albany jazz student Craig Warne, and to classical pianist Natalie Tan, from Wellington.

Associate Professor Matthew Marshall says Mr Warne's grade point average of 9.00 was the highest of any student in the College of Design, Fine Arts and Music.

The Rotary Club of Wellington Jazz Bursary was awarded to jazz pianist Ed Zuccollo.

Andrew Smith (jazz, Albany) and Emma Richards (classical, Wellington) were awarded Massey Fees Scholarships for graduating students with the highest GPA over three years.

Singer Jamie Frater won the Opera Waikato Trust Scholarship. Mr Frater, 30, a baritone, is among 12 semi-finalists selected in New Zealand's premier singing contest, the 2005 Lexus Song Quest. The semi-finalists were chosen from 55 contestants in auditions held around New Zealand in October 2004. Six finalists will be selected to compete for the final concert on 28 April.

Date: 03/03/2005

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Creative Arts; Scholarships

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# The life and music of a popular jazz master

Parisian jazz lovers recently tuned in to a compelling radio documentary on one of their most popular performers, brought to them by the enterprise of Albany based jazz master, Phil Broadhurst.

The life and music of French jazz pianist Michel Petrucciani is the subject of a Masters Thesis for Phil Broadhurst, who is programme leader in the Conservatorium of Music's Jazz Department. He is also widely known as a jazz pianist and presents a regular radio programme on Concert FM. Mr Broadhurt's research on the French musician inspired one of his radio programmes : 'Against All Odds: the life and music of Michel Petrucciani.'

Petrucciani, pianist and composer, was a very popular, major figure in the history of French jazz. He achieved his success in spite of his battle with a rare bone disease from which he died five years ago at the age of 36. Such was his status in his country that the French included him alongside Duke Ellington and Miles Davis in a series of postal stamps celebrating great jazz musicians.

Mr Broadhurst says that colouring any discussion on Michel Petrucciani's music is the fact that throughout his life he suffered from osteogenesis imperfecta (glass bones disease).

He had to be carried on to the stage in his early career before gaining enough strength to walk with the aid of crutches. His stubborn refusal to allow his incapacity to limit his great talent was an inspiration to all, but to what extent the novelty of his disability contributed to his fame is open to question.

During late February the radio programme was broadcast in Paris a number of times on various channels and on the internet at http://www.parisliveradio.com.

Date: 03/03/2005

Type: Features

Categories: College of Creative Arts

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# Students experience the common language of crops

Horticulture students have reported on industry challenges shared between Thailand and New Zealand, identified during a 16-day visit to Thailand.

Funded by the Asia New Zealand Foundation, the trip late last year was an opportunity for students and staff to gain international horticultural perspectives. Led by Professor Ian Warrington, the group visited fruit, vegetable and cut flower commercial industries, universities and research institutes.

In their follow-up report to the Foundation last month, the students identified that producers and exporters in New Zealand faced challenges of: meeting an increasing consumer demand for 'green' production methods; meeting compliance costs for producing food for export; coping with a shortage of manual labour and an increasing reliance on migrant workers, and the emergence of China as a major producer.

A highlight included a four-day excursion into the country's 'Golden Triangle' to see work initiated by the King of Thailand to convert people in the region's hill tribes to grow crops other than opium poppies. Professor Warrington says crops flourishing in this region include strawberries, peaches, coffee, tea, grapes and kiwifruit.

Professor Warrington says the trip aimed to ensure that students trained in New Zealand could experience first-hand the changes taking place in a neighbouring nation where rapid development is occurring in the horticultural sector.

Our students are increasingly likely to be employed in jobs that expose them to the global scene and it is important for them to appreciate and understand the complexities of the market place, the diversity of crops on offer to consumers, and the requirements of meeting the customs and cultural standards of another country.

In an article written for The Orchardist, Professor Warrington says horticultural production in Thailand is now occurring on a major scale with a strong focus on exports to Singapore, Japan, Taiwan and China. The development of highways, access to frequent air services and geographic proximity gives the country a huge opportunity to continue this growth.

He says the problem of population drift from the rural areas and the unattractive wage rates for

horticultural workers mean that Thailand is becoming increasingly reliant on migrant labour from surrounding countries

Date: 03/03/2005

Type: University News

Categories: College of Sciences; Explore - Agriculture/Horticulture; International

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# Are customers banking on Internet security?

When it comes to Internet banking, men and women have different perceptions about what matters, according to a recent study.

And whether you are Asian, European or Polynesian may also affect your acceptance or otherwise of the advantages and risks of banking by computer.

Dr Gurvinder Shergill, a senior marketing lecturer, and student Bing Li, of the Department of Commerce, analysed the ages, ethnicity, gender, education and earnings of customers in relation to what they considered important about I-banking and what services they used.

The study concludes that growth in Internet banking was crucial for banks to survive and remain competitive but that growth is dependent on customers' perceptions of how secure it is and the quality of service of banks' websites.

A survey was made of 200 banking customers who use Internet banking at some time (but less than 5 percent do it daily and barely a quarter would 'log on' to their accounts even a few times a week).

Most customers used Internet banking for only the most basic purposes, to check their account balances or bank statements.

About 44 percent made transfers between their accounts and just under 19 percent used their bank's website to make payments.

Dr Shergill says that in a highly-competitive banking environment it is vital for banks to reduce their staffing costs so they can attract customers with lower interest rates and account fees.

Internet banking provides that opportunity but it depends on customer confidence in the security of the system.

People are still scared to use Internet banking in an extensive way, fearing that their information might be leaked or somebody else might steal the information.

Stories of people having their accounts or their personal computers hacked into could have heightened such fears.

Building confidence requires strategies from banks that recognised what matters most to different customers, Dr Shergill says.

The study found women regarded privacy protection and ethical standards more seriously than men.

Customers of European origin had higher expectations of privacy than Asian customers and higher expectations of ethical standards than Māori customers, while customers of Māori, Asian and other ethnic backgrounds regarded speed of response by bank websites more important than did European New Zealanders.

Dr Shergill says marketing strategies by Internet banks need to take those varying perceptions and expectations into account and not assume all customers have the same views.

Banks also need to find ways to assure more customers that on-line transactions are not only convenient but safe.

How do they do that? I don't know how they do it that's not my job but that's the main issue, that's why people don't go on-line.

He has been unable to find any similar systematic study of Internet banking or customer attitudes to it.

Date: 22/03/2005

Type: Research

Categories: College of Business

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# Award for chemical sciences excellence

cer has won a major award for excellence in the chemical sciences and both he and Associate Professor David Harding have been awarded fellowships with the New Zealand Institute of Chemistry.

The founder and director of the Nanomaterials Research Centre in the Institute of Fundamental Sciences, Professor Officer was awarded the New Zealand Institute of Chemistry HortResearch Prize for Excellence in the Chemical Sciences.

Leader of chemistry sciences in the Institute, Professor Andrew Brodie, says the award recognises Professor Officer's innovative research and his ability to tackle important scientific problems. He says his work to establish the Nanomaterials Research Centre, and a world-class synthetic organic chemistry programme, particularly illustrates his diverse mix of research skills. The centre is the first in New Zealand to focus on the development of new materials structured at the nanoscale:Professor Officer is involved in five of its research multidisciplinary programmes.

As a synthetic organic chemist by training, he has had to develop research skills in the wide variety of areas indicated, in order to effectively maintain the high standard of research in the centre, as is evident from the increase in funding that he has achieved, Professor Brodie says.

In 2003 a team led by Professor Officer obtained two research results which put them at the forefront of artificial photosynthesis. Using different materials developed in the laboratory, they demonstrated the highest efficiency photovoltaic cell used to harvest light in the artificial photosynthesis procedure.

Professor Brodie says the centre's success in gaining funding has fostered the development of collaborations with research groups and leading researchers in New Zealand, Australia, the United States, Switzerland, and Israel. These collaborations, in turn, provide the opportunity to significantly expand research projects.

In 1997 Professor Officer's team became the first to be funded by the Japanese Government's Research Institute for Innovative Technology for the Earth, in recognition of its growing contribution to the photosynthesis research. In 2000 the team was awarded a prestigious three-year Marsden grant ($80,000 each year) to investigate the supramolecular chemistry of porphyrin arrays.

In late 2001, Professor Officer led a Foundation for Research, Science and Technology research funding application for $6,550,000 over five years to develop the Advanced Materials for Energy Technology project. Professor Brodie says this sustainable energy project involved the continued development of titanium dioxide solar cells, the first substantial New Zealand funding for plastic solar cell construction, a nickel zinc battery development programme, and a preliminary investigation into using functionalised polymers for carbon dioxide reduction. The programme involved 11 team members from five research institutions and represented a four-fold increase in the centre's funding at the time.

**Created: 8 April, 2005**

Date: 24/03/2005

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: Any

# Bio Commerce Centre opens in the Manawatu

Harnessing the intellectual resource and ideas of New Zealand's largest concentration of bio industry scientists, the Bio Commerce Centre was officially opened today in Palmerston North.

The University plays a key role in the $3 million business incubator, as a principle funder and a source of research and technical expertise in agriculture, horticulture, food and nutrition, veterinary science and biotechnology. Deputy Vice-Chancellor Professor Ian Warrington was the chairperson of the steering committee and is a member of the Bio Commerce Centre board.

The Minister for research, Science and Technology, Hon. Steve Maharey, opened the Centre with congratulations to those involved in its establishment. He welcomed Dr Richard Earle, who, in 1965, was appointed the world's first Professor of Biotechnology at Massey, and highlighted the University's unique international reputation for biological science and research.

The Manawatu is New Zealand's largest concentration of bio-science institutions and the principal objective of the Centre is to harness the opportunities arising from world-class research and turn them into commercial success.

The Centre's CEO, Ralph Schneideman, says a very high proportion of research results emanating from the Manawatu are currently licensed and sold off overseas or fail to make the leap from research and development to being sales and market driven.

What the Bio Commerce Centre will do is to help retain more of the wealth that these ideas generate for the people who develop them, the companies that they establish surrounding their ideas and for New Zealand, by servicing or manufacturing locally, Mr Schneiderman says.

Start-up businesses or enterprises coming out of the surrounding business community and Manawatu scientific entities will be evaluated and the ones found to hold potential will be selected and guided through the commercialisation process in The Bio Commerce Centre business incubator.

He says the Centre will operate as a neutral environment in which scientific thinking can be exposed to business and investor thinking and vice versa. The Centre is the tenth incubator funded by New Zealand Trade and Enterprise, and the key point of difference is the region's depth of capability in plant and food biology as well as in world-class animal health capability.

For example, Massey University is one of a handful of veterinary schools outside the United States that is accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Association and our region's key biotechnology research platforms are plant, food and health based.

He says the Bio Commerce Centre's natural network with other key incubators in New Zealand increases the potential success of taking innovations to the market. The Centre will draw on a powerhouse of University alumni, representing a rich source of outstanding achievers in both science and business. These networks include those of Dr Anthony Bellve, who graduated with a Masters in Agricultural Science in 1968 to become a specialist in human reproductive and stem cell research. Dr Bellve recently returned to New Zealand after 33 years in the United States where he researched at Harvard Medical School and Columbia Medical School.

Among the services and expertise the Centre offers is assistance with conducting market research, accessing finance, supporting companies to become investment-ready, managing intellectual property, product development, regulatory requirements and international

marketing.

The Centre opened with the first two tenants already settled - the Waituna Brewing Company and Grasslanz Technology. The principal funders are Massey University, Vision Manawatu, New Zealand Trade and Enterprise, the Palmerston North City Council and the local Crown Research Institutes (CRIs).

For further information visit www.biocommerce.co.nz

**Created: 7 April, 2005**

Date: 24/03/2005

Type: University News

Categories: College of Sciences; Palmerston North

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# Massey University takes over the Institute of Rugby

In an agreement with the New Zealand Rugby Union (NZRU) announced two weeks ago, the Institute of Rugby will now be wholly managed by the University.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Palmerston North and Extramural) Ian Warrington says the agreement provides the University with an excellent opportunity to further develop use of the state-of-the-art facility as the Palmerston North campus grows its sport culture. It's exciting to get back management of a facility that will further build us up in terms of sport education and research. Of course, we also have a new state-of-the-art all-weather athletics track on campus.

He says the renewed emphasis on sport study at Palmerston North clearly has the approval of students: This year we've seen a 14 percent increase in the gross number of students enrolled in the Bachelor of Sport Exercise programme. Those students appreciate having world-class facilities on campus, with world class people using them.

The Institute will continue to be run as a commercial operation. At present it is used mainly by NZRU and Murray Mexted's IRANZ academy. Professor Warrington says both will continue to use the facility. But we also want to open it up and increase its use by other sports organisations basketball and hockey, for example. It's a prime facility and recognised as such. Last month we had a visit from Olympic athletes Sarah Ulmer and Hamish Carter. They were blown away, with Ulmer particularly taken with the immersion pools she says, if only Auckland had something similar.

Commenting on the agreement, Deputy Chief Executive Steve Tew said the NZRU reviewed its lease of the Institute of Rugby in light of a strategy that has moved away from a 'bricks and mortar' approach to high performance development. He said the NZRU will still have an on-going relationship with the Institute and will continue to use it for a set period each year.

Professor Warrington has said the University will not lose out financially even though the NZRU lease, which was renewed in 2003, still had 16 years to run. He says the University has been compensated for that.

The Institute of Rugby was opened on the University's Palmerston North campus in 1999 and has been leased by NZRU for the past five years. Its basement level includes an indoor hydraulic scrum machine, changing rooms and a recovery room with hot and cold plunge pools.

An accommodation block houses two players' lounges and 40 beds. There is also separate accommodation for coaches, managers and managerial staff, with a gymnasium that includes state-of-the-art equipment, video analysis and conference rooms.

Date: 24/03/2005

Type: University News

Categories: Any

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# Advertising, marketing and obesity some of the myths

Advertising may not cause obesity, but it is supporting and maintaining unhealthy eating behaviours that contribute to obesity, according to Professor Janet Hoek.

Professor Hoek, from Massey University's Department of Marketing, has challenged advertisers of less healthy food products to consider the role that advertising played in making behaviours such as up-sizing appear normal.

Sales promotions used to support these food products include coupons that can be redeemed on multiple occasions and giveaways that exceed the value of the food purchase. It is difficult to avoid the conclusion that these promotions do not increase the rate at which people buy these products, and the amount they consume.

Speaking at the Agencies' for Nutrition Action Symposium on Food Advertising to children in Wellington this week, Professor Hoek also criticised the use of youth role models in sponsorship and is concerned about McDonald's sponsorship of dental health vans.

Sponsorship enables an organisation to associate itself with individuals, teams of activities that provide access to attributes that the organisation does not possess. The association between one of the largest agents for soft drinks and dental health is very difficult to rationalise.

While not ruling out the need for education and social marketing campaigns to support better dietary habits, Professor Hoek argues that these programmes will be largely ineffective if they are not supported by a strong policy framework. We are naïve if we believe giving people more information, or better information, will lead them to adopt new behaviours.

Instead, we need to change the environment that supports less healthy eating behaviours, and that inevitably means reducing the salience of food products high in salt, sugar and fat.

Professor Hoek notes that a mail survey of 413 people conducted by the University last year showed 67% supported banning fast food ads during children's' shows.

**Created: 17 March, 2005**

Date: 24/03/2005

Type: Research

Categories: College of Business

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*Education Minister Trevor Mallard at the Wildlife Ward*

# The economic impact of veterinary and animal science

*Watch the ASB Business item*

The Government receives an excellent return from its investment in veterinary and animal science education and research per annum, as shown by a unique and comprehensive study of the economic impact of the Institute of Veterinary, Animal and Biomedical Sciences (IVABS).

Conducted by Business and Economic Research Ltd (BERL), the study calculates the direct effects of New Zealand's only veterinary training provider and centre of animal health expertise on the Palmerston North and national economies and also provides pointers towards the economic value contributed by the Institute through its research, teaching and commercial operations.

The BERL report calculates:

• The Institute's expenditures and the spending of its staff and students contributes $61.6 million to the Palmerston North economy each year and supports 568 full time jobs in the city. Its effect on the New Zealand economy is greater, at an output of $72.2 million per annum.

• Massey University graduates make up 71 percent of the veterinary workforce of the animal health industry, which generates an annual total of approximately $1.3 billion. The veterinary and animal science graduates of IVABS play an integral role in the support of the animal production industry, which produced goods with a farm-gate value of $11 billion in 2001 ($7.2 billion in 1995).

The BERL study also illustrates the value of research conducted at the Institute, with a typical research activity of more than 200 research projects under way at any one time, and at a value of approximately $6.8 million. Of these research projects, BERL assessed the potential benefits of research into: parasite management (with a current value of $5.5 billion over 10 years); control of bovine viral diarrhoea (net gain of $50 million per annum), and genetic improvement in dairy cattle (with a current value of $480 million over 10 years).

The report also considers the 'saved losses' arising from the contribution of veterinarians to an efficient biosecurity system. Reference is made to a Reserve Bank study that suggests a cumulative loss, over two years, of $10 billion in the case of an outbreak of Foot and Mouth disease in New Zealand.

The study shows the high international standing of IVABS is complemented by an enormous economic contribution to New Zealand, Professor Grant Guilford, IVABS head, says. These figures graphically illustrate that investment in education is an investment in the nation's future. I am hopeful that the BERL report encourages the Tertiary Education Commission to continue its careful shift from funding the tertiary sector on the basis of cost accounting to investing in a strategic manner. Clearly as a nation we are missing enormous economic opportunity in veterinary and animal science through under-investment.

The Minister for Education, Trevor Mallard, visited the University to tour the Institute and release the BERL report. He says the calculated direct economic impact of the industry of $620 million each year is impressive when considered it is driven by a staff of 200 at IVABS and just over 2000 vets registered with the New Zealand Veterinarian Association.

Downstream add-ons lift this total into the billions. When you add in the $400 million spent on animal health and breeding supplies and the $270 million spent nationally on pet foods, that's more than $1.2 billion each year added to our GDP, Mr Mallard says.

He also pointed to the invaluable role of animal science experts to bio-security and disease control.

The greatest contribution vets make to our country may be unquantifiable, and it's an area I hope we never have to find out about. That's the area of disease control, where veterinary vigilance and expertise is our first line of defence against things like Foot and Mouth and Bovine Spongiform Encephalitis (BSE) more commonly known as mad cow disease.

The recent foot and mouth experience in the United Kingdom shows the effect on tourism was five to six times the agricultural effect, and the long term effects of impaired market access for New Zealand in the event of an outbreak here can only be guessed at

Date: 08/04/2005

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences; School of Veterinary Science; Video Multimedia

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# Director of Music Therapy appointed

Associate Professor Sarah Hoskyns has been appointed Director of Music Therapy at the Conservatorium of Music. The Conservatorium offers the only professional training in this field in New Zealand.

Professor Hoskyns brings a wealth of experience to her position. She was previously Head of the Music Therapy Department and Head of Training at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London. She undertook research in neurodisability and with recidivist offenders, and practises clinically with young children with delayed development.

While music therapy training is well established in Britain, Professor Hoskyns says in New Zealand it is relatively new.

There's some missionary zeal in me to see music therapy training state-approved here.

Music therapy is a creative therapy using musical improvisation to form a therapeutic relationship. Children, young people and adults can come to music therapy with a wide variety of needs. Some of the conditions for which people have found music therapy to be beneficial include: developmental delay, emotional and behavioural problems, autistic spectrum disorders, learning disabilities, mental health problems, stress (including bereavement, stroke recovery/rehabilitation, and physical illness). Music therapists work in early intervention centres, special-needs schools, private practice, prisons, hospitals, and aged-care centres.

A music therapy approach also has fans in the workplace. One of my teaching colleagues at Guildhall set up an improvising drumming course for Swiss bankers to pound out their stress.

Professor Hoskyns says music therapy can sometimes engage people who can't be reached by other treatment approaches.

I did some work with the Inner London Probation Service. We worked with criminal offenders, and found non-verbal forms of communication often worked well with them. It was striking how engaged our clients got when working with music and the arts.

My role at the University is to develop research, to train practitioners, to promote the field of music therapy, and to help the profession work towards state registration. I'll be making links with a wide range of musicians and clinicians there's tremendous enthusiasm for music therapy in New Zealand.

I have both medical and musical pedigree, she says. My father was a GP and my mother a nurse. I have been playing piano and violin from the age of four, so it seems a natural progression to make my career in music therapy.

The Master of Music Therapy offered by the University is a two-year degree, developed in association with the New Zealand Society for Music Therapy. It is the only New Zealand programme that trains graduates to become professional music therapists.

Professor Hoskyns notes she already has a couple of New Zealand connections. Her father-in-law is New Zealand born; and in the 1980s, former Chancellor Morva Croxson was a music therapy student of Professor Hoskyns'.

Date: 08/04/2005

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Creative Arts; Wellington

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*Professor Kinnear with students of Palmerston Norths Intermediate Normal School*

# Educating the young in forest preservation

An innovative forest ecology education programme has been launched in Palmerston North by the Minister of Education Trevor Mallard.

The Forests of Life project was developed in partnership by Massey University, Forest Research, Revero Web Specialists and two pilot schools Mokoia Intermediate in Rotorua and Palmerston North Intermediate Normal School.

Forests of Life is supported by the Ministry of Education in association with DigiOps and a number of other generous sponsors and partners.

The University's Vice-Chancellor Professor Judith Kinnear, Palmerston North M/P. Steve Maharey and representatives of other partners also attended the launch. On behalf of the University, Professor Kinnear presented a rata tree to the school commemorate the event.

Dr Pat Nolan, from the College of Education, leads the Massey contribution. He says Forests of Life works on a new generation ICT model of active and interactive learning for young adolescents (years 7-10, ages 10-15). Students study, firsthand, the sustainable development and preservation of forests by actively restoring native forest remnants to reserve status: they co-construct forest learning projects with teachers, scientists and members of the community.

**Broadly, Forests of Life invites students to work with the wider Forests of Life team, to:**

- explore what it means to value New Zealand's forests - from their spiritual and cultural value, to their practical and economic use, to scientific aspects of forest ecology and sustainable forest development

- co-design projects which focus on ecology issues real to them and their immediate communities, and which assist with the better management of a mini forest system near their pilot schools

- use high-tech tools in the field to capture data from and gain a deeper understanding of what's going on in the forests they study (e.g. laptops, GPS, HOBO digital sensing devices,

Proscope microscopic digital cameras, a digital herbarium to name a few)

- publish photos, ideas, artwork, scientific data and other outcomes of their project work to the Forests of Life schools' website and the digital herbarium in order to both share their work and to enjoy a wider audience for their work

- approach projects in an interdisciplinary way by integrating learning across the conventional boundaries of science, technology, social studies, and the arts

- join online communities via the Forests of Life schools' website (site for project team only) to discuss their work with other students and project participants, and

- be empowered to exercise a duty of care and stewardship over the environment, skills beneficial to New Zealand and its future.

In year 1 of the Forests of Life project, two schools have committed to working in partnership with the Forests of Life team to design, develop and pilot a suite of educational resources which can then be rolled out to more New Zealand schools in 2006 and 2007.

Dr Nolan says in the pilot year, both schools are required to contribute a tremendous amount both in terms of professional teacher time and other vital resources.\He says the Forests of Life team would like to acknowledge the commitment and dedication of both schools, their staff and students

Date: 08/04/2005

Type: University News

Categories: College of Education; Palmerston North

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# Further work on childhood obesity are the programmes working?

Jacinta Hawkins, Assistant Lecturer (Marketing) and doctoral candidate, based at Albany, has been awarded a summer studentship. The award is funded by the Health Research Council to study the effectiveness of the various school-based interventions aimed at tackling the obesity problem.

It is not known whether obesity in children is due more to the amount and choice of foods consumed or to physical inactivity. What is known is that obese children are more likely to be obese adults with the associated health risks. The Healthy Eating Healthy Action strategy, (HEHA) is the Ministry of Health's approach to improving nutrition, increasing physical activity and achieving healthy weight for all New Zealanders. Part of the strategy is to encourage schools to become 'Health Promoting Schools' and to establish programmes to fit HEHA ideals. Health Promoting Schools is a worldwide initiative.

A study of Health Promoting Schools in Canada (covering 5,200 school children) has shown that overweight rates were 60 percent lower among pupils attending schools with a multi-faceted healthy food and physical activities programme compared to schools with less comprehensive programmes or no programme at all. The Canadian research points to evidence that establishing healthy behaviours at a young age is possible and schools can play an important role in reducing childhood obesity and promoting healthy eating. The University's Institute of Food, Nutrition and Human Health is already heavily involved in work in this area.

Ms Hawkins is undertaking a school-by-school survey to evaluate programmes adopted by Health Promoting Schools and compare their success with those run in schools that have developed their own programmes. Her aim is to find which of the schemes work and if any are more effective than others.

In the course of the study she will interview principals and teachers, send questionnaires to parents and run focus groups with the children. The study will report on the effectiveness of each school's programme and offer suggestions to tailor programmes for greatest effectiveness in changing attitudes. An additional outcome will be the collection of data allowing Ms Hawkins to include suggestions on how best to measure a programme's effectiveness.

The results of the study will be used to inform policy makers at central and local government levels so that further development of HEHA programmes maintain their focus and effectiveness.

Date: 08/04/2005

Type: Research

Categories: College of Business; Explore - HEALTH

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# Why New Zealand's reading achievement gap won't go away

A large gap between New Zealand's good and poor readers is unlikely to be reduced unless significant changes are made to the Government's literacy strategy, say academics in the College of Education.

In a paper published in the latest issue of the New Zealand Journal of Educational Studies, Professor William Tunmer, Professor James Chapman and Dr Jane Prochnow examine the methods for teaching reading skills to students and look at reasons why New Zealand continues to show very high levels of disparity between good and poor readers.

In 2001, New Zealand participated in The Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS) which focused on the reading experiences and achievement of children in 35 countries in grades equivalent to Year Five in New Zealand. A finding of particular importance, according to Professor Tunmer, Professor Chapman and Dr Prochnow, is the relative spread of New Zealand's scores. Although 17 percent of New Zealand children were among the top 10 percent of those tested in the PIRLS study, 16 percent fell in the bottom quartile of readers a percentage greater than that of 20 other countries.

The 'whole language' approach to teaching literacy in our schools does work for some children, but at the same time does little to increase the literacy skills of others. This method also significantly hinders the reading development of children who are from a disadvantaged background, and causes a reading achievement gap that is of real concern. Professor Tunmer says.

Homes where literacy activities take place do make a difference especially in a predominantly 'book experience' approach to literacy instruction in which little emphasis is given to word identification skills. Professor Tunmer says.

There is evidence to show that children who are exposed to alphabet games, stories, and reading aloud in the home often fare better under the current education system than children who are not exposed to such activities.

Professor Tunmer says that teachers need a teaching approach that supports the limited home experiences of some children with a greater emphasis on word level skills and strategies. Factors in the home that contribute to a child's literacy development include reading activities, the parents' attitudes towards reading, and even the number of books in the home.

Figures from the PIRLS study suggest that the New Zealand approach to teaching literacy is generally beneficial to middle-class children, but highly disadvantageous to children from low-income backgrounds with little or no literacy related experiences in the home environment.

While overall, New Zealand generally ranks high with families that read to their children, we also have the biggest spread of scores between children who are read to 'often' and children who are read to 'sometimes'. Professor Tunmer says.

The paper argues that New Zealand currently takes an approach to teaching that fails to respond adequately to differences in essential reading-related skills and knowledge at school entry resulting from differences in home literacy environments. On the basis of their research and analysis, Professor Tunmer, Professor Chapman, and Dr Prochnow believe that unless this is addressed, and further modifications are made to the Government's Literacy Strategy, the reading achievement gap won't go away.

Date: 08/04/2005

Type: Research

Categories: College of Education

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# Negotiating sleep among couples

Should couples share a bed? How might the quality of sleep reflect power relationships within a family? What strategies improve sleep quality?

These are some of the questions sociologist and sleep researcher Professor Sara Arber presented at a seminar at the Sleep-Wake Research Centre on 8 March.

She is Professor of Sociology and Co-Director of the Centre for Research on Ageing and Gender at the University of Surrey, in the United Kingdom. Professor Arber is currently conducting research on older people and food, on sleep and ageing women, and on negotiating sleep among couples.

Although sociologists study work, leisure and families, sleep is an under-researched aspect of life, she says. This is surprising, as we spend about a third of our lives asleep.

Sleep is largely invisible and has been the subject of little sociological research, but she says it provides a rich site for understanding aspects of gender inequalities in the family.

The quality and timing of sleep is influenced by the social context in which it takes place, and by the individual's roles in the private and public sphere.

The majority of adults share their sleeping space with a partner. Each partner's actions influence the quality of the other partner's sleep but in gender differentiated ways. The study of sleep can be used as a window to examine the changing dynamics of relationships.

The aim of her research is to identify ways to improve the quality of sleep through awareness of social factors.

Professor Arber's research draws on data from two studies. The first was a study on women's sleep based on focus groups, qualitative interviews, audio sleep diaries and a survey of 1400 women aged 40 and over. The second study Negotiating Sleep Among Couples (aged 20-59), involved in-depth interviews with 40 couples, audio sleep diaries, actigraphy recordings by each partner, and follow-up interviews with each partner. An audio sleep diary is a tape recording made immediately upon waking, while an actigraph is an electronic device worn like a watch that records wrist movements and sleep levels.

Professor Arber contrasted women's and men's views about their sleep, the meaning of a partner's snoring, and actions taken by each partner to try to get a good nights sleep.

Men and women tend to think about sleep differently, she says.

Among some men there is a macho attitude that sleep is for wimps, while women are often said to need their beauty sleep.

The audio diaries revealed that women often subjugate their own sleep needs to suit their partner.

Sleep problems are a normal part of life for many women, with 50 percent waking three or more times a night.

Snoring by the partner is the most common factor cited, followed by the partner getting up early or getting up to use the toilet.

Women in their fifties are most affected by sleep disruption. This is at a time where they may have the stresses of full-time work, responsibility for children or aged parents, interruptions from a partner getting up or snoring, and the effects of menopause or health issues.

Women develop personal strategies for coping. Some wear earplugs or sleep in a different room.

Separate beds are more common for older couples. Seven percent of the couples in their forties slept in separate beds, rising to 40 percent of couples in their seventies.

There is a social stigma attached to couples sleeping separately. Women say it doesn't reflect the quality of the marriage. A couple's sex life may be fine, but separate beds can signify that there are problems in the relationship.

Professor Arber says that separate beds or rooms can be helpful in improving the relationship. There can be less fatigue, less stress, and less annoying snoring. But men say they don't like it because it signifies problems.

Date: 08/04/2005

Type: Research

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences

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# Why patients don't take their antidepressants

A study aimed at discovering the links between patients' beliefs about antidepressant medications and their level of adherence to prescribed medication regimes (whether they take their pills and if not, why not?) is being conducted in the Auckland and Rodney Districts by Masters clinical psychology students Judith Russell and Dr Nikolaos Kazantzis in the School of Psychology.

The research is being conducted in collaboration with Professor Robert Horne (University of Brighton), a leading researcher in the area of medication adherence.

Medication adherence is seen as a problem for all mental health practitioners to the extent that many consider low compliance to be the most serious challenge to medical practice. In the past few decades thousands of research studies and articles on this issue have been published.

Patients' failure to take their medication represents a loss of opportunity for patients and their health professionals. In addition, the cost of unused medication is considerable, and is money that may be better spent otherwise. Patients who do not complete an adequate course of antidepressant medication as prescribed are likely to need further treatment, creating additional costs to the health system.

Research to date indicates that patients' beliefs about medicines are an important determinant of adherence. Drawing on behavioural and cognitive theories, this prior research has shown that patients' beliefs about the benefits (e.g. reduced symptoms), as well as the costs associated with the medication (e.g. social stigma, unpleasant side effects), can determine whether they take the prescribed course of medication. However, no prior published research has examined the impact of beliefs about antidepressant medication as a predictor of adherence. The present study aims to discover exactly why some people choose not to take their antidepressants as prescribed.

The survey is being conducted using self-report questionnaires, offered to patients by their general practitioners on a routine visit. They complete the questionnaire in the privacy of the surgery. Accuracy in self-reported adherence is an issue for research, so the survey has been prepared using a series of carefully designed, tested and psychometrically evaluated questions aimed at reducing socially desirable answers; that is, those the respondent thinks are 'correct'. Approximately 100 questionnaires are required for the results to be statistically sound.

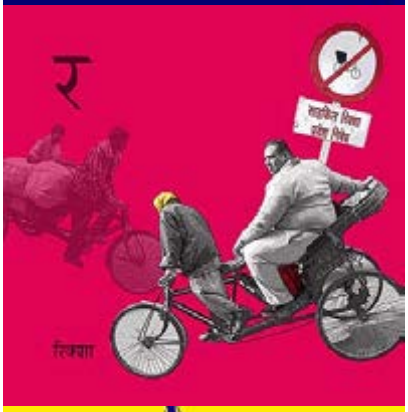
The survey is now nearing completion. After analysis and development of recommendations, the study will be presented to general practitioners. Mrs Russell and Dr Kazantzis have had expressions of interest from consultants in general practice, and it is likely that knowledge gained from the study will be incorporated into general practitioner training programmes.

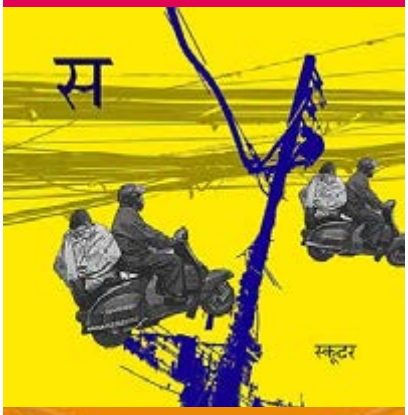
Date: 08/04/2005

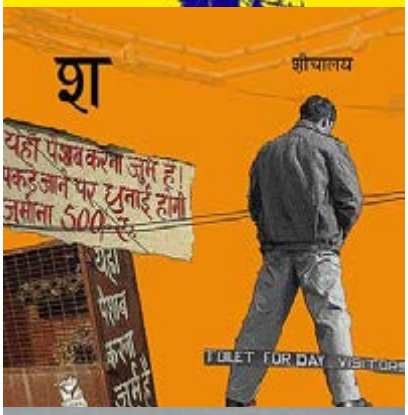
Type: Research

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences; Explore - HEALTH

# Spelling out culture shock



Fashion and textiles design lecturer Arti Sandhu is turning her fascination with culture shock into art.

I visited India with my fiancé in November, and wanted to capture images conveying his culture shock, she says.  It was Simon's first time in India. He was stunned by the unusual sights sounds, and traffic of Indian life.

I want to make a humourous comment on life in urban India. These pictures are aimed at visitors to India, and at Indians living overseas.

Ms Sandhu created 12 textile pieces which will be on show at the CrossOver exhibition. CrossOver will showcase visual art created by Wellingtonians of all ethnicities, and coincides with Race Relations Day. It will be held at the Academy of Fine Arts Gallery on Queens Wharf from 18 28 March.

The first nine pieces are titled  A sey akshar (a for alphabet). They focus on the Indian alphabet. In an attempt to remind herself of her motherland and her language, Ms Sandhu has made pieces that are both educational tools and a visual commentary on India. Each piece has a letter of the alphabet in Devanagri script, with a word that is represented through photographs and digital collages transfer printed on linen.

This set of three pieces titled  yah sey yatayat (traffic) 1, 2 and 3 are appliqued images of traffic on Indian roads. The images are transfer prints on cotton organdie, appliquéd onto cotton tussar (silk) with embroidery and sequins.

Born and brought up in India, Ms Sandhu studied fashion design at the National Institute of Fashion Technology in New Delhi. She left India for the UK in 2000 to do her Masters in Fashion and Textiles from Nottingham Trent University, and has been in New Zealand for the past three years.

Besides fashion, her interests lie in textiles, embroidery, graphic design and photography, and she has tried to fuse all these together in her art works.

I want to create photographs that have texture - photographs that are three dimensional, that can be touched, that reach out to you and touch you. In this body of work Ms Sandhu has worked with digital photography, graphic collage, textile transfer printing, appliqué and embroidery. These collages combine aspects of Indian life that are often a culture shock for first-time visitors to India.

Each year when I go home to India I find that have forgotten so much. The first thing one begins to forget is the language, the words and their associations.

Caught between two homes, Ms Sandhu creates pieces that help her capture her love for India and its eccentricity.  New Zealand has taught me what it is about India I love, and most importantly it has taught me how to express this. I never saw these fascinating things while I lived amongst them…but now that I see them from an outsider's point of view, I see what it is that makes them unique. Living in New Zealand has given me that viewpoint.

The first thing that strikes any visitor to India is the traffic. Chaos only begins to describe it. Cars, scooters, cycles, rickshaws, buses, cows, trucks, people … all trying to move in some direction … often the wrong one. All pushing for space and fighting to get through the narrow roads. For some it might be a shock, but for others it's fascinating.

Captions:
1. 'Fah' sey 'Fiat'
2. 'Rah' sey 'rickashaw' (Rah for rickshaw)
3. 'sah' sey 'scooter'
4.'Sh' sey 'showchalaya' (toilet)
5. 'yah' sey 'yatayat' (traffic)

Date: 08/04/2005

Type: Research

Categories: College of Creative Arts

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# Applying flexible learning to new role

Professor Carol McVeigh has been appointed Head of the School of Health Sciences, in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences. Although she is based in Wellington, she has responsibilities across all campuses.

Professor McVeigh is also Professor of Nursing and Director of Nursing Programmes and is responsible for providing leadership in the areas of teaching, research and community service.

Her research interests include women's health, working with disadvantaged families and people diagnosed with cancer.

She has introduced publication syndicates. These are groups of like-minded staff who meet to peer review their research papers. This process improves the quality of papers and reduces the time from development to publication.

Professor McVeigh was born in Canada into a family that included many nurses.

I admired my aunts, and decided to follow them into nursing, she says. I enjoyed it from the beginning. Nursing offers a rewarding career for those who feel they have something to contribute to the community. After working in hospitals and in the community in Canada and Australia, Professor McVeigh has been an academic for 10 years. She was appointed to the University in November last year.

Professor McVeigh was previously Associate Professor at the School of Nursing at Griffith University, Queensland. She is applying her experience in flexible learning to her new role.

Date: 08/04/2005

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences

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*Alcohol marketing researchers Hector Kaiwai, Mandi Gregory and Suaree Borell.*

# Getting absolutely trolleyed - new research into alcohol marketing

Teenagers construct their negative experiences with alcohol as just  part of the package of drinking and having fun, according to researchers at Te Roopu Whāriki in Auckland.

Te Roopu Whāriki is a partner with the Centre for Social and Health Outcomes Research and Evaluation (SHORE).

Suaree Borell (Ngāti Ranginui, Ngai te Rangi, Ngāti Haamoa), Mandi Gregory, and Hector Kaiwai (Ngāti Porou, Ngāti Maniapoto, Tuhoe) presented preliminary results from their research at an alcohol marketing seminar organised by Whāriki and SHORE in early March. Over three years, they are interviewing 24 groups of young Māori and Tauiwi (non-Māori) aged 14 to 18 about alcohol advertising, as well as one-off interviews with other groups of young people about particular alcohol-related events such as the Big Day Out, school balls, New Year, and the Export Gold Party.

They found that young people construct their positive experiences with alcohol as just like the advertisements, while their negative experiences from drinking, such as injuries, are seen as part of drinking and having fun. Negative experiences from other people's drinking are seen as that person's choice and not something other young people can prevent.

Three eminent visiting researchers also spoke at the seminar about the globalisation of alcohol brands and marketing aimed at young people.

Dr Peter Anderson, a public health consultant for the World Health Organisation (WHO) and other international organisations, told the seminar that industry self-regulation of alcohol advertising doesn't work:  It is easy to find current code-breaking alcohol ads from major European producers. This has contributed to discussion of the need for a WHO framework convention on alcohol similar to that just implemented for tobacco, he said.

Dr Ann Hope, National Policy Advisor on Alcohol to the government of Ireland, reviewed developments in Europe, describing the way in which French restrictions on alcohol marketing had withstood challenges in the European Court.

Dr David Jernigan is research director of the Center on Alcohol Marketing and Youth at Georgetown University in the United States and a member of the WHO Alcohol Policy Strategy Advisory Committee. He told the seminar that young people in the United States see more ads for beer and spirits in magazines than people over 21. This was also the case for television

advertising.

Dr Jernigan said that considerably more money is spent on less visible and unmeasured marketing. New Zealand examples include branded youth music events; activities like an annual half-day off sponsored by an alcohol brand which offers free $25 bar tabs; youth-oriented liquor outlets; alcohol websites; and cell phone text and picture promotions.
Like New Zealand adults, young New Zealanders in the Whāriki research, consistently deny that advertising influenced their choices. However, they showed a detailed knowledge of alcohol marketing and a keen focus on price:

… .If you buy two Tuis you get a prize little hats.
....Export did that for a while... if you bought 10 handles of Export you got a shirt, ….if you guessed who scored the first try in a game you got a Steinlager shirt…

… No, if you bought a Steinlager you got a sticker with a number of someone like 13 and if number 13 scored you got a shirt…..

… That was Export Gold.
… No, I think Steinlager, people who were sponsoring the All Blacks.
(Mixed gender Tauiwi (non-Māori) group, aged 17)

Whenever the flyers come through the mail, you like pick it up, the first page you're looking at is the page where the alcohol is at.
(Māori female, 16)

You see like slaughtered people, absolutely trolleyed and it's just awesome… and (advertising) reminds you of that occasion.
(Tauiwi male, 17)

Dr Hope and the Whāriki researchers quoted industry sources who admitted that alcopops, sweet mixes of soft drinks and alcohol, were aimed at underage drinkers as a stepping stone from soft drinks to alcohol.

While some alcohol campaigns may not target underage youth drinkers, very young people are a constant 'by-catch', the Whāriki researchers said.

Date: 08/04/2005

Type: Research

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences

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*Dr Leigh Signal with two Singapore Airlines captains somewhere above the Pacific.*

# Is your pilot getting enough sleep?

The University's Sleep/Wake Research Centre recently released its report entitled Phase 3 Ultra-Long-Range Validation: In Flight Polysomnographic Sleep And Psychomotor Performance.

Singapore Airlines flies new ultra-long-range A340-500 jets direct between Singapore and Los Angeles, a trip that can take up to 18 hours. The A340-500 is purpose-built for longer flights, with a range of more than 14,000 km.

In a study commissioned by the Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore, a group of research laboratories that forms the European Committee of Aircrew, Scheduling and Safety (ECASS), along with the Sleep/Wake Research Centre , studied flight crew sleep, alertness and performance.

There have been three phases of research associated with these new flights. First, a mathematical model was used to predict alertness on the new flights. Second, data from other long flights was collected and used to update the mathematical model. ECASS researchers were responsible for this work.

In the third phase, ECASS researchers asked one group of pilots to complete sleep diaries, with some also wearing activity monitors and undertaking performance tests during duty cycles. Meanwhile researchers from the Sleep/Wake Research Centre travelled with another group of flight crew monitoring their sleep, subjective alertness, and performance during the flights.

Dr Leigh Signal and Margo van den Berg crossed the Pacific 17 times while they collected data.

The aim of the study was to confirm what is actually occurring on this new type of flight. Our work is important in validating the other phases of the study, says Dr Signal.

The commercial airline industry has an exemplary safety record, she says.

This part of the validation exercise monitored 41 flight crew across eight Singapore Los Angeles Singapore crew operating patterns (COPs). Flights lasted up to 18 hours.

These ultra-long-range flights involved two flight crews working in shifts. Dr Signal and Ms van

den Berg's job was to collect data on the pilots' sleep state during scheduled rest breaks in flight, and to assess their alertness and performance. To do this, they wired up two captains and first officers to sensors that record brain activity, eye movement and muscle tone.

The researchers were on the go for as long as 36 hours. Before each flight they had to test and label their equipment, and afterwards there was the cleaning of the equipment, downloading of data, and charging of batteries.

The flights seemed to go quickly because I was busy, says Dr Signal. But I was shattered when I got to LA there was no time for sightseeing.

Two days later they repeated the data collection on the return flight. The completion of the study provides a better picture of how flight crews cope with ultra-long-range flights.

Ms van den Berg says it was exciting to be collecting field data in a major international project. It's a recognition of the international standard of our work at the Sleep/Wake Research Centre.

I liked the fact that we were combining core science with an operational issue, says Dr Signal. We were using the latest technology and methods, with an immediate application to the real world. And the flight crew are a really neat bunch of people.

The study focused on objective sleep monitoring and performance testing in flight. Measures included the following:

• Measurement of sleep using polysomnography.

• Monitoring of sleep patterns for four days prior to departure, throughout the COP, and four days after return to Singapore, using wrist actigraphy and logbooks.

• Measurement of sleep during an adaptation night prior to departure, using polysomnography.

• Objective performance testing across each flight, using a validated psychomotor vigilance task (PVT).

• Subjective ratings of sleepiness (the Karolinska Sleepiness Scale) and fatigue (the Samn-Perelli scale) across each flight.

Polysomnography is the gold standard method of measuring sleep, says Dr Signal. It is the measurement and conversion of electrical impulses in the body to a graphical representation. This helps determine what's happening as you sleep. Different activities are monitored by the polysomnograph during a sleep study, including brain waves (EEG), eye movements (EOG), and muscle activity (EMG). Each of these activities is represented by graphical tracings on a polysomnogram.

An actigraph is an electronic device worn like a watch that records the occurrence and degree of wrist movements, which allows for the monitoring of sleep objectively over extended periods of time.

A psychomotor vigilance task measures and records an individual's ability to maintain attention and speed of response.

We found that flight crews don't seem to get a lot of sleep during their rest breaks on board, but that this sleep had positive effects on their levels of alertness.

Our report recommends that all crew members try to obtain as much sleep as possible in the 24 hours prior to each flight, including at least one six hour block of sleep, says Dr Signal. We also recommend that crew members maximise the amount of sleep they are able to obtain in flight.

Crew members are likely to benefit from further education on the effects of inadequate sleep on their functioning, and on the need to obtain sufficient sleep, both prior to and during ultra-long-range flights.

The Sleep/Wake Research Centre is part of the Wellington campus. Director of the Centre Professor Philippa Gander says it aims to improve the health, performance, safety, and well being of New Zealanders through a programme of basic and applied research with an integrated approach to sleep and waking function.

Other current studies by Sleep/Wake Research Centre staff include:

• Heather Purnell is studying doctors' hours of work with the goal of improving patient safety and practitioners' health. This month she was awarded a Fulbright Travel Award to present the study to the Association of Professional Sleep Societies meeting in Denver in June. She will also visit several major United States sleep laboratories.

• Sarah-Jane Paine is comparing the melatonin rhythms of 30 morning-type people and 30 evening-type people recruited from a questionnaire survey, to see if their differences in sleep patterns are linked to differences in their circadian body clocks. Her study will make use of the new Human Time facility at the Sleep/Wake Research Centre. The isolation facility removes all the external cues which have the potential to influence the circadian body clock, such as daylight, temperature, noise, television, and clocks. The facility consists of three cubicles in a soundproofed room, with controlled temperature, humidity, and lighting, and an attached bathroom.

Date: 08/04/2005

Type: Research

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences; Explore - HEALTH

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# Understanding the cyber-bully

Explosives, firearms and knives aren't the only weapons young people around the world are taking to school each day. Cellular phones and their increasing role in cyber-bullying are of real concern when the 21st century bully is not only techno-savvy, but uses modern communication technology as a vehicle for aggression and harassment.

'Cyber-bullying' is committed through electronic means when peers use the Internet and cell phones to taunt, insult, threaten, harass and intimidate a peer. The cyber-bully uses text messages, pictures and web pages to circulate rumours, secrets, insults, and even death threats to harm their victims.

Thus a profound change in the nature of bullying and youth violence is a subject in drastic need of more research, according to Dr Juliana Raskauskas in the College of Education.

Dr Raskauskas believes there is an urgent need for more research into cyber-bullying and the development of a more constructive means through which to deal with it.  Now is the time for society to catch up with the progression of technology and the way in which young people are using it, she says.

Dr Raskauskas, who has a PhD in Educational Psychology from the University of California at Davis, has spent many years researching youth violence in America and is now turning her attention to New Zealand. She points out that today's adolescents represent the first generation to have grown up in an environment where cell phones and the Internet are an integral part of both education and daily life. Ready access to such technology and the world of cyber-space has also presented a range of new opportunities for bullying.

Traditional bullying is about a power imbalance between bullies and victims, with bullies needing to dominate and control their victims. Cyber-bullying exacerbates this dynamic by providing more opportunities for bullying and shielding the identity of the bully, Dr Raskauskas says.  Many victims of cyber-bullying may never know the identity of their bully,

so cyber-bullies often get away with their behaviour. Outcomes of cyber-bullying have the potential to be worse than traditional bullying because the method of attacks transcends the boundaries of the school grounds so a child is not even safe in his or her own home.

It is believed that text messages fuelled a fight that broke out between Palmerston North secondary school students last month. The incident required police intervention and forced a school into lockdown.

Previously girls have been socialised not to demonstrate physical violence and have resorted to what is called 'relational aggression', which has traditionally involved the type of gossip and harassment we are seeing now in aggressive text messaging, Dr Raskauskas says.

The recent incident in Palmerston North further supports an interesting shift in the nature of bullying, as we see boys using this technology for relational aggression as well. Cyber-bullying is not only accessible, but has facilitated a move toward 'cross-gender harassment' on a scale unlike anything we've previously seen.

Although students are encouraged to protect their cell phone numbers and Internet information to reduce the access of cyber-bullies, research has also found that relational aggression is most likely to be committed by those whom the victim considers friends, than by strangers.

A recent episode of the television crime drama Without a Trace highlights the contrast between male and female bullying, and focuses on the use of the Internet and digital cameras. It has since been released by the television network to teachers, parents, and youth for use as an educational resource. Similar television episodes including cyber-bullying have been seen on Boston Public and Law and Order.

The media is ahead of the research in promoting awareness of cyber-bullying, Dr Raskauskas says, which can be as dangerous as it is helpful.

Films and television shows that deal with bullying and youth violence tend to show worst-case scenarios that often don't result in positive outcomes. We should be careful not to promote ineffective or self-destructive solutions to problems with peers which can escalate the problem and even encourage suicide as a way out.

As a relatively new area of concern, Dr Raskauskas says it's important to identify correlates and predictors of cyber-bullying. Her research shows that it is those children who are victimised at school who are also victimised through cyber-space, to the extent that there is nowhere children can go to feel safe. This research also provides a necessary first step in examining the relationship between cyber-bullying and possible negative effects to adolescent emotional and social development.

Dr Raskauskas believes that future research into cyber-bullying should include adolescents in helping to identify ways to reduce or prevent cyber-bullying. While schools can help by teaching Internet safety as part of the traditional anti-bullying curriculum, adolescents have an understanding of the cell-phone and Internet culture that research may not possess.

Young people are one of the best resources we have in understanding and reducing cyber-bullying without resorting to drastic measures like banning cell phones which let's face it is never going to happen.

**Strategies for reducing/managing Internet bullying:**

• Take Internet harassment seriously. If Internet bullying includes physical threats (including death threats), notify police immediately.

• Guard your contact information. Don't give people your cell phone number, instant message name, or e-mail address.

• Children who are being harassed on-line should log out of the site immediately and tell an adult they trust.

• Never reply to harassing messages. If being bullied through e-mail or instant messaging, block the sender's messages.

• Save harassing messages and forward them to your Internet or e-mail provider. Most Internet service providers have appropriate-use policies that restrict users from harassing others via the Internet.

• Speak out when you see someone harassing others on-line or via cell phones. Most adolescents respond better to criticism from peers than from adults.

Be Web Aware http://www.bewebaware.ca

Date: 08/04/2005

Type: Research

Categories: College of Education

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*Associate Professor Alexander Davies, Dr Regina Scheyvens and Dr Kee Teo*

# 2005 Teaching Awards announced

The announcement of the 2005 winners of the Vice-Chancellor's Teaching Awards also signals the University's nominations for the Government's National Tertiary Teaching Awards.

As in the past, two of the winners of the Vice-Chancellor's Teaching Awards will go forward to the national awards. Nominations for those awards closed at the end of March, with award recipients to be announced mid-year.

The Vice-Chancellor's Teaching Awards were introduced in 2003, with up to four recipients selected each year from the following categories:
• Sustained Excellence
• Excellence in Innovation
• Excellence in Collaboration
• Excellence in Teaching First Year Students
• The Darrilyn O'Dea Award

In announcing this year's recipients, Professor Judith Kinnear noted that the teaching role of a university remains one of its pivotal activities. The 2005 winners of these awards signify Massey's ongoing commitment to excellence in teaching in a research-informed and research-led environment.

The awards are made by the Vice-Chancellor whose decisions are based on recommendations by the University's Tertiary Teaching Awards Committee.

The committee is chaired by Assistant Vice-Chancellor Professor Mary Mallon. Its other members are: Professor Ian Maddox (College of Sciences), Lyn Ciochetto (College of Design, Fine Arts and Music), Associate Professor Andrea McIlroy (College of Business), the Director of the Training and Development Unit, Gordon Suddaby and MUSA Vice-President (Education), Pamela West.

**Associate Professor Alexander Davies** receives the Darrylin O'Dea Award for Excellence in e-Learning and is also nominated for a National Tertiary Teaching Excellence Award for Excellence in Innovation.

His application for a national award is titled CALVE Computer Aided Learning in Veterinary Education. In his application, Associate Professor Davies describes a variety of initiatives using computer-aided learning in the curriculum of the Bachelor of Veterinary Science course.

They relate to the many and diverse species of animals of veterinary interest that include not only an increasing range of domesticated mammals but also fish, birds and wildlife. They also indicate my eagerness to apply new technological tools as soon as they become available.

**Dr Regina Scheyvens**, from the School of People, Environment and Planning, has won the Vice-Chancellor's Award for Sustained Excellence and is nominated for a National Tertiary Teaching Excellence Award for Sustained Excellence.

Dr Scheyvens teaches Human Geography and Development Studies to first-year students through to supervision of PhDs, and has developed new courses and modules for courses. She says wherever possible she draws on her own research, including periods of recent field research in the Pacific and Southern Africa, both for lectures and reading material for students. She places importance on providing her extramural students with learning materials that are designed well to meet their needs .

Her many projects include research on supporting the learning experience of international students.

**Dr Kee Teo** from the Institute of Fundamental Sciences wins the Vice-Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching First Year Students.

Dr Kee is a senior lecturer in mathematics who has made a significant contribution to the development of mathematics extramural study material, including software packages. Last year his team received a FIET grant to extend its work on web-based tutorials for basic algebraic skills. About online teaching he writes: We can now create colourful versions of study material containing interactive exercises, simulations and illustrations, and link to other web sites of interest. If used widely, this exciting development has the ability to free up students so they are no longer tied to one or two sources for information, as well as free up lecturers to concentrate on face-to-face teaching.

Date: 08/04/2005

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: Teaching

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# Fitzpatrick appointed Head of Fine Arts

Associate Professor Donald Fitzpatrick has been appointed the Head of the School of Fine Arts. His previous university position was Head of Visual Art in the Creative Industries faculty at the Queensland University of Technology.

At Queensland there was a radical moment when we attempted a complete transformation of the existing faculty of the arts. In July 2001 we established the first Creative Industries faculties in the southern hemisphere, he says.

The intent was to create pathways of study that would allow a student to combine various hands-on disciplines from within a university's academic offering.

Traditionally in arts faculties, study was in purely theoretical subjects. At the new Creative Industries faculty, students combined hands-on disciplines such as fine art, film, design, journalism and dance.

Professor Tony Jones, head of the Art Institute of Chicago, has described the Bachelor of Fine Arts as the passport to the new economy. The new industries driving the knowledge economy want graduates from the creative arts.

We're talking about a new kind of literacy: People who understand how text, images, sound and movement combine to present a message, are sought after. These are the core literacies of the new economy.

Adolescents aged 12 or 13 are uniquely aware of how text and images work together. To cope with the flood of information, editing has become a mainstream art form in itself take music sampling or digital photo manipulation for example.

Associate Professor Fitzpatrick's research interests include theories of recognition and repetition, and contemporary Asian visual culture. During the 1980s he was the first artist in residence in Hanoi, Vietnam.

I'm primarily a painter and sculptor by training but my interests embrace all forms of image generation. My next solo show of paintings and drawings will be at the Peter Rae Gallery in Dunedin in July.

Date: 08/04/2005

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Creative Arts

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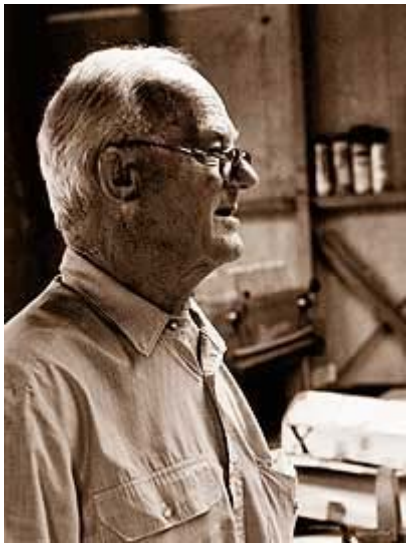
# Ahead of his time



Elwyn Richardson, who is now in his 80th year, was awarded Doctor of Literature (honoris causa) at the second of the Auckland ceremonies on Wednesday 13 April.

He is best known for his ground-breaking teaching in the remote rural school of Oruaiti and its documentation in the 1964 book In the Early World published by the New Zealand Council for Educational Research (NZCER). The book outlines his philosophy of teaching and learning, including his respect for the emerging abilities of the children he taught.  They are my teachers as I was theirs and the basis of our relationship was sincerity, without which, I am convinced, there can be no creative education.

Professor of Policy Studies in Education John Codd says Mr Richardson is widely recognised as one of New Zealand's most inspiring, innovative and influential teachers whose ideas were ahead of his time. He describes In the Early World as undoubtedly a classic of New Zealand education that has attracted world-wide interest and has been read and studied by thousands of New Zealand teachers over four decades. Professor Codd notes that when the book was reprinted in 2001, the back cover carried the following statement:

It is timely in the 21st century to recapture teaching as an art. In the Early World inspires teachers to take risks, to contemplate values and philosophies as central to the teaching-learning process and to adapt prescribed curriculum to the children's own desire to explore, inquire and create.

The Director of NZCER, Robyn Baker, recalls that the book was reprinted at the request of teacher educators because his approaches continue to offer inspiration to a new generation of teachers.  Probably many countries have had brilliant, inspirational educators such as Elwyn, but rarely do they inspire and influence the pedagogy of their country. It is rare also for a teacher's philosophies to remain current through waves of educational change.

Admirers of Mr Richardson's approach included senior academics at Massey University, the late Professor Clem Hill and Associate Professor Don McAlpine who is now retired. On the impact of In the Early World, Associate Professor McAlpine says:  Oruaiti had become a microcosm for wider educational settings. Mr Richardson had many disciples who adopted and adapted his philosophy of learning and teaching. Their classrooms, too, were alive with art, pottery, poems, maths and music.

Mr Richardson also applied his philosophy to large city schools in Auckland. His book became recommended reading for students at Massey and visits were arranged to schools that implemented his approach. Associate Professor McAlpine and Mr Richardson developed a professional friendship that lasted 30 years.  We both shared a strong interest in creativity and gifted and talented students, Professor McAlpine says.

Mr Richardson has published (and is still publishing) many other books and articles related to his experiences in children's writing, art, creativity and the education of gifted and talented children. The most recent are Into a Further World (2001) and Creative Process in Language Art Teaching (2003).

Date: 08/04/2005

Type: Graduation

Categories: Auckland; Graduation; Graduation (Auckland)

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# First Doctor of Science for Albany

Professor Jeff Hunter received the highest of science degrees when he becomes a Doctor of Science at the University's forthcoming graduation ceremonies in Auckland.

Professor Hunter is the Professor of Statistics within the Institute of Information and Mathematical Sciences (IIMS). His specialisation is in applied probability, a branch of mathematics that involves the use of probability concepts and methods to model random phenomena. The Doctor of Science degree has been conferred for his work in this area.

This is the first Doctor of Science degree awarded by the University to an academic at the Albany campus and for Professor Hunter, it is the first DSc awarded in his field of research. Although honorary higher doctorates have been conferred from this campus, Professor Hunter's is the first to be earned in New Zealand. He is Massey's 20th DSc according to records.

Professor Hunter was awarded his Master of Science degree with first class honours in Mathematics from the University of Auckland in 1963. At that time he became interested in applied probability, a field that has only a handful of New Zealand based researchers to this day. He pursued this field of research for his Doctor of Philosophy in Statistics from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1968.

Professor Hunter was at the University of Auckland until he came to Massey in 1990. He was the foundation Head of the Department of Statistics and foundation Head of IIMS at the Albany campus.

His Doctor of Science submission covered a selection of published research papers, manuscripts and book chapters that he has made in the field of applied probability. He has published more than 40 sole-authored scientific papers in international journals. He is author of the two-volume book Mathematical Techniques of Applied Probability published by Academic Press in 1983. In 2003 he was awarded a New Zealand Science and Technology Bronze Medal for his contributions to the mathematical and information sciences.

Professor Hunter retires in June. He will continue working at the University on a part time basis.

Date: 08/04/2005

Type: Graduation

Categories: Auckland; Graduation; Graduation (Auckland)

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# Institute to consolidate animal health expertise

Plans for a world leading animal health research centre based in the Manawatu have been unveiled.

The Hopkirk Institute will concentrate the expertise of scientists from Massey University's Institute of Veterinary Animal and Biomedical Science (IVABS) and AgResearch.

A joint venture between AgResearch and the University, the Hopkirk Research Institute is named after Dr C.S.M Hopkirk who headed theWallaceville Veterinary Laboratory for 21 years, from 1923 1945.

Plans for the construction of a new Institute facility on the University's Palmerston North campus were unveiled at a naming ceremony attended by some of the country's leading scientists and animal health researchers.

AgResearch CEO, Andy West, says it is fitting the facility carries the name of a scientist who played a determining role during the formative years of animal research in New Zealand.

His emphasis on the underlying importance of research, coupled with organisational changes at the laboratory during his tenure, laid a firm foundation for many subsequent advances in animal health.

The $16 million state-of-the-art research and teaching facility was designed by S2F, an architectural and engineering company which specialises in biotechnology construction projects. When completed in 18 months time, the Institute will house approximately 70 research staff (20 from IVABS and around 50 from AgResearch who will be relocating from Wallaceville). It will include around 4000 square metres of floor space and the latest in modern laboratory facilities.Professor Grant Guilford, head of IVABS says the collaborative venture creates a team of animal health researchers of a size and expertise that rivals that found anywhere in the world. He says the potential for commercial success is enhanced by the region's reputation for innovative companies and product development.

The region already has a number of companies with an interest in animal health - such as New Zealand Pharmaceuticals, Estendart Ltd, Fonterra, Gribbles and New Zealand Veterinary Pathology as well as companies with more generic expertise to protect intellectual property and invest in its development. This, along with the world-class 'process engineering' skills of Massey's Institute of Technology and Engineering, offers the Manawatu region a unique strategic opportunity that we must make every effort to capitalise on."

AgResearch scientist Dr Wayne Hein was announced as the inaugural Director of the Institute. Dr Hein will conduct integrated molecular, cellular and whole animal studies on the epidemiology, pathogenesis, immunology and control of livestock diseases. He says emphasis will be placed on infectious diseases endemic to New Zealand which threaten productivity of the pastoral sector, animal welfare, sustainability of farming systems, food safety and market access for animal products.

Our research focus will be to continue to contribute to veterinary and biomedical knowledge and lead to products and technologies which improve animal health and welfare and are beneficial to the environment.

Initially there will be three areas of major focus:
- Researching new solutions for the control of parasitic diseases primarily attacking sheep and cattle.
- Evaluating new, more effective vaccines to combat infectious diseases chiefly tuberculosis, with emphasis on Johne's disease in ruminants.
- Identifying and predicting the occurrence of food poisoning threats in New Zealand and devising strategies to minimise their prevalence and impact.

Date: 22/04/2005

Type: University News

Categories: College of Sciences; Explore - Agriculture/Horticulture; Palmerston North

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# Identifying the likely bankrupts

A new study could help Justice officials and even lenders identify people most at risk of bankruptcy.

The study, by the head of the Commerce Department Professor Lawrence Rose and research student Larissa Allen, aimed to assess the likelihood of bankruptcy among debtors who were in default then given a chance to repay under a summary installment order (SIO) administered by the district courts.

Rates of personal bankruptcy among New Zealanders increased eight-fold in the 30 years to 2003: previous research by Professor Rose and Masters student Kathryn Redhead found the SIO was an effective way of helping debtors work their way out of insolvency.

The new study looked more closely at those who went through the process and succeeded, comparing them with those who did not. It involved reviewing 416 SIO files from district courts throughout the country.

Professor Rose describes New Zealand's SIO programme as an innovative combination of debt forgiveness and regular administered payments aimed at avoiding forcing people into bankruptcy. Other countries also have court-administered repayment plans, such as the United States' Chapter 13 and Canada's Consumer Proposal, as alternatives to bankruptcy but New Zealand's system is unique.

The most significant findings from the new study are that the biggest risk of financial failure is in the first five months of the SIO programme, with the risk of failure decreasing over time, and that people previously declared bankrupt are more likely to fail than those who were not.

Unrealistic expectations of the ability of a debtor to make repayments were also statistically significant, with every $10 increase in fortnightly repayments raising the risk of failure by 20 percent.

Other determinants of financial failure include income perhaps unsurprisingly those with higher incomes were more likely to pay off their debts and numbers of dependents. Again, those with more dependents were more likely to fail. SIO participants who were older or single tended to survive the process better than those who were younger or married. But there was no significant difference between the survival rates of men and women.

Professor Rose says the study could help Justice Ministry staff by alerting them to the type of people most in need of close monitoring, particularly in the early months. It could also assist in setting achievable repayment goals.

Banks too could use the data to look for warning signs before advancing personal loans. Maybe they could avoid forcing customers into the [SIO] process rather than just keep pushing credit on them when they can't handle it, says Professor Rose.

He says most people want to avoid bankruptcy and the stigma it carries.

Obviously there are some people out there who don't have any conscience or who are just ripping off the system. But the vast majority of people are actually good people who really want to pay off their debts. They just get in so far that they can't do it.

Date: 22/04/2005

Type: Research

Categories: College of Business

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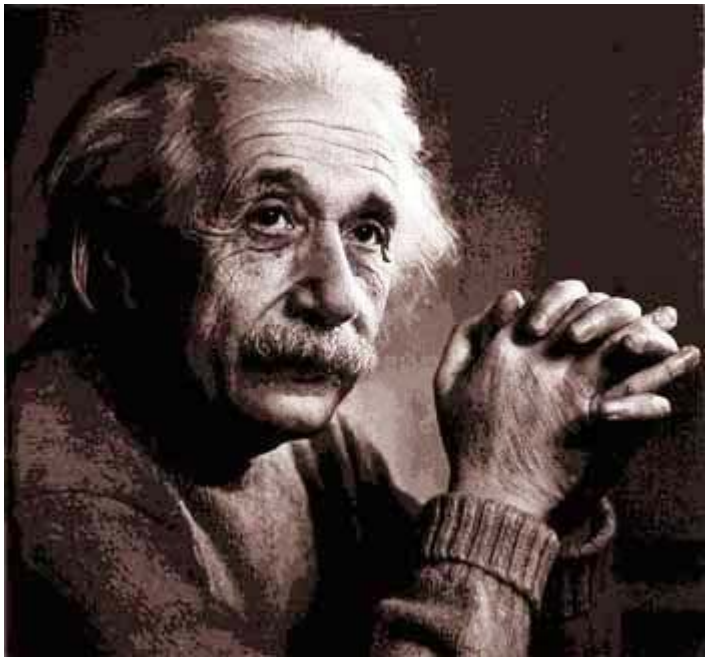

# Einstein 50 years on

Monday, 18 April was the 50th anniversary of the death of Albert Einstein. Steven Pascal and Tony Signal of the Institute of Fundamental Sciences, with additional material from Manawatu Standard journalist John Myers, tell why the little guy with the soulful eyes, the electric hair and the walrus moustache is so famous.

***"What I seek to accomplish is simply to serve with my feeble capacity truth and justice at the risk of pleasing no one." From Albert Einstein's last written words, April 18, 1955.***

E=mc?

It means a small amount of mass (m) can be turned into a vast amount of energy (E). The equation's c is the speed of light, and it opened the way to nuclear science. Turn it about and it means that nothing can ever travel faster than light, and that distance (space) and time are relative to how "fast" you're going. E=mc? served the 20th century well, but it's all under challenge in the 21st.

If you were asked to name a famous scientist from the last century, it's likely your answer would be Albert Einstein, whose name has resounded through the world for 100 years. His image became a 20th century icon along with Marilyn Monroe and John F. Kennedy.

He's widely regarded as the man who, as early as 1905, pointed the theoretical way to nuclear power and nuclear weapons. On the verge of World War II, out of fear that Germany could produce and use an atomic bomb, the revered scientist was persuaded to write to US President Franklin Roosevelt urging "watchfulness and, if necessary, quick action".

The result was the Manhattan Project, which strongly-pacifist Einstein took no part in. It's said he didn't know the bomb had been made until Hiroshima. He was appalled.

This year, the centenary of Einstein's remarkable arrival on the scientific stage, has been dubbed "World Year of Physics" by the General Assembly of the United Nations in recognition of Einstein's achievements. This is the first time since perhaps the International Geophysical Year in the late 1950s that scientific endeavour has featured so strongly in international consciousness.

Who was Albert Einstein? How did he become such a revered figure?

His early life offers few clues. He was born on March 14, 1879, the only son of a Jewish electrician from Ulm, Germany.

Electrician? Electricity as a consumer utility had only just started to be discussed. Alternating current was yet to be perfected. There was no such thing as a "power station". Hermann Einstein was a brain in his own right.

Young Albert didn't speak until he was three. Even afterwards his parents expressed concerns that he might be retarded. At 10, Albert showed himself a mediocre student at a Catholic primary school - but one noted for his stubbornness and sense of personal principles.

Like his father, he wasn't enamoured of any particular form of religious belief. He disliked the militaristic and nationalistic jingoism rife in Europe and especially Germany at the time. He refused to tolerate small talk or even the "whitest" of lies.
Albert performed no better academically at secondary school. But it was there he was introduced to works of popular science by German authors. These awakened a deep fascination with the inner workings of nature. He began to turn his rebelliousness in the direction of established science - not blindly contemptuous of all established science, but certainly willing to give every aspect his own critical look.

At university in Switzerland, he at last performed quite well in mathematics and physics, but found it impossible to obtain a post-graduate student position. His rebelliousness frightened the professors and his recent immigration from Germany, along with being Jewish, didn't help.

After a series of low-pay, temporary teaching jobs, Albert was reluctantly persuaded to join the Swiss patent office in Berne. It gave him a chance to investigate would-be inventions, many of which had to do with electricity and light. He also had the time and opportunity to investigate his own ideas.

In 1905, those ideas bore fruit that would utterly change the face of science. Three scientific papers were published in the Annalen der Physik.

His first established the existence, for once and all, of atoms as real physical entities.

The second used the concept of the energy carried by light being divided into discrete lumps, or quanta, to explain the photoelectric effect, which had puzzled scientists for about 20 years.

These two papers can be regarded as important foundations of quantum physics, which has grown and given rise to such important technologies of today as solid state electronics and lasers.

The third paper was his Special Theory of Relativity, in which he considered how events would look to observers who were travelling at different speeds.

He started from the already well-known "Principle of Relativity", that essentially states that a game of catch on the ground and a game of catch in the back of a moving truck both appear the same to someone travelling with the players.

But using great physical insight, he was able to show that as the difference in the speed of two observers becomes large, they will begin to disagree on the size of objects that they pass, the rate of passage of time, and at what time an event occurs. Both time and motion are relative to the observer.

Such conclusions turned common sense on its head (along with ideas in physics that dated back to Galileo and Newton), but Albert's reasoning was rock solid. His ideas were able to explain some important differences between light and other waves, such as sound.

There was a fourth paper, a sort of mathematical footnote to the Special Theory, that established the relationship between energy, mass and velocity.

E=mc?

It became a 20th century mantra.

Formerly something of a pariah, Einstein was, at least in scientific circles, suddenly a man who's ideas were important and ground-shaking. He was quickly offered prestigious positions in several universities.

He first took a post in Zurich, but later moved to Berlin. The years after 1905 were spent perfecting the special theory, and then he began contemplating the more ambitious General Theory of Relativity, which considered the effects of gravity.

In this work, which appeared between 1911 and 1916, Einstein used simple visualisations, such as windowless elevators to show that gravity and acceleration were one and the same thing.

While Einstein was highly regarded by many other scientists at this time (there were some who vehemently opposed the concept of relativity), he was largely unknown to the general public. In any case, Europe was totally preoccupied with war, and Einstein was becoming increasingly committed to pacifism.

His public celebrity blossomed in 1919, when one of the predictions of his General Theory of Relativity was confirmed.
Einstein had worked out that the light from distant stars that passes close to the sun would be bent, as if by a lens, by the strong gravitational field of the sun.

During a solar eclipse, this bending of starlight was observed and photographed by an international Royal Society of London expedition, and the amount of deviation agreed exactly with Einstein's calculations.

This discovery was widely publicised. It is not exactly clear why this particular scientific discovery seemed to resonate with the public mood. Perhaps it offered hope that, after a long disastrous war, international co-operation in science could make sense of the world.

Certainly, Einstein seemed amazed and even displeased by the international demands for his presence and his time that came with fame, a fame which grew further when he was awarded the Nobel prize in 1921.

This was long-overdue. But because relativity was still a controversial matter, the award cited only his 1905 explanation of the photo-electric effect.

In the 1920s he also became more well-known because of his humanistic ideals and his strong support for creation of a Jewish nation in Palestine (in 1952 he would offered, and would decline, presidency of the state of Israel). Increasingly anti-semitic, Berlin became wary of him, and his travels extended around the world. He was feted especially in the United States, where he was front page news in every city he visited, crowds hanging on every word.

Additional scientific discoveries further propelled Einstein's fame. Astronomers, particularly Harlow Shapley and Edwin Hubble (the US space telescope was named for him), had discovered that the Milky Way galaxy was not the whole of the universe, but only one of a myriad of expanding star systems. Because Einstein had developed the only physical theory that could comprehend the expanding universe, he and Hubble suddenly became huge celebrities.

In 1933 the Nazis came to power in Germany, and life there soon became intolerable for Einstein and other prominent Jews. His American celebrity allowed him to emigrate there. He was given a lifetime professorship at Princeton University, and his hardline pacifism softened as he began to warn of German militarism and aggression.

In the relative isolation that Princeton offered, he lived quietly and was free to pursue his own scientific interests. However, outside events again would bring him into the public eye with the warning letter to Roosevelt.

Interestingly, Einstein was declared a security risk by the FBI, and played no part in the development of these weapons. As it happened, Germany was defeated before it could produce a bomb.

At that point, Einstein attempted to prevent atomic weapons from being used against Japan, but to no avail.

When the terrible power of these bombs was unleashed, the implications of Einstein's theory of special relativity were clear for all to see. The equation he had first written down in 1905, stating that a small amount of mass could be converted into a huge amount of energy, became the most important scientific statement of the century, and there was a flurry of activity around the globe as science, industry and the military attempted to fully exploit the energy contained in the nuclei of atoms.

Einstein was now more famous than ever, yet handled his fame with humility and even bemusement. He eventually concluded that his fame afforded him the opportunity to speak out against injustice wherever and whenever it occurred. He used this new power to lobby tirelessly for a halt to all wars regardless of the rationale, and became famous for such quotes as "Concern for man himself must always constitute the chief objective of all technological effort."

Date: 22/04/2005

Type: Features

Categories: College of Sciences

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*This year 11 people graduated PhD at the Auckland ceremonies. Shown above are 4 new Doctors of Philosophy from the College of Sciences, they are from the left Dr Lisa Marjorie Duizer, Dr Olaf Diegal, Dr Cynthia Wang and Dr Ian Sabg-Yoon Lim.*

# The first Massey graduands for 2005 step out in Auckland

Days of brilliant weather, a week of celebrations, over a thousand happy graduates and their friends and families made graduation 2005 the biggest and boldest yet for Massey Auckland. It was also the launch of the graduation season for the three University campuses.

The annual North Shore event has grown incrementally from the on-campus ceremonies of less than ten years ago, as student numbers and degree completions at the Albany campus have increased. This year there were six ceremonies and six colourful processions through the centre of Takapuna, as well as on-campus celebrations for Pacific Island and Maori graduates, a special dinner for staff, speakers and invited guests and a dinner for extramural students.

Although Albany's graduation processions have only recently become an established event in the North Shore City, the processions this year made a big impact in downtown Takapuna. Each day began with a champagne breakfast in the North Shore City Council courtyard followed by processions to the Bruce Mason Centre each morning and afternoon over three days. The week ended on a high note with the Maori graduation ceremonies on campus.

Doctors of Philosophy from Humanities and Social Sciences. They from left: Dr Karen McBride-Henry, Dr Hugh Morrison, Dr Margaret Symes and Dr Denise Wilson

Date: 22/04/2005

Type: Graduation

Categories: Auckland; Graduation; Graduation (Auckland)

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# Clean Sweep for NZ School of Music students

Students from the New Zealand School of Music, a joint school of Victoria and Massey universities, took a clean sweep in the Lexus Song Quest last night.

Madeleine Pierard took first place, followed by Allison Cormack and Jamie Frater (pictured). A former Victoria student, Joanna Heslop, was also a finalist.

The School's Interim Academic Director and former Head of Victoria's School of Music, Euan Murdoch, praised the students' success.

The Lexus Song Quest is the premiere vocal competition in New Zealand and to be a finalist alone is a major achievement of which all the finalists can be rightly proud. It is from this competition that singers of the like of Dame Kiri te Kanawa, Dame Malvina Major and Jonathon Lemalu have been launched to international prominence and it is a sign of the nascent School's future strength.

The New Zealand School of Music was officially launched last October and will be fully established on 1 January next year. It is teaching at Victoria's Kelburn site and Massey's Conservatorium of Music as a new home is sought. The two universities have secured the backing of the Wellington City Council to place the School's home on the former Circa/ Ilott Green site in Civic Square and a fundraising campaign for the building is underway.

The Song Quest is regarded as New Zealand's top national singing competition, with a first prize worth over $25,000 and the total awards to be presented worth more than $63,000. The final was held at the Auckland Town Hall last night (April 28). The finalists were accompanied by the NZ Symphony Orchestra at this concert, and the competition judge was international opera star Grace Bumbry. Miss Bumbry will then teach masterclasses in Auckland (April 29), Wellington (April 30), Dunedin (May 2) and Christchurch (May 3) in which semifinalists and finalists of this year's competition will take part.

Ms Pierard is a 23-year-old mezzo from Napier. She has a Bachelor of Music in Composition and in Performance Voice from Victoria University and this year she is doing an Honours course in Performance Voice. Ms Pierard is a member of TOWER Voices New Zealand, the Tudor Consort and the Chapman Tripp Chorus of the NBR New Zealand Opera. She was a

member of TOWER New Zealand Youth Choir from 2000 to 2003, often appearing as a soloist. In 2004 she won the PACANZ National Young Performer Award and she won a Rotary Scholarship for excellence in the study of music. She also holds a 2005 Moyra Todd Scholarship.

Ms Cormack is a 25-year-old soprano who grew up in the lower North Island, attending schools in Dannevirke, Levin and Hawke's Bay. She is currently in her third year of a Bachelor of Music in Performance Voice at Victoria University

and has a Diploma in Performing Arts Voice from the Eastern Institute of Technology in Hawke's Bay. In 1998 she did the Preparatory Degree Course at the Queensland Conservatorium of Music in Brisbane.

Ms Cormack first attended the opera when she was just three years old and was so entranced by the experience that she refused to leave the theatre during the interval. She started formal singing lessons when she was 15. Allison is a member of the Chapman Tripp Opera Chorus of the NBR New Zealand Opera and in 2003 she performed the role of the First Lady in The Magic Flute for Opera Hawke's Bay. She holds a 2005 Moyra Todd Scholarship.

Mr Frater is a 30-year-old baritone from Lower Hutt, currently working as a computer programmer for the Met Service in Wellington. He started his voice studies at the age of 18 but stopped after two years to pursue a career in computing. Eight years later, watching a friend perform in Les Miserables prompted a fresh desire to return to singing and he subsequently resumed vocal studies part-time at Massey University's Conservatorium of Music. In September this year Mr Frater will start tuition in the Masters programme at the Royal College of Music in London, having been offered places at three major English music schools. In the last two years he has performed principal roles in three world premiere productions of New Zealand operas, produced by Sirius Opera, and in April this year he appears in a Sirius Opera production of a Dorothy Buchanan chamber opera.

Associate Professor Matthew Marshall of Massey University says the success of the Wellington singers speaks for itself.

We are proud of their achievement, and are confident that the vocal studies programme at the New Zealand School of Music will continue to produce top performers.

**Created: 23 May, 2008**

Date: 23/04/2005

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Creative Arts; Wellington

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# Honorary Doctorate for Jazz Legend

Jazz legend Rodger Fox will be awarded Doctor of Music (honoris causa) at the second of the Wellington campus graduation ceremonies, on Thursday 26 May.

Rodger Fox is known as New Zealand's top jazz trombonist, bandleader and a talented arranger.

Associate Professor of Music, Matthew Marshall says Mr Fox is widely recognised as New Zealand's leading jazz performer and educator. His name is synonymous with jazz in this country. He is considered a living legend in music.

As an educator Rodger Fox has supported and mentored a generation of New Zealand's most talented and gifted students who have since gone on to national and international careers, he says.

For more than 30 years as the leader of the Rodger Fox Big Band he has performed throughout New Zealand and overseas, including at the Montreaux, Monterey and Wichita Jazz Festivals in the USA, and at Ronnie Scott's Jazz Club in London.

The Big Band has performed with many of the great jazz artists such as Louie Bellson, Arturo Sandoval, Bob Sheppard, Bobby Shew, Joe Williams, Lanny Morgan, Don Rader, Bruce Paulson, Bill Reichenbach, and Buddy De Franco.

In 2003 Mr Fox was honoured for his commitment and services to New Zealand music by being made an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit (ONZM).

He has recorded 21 albums and CDs, and has been musical director for both the New Zealand High Schools' and New Zealand Youth Jazz Orchestras.

Admirers of Mr Fox include American composer, pianist and Grammy-nominated arranger Bill Cunliffe: The soul of New Zealand jazz owes more to this gentleman than perhaps any other person. Rodger Fox is jazz in New Zealand.

Lecturer and trumpet player Jon Papenbrook from North Texas State University also paid tribute: His name always rises to the top of the list of New Zealanders striving to advance music.

Rodger Fox performs in Auckland at the Blue Chip International Jazz Series on 26 May. The Series is the biggest jazz event on the calendar, visiting eight centres throughout New Zealand.

Date: 23/04/2005

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Creative Arts; Graduation; Graduation (Wellington)

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# Book provides analysis of New Zealand's ethnic relations

Indigenous, ethnic and immigrant identities and politics in New Zealand are the focus of a recently published book, Tangata,Tangata.

The three editors - professors Paul Spoonley and Cluny Macpherson from Massey University and Professor David Pearson from Victoria University - have now produced four books, the first in 1984. They provide an analysis and record of ethnic relations and politics.

Some issues, such as the constitutional significance of the Treaty of Waitangi or the economic performance of various groups, remain the same. Others, especially the cultural diversity associated with immigration, have changed significantly in the last 20 years.

Tangata, Tangata was due for publication in mid-2004 but events last year changed deadlines. The Brash speech at Orewa, the debate on the foreshore and seabed legislation and the emergence of the Māori Party meant that contributors needed more time to analyse these developments.

The books have each provided a record of key issues that define New Zealand's inter-group relations and policies, Professor Spoonley says.

They are used as texts for university courses but the analysis offered attracts a much broader readership.

Date: 24/04/2005

Type: Research

Categories: Book; College of Humanities & Social Sciences

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# New communications scholarships

Communication consultancy Senate Communications is funding up to two research grants in the amount of $1500 each to Massey University or Victoria University of Wellington postgraduate students.

Massey students working towards an Honours, Masters or other postgraduate research paper on a topic that relates broadly to the field of communications are eligible to apply.

Senate Communications managing partner Neil Green says the grants will foster research of interest to both communications practitioners and their clients, thereby making a contribution towards the wider communications profession.

One grant is named in recognition of the contribution of longstanding practitioner Sally Logan-Milne to New Zealand's communication industry. The Sally Logan-Milne/ Senate Research Grant will be awarded in support of a topic that focuses on communication measurement and evaluation. The other grant will be awarded to a student researching issues that relate to reputation management, stakeholder communications, or change management.

Sally Logan-Milne started her path in public relations by graduating from a magazine journalism course at Wellington Polytechnic as the 'most competent student'. She died on 2 October 2004 after suffering from cancer for some time.

Applications close on April 30. For more information, contact Elspeth Tilley (E.Tilley@massey.ac.nz)

Date: 24/04/2005

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Business; Scholarships

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# Royal Society honour for Professor of Chemistry

Professor John Ayers from the Institute of Fundamental Sciences was presented the Thomson medal at a recent meeting of the Royal Society of New Zealand.

Established by the Society in 1985, the Thompson Medal acknowledges an outstanding contribution to science and technology, and commemorates former Society presidents George Malcolm Thomson and his son James Allan Thomson.

Professor of Chemistry in the Institute of Fundamental Sciences, and a council member of the Royal Society, Andrew Brodie presented the medal. He says the contribution of Professor Brodie's expertise in the development, commercial production and application of ion exchange resins, is evident in the use of the resins in the international dairy industry.

He says the worldwide use of cellulose ion exchange resins generates approximately a quarter of a million dollars in royalties to the University annually. The full application of Professor Ayers' scientific and technological discoveries took almost twenty years to achieve and these discoveries are protected in 12 patents.

The most significant aspect of Professor Ayers' research has been the development of ion exchange resins from regenerated cellulose to make innovative new materials with

an exceptionally long life. Professor Brodie says the properties of the new materials meant they were ideal for industrial use with fast cycle times and on a scale which is unrivalled to this day.

An example of the application of ion exchange resins is their role in the production of whey protein isolate, the highest yield of dairy protein available for body-builders and athletes to assist in muscular growth and healing. It is also a component of fortifies sports drinks and foaming agents for whipped products. Nearly 90 percent of the world's production of the protein product requires the use of ion exchange resins, and the resins have led to the development of new processes and products in the dairy industry and export market.

Professor Ayers' skill as an organic chemist facilitated the innovative synthesis of the ion exchange process. His knowledge of what was happening at a molecular level enabled the processing of pre-concentrated solutions to an unprecedented level of concentration, and his analytical skills facilitated further development and problem-solving.

**Created: 29 April, 2005**

Date: 24/04/2005

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Sciences

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# CPA Australia accreditation for School of Accounting

The School of Accountancy has just received accreditation from CPA Australia, one of the world's largest accounting bodies.

Head of School Professor Fawzi Laswad says the new accreditation is good news for the school and the University, and will bring important benefits for students and former students. The School of Accountancy is already accredited by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of New Zealand and Professor Laswad says it intends to further extend its international presence. As an example, we are currently seeking accreditation with a prominent professional accounting body in the United Kingdom.

CPA Australia has accredited the University's Bachelor of Accountancy and the Bachelor of Business Studies (Accounting). Professor Laswad says this accreditation provides a unique opportunity for the University's accounting graduates to join CPA Australia.

CPA Australia has a strong presence in South East Asia and is building a strong base in China. This would assist our international students in furthering their career opportunities when they return to their countries.

It will also help enhance the international profile of Massey's qualifications in accountancy and potentially attract more international students to our programme.

To receive accreditation, the School of Accounting made an extensive submission that detailed academic programme, staff profile, research activities and student support services. A panel from CPA Australia visited the University's three campuses in March this year and met with staff and students, and inspected facilities and students' support. Professor Laswad says the panel was very pleased with the quality of the programmes and the University's facilities and support services.

CPA Australia has a membership of more than 105,000 finance, accounting and business professionals across the globe and is the sixth largest accounting body in the world. Its core services to members include education, training, career advice, technical support, advocacy and networking opportunities. Its staff and members also work with local and international bodies to represent the views and concerns of the profession to local and national governments and to regulators, industry, academia and the general public.

Date: 24/04/2005

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Business

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*From left: Dr Mapp, Dr Brash, Mr Key and Professor Raine*

# Brash hails passion of Auckland campus

Opposition leader Dr Don Brash recently toured the University's Auckland campus at the invitation of Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor John Raine.

In their two-hour visit, Dr Brash and National MPs John Key (Helensville), Wayne Mapp (North Shore) and Paula Bennett (list) visited senior staff and researchers on location in Biological Sciences, Design, Psychology, the e-centre and the Recreation Centre.

Dr Brash described the visit as fantastic .

The energy and passion of everyone I met at Albany bodes well for an even brighter future, he said.

Professor Raine says the visit stemmed from Dr Brash's presence at a North Shore Technology Innovation Forum at which Professor Raine presented in May.

He expressed interest in visiting the campus at that time and from our point of view it was an opportunity to raise awareness amongst politicians of Massey's growing role in Auckland and that the University is very much an engine for economic and social development on the North Shore.

I took the opportunity to outline to Dr Brash the capital development challenges facing the whole New Zealand university system also.

We toured the campus and made particular visits to the School of Design, the School of Psychology, the Allan Wilson Centre for Molecular Ecology and Evolution, and the e-centre.

Date: 05/05/2005

Type: University News

Categories: Auckland

# Bad driving habits may start early

A new study will investigate whether children learn driving habits from their parents, years before they get behind the wheel.

Dr Mark Sullman from the Department of Human Resource Management says the research involves the sending out of questionnaires to 13 and 14 year olds throughout New Zealand. He plans to follow up with the same children in two years' time when they have started driving.

Researchers at the Herriot-Watt University in Edinburgh, and the Driver Education Foundation are also taking part in the project.

Dr Sullman says the aim is to find out whether drivers develop their attitudes to driving before they start driving with a focus on what they may learn from their parents.

There's some evidence to suggest that children learn their attitudes to speeding and dangerous driving from their parents.

If your father drives like a maniac, it's more than likely you're going to drive like a maniac yourself, he says.

Recent research by the Australian Institute of Family Studies in Victoria found that children who are hyperactive, aggressive and uncooperative are more likely to grow up to be dangerous drivers.

Date: 11/05/2005

Type: Research

Categories: College of Business

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# Does caffeine enhance sport performance

Does caffeine enhance skilful performance? This is the question Dr Andrew Foskett and the Sports Science team are seeking to answer with research under way at the Albany campus.

Caffeine was removed from the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) list of prohibited substances in 2004. Previously, competitors who tested positive for more than 12 micrograms of caffeine per millilitre of urine could be banned from competition.

Caffeine is a central nervous system stimulant, entering the bloodstream through the stomach and small intestine. Caffeine intake does not show a dose-response relationship more is not necessarily better.

In fact, says Dr Foskett, the optimal dosage for enhancing performance is around 3 6 milligrams per kilogram bodyweight, a level unlikely to have failed a drugs test. Recent studies suggest values as low as 1 1.5 milligrams per kilogram of bodyweight may also improve performance.

According to Dr Foskett, the primary reason that caffeine was removed from WADA's prohibited list was to affirm that abuse of the product was unnecessary, and that consumption of social doses offered the same performance benefits as doping without the associated health risk.

To date some research findings on caffeine are ambiguous but studies have demonstrated that it can improve performance, both physically and mentally. Research suggests that caffeine can benefit endurance sports like cycling, long-distance running and possibly long duration sports such as soccer and rugby.

The Sports Science team's study is designed to examine the effect of moderate caffeine ingestion on a player's physiological and skilled performance. In order to quantify the specific effects of caffeine on performance, Dr Foskett's colleague, Dr Ajmol Ali, has developed a validated soccer skills test for players which the pair will use to measure the effects of caffeine during a simulated game.

The test is based on skills such as accuracy of passing, ball control, decision making and fine motor control, integrated into a running protocol which simulates the physiological demands that a player will undertake during a competitive game. Previous work on the effects of caffeine have generally concentrated on isolated parameters of performance or the player's perception of effort.

This study will quantify actual changes in the player's skill and physiological performance in specific activities relating to the game.

The study will compare caffeine with a placebo in a randomised, blind, cross-over design so that participants will be unaware of which treatment they are on.

The team expect to have completed their trials by September, depending on high level player availability through the season.

Date: 17/05/2005

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences

# Key roles in managing the University

Two interim appointments have been made to fill the functions of University Registrar, following the departure of Adrienne Cleland at the end of this year.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Judith Kinnear has announced that the functions of the University Registrar role will be divided into two positions, with some new accountabilities transferred from other portfolios. She says the change creates an opportunity to group student focused activities together, under one report line, and to extend and strengthen the important role of overseeing the business side of the University's operations.

Following a call for expressions of interest, Professor Kinnear has announced that Director of Strategic Finance Kerry Jaques has accepted the position of acting Chief Operating Officer. Strategic Policy Director Stuart Morriss has accepted the position of acting University Registrar.

Professor Kinnear says these appointments will formally take effect from 4 January 2006 but there will be a period of overlap before the present University Registrar Adrienne Cleland departs so that a smooth transition is effected. This overlap will include involvement by Kerry Jaques and Stuart Morriss in the Vice-Chancellor's Executive Committee and close liaison with Mrs Cleland.

Under new position descriptions, the Chief Operating Officer is accountable to the Vice-Chancellor for the provision of effective corporate support services to the University and the co-ordination of the University's planning function. As such the incumbent will lead and integrate the matrix of plans by which the University will implement its strategies. In conjunction with the University Registrar, the Chief Operating Officer will have a system view of the University and will be in a position to advise the Vice-Chancellor on potential conflicts of direction and on prioritisation of investment opportunities.

The Chief Operating Officer is accountable for the strategic and core system functions of Information Technology, Finance Operations, Human Resources, Strategic Finance & Planning, Project Management and Strategic Facilities Management.

The position of University Registrar is accountable to the Vice-Chancellor for the provision of governance and executive management support, strategic policy advice, student administration service, and marketing and communications functions. The incumbent is expected to develop a strategic view and ensure that the University's core administration is delivered both effectively and efficiently for the needs of its stakeholders and within defined levels of service. The incumbent is also required to facilitate the establishment and update of strategic positioning statements for the University and constituent regions and to ensure that the University's marketing and communication strategy is aligned to the strategic planning process and intent.

The Vice-Chancellor says it is essential that the incumbent fosters strong relationships with the Pro Vice-Chancellors and Deputy Vice-Chancellors to ensure the University promotes and provides a holistic student experience.

The University Registrar will be accountable for the strategic and core system functions of National Student Administration and Teaching Support Services (NSATS), the Printery and the Strategic External Relations group, which includes National Student Relations, Communications and Marketing, and the office of Development and Alumni.

The University Registrar will also act as secretary to the University Council.

Date: 18/05/2005

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: Internal Communications; Uni News

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# New Zealanders' attitudes to citizenship

A survey on citizenship reveals that although most New Zealanders believe democracy is working reasonably well in New Zealand, they have a low level of trust in the Parliamentary process and believe they have little influence over what the Government does.

These and other findings are from a mail survey conducted by the Department of Marketing between September and November 2004, as part of the Department's involvement in the International Social Survey Programme.

The survey included a series of questions concerned with citizenship, democratic rights, republicanism and the role of the Public Service. A summary of responses to these questions follows:

**Citizenship:**
• Most of the people surveyed (92 percent) believe good citizens obey laws and regulations, vote in elections (84 percent), and try to understand the reasoning of people with other opinions (83 percent).
• Other characteristics of good citizens are keeping a watch on the actions of government (75 percent), trying to help people who are worse off than themselves (70 percent), and not evading taxes (67 percent).
• Only 10 percent of New Zealanders belong to a political party (and most of these are not active participants), and only 30 percent have attended a political meeting or rally.
• 88 percent have signed a petition.
• 50 percent have donated money or raised funds for a social or political activity.

**Democratic rights:**
• Most New Zealanders (70 percent) believe politicians should take into account the views of citizens before making decisions and that government authorities should treat everyone equally.
• 65 percent believe that under no circumstances should democratic rights be restricted by government.
• 55 percent believe religious extremists should be allowed to hold public meetings.
• 65 percent believe people who are prejudiced against any racial or ethnic group shouldn't be allowed to hold public meetings.
• Most people (87 percent) rate our democracy at 5 out of 10 or better, but only 10 percent believe it is working very well.
• 40 percent believe we can trust the Government to do what is right most of the time, but 30 percent disagree.
• 70 percent believe it is unlikely Parliament would give serious attention to them if they tried to do something about a law they regarded as unjust or harmful.

**Republicanism:**
• Half of the respondents agreed that New Zealand should not become a republic and should

continue to have the Queen of England as its head of state.
• 35 percent believe New Zealand should become a republic and have a New Zealander as its head of state.
The Public Service:
• Most people (65 percent) believe the Public Service is committed to serving the people of New Zealand.
• Only 10 percent believe public servants are very committed to serving New Zealanders.
• 60 percent believe it is likely that when the Public Service makes serious mistakes they will be convicted.
• 60 percent believe only a small number of public servants are involved in corruption.

Professor Phil Gendall, head of the research team, said the survey results show that most New Zealanders have faith in our democracy and political system.

Despite some criticisms, our electoral system is generally seen as fair and honest, and our Public Service relatively free from corruption and committed to serving the people of New Zealand. There is widespread support for the use of referendums to decide important decisions, but those who believe New Zealand should become a republic are still in a minority.

The International Social Survey Programme (ISSP) involves leading academic institutions in 32 countries in an annual survey of economic and social policy issues. New Zealand is represented in the ISSP by Massey University. Each year the ISSP member countries carry out a 30-minute survey using the same questionnaire. The data from these surveys are deposited in a central archive in Cologne, where they are freely available to all members. This collection of data enables researchers to examine similarities and differences between countries, and to monitor changes over time.

The ISSP addresses a different topic each year in roughly a five-year cycle. Previous topics have included national identity, the roles of men and women in society, the environment, work orientation, the role of government, and religion. In 1999, the eighth year New Zealand has been involved in the ISSP, the topic was social equality, a repeat of a 1992 survey.

Date: 22/05/2005

Type: Research

Categories: College of Business

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# Social Work Theories in Action

Edited by Dr Mary Nash, Professor Robyn Munford and Kieran O'Donoghue from the School of Sociology, Social Policy and Social Work, Social Work Theories in Action, gathers expert contributions concerning the cultural issues involved in the practical application of social work theories.

The book is divided into four parts, each focused on an established theoretical approach to social work: ecological systems, community development, strengths-based approaches, and attachment theories. Within each part, individual chapters conclude with questions for reflections, references and a guide for further reading.

In Part I, Associate Professor Christa Fouche, from the School of Social and Cultural Studies at Albany, contributes a chapter exploring social work in South Africa, with a focus on HIV practice. The discussion is highly relevant in an international context and has relevance for many countries in similar situations.

Also from the School of Social and Cultural Studies, Carole Adamson has contributed a chapter on the impact of trauma within social work practice. Trauma shapes much of social work, and Ms Adamson outlines a variety of contexts and contributions to the understanding of trauma.

Mr O'Donoghue is the co-author of the Part I chapter titled 'The ecological systems metaphor in Australia'. Ecological systems theory is widely accepted as a metaphor that assists social workers to maintain a dual focus upon both people and their environments. Mr O'Donoghue also contributes to a chapter on integrated practice in mental health social work.

Professor Munford, Dr Jackie Sanders, Wheturangi Walsh-Tapiata, Rachael Selby, Tracie Mafile'o and Dr Nash (all researchers in the School of Sociology, Social Policy and Social Work) contribute all four chapters in Part II of the book which focuses on community practice. The chapters in this section explore some of the key principles of community development in action, from a range of perspectives.

Part III focuses on the ways in which strengths contribute to the integrated practice framework. Strength-based approaches have become a major influence in social work practice and have been developed in a variety of settings. The section includes chapters from Professor Munford, Dr Sanders, and Chris Thomas.

Part IV, titled 'Reworking Relationships', features contributions from Ms Thomas, and Sue Watson from the Department of Health and Human Development in the College of Education.

Social Work Theories in Action is recommended as essential reading for social and community workers, mental health professionals and social work students. It is published by London publishers Jessica Kingsley: www.jkp.com

Date: 24/05/2005

Type: Research

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences

# Conservatorium musos' win best album

For the fourth consecutive year, musicians from the Conservatorium of Music have won the coveted Best Jazz Album award at the New Zealand Music Awards.

The Kevin Clark Trio with Guest Artists Live - the Sandbar Sessions was awarded the Tui Award for the Best Jazz Album of 2005.

The album, engineered by Conservatorium of Music tutor Neil Maddever, features a strong line-up of Massey musicians. Graduates Rowan Clark (bass) and Richard Wise, (drums) are regular members of the trio, and guests include Massey tutors Colin Hemmingsen (saxophones), and Lance Philip (percussion) and graduates Michael Taylor (trumpet) and Hannah Griffin (vocals).

I was travelling in Europe when I heard the news, says Kevin Clark. I was handed a note by a hotel receptionist, and initially I couldn't believe it. Our distribution company had entered the album in the awards, so it really wasn't on my mind. To win twice in three years is fantastic for us.

He describes the album as a snapshot of what goes on at their gig. There's a mixture, from Django Reinhardt type swing to hard-edged contemporary jazz, with original compositions and reinterpretations of some Latin standards.

Pianist Kevin Clark has a first class honours degree in music and is a part-time tutor at the Conservatorium of Music. He has been performing around Wellington for the past 35 years. The Kevin Clark Trio with guest artists are the resident musicians at the Sandbar in Paremata.

The Tui Award, New Zealand's Grammy, was presented at the Manawatu International Jazz and Blues Festival on 4 June. It is part of The Blue Chip New Zealand International Jazz Series Concert featuring noted US musicians and the Rodger Fox All-star Big Band.

The Kevin Clark Trio previously won the Tui in 2003, with the album Once Upon a Song I Flew.

In 2004 the honour went to The Rodger Fox Big Band for A Rare Connection, and in 2002 it was C L Bob's turn, with Stereoscope.

Date: 24/05/2005

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Creative Arts

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# Researching health in the transition from work to retirement

The health of older adults as they move from employment to retirement is the focus of a research project awarded more than $650,000 from the Health Research Council (HRC). It is one of three Massey projects to succeed in the HRC's annual funding round.

A researcher in the School of Psychology, Dr Fiona Alpass will identify the influences on health and wellbeing in later midlife that lay the basis for community participation and health in later life.

Her research will explore the relationships between physical and mental health and personal circumstances for people aged between 55 and 70 years as they move into retirement, and examine how this relates to positive ageing, independence and maintenance of health as people grow older. Data will be collected through postal questionnaires and interviews, with follow up interviews every second year over a ten year period.

Providing an understanding of how health factors interrelate with work-force and retirement issues and contribute to health status later in life, the study will help to achieve the goals of the Government's Positive Ageing Strategy. The Strategy acknowledges that older people are a valuable resource, with skills, knowledge and experience to contribute to our country.

Also at the University's Palmerston North campus, Amohia Boulton has been awarded an HRC Strategic Development Contract to explore the issues and challenges that funders, planners and providers have in contracting for "whanau ora" at the district level. This will provide an understanding of contracting between Maori and mainstream, and seek to improve the process.

At the Wellington campus, an established research programme in the Centre for Public Health has received a further three years' funding. Commenced in 2002 and led by Centre director Professor Neil Pearce, the programme investigating the causes and control of communicable disease received $1.7 million from the HRC.

Also from the Centre for Public Health Research, Dr Andrea 't Mannetje received project funding of more than $1.1 million over three years to research dioxin exposure levels and health effects in phenoxy herbicide production workers.

The HRC is the government agency responsible for funding public good health research in New Zealand. Chief Executive Dr Bruce Scoggins says he is delighted with the high-quality research being funded, and that the HRC's commitment to improving human health is reflected in the annual funding round results. We're continuing to see research that has tangible benefits for improving the health and wellbeing of the nation.

**Created: 25 May, 2005**

Date: 24/05/2005

Type: Research

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences

# New insights into doctors' view of prescription medicine advertising

Critics of prescription medicine advertising that is directed at consumers (DTCA) argue it confuses consumers and creates tension between them and their doctors. However, new research suggests doctors' views of this advertising are more complex than sometimes appreciated.

The two Massey researchers, Ninya Maubach and Professor Janet Hoek, adopted a qualitative methodology to explore a small sample of 20 GPs' views in detail. We felt that the large sample, self-completion surveys, typically used to estimate doctors' perceptions, could not tap into their views as effectively as depth interviews. These allow issues to be probed in more detail and complex and sometimes ambivalent opinions to be uncovered.

Ms Maubach and Professor Hoek found that although the doctors interviewed had some serious concerns about DTCA, some also felt it had positive aspects. Most respondents did not report receiving a high number of DTCA-related enquiries and few felt under pressure to prescribe particular drugs. However, the doctors we interviewed were concerned about the poor level of information provided in prescription medicine advertisements and many spent time dispelling incorrect perceptions their patients had formed after seeing some advertisements.

Ms Maubach and Professor Hoek note that concerns over the level of risk information provided in DTCA have been documented in several consumer surveys. It is disappointing that, despite clear evidence that consumers find DTCA unbalanced and the information difficult to access, the advertising and pharmaceutical industries have not fully responded to these concerns.

We sensed frustration among doctors that problems with the format and content of DTCA had not been addressed by advertisers, and that they had to deal with the patient confusion that sometimes resulted.

Just under half the doctors we interviewed favoured a ban on DTCA and nearly all considered that stricter regulation of this advertising was necessary. It is ironic that advertisers' failure to address doctors' concerns has led to scepticism among a group that recognised the potential for DTCA to contribute to better dialogue between them and their patients.

**Created: 24 May, 2005**

Date: 24/05/2005

Type: Research

Categories: College of Business

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# New book on ICT use in schools

Dr David Stewart, from the College of Education, is co-author of a new book that fills a gap in teacher knowledge on effective use of ICT.

Education union, NZEI Te Riu Roa, is hosting the launch of the book, Cybercells Learning In Actual and Virtual Groups, which provides advice on how teachers and principals can use ICT to enhance learning in schools.

The book is co- written by Professor Ken Stevens, Professor of Education at Memorial University of Newfoundland in Canada, and Dr Stewart, inaugural director of the New Zealand Principal and Leadership Centre, based at the Palmerston North campus.

NZEI National President Colin Tarr commends the book to everyone involved in providing quality learning opportunities for students in schools.

For a decade now teachers and principals have lacked practical guidelines on the effective use of ICT in schools, he says. There's been debate over strategies but no one has translated this into well constructed practical approaches to ICT that schools could adapt for their own particular situation. Ken and David have filled that gap with this book. They have used their understanding of what happens in classrooms to develop a set of ideas and possible approaches for teachers and principals to consider.

They provide 'real life' case studies, practical applications and clearly describe teaching and learning approaches that utilise ICT as a powerful learning tool.

The book will be launched on Friday 20 May at NZEI Te Riu Roa National Office in Wellington.

Date: 24/05/2005

Type: Research

Categories: Book; College of Education

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# Rural drift forcing up land values

The gap between the price of houses in urban and provincial areas is closing fast and commentators say that's partly because city dwellers are trying to escape to the country.

Their dream of a rural lifestyle is pushing up prices in less populated areas, says the latest AMP quarterly home affordability index, compiled by the Real estate group at Massey University.

As a result housing has become less affordable in almost every region throughout the country.

The index for January to March shows the steepest annual decline in nine years.

Only Auckland, Wellington, Nelson/Marlborough and Southland had become slightly more affordable in the latest quarter compared with the previous three months, the study found.

Graham Crews, senior lecturer in real estate, says the shrinking gap between rural and urban house prices could be attributed to population shift.

"There is some anecdotal evidence that jaded city dwellers are migrating to the provinces for cheaper housing and a lifestyle change," he said.

But he had other reasons for prices rising fast outside the city limits.

City and foreign buyers scouting for cheap rental housing stock could be pushing up prices, he said.

"In terms of investor activity, the shrinking gap could also be due to city-based and offshore investors seeking improved returns by purchasing rental housing in New Zealand's regional towns as well as the cities."

Affordability in the last quarter picked up 0.3 per cent in Auckland, 1.5 per cent in Wellington, 3.8 per cent in Nelson/Marlborough and 2.5 per cent in Southland.

But it fell 3.9 per cent in Northland, 5.9 per cent in Waikato/Bay of Plenty/Gisborne, 3.3 per cent in Hawkes Bay, 16.3 per cent in Taranaki, 4.5 per cent in Manawatu/Wanganui, 3.8 per cent in Canterbury/Westland and 5.5 per cent in Otago.

**Created: 6 May, 2005**

Date: 24/05/2005

Type: Research

Categories: College of Business

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# You know what I mean... maybe

Does it ever occur to you that Angelina Jolie is really phat? Well, according to young Kiwis, she totally is.

A weird world of modern slang has evolved since the days when a beautiful woman was a fox, a young man was a dude and couples made out.

To make sure today's hapless adult can keep up, the Ministry of Youth Development this week released a list of modern terms to aid communication with younger peeps.

In today's terms, phat means good-looking or cool. And the opposite of phat? Phat-phree, naturally.

Self-respecting teens now label attractive men "skux" and strange occurrences "wack". People with red hair are ginga or morange. People trying to break into the in-crowd are klingons. To be embarrassed is to be moked or owned.

The Press took to the streets yesterday with the ministry's lingo quiz. John Cottier, 72, of Rotherham, is initially excited about the challenge. "Oh, cool," he says, only to be told the new term is kewl (pronounced kee-yool). He does not believe there is such a word as "dis", but he still correctly guesses that it means to disrespect someone.

However, it's all downhill from there, and Cottier ends the quiz with a score of one out of 10.

He remembers a time when he talked of morons, and his parents didn't have a clue what he was on about. Chur John.

Amy Hosking, 21, scores seven out of 10. "I'm not too sure how everyone speaks," she says. Aight.

Holly Downie, 15, a student at Avonside Girls' High School, is excited about being in the paper. She scores eight out of 10, and guesses that some of the words in the quiz are better known in the North Island. True dat.

But Holly and her friends have words of warning.

Just because you're now up to date with the kewl, dope, gravy, mint lingo of today's young peeps doesn't mean you should drop the odd klingon, moked or dis into conversation.

Sam Walker, 15, also a student at Avonside Girls' High School, says adults sound totally wrong talking about gingas or trippin'.

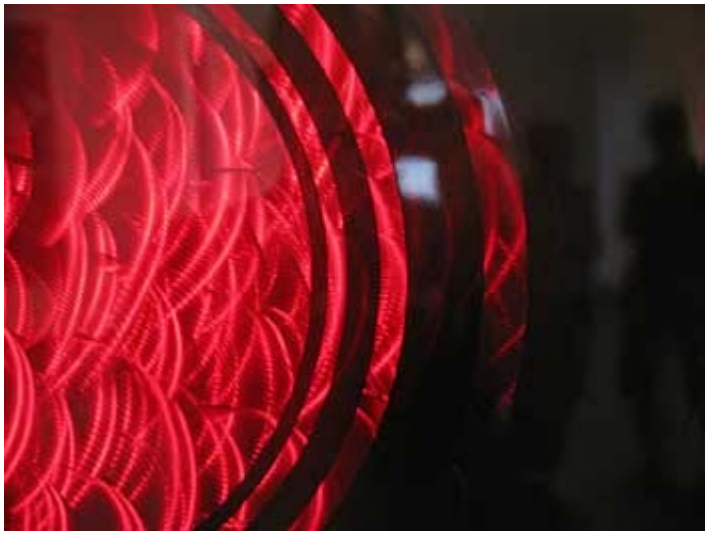
"Like, no," she says, hand raised in the air in protest. Fo' shizzle ma nizzle, Sam.

Link to Quiz: http://www.myd.govt.nz/pag.cfm?i=480

Date: 24/05/2005

Type: Research

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences



*A close-up of one of the spheres that feature in Israel Birch's paintings. The highly reflective lacquer is on top of layers of a metallic ink developed especially for the paintings.*

# The sight of sound

Inspired by the science of sound and the spirituality of music, the unique lacquer and steel paintings of Māori Visual Arts Masters student Israel Tangaroa Birch will show at a major international exhibition in 2006.

Mr Birch, Ngāti Kahungunu, Ngā Puhi, won a merit award at the recent Norsewear Art Awards, and in February will exhibit in a cross-cultural show at the Spirit Wrestler Gallery in Vancouver, Canada.

Manawa Pacific Heartbeat, will feature more than forty major artists from the First Nations of the Pacific Northwest Coast of Canada and from Māori artists including Mr Birch and Professor Bob Jahnke. After a month's artistic residency in Holland, Mr Birch attended the first show shared by Māori artists and First Nation artists at the Spirit Wrestler Gallery in 2003. It was here he met Professor Jahnke, who encouraged him to take his art to a Masters level, to continue his learning of Te Reo Māori, and to further his visual portrayal of sound and music.

The concentric ripples emanating from the glowing red and orange orbs of his Masters paintings illustrate the nature of sound from Māori instruments such as the koauau. In 2003 he started to develop the ink layering process that creates the metallic gleam and reflection on the stainless steel canvas, and he is still perfecting the ink formula.

He says time spent with the late Hirini Melbourne, an academic virtuoso of Māori instruments and academic, fired his passion for the family of Ngā Taonga Pāoro (Māori instruments). My work is a direct influence to the voices of these instruments and I wish to create works that sing, whether in painting or sculpture. He says each instrument has its own mauri (life force), wairua (spirit) and reo (voice). When given life through the medium of breath, they sing. I see my work as having the same concept.

A quote of special resonance to Mr Birch accompanied his series of six paintings at last year's end-of-year Masters show at the Te Manawa gallery in Palmerston North. It is a translation by Hirini Melbourne with Brian Flintoff and reads: It was in the night that the gods sang the world into existence. From the world of light, into the world of music.

Mr Birch is currently exhibiting with fellow Masters students Kereama Taepa and Andre Te Hira

at Palmerston North's Thermostat Gallery, and is planning his final Masters show, to be taken home and exhibited at the Napier Museum.

Date: 28/05/2005

Type: Features

Categories: College of Creative Arts; Exhabition/Show

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# Rats, diggers and fibre optic cables

Eftpos and online services crashed, mobile phone servers were overloaded and trading on the NZX was halted when Telecom's main communication network was broken in two places last month.

More than 100,000 people and businesses were affected a situation that Professor Richard Harris says illustrates the need for many layers of reliable back-up systems and contingency plans for service and system restoration.

A recent arrival to the Institute of Information Sciences and Technology, Professor Harris holds a Chair in Telecommunications and Network Engineering. He says that failure situations like the severing of a fibre-optical cable at Taranaki or the gnawing of the eastern pipeline cable by a rat are typical problems experienced by telecommunications companies around the globe. To experience two such failures in such a way as to cause a significant network outage is much rarer, but not an impossible event.

Cable failures are a common occurrence, and in the United States there is a staggering estimate of one cable failure every day on long distance networks and up to four failures per day on metropolitan networks. Users don't usually notice however, because network traffic can be switched very quickly to another line.

He says that a break in a cable, such as the first in the Taranaki line, would not usually disrupt services, as the traffic is automatically diverted to the western line. In last month's failure however, both lines were broken within a short time of each other. Without additional backup paths, telephone, Internet and data services were disrupted for several hours.

Telecommunications providers cannot guarantee a completely fail-safe system and, because everything is carried on a single network these days, when the line is down all services are affected on this information highway.

Professor Harris says back up is often best provided by the engineering of alternative pathways for the information, physically separate pathways from the start to the end of the information flow.

The main problem is the sheer expense of building alternative paths, especially if building a complete replication of the network is required in order to provide the necessary resilience.

The option of shifting traffic to another provider, typically a market competitor (in last month's case, another company such as TelstraClear) is usually not viable, because providers often share the same infrastructure or they have physically separate systems that are not inter-connected, says Professor Harris. To switch the flow of information to another system would require a completely separate network of its own capacity.

Professor Harris' field of research and engineering includes the modelling and optimal design of telecommunications systems and networks and the management of network traffic.

He came to the University from the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology and continues to supervise nine PhD students from Melbourne as well as assisting in the supervision of Massey PhD projects. He says the demand for academic programmes in network engineering is particularly high among international students, many of whom intend to take their knowledge

back home to apply to their own networks.

The dot com crash in 2002 put off a lot of students at first but with the recovery of the telecommunications sector it has become evident that there is now a rapidly growing need for the skills of people working in the networking field. Information technology and communications is a high-growth area and the way we use communications is changing. There used to be separate networks for phone and data, but putting these together on one ubiquitous network is having a huge impact on equipment and service providers.

The technologies required for the next generation of communication networks involve high speed broadband and wireless networks. Graduates skilled in these technologies and the integration of broadband technologies are expected to be in high demand globally in the coming years.

As a consultant, Professor Harris has participated in research and development projects relating to the design of call centres, and to broadband Internet network planning. He has been part of several groups involved in building network planning tools including MINDER (Telstra) and network-planning tools for advanced networks such as Asynchronous Transfer Mode (ATM) (Telekom Malaysia - APTNet).

Date: 28/05/2005

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences

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*From Left: Jeremy McLeod (Runner up Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing), Raewyn Poulsen (Runner up Health & Medical), Andrew Clarke (Runner up People & Society) and Scott Walker (Runner-up Biotechnology).*

# Celebrating our Young Scientists

The excellence and relevance of research from emerging Massey scientists was recognised with four awards at the annual MacDiarmid Young Scientist of the Year awards in Auckland.

The crystallisation of lactose, the resistance of bacteria to antibiotics, the nutritional benefits of omega oils, and the relation of the DNA of kumara to the migration of Polynesians were selected as top PhD projects.

PhD students Jeremy McLeod, Scott Walker, Raewyn Poulsen and Andrew Clarke were all placed as runners-up from a record 127 entries. Competitors prepare a poster highlighting their research, and the panel of judges (chaired by the University's Emeritus Professor Pat Sullivan) takes into account both science excellence and the ways in which the work is communicated.

There was strong Massey support at the Awards. Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Research) Professor Nigel Long, congratulated the successful students, soon to be gathered for further congratulations at a function at the Palmerston North campus. The winning posters are to be toured around New Zealand in September, and this year's winners will be kept in touch with previous and future winners in the awards.

Unable to attend but broadcast from the University of Pennsylvania, Professor Allan MacDiarmid praised the efforts of all student entries and encouraged university students to stick with their research through the tough times. He says research is about accepting 95 percent failure, and recounted some of his experiences in gaining funding and scholarships. The New Zealander says he hopes science will eventually capture the country's imagination and passion to the same extent as sport and artistic achievement.

There were eight categories in the Young Scientist awards, with a winning and runner-up place in each. Runners-up receive a $1000 prize.

**The successful Massey students and their projects are:**

Runner-up Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing: Jeremy McLeod
Mr McLeod's PhD research is focused on producing new lactose-based products for the food and pharmaceutical industries. He is investigating how agitation affects crystallisation in lactose this is part of a project that aims to develop a model of the lactose crystallisation process that can be used in industry to optimise the manufacturing process.

Runners-up Biotechnology: Scott Walker
Mr Walker's PhD project focuses on the development of new classes of antibiotics, using new chemistry and molecular biology discoveries in his work to design compounds to specifically target bacteria. The resistance of bacteria to antibiotics is one of the largest problems facing medicine today with only one new class of antibiotics discovered in the past 40 years. The challenge is to create new drugs that work as inhibitors, interrupting cellular processes by blocking the activity of certain enzymes without causing side effects.

Runner-up Health & Medical: Raewyn Poulson
Ms Poulsen's PhD project focuses on the use of purified omega-oil rich fish fats to help bolster brittle bones in women, and the possible role of omega fats in preserving bone mass in women with oestrogen deficiency as a result of menopause. Forty percent of New Zealand women will suffer an osteoporotic fracture in their lifetime and about one-third of these women will die within one year, due to related complications; another third will remain hospitalised or institutionalised.

Runner-up People and Society: Andrew Clarke
Mr Clarke's PhD project involves tracing the movements of pre-European Polynesians by studying DNA of the Polynesian kumara, which travelled with them on their voyages of discovery and settlement. Using DNA fingerprinting, he is testing the theory that the kumara was introduced to Polynesia from South America about 1,000 years ago. Future work will focus on completing the DNA testing and analysis to show how the DNA from plants and animals that Polynesians took with them on their voyages can be used to reconstruct patterns of human movement in the Pacific.

Date: 28/05/2005

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Sciences

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*Photo courtesy NZRU*

# Putting the Lions tour in context

Sports historian Dr Geoff Watson says the Lions tour is crucial for the continued well-being of the game of rugby in New Zealand.

Dr Watson says rugby has rehabilitated itself since the 1981 Springbok tour, largely by winning the 1987 Rugby World Cup. But he says that was 18 years ago and since then rugby has not regained its place at the centre of New Zealand life.

Concerns about the impact of professionalism upon the so-called 'grassroots' of rugby, competition from other codes, especially soccer, and the negative publicity about New Zealand being stripped of its sub-hosting rights for the 2003 World Cup, are just some of the challenges the game has recently experienced.

Dr Watson says the flash of professional rugby has bolstered the sport, but for many fans there's the feeling they're being sold the package deal, that the familiarity of the Tri-Nations is breeding contempt. Even Springbok tests, the old gold standard, have been devalued by frequency. Which is why the Lions tour just the eighth since World War II is a breath of fresh air.

The Lions still have a mystique because of their rarity, he says. People are asking whether we want more Tri-Nations games and whether we want the Super 12 to be the Super 14. But I don't think we'll ever have people ask, 'Do we really want a Lions tour?'

Rugby may never dominate New Zealand society as it once did, but Dr Watson says its potential for creating magic means this tour has a chance to take it to another level.

Dr Watson also notes that the New Zealand Rugby Union's bid for the Rugby World Cup is tied up with the claim that New Zealand is the spiritual home of rugby, where people live and breathe the game. Full houses for the Lions tour matches would lend material support to the NZRU's assertions about New Zealanders love of rugby. It's also important that the often maligned transport and communication networks of New Zealand prove able to cope with the anticipated numbers of travelling supporters.

Date: 28/05/2005

Type: Research

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences

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# Transport design on show

Students from the Bachelor of Design degree test their 3rd year design projects head-to-head in competition off Takapuna beach on Auckland's North Shore over the weekend, while other no less impressive designs were confined to dry land.

They whizzed away from Takapuna Beach, out into the Rangitoto Channel to the delight of a large crowd of well-wishers and to the intrigue of many a passer-by.

The extraordinary looking fleet are hand built craft by senior students at the Albany based marine transport design option within the Bachelors of Design degree. In the last year of their degree, they were briefed to design a single seat craft that could be powered by an 8 horsepower motor as fast as a possible over a set distance.

On race day at Takapuna Beach they were at times neck and neck but ultimately "Xplorer" (White multi-hull pictured above) pulled out in front with a clear lead at a speed of just over 21 miles per hour.

The marine transport design course was established in 2002 and will produce its first graduates this year. The course has fast become widely regarded within the marine industry.

Date: 28/05/2005

Type: Research

Categories: Auckland; College of Creative Arts

# Honour for vet professor

A lecturer and researcher with the University since the Institute of Veterinary and Animal Biomedical Sciences' first years, Emeritus Professor Bob Jolly was recently made a member of the New Zealand Order of Merit.

Professor Jolly joined the inaugural staff of the Veterinary Faculty in Palmerston North in 1965. The Order of Merit, awarded as part of the Queens' Birthday Honours, recognises more than forty years' service to veterinary science.

An advocate of research-based teaching, Professor Jolly's research over the decades has had an immense effect on the performance of the animal industries in New Zealand. He has been central in the development and delivery of veterinary teaching and research at the University, and his specialist research in animal pathology is internationally recognised.

Much of Professor Jolly's research has been associated with animal models of human disease, such as the study of ovine ceroid lipofuscinosis (Battens' disease) in sheep, which also affects humans. This research, and studies of diseases such as bovine mannosidosis, has provided important breakthroughs in the understanding of the diseases in humans.

He has received funding from the United States National Institutes for 23 years, and his most recent research is focused on disease in huntaway dogs, disease in merino sheep, and on polycystic kidneys in lambs.

New Zealand-born, Professor Jolly was educated in Auckland and Sydney (BVSc and PhD). Between degrees he had five years in veterinary practice in Rotorua, and, after two years on staff at the University of Guelph, Canada, he joined the University.

In 1995 Professor Jolly retired from full-time teaching, becoming a Professor Emeritus, and an honorary Research Fellow in the Institute of Veterinary and Animal BioMedical Sciences.

Date: 28/05/2005

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Sciences; School of Veterinary Science

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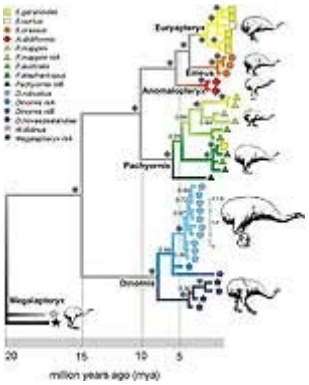
# Unearthing new moa species through ancient DNA

VIDEO *Watch the ONE News 'Tonight' item*




*Click here to view large graphic*

*Five additional species of moa have been identified by the University's evolutionary biologists. The researchers say they now have evidence that increases the number of known moa species from 10 to 14. One of the four additional species appears to be a giant moa of well over 140 kg about the size of the largest moa, Dinornis.*

*The researchers, led by Professor David Lambert, are based at the Allan Wilson Centre for Molecular Ecology and Evolution. Their paper on reconstructing the tempo and model of evolution with the extinct giant moas has just featured in one of the world's top scientific journals, Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences USA. They worked in collaboration with researchers at the Royal Ontario Museum and Toronto University.*

*The research provides overwhelming evidence to show the existence of more species. It also shows that evolution of moa was much more recent than has previously been thought by scientists, says Professor Lambert.*

*These findings are some of the latest made by the team whose groundbreaking research is using ancient DNA to discover much more about moa than has been previously known. They have been able to genetically type samples of ancient DNA extracted from 125 moa bones.*

*When and how quickly giant moa evolved has been an important question to scientists and answers couldn't be provided from fossil bone characters only. The techniques use by Professor Lambert's team using ancient DNA, have opened the way for significant new discoveries.*

*Professor Lambert says they have been able to construct the most accurate family tree of moa available to date.*

*Not only does this tell us who was related to whom but it also tells us how long ago they all separated. It's commonly thought they evolved tens of millions of years ago but our evidence*

*suggests in fact it was from four to ten million years ago. In scientific terms, that is quite recent, he says.*

*The researchers say: A cycle of moa speciation events occurred about four to six million years ago, when the landmass was fragmented by mountain-building events and a general cooling. This resulted in the isolation of lineages and promoted ecological specialisation. The spectacular radiation of moa involved significant changes in body size, shape and mass. The moa radiation provides another example of the general influence of large scale paleoenvironmental changes on vertebrate evolutionary history, similar to that of the Galapagos finches and the Hawaiian honeycreepers.*

Date: 28/05/2005

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences

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# Perspectives on bioethics

Professors Sylvia Rumball and David Penny will present perspectives on bioethics as part of a public lecture series beginning on Wednesday, June 1, in Palmerston North.

On Wednesday, Professor Rumball, Assistant to the Vice Chancellor (Equity and Ethics) will focus on New Zealand's approach in establishing the use of assisted human reproduction. A member of the UNESCO International Bioethics Committee, the Health Research Council Ethics Committee, and the chairperson of the National Ethics Committee on Assisted Human Reproduction, Professor Rumball has had extensive international and local experience.

The National Ethics Committee on Assisted Human Reproduction has developed the guidelines recently approved by the Government to allow fertility clinics to test human embryos for serious inherited genetic disorders before they are transferred to a woman's uterus as part of an IVF procedure.

On June 8, Professor Penny will give a presentation titled The Evolution of Morality . A Professor of Theoretical Biology and Co-Director of the Allan Wilson Centre in the Institute of Molecular BioSciences, Professor Penny was last year awarded New Zealand's most prestigious scientific medal - the Rutherford Medal. His presentation will draw on his interest in a wide range of evolutionary questions.

All lectures are from 12.15 1pm, each Wednesday at St Andrews in the City, Church St. Tea and Coffee will be available, bring your lunch.
Entry is by gold coin donation.

1 June: Establishing Boundaries in the Use of Assisted Reproductive Technology: The New Zealand Approach, Professor Sylvia Rumball (Chair, National Ethics Committee on Assisted Human Reproduction)

8 June: The Evolution of Morality, Professor David Penny (Professor of Theoretical Biology, Massey University)

15 June: What Does it Mean to be Human? What are the Issues of Putting Animal Genes into Humans? Dr Audrey Jarvis (Chair, Interchurch Bioethics Council). A molecular biologist and formerly Principle Research Scientist at the NZ Dairy Research Institute (now Fonterra). Actively involved in medical ethics issues for many years.

22 June: Bioethics A Personal Approach. How Can We Grapple with the Issues Involved? Rev Ken Wall (St Marks and St Andrews) For more information please contact Stephanie Gray 06 356 9099 027 534 5622

Date: 28/05/2005

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences

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*Caption: Natasha Hoogeveen, winner of the Sir James Wilson Prize for the top applied science*

# Rewarding top scholars of the applied sciences

Top Applied Science student Natasha Hoogeveen is also the recipient of a $15,000 Honours Enterprise Scholarship.

Ms Hoogeveen was awarded the Sir James Wilson Prize for the top Bachelor of Applied Science student of 2004 among 80 applied science students to be awarded scholarships last month.

Majoring in natural resource management, and coming to the University from Matamata, Ms Hoogeveen chose to focus on the Lake Taupo Catchment Area for her honours project.

Her research investigates potential equity issues to arise from regulatory nitrogen output caps currently being established by Environment Waikato, for owners and farmers of rural land in the Lake Taupo catchment. Using Environment Waikato's assessment of the 'intensity' (based on factors such as the density of stock and input of fertiliser) of sheep and beef properties from 2001 to 2004, she suggests that high intensity properties will have greater management flexibility than those of lower intensity, under the proposed nitrate cap regulations.

The two main options for cap allocations are to average the nitrate losses among all properties, or to 'grandfather' allocating each property a cap based on its own intensity assessment. Ms Hoogeveen says the latter option poses equity issues because a higher intensity farm, in a greater state of development, will be allocated a higher nitrogen cap, and greater flexibility as a consequence.

The implementation of this form of policy regulation is a first for New Zealand and the precedent being set is a first is important both nationally and internationally. Ms Hoogeveen says although there has been some consideration given to the equity consequences between different land uses in the catchment, the allocation mechanism of 'grandfathering', and its consequences, has not yet been considered.

Ms Hoogeveen says she hopes her research will highlight the need to investigate equity issues thoroughly, ensuring fairness and accuracy throughout a procedure as complicated and expensive as the Environment Waikato regulations. She says Environment Bay of Plenty is also looking at adopting nitrogen output caps in the region's lake catchment region to prevent further damage to the water quality and lake ecosystems.

Industry support for the applied sciences

Of the 80 applied students awarded more than $180,000 of scholarships, three were awarded scholarships donated by New Zealand farmers keen to encourage more graduates of agriculture and horticulture. Agriculture student Erik Lenssen was awarded the inaugural Don Robinson Dairy Scholarship, Pagen Black the Rattray Dairy Bursary, and Nicholas Street the Andrew Bendall Scholarship in Agriculture. Industry groups such as Meat and Wool New Zealand, Turners and Growers and Summerfruit New Zealand also fund scholarships.student 2004, and the Vice-Chancellor Professor Judith Kinnear.

Date: 28/05/2005

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Sciences; Scholarships

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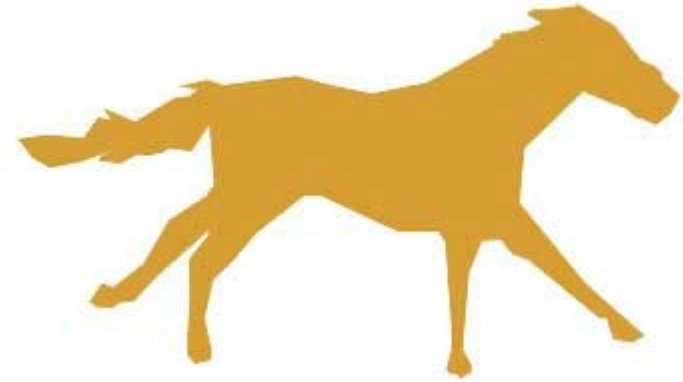

# Tracking the traits of racehorses

Researchers in the University's equine research centre in Palmerston North are using Global Positioning Satellite (GPS) technology to provide a comprehensive picture of the athleticism and fitness of racehorses.

Through two seasons of racing and training, two and three year-old horses carried GPS units in their saddlebags and the jockeys' helmets were fitted with receiver antennae. A heart-monitor enabled the simultaneous analysis of heart-rate data with the measurements of speed and time collected by the GPS receivers.

The resulting information, of the speed and heart rate of a horse at any given moment, is a complementary tool by which trainers may identify peak fitness, or a state of over-training, says Dr Chris Rogers.

A senior researcher in the Institute of Veterinary and Animal Biomedical Sciences, Dr Rogers says trainers use heart rate, the time taken to run a furlong (200m), and visual assessment of the horse's rate of recovery to assess performance in training. There is room for tightening in these methods, and it is the subtle changes to training that can ultimately have a big difference on performance, he says.

Whereas at peak fitness a horse's heart rate remains constant at its training galloping pace, the rate of an overtrained horse on the track will rise, or fluctuate. Dr Rogers says overtraining places stress and strain on a horse, on its limbs and general wellbeing. Recovery and respiration rate indicate whether a horse has been pushed too far. A trainer can generally assess this, based on the animal's appearance and performance, but the methods are not scientific .

The equine research team is also applying GPS technology to the study of thoroughbred foals in the paddock to quantify their paddock activity. International interest in the high standards of health and strength of young New Zealand-raised racehorses has prompted collaborative research into raising and training methods, and a Dutch Masters student has been working with Dr Rogers on this project.

Dr Rogers says a Dutch study several years ago raised horses in three different ways. One group of foals were stabled continuously and another group was stabled with periods of exercise. The third group of foals was pasture-raised and later showed to be significantly stronger than others, in terms of cartilage strength in their legs. Dr Rogers says trainers in the Netherlands are increasingly adopting methods to encourage exercise, including shipping foals to Poland where they can be more easily kept at pasture.

Previous research conducted by the University's equine specialists shows that the biochemical composition of the cartilage matrix increases with exercise, and the number of cartilage cells is

greater. Biochemical diversity and cell number are thought to protect against potential injury in later years of training and racing. By comparison, stabled horses' cartilage tends to be uniform in its composition.

Foals at pasture with their dam (mare) will race around the paddock, for the fun of it, and with particular enthusiasm at dawn and dusk. To measure the extent of this type, small GPS receivers were fitted to foals for an accurate assessment of their activity. The data collected showed that foals in their first month did twice as much exercise as in their second and third.

Dr Rogers says this situation compares with the previous research on exercise and cartilage growth. That foals exercise the most, at their own will, in the first month, coincides with the sensitive period we found for cartilage development, which is the period where the cartilage cells can respond to varying stresses, and adapt in its growth and composition accordingly.

The data collected from the GPS trials will allow researchers to estimate an optimal exercise regime, and permit the definition of exercise guidelines for the development of stronger, sounder horses. Dr Rogers says the next step is to re-think the size and shapes of paddocks to encourage more exercise. A long skinny paddock seems to be preferable, and a gentle slope is good for building muscle. By putting a water trough at the top, and a feeding trough at the bottom of a sloping paddock, a dam and foal have to move between the two, and a foal will often tear ahead of it's mother.

Date: 28/05/2005

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences; School of Veterinary Science

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# Takahi Whenua: Stamped Earth

Since June 2003 when the Court of Appeal ruled the Maori Land Court could consider claims to customary ownership of foreshore and seabed, the issue has dominated the discourse between Maori and Government.

For Professor Robert Jahnke, head of Maori Studies and coordinator of the Maori Visual Arts programme, that sort of debate is grist to his art practice.

The centrepiece of Takahi Whenua: Stamped Earth, on show during May 2005 at Bath St Gallery in Auckland in association with dealer Jane Sutherland, was a series of 12 wood and stainless steel sculptures which can be read as stamps, survey pegs, or an older sort of tohu marking off territory.

Each piece included a phrase stamped out in steel, drawn from the Foreshore and Seabed Act 2004.

Like 12 jurors (or apostles) the works challenged the Crown's assumption of powers over the coastal environment in the face of Maori notions of ancestral connectedness.

Takahi Whenua also included stainless steel maquettes of proposed sculptures for the Wellington waterfront which were done for a group exhibition in the capital last year on the foreshore issue.

A hinaki or eel trap rose from the floor in a tower of shiny concentric rings like some 1950s vision of a rocket ship. On a nearby wall three squat orbs rose out of shiny steel plates like crayfish pots exposed by the receding tide.

"The idea is the cray pots would stand about 2 metres high, while the hinaki would be 5 metres," Jahnke says. "I did a lot of research on the foreshore and seabed issue before doing the commission. I was particularly taken by Moana Jackson's analysis of the Crown's principles. It was good to put those notions together."

Working with the big themes of the day "makes the works specific to a period, to a point in history. I kind of like that," he says.

Jahnke also enjoys working with text, which has been an element in Maori carving and tattooing since the emergence of widespread Maori literacy in the 19th century. Indeed, text features in some of the houses carved by Jahnke's maternal great great grandfather Riwai Takirau from the Ngati Porou stronghold of Waipiro Bay on the East Coast.

Jahnke doesn't shy away from the 'Maori artist' tag but puts a twist on Ralph Hotere's assertion that while Hotere is Maori by upbringing, it is irrelevant to his artwork.

"I tell people I am Maori and it is coincidental I am an artist, says Professor Jahnke. I am an educator first and foremost and I also create work.

Date: 28/05/2005

Type: Features

Categories: College of Creative Arts

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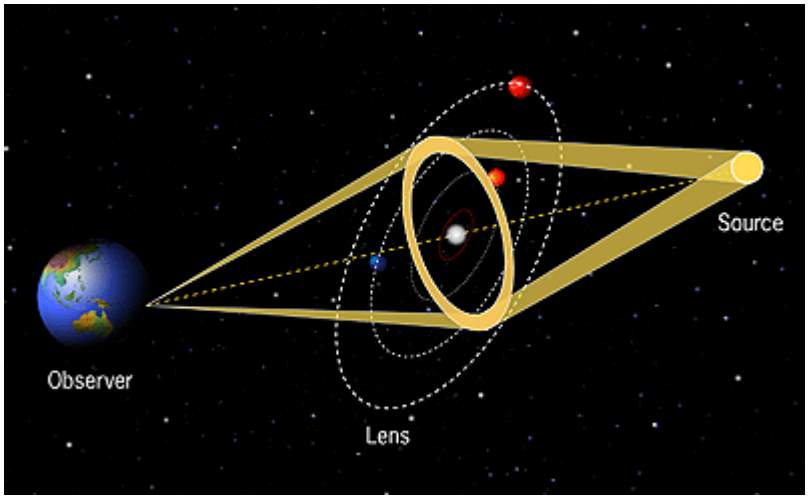



# Researchers discover new planet

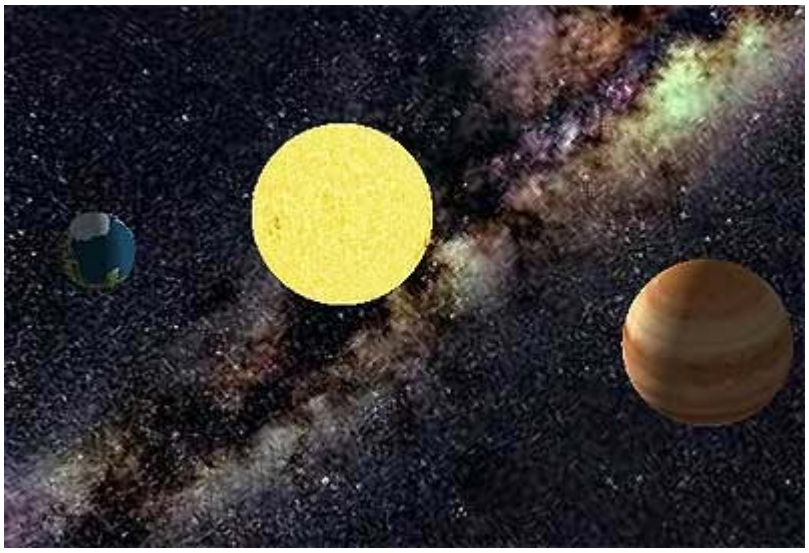
New Zealand astronomers, both amateur and professional, contributed significantly to a recent discovery of a planet several times larger than Jupiter, the largest planet in our solar system.

University researchers working as part of the MOA (Microlensing Observations in Astrophysics) Japan/NZ Collaboration made key contributions, together with amateur astronomers at Auckland's Stardome Observatory.

MOA Project Leader Associate Professor Phil Yock of The University of Auckland's Faculty of Science says the planet was discovered using a new variation of a fairly old technique called gravitational microlensing.

The original gravitational microlensing technique was proposed by Professor Bohdan Paczynski of Princeton University and his then student Shude Mao, now at Jodrell Bank in the UK, in 1991. This was based on using the gravitational fields of stars to magnify more distant stars, following ideas of Einstein. Paczynski and Mao showed that distant planets could be revealed this way.

Subsequent workers refined the technique. In 1998 Professor Kim Greist and Dr Neda Safizadeh of the University of California showed that planets would be more likely to be detected when the magnification caused by a gravitational lens was high, an intuitively reasonable result.



Since 2002 Yock, together with Dr Ian Bond of Massey University and Dr Nicholas Rattenbury of Jodrell Bank, both former students of the University of Auckland, have advocated the search for planets when the magnification was very high, about 100 or more. Using data gained by the MOA Collaboration at Canterbury's Mt John Observatory, they showed the technique was feasible, and that planets as small as Earth could be detected this way.

Gradually, other observatories focussed their attentions on microlensing events of very high magnification.

The recent planet discovery provides stunning confirmation of the predictions. The lead observations in the event were made by a Polish group called OGLE that is based in Chile. The principal investigator of the OGLE collaboration, Professor Andrzej Udalski of Warsaw University, made most their observations himself. He gained sufficient data to characterize the planet himself. The event is currently referred to as OGLE 2005-BLG-71.

Many other observatories around the globe made contributing observations that assisted to pin down the parameters of the new planet, including New Zealanders. Observations over several nights were made by Paul Tristram of the MOA collaboration from Mt John, and other observations were made by Dr Grant Christie and Jennie McCormick of Auckland's Stardome Observatory. The latter were most notable because they are the first observations of a planet carried out by amateurs using microlensing. They were made possible by the very high magnification of the event. The scientific paper describing the event includes 33 authors from 11 countries. This has been submitted to the US journal Astrophysical Journal Letters.

The MOA team has recently installed a new 1.8m telescope at Mt John Observatory, which will soon become the world's largest telescope dedicated to detecting gravitational microlensing events. Yock says the new telescope will substantially increase the research capability in this area by providing additional alerts of microlensing events and increasing the density of survey coverage.

**About MOA**

MOA is a NZ/Japan collaboration that includes researchers from Auckland, Massey, Canterbury and Victoria Universities in New Zealand and Nagoya University in Japan. The group makes observations on dark matter, extra-solar planets, stellar atmospheres and stellar shapes using the gravitational microlensing technique at the Mt John Observatory in New Zealand. Mt John Observatory is operated by the University of Canterbury.

Date: 28/05/2005

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences

# Fresh light on dynamics of the drug market

Massey University researchers are calling for frequent users of methamphetamine, Ecstasy, LSD and cannabis and people who have contact with them to participate in a major ongoing study on the impact of illicit drug use in New Zealand.

The researchers, based at the University's Centre for Social and Health Outcomes Research and Evaluation (SHORE), Auckland, undertook a similar community survey of methamphetamine users in 2003 as part of a wider study of the socio-economic impact of Amphetamine Type Stimulants (ATS) in New Zealand.

Their findings indicated the illicit trade in ATS drugs may have doubled the dollar value of the country's total illegal drug trade in less than 10 years. The study threw fresh light on the health and social impacts of methamphetamine use and on the dynamics of the illicit drug market.

Now the researchers are taking their study nationwide. They are seeking to interview both frequent users of methamphetamine, ecstasy, and LSD and cannabis and those who have ongoing contact with drug users in a professional role for the study. The research method used guarantees the confidentiality and anonymity of all participants.

The aim of the study, known as the Illicit Drug Monitoring System (IDMS), is to track trends in illicit drug use, detect the emergence of new drug types and document the social impacts of drug use. Previously, analysis of data available has trailed well behind trends in the drug market.

The Massey University study is lead by Dr Chris Wilkins who says being able to speak to frequent drug users and those who have regular contact with them is crucial to improving the understanding frequent drug use and the issues users face. The ethical procedures used ensure the confidentiality and anonymity of the participants in the study.

Methamphetamine, Ecstasy, LSD and cannabis users have been chosen to be interviewed because they are a sentinel group of illicit drug users who can comment on wider drug trends, says Dr Wilkins.

Interview teams are currently operating in Whangarei, Auckland Central and West, Auckland South, Hamilton, Wellington and Christchurch. Interviewees are being recruited through flyers and posters in bars, cafes, dance clubs, needle exchanges and public places.

To establish contact with the interviewers 0800 numbers have been set up. The interviews will be anonymous and will not ask specific details about people, places, times or events. Our

interviewers will meet participants at an agreed public location for a face-to-face interview. Participants will be given a $20 CD or food voucher to thank them for their time.

To Assist the Illicit Drug Monitoring System:
Whangarei0800 111 490
Auckland Central and West0800 111 491
Auckland South0800 111 495
Hamilton0800 111 492
Wellington0800 111 493
Christchurch0800 111 494

Date: 28/05/2005

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences

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# Budget's research money welcomed

Further support for research in the Government's 2005 Budget has been welcomed by Massey Vice-Chancellor Professor Judith Kinnear.

She says universities committed to research that contributes to national growth will be pleased to see that available money from the Performance Based Research Fund will be increased by $72.5 million. She says Massey takes particular note of the commitment to higher funding rates for scientific and technical research.

The University also welcomes the additional $72 million that will be available to increase support for business research and development.

However Professor Kinnear says New Zealand universities remain seriously under-funded by the Government, especially in comparison with their Australian counterparts. She notes the additional funding of $296.7 million to be made available over the next four years to support the ongoing development of quality and relevant tertiary education, and looks forward to seeing the detail.

Date: 28/05/2005

Type: University News

Categories: Any

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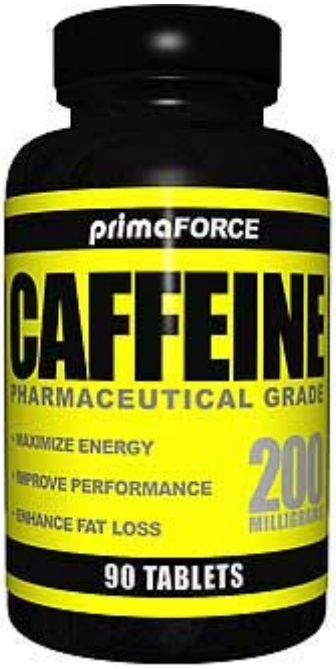
# The downside of caffeine use to boost sports performance




A Massey human health expert and former athlete believes the use of caffeine tablets by top Australian footballers is borderline drug abuse.

The New Zealand Rugby Union is looking at research promoting caffeine as a performance-enhancing stimulant for top rugby players.

Dr Stephen Stannard from the Institute of Food, Nutrition and Human Health and a former Australian national road team cyclist, says those who take the caffeine pills are effectively flouting international doping rules. And he asks where does that stop?

The issue also involves our average Joe Blow who tries caffeine tablets then goes out and performs well. on caffeine. So it becomes not only a physiological dependence but also a psychological dependence on having an 'upper'.

Caffeine increases blood pressure and heart rate. Dr Stannard notes that although excess caffeine appears to have little harmful effect on extremely fit athletes, it may be a different story for not so fit people.

A 100 kilogram athlete with a big liver and plenty of blood may cope with seven No-Doz tablets but when it comes again to Joe Average, may be overweight, or a young kid, it's likely to be a different story .

He says other side effects from large doses of caffeine, apart from not being able to sleep, include such things as abdominal pain, vomiting and anxiety. He points out that caffeine can interact with other medications.

Dr Stannard believes there needs to b e a debate about whether it is morally acceptable for elite sports people top continue to pop caffeine pills and, if not, how to stop the practice.

Date: 28/05/2005

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences

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# Brainfest on energy and environmental sustainability

The hot topics of energy and environmental sustainability as they affect the Asia-Pacific region were debated at an international conference in Wellington recently. Organised by University scientists, the meeting fused fresh perspectives on the challenges, opportunities and solutions to energy and environmental sustainability.

The 5th Asia Pacific Conference on Sustainable Energies and Environmental Technologies was held over three days and attracted scientists and engineers involved in the invention, design and development of sustainable technologies, and the planners, policy makers, managers and businesses involved in implementation.

Conference Chair Professor Clive Davies, a process engineer in the Institute of Technology and Engineering, says highlights included a half-day workshop integrating the technical know-how with long-term planning for sustainability. A seminar focusing on the relevance of nuclear power to New Zealand, delivered by Dr Hans-Holger Rogner from the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna, was open to the public.

Opened this year by Pete Hodgson, convenor of the Ministerial Group on Climate Change, the conference was initiated in 1996 as an international forum to foster communication and showcase cutting edge technology and engineering.

Keynote addresses were given by:
Dr Hans-Holger Rogner, International Atomic Energy Authority, Switzerland who outlined the Authority's projections for the demand for nuclear power it now projects 427 GW of nuclear capacity in 2020, compared with 367 GW today.

Dr George Hooper, Centre for Advanced Engineering, New Zealand, who presented results of a study of New Zealand's energy demand and potential supply solutions. He says that for a small national market, the major hurdle in securing an adequate reserve base is achieving economies of scale and managing the commercial risks that surround individual supply options.

Dr Kelly Thambimuthu, Centre for Low Emission Technology, Brisbane, Australia: Dr Thambimuthu's presentation examined an approach by which new energy technologies that incorporate the capture and storage of carbon dioxide could initially achieve deep reductions in emissions into the atmosphere, whilst serving as a bridge for the development of a future emissions-free global energy infrastructure.

Professor Masayuki Horio, Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology, Japan: Recent Japanese efforts in biomass utilisation were reviewed from the viewpoint that innovative socio-technological tactics are necessary to cope with an economy that is heavily reliant on fossil fuel and a centralised grid network.

Professor Rao Bhamidimarri, Napier University, Scotland: Professor Bhamidimarri, formerly a Principle of the University's Palmerston North campus, gave an overview of the planet's water resources and utilisation, and of an emerging water crisis. He referenced the United Nations'

Conference on Human Environment in Stockholm in 1972, the 2003 United Nations' World Water Development Report, and projects developed by organizations such as the World Health Organisation and the World Bank.

Professor Ramsey Saunders, the University of the West Indies, Trinidad: Professor Saunders presented some of the challenges of small island developing states, which are vulnerable not only to global phenomena such as temperature and rising sea levels, but to effects resulting from their size. Particular challenges include the adequate access to unpolluted fresh water and energy, the management of available natural resources, and disaster preparedness and mitigation.

Professor Max Lu, the University of Queenstown, Australia, who gave an overview of the latest developments in functional nanomaterials for applications to clean energy technologies such as hydrogen purification and hydrogen storage. The key materials include carbon nanotubes, magnesium-based nanocomposites of metal catalysts and nanotubes, molecular sieve membranes for hydrogen separation from other gases, and new layered double hydroxides.For more information about this and upcoming conferences, visit: www.apcseet.org

Date: 28/05/2005

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences; Conference/Seminar; Enviromental issues

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# Graduates enjoy first visit to their campus

Fifteen Chinese graduates of the MBA programme celebrated with classmates they had not before met at a College of Business graduation ceremony this week.

Accompanied by friends and family, the Masters students travelled from Shenzhen and Guoungzhou in southern China, where they had studied for MBA degrees through the University's long distance learning programme.

They made the most of their time at the autumnal, picturesque campus, taking photographs and meeting senior academic staff with whom they have been in correspondence for two years. A Chinese national holiday enabled the group to turn the occasion in to a holiday and they left the day after their ceremony for a tour of both the North and South Islands.

Professor Robyn Leeming, head of the University's Graduate School of Business, says the students' graduation is an especial achievement they study the same intensive course as internal New Zealand students, but with English as a second language.

The internationally accredited MBA programme sets high standards, and the participation of University academics from New Zealand is a drawcard for Chinese students.

Date: 28/05/2005

Type: Graduation

Categories: College of Business

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*Mr Gus van der Roer, Trustee and former Chairman of the NZ Netherlands Foundation; Sally Morgan, Pro Vice-Chancellor of the College of Creative Art; and Her Excellency, Ambassador of the Netherlands, Mrs Rasha ter Braak at the exhibition opening*

# Innovation in new Dutch exhibition

A post office annual report which looks more like a funky art-house catalogue. A bi-lingual 3-D book read through '50s sci-fi red and green lenses. Giant transparent posters mounted on 5-metre-high stacks of industrial pallets.

These are some of the items in the Words and Images from the Netherlands exhibition, which opens in the Great Hall of Massey University's Wellington campus on Friday July 15.

The world-travelling graphic art exhibition is being set up in Wellington by Dutch expats Matthijs Siljee and Hanne van Beek, and Mark Bradford, lecturers at Massey's College of Creative Arts.

We and the exhibition were drawn to each other, says Matthijs, who believes the team will be able to bring out the exuberant Dutch characteristics of the items on display.

Mark Bradford, Hanne van Beek, Matthijs Siljee.

Hanne says the challenge in mounting the exhibition is to make best use of the imposing space of the Great Hall, which once housed the Dominion museum's Maori collection of wakas and meeting houses.

How to create a massive impact with posters and books? The answer is typically Dutch: innovative and fun.

Many of the exhibits will be mounted on vast towers of shipping pallets, dotted around the Great Hall and well-anchored in case of earthquakes. It's a technique Matthijs describes as brutal . Other exhibits will be set on tables, allowing visitors a close-up look at some of the challenging developments in Dutch design.

More than 60 designers and design studios are represented, from influential sector leaders to trail-blazing newcomers.

Mark Bradford says, "The collected work bears witness to a design-culture seamlessly integrated into the communications of Dutch companies, cultural institutions and government agencies and as such is an excellent 'fit' to the Wellington City Councils 'Creative Wellington Innovation Capital' strategy."

An opening ceremony will be held on Friday July 15 at 6pm. The Words and Images from the Netherlands exhibition runs until August 19.

"From the Netherlands: Words & Images (c.1990-2004)" is generously supported by The Royal Netherlands Embassy, Massey University, Wellington City Council, CHEP, PHILIPS, Heineken, Alpha Domus, The Dutch Shop and Big Image Print. Project developed in conjunction with DINZ (Designers Institute of New Zealand) and in collaboration with St. Paul St., Auckland University of Technology. Exhibition Design by H&M STUDIO Hanne van Beek, Matthijs Siljee. Design Team Mark Bradford, Mark Geard, Annette O'Sullivan, Euan Robertson and Jade Olliver.

Date: 28/05/2005

Type: Features

Categories: College of Creative Arts; Exhabition/Show; Wellington

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# Tracking the threat of foot and mouth disease

*Watch a video profile on Professor Roger Morris.*

University epidemiology experts are assisting the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and police to investigate what is suspected to be a hoax foot and mouth threat on Waiheke Island.

Professor Roger Morris, director of the EpiCentre in the Institute of Veterinary and Animal Biomedical Sciences, is designing a computer model to track any possible spread of foot and mouth disease amid the current scare.

The EpiCentre's specialised computer-modelling software system, EpiMAN, was used to monitor the epidemic in Britain in 2001. Professor Morris says the system, combined with data from MetService, will help verify whether the threat to farms and livestock on the Hauraki Gulf island is a hoax. He says foot and mouth can travel up to 60 kilometres on air currents, which means the disease could potentially reach the mainland of Auckland city in the right wind conditions.

A claim that the disease has been released on the island was found in a letter sent to the Prime Minister, and the Ministry, the police and agriculture industries are on high alert. The devastating consequences of the highly contagious disease require action even under the suspicion of a hoax.

Professor Morris says foot and mouth is highly contagious among cloven-hoofed animals such as sheep, cattle and pigs. He says the rapidity of the disease's spread, including across bodies of water, demands vigilance among farmers and authority.

Date: 28/05/2005

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences; Explore - Agriculture/Horticulture

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# Top public servant appointed to Council

Alumnus Dr Russell Ballard has been appointed as a member of the University Council.

Dr Ballard's is a ministerial appointment. He replaces Claire Campbell who has been a member of the Council since 1996, including serving as Pro Vice-Chancellor.

Dr Ballard (Masters in Agricultural Science, First Class Honours, 1969) has had a distinguished career in research and management and was made a Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit for public service.

He was Chief Executive of Land Information New Zealand and held other senior appointments within the public service including Director-General, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Director-General, Department of Education and the Secretary of Forestry. Dr Ballard was awarded the Massey University 75th Anniversary Medal in 2002.

His research career began with the Forest Research Institute in Rotorua and study for a PhD at the University of Florida. On completion he received an award from the Soil Science Society of America for the top PhD of the year in soil science. He was Associate Professor at North Caroline State University and during the '70s managed a $6 million forestry research programme ranging over the states of Washington, Oregon, North Carolina and Arkansas.

Dr Ballard was the first Massey graduate to head a government department and the only alumnus to have been Director-General of both Agriculture and Education.

He has served, often as chairman, on many national and international agricultural, government and business organisations.

Date: 28/05/2005

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: Uni News; University Council

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*Supreme award winner Tessa Benham, pictured with Prime Minister Helen Clark and Vice-Chancellor Professor Judith Kinnear*

# Top designer pushes the boundaries of lingerie design

**Watch the video on YouTube.**

The top female graduates of Massey University's College of Creative Arts were honoured at the Zonta Design Awards on May 3 in Wellington.

Prime Minister Helen Clark presented the supreme award to fashion designer Tessa Benham.

Ms Benham is now employed as an assistant bra designer for Bonds in Sydney.

She says Feminist writers Germaine Greer and Naomi Wolf speak of women's work including embroidery, sewing and knitting as mindless tasks occupying and expending harmless female energy. As a female fashion designer, I believe it is this vision and attention to detail that is a woman designer's strength.

I use elements of craft in less time consuming ways sourcing unique fabrics and utilising the stitching and construction of a garment to make a statement.

My design ethos is challenging existing ideas of lingerie with unique designs, pushing boundaries while remaining complementary to the female form. My collection Beautif'cation explores the perceived fragility of women, with controlling the body and mind simultaneously through figure sculpting garments of primary inspiration.

Tessa Benham grew up in the Bay of Plenty, and moved to Wellington to study fashion design at Massey University.

*Amelia Handscomb, Melanie Foot, Shelley Stewart, Kate Catalinac and Tessa Benham.*

The Zonta Design Award winners are:
Tessa Benham, Fashion and Textile Design, sponsored by Rembrandt Suits
Shelley Stewart, Industrial Design, sponsored by Weta Workshop;
Melanie Foot, Interior Design, sponsored by Limited Editions;
Amelia Handscomb, Photographic Design, sponsored by Imagelab; and
Kate Catalinac, Graphic Design, sponsored by Clemenger Design.

Supreme winner Tessa Benham received $5000 cash. The winners of the remaining four design fields each received $1000 cash.

Massey University's School of Design has been part of Wellington since its predecessor, the Wellington School of Design, opened in 1886.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Judith Kinnear says, It is pleasing to see Massey design graduates continuing a record of achievement. Our graduates continue to made significant contributions to the design industry, in companies such as Weta Digital, Karen Walker and Icebreaker.

The University's School of Design has been part of Wellington ever since its predecessor, the Wellington School of Design, opened in 1886.

Clare Pinder, President of the Zonta International Club of Wellington, says the Zonta Design Award was established in partnership with Massey University and five leading business sponsors to recognise the top women graduates in their field of design.

Zonta is an organisation of executive and professional women. Zonta International undertakes awards and projects to which all clubs throughout the world contribute.

Date: 28/05/2005

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Creative Arts; Wellington

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*Police dog handler, Senior Constable Dave Whyte with Edge and Veterinary Surgeon Dr Barbara Kirby.*

# Police dog back home in Hawke's Bay

*Watch the ONE NEWS items:*

*06/06/06 - dial-up 56k or broadband 128k*
*07-06-06 - dial-up 56k or broadband 128k*
*Watch the THREE NEWS item*

After life-saving surgery and three days in intensive care, and a visit from the Deputy Prime Minister, stabbed police dog Edge is back at home in Hawke's Bay with his handler Constable Dave Whyte.

Constable Whyte says he has nothing but admiration for the team of Massey vets and nurses who worked around the clock to make Edge (also known as Ed) comfortable at the University's veterinary hospital.

The 26 month-old German Shepherd was flown to Palmerston North from Hastings after being stabbed twice in the chest by a man police confronted on a farm at Maraekakaho, Hawke's Bay, on the morning of 6 June.

It was really looking grim for a while, and I didn't think he was going to make it, especially as at the scene of the attack he was totally unresponsive and bleeding profusely, Constable Whyte said.

But from the moment we got here, the vets have given us confidence, with frequent updated of Ed's progress. It's great to be kept informed.

Specialist soft tissue veterinary surgeon Barbara Kirby said she expects Edge to make a full recovery in convalescence after surgery, several greyhound-blood transfusions and a course of antibiotics. Edge is a very lucky dog - one of the stab wounds missed his heart by one millimetre, and the other pierced his liver, Ms Kirby said.

During his time at the hospital, Edge enjoyed many visits from veterinary students, and a special visit from Deputy Prime Minister Michael Cullen. Dr Cullen, the Tertiary Education Minister and Finance Minister, was also introduced to Gonzo, a North Island brown kiwi being

treated for a damaged beak after being hit by a car several weeks ago.

"I love animals, so for me it's a great pleasure to come to a place like this, he said.

He was welcomed and escorted through the hospital by College of Sciences Pro Vice-Chancellor Professor Robert Anderson, Institute Head Professor Grant Guilford, Programme Director Professor Norm Williamson and hospital director Dr Frazer Allan.

Senior staff from the institute joined them, Education Minister Steve Maharey, University Chancellor Nigel Gould and Acting Registrar Stuart Morriss, for a discussion on the Government's planned changes to tertiary education funding.

Date: 03/06/2005

Type: University News

Categories: College of Sciences; School of Veterinary Science

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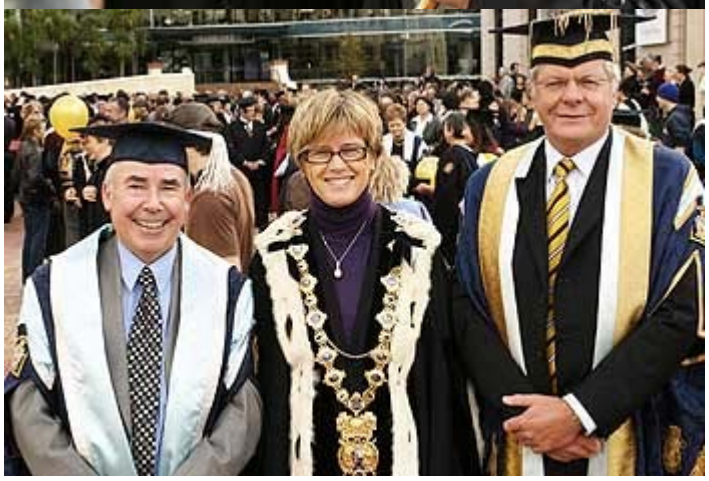
# 2005 Graduation images

Images of staff, friends of the university, students and their families at some of the more than 15 graduation ceremonies during May.



Massey

Date: 06/06/2005

Type: Graduation

Categories: Graduation; Graduation (Wellington); Wellington

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*Not a weapon in sight: Instructor, Major Vern Bennett supervising Defence Studies Officer Cadets Dan Swale and Sam Miller and International Student Di Yang.*

# Simulation war-gaming for Defence Studies

Putting warfighting philosophies into (virtual) action, Defence Studies students of intermediate-level tactics use simulation wargaming software developed by the New Zealand Army.

On loan from the Army Simulation Centre, the simulation software is used by the second year students throughout the year, culminating in a two-sided 'War game' exercise. Course co-ordinator Major Vern Bennett says the students benefit from the experiential learning, planning and playing two opposing sides and comparing the results with other students at the end of the session.

Students of the intermediate tactics paper continue the study of military tactical concepts with an emphasis on battalion-level operations. It examines the applications of tactics in offensive and transitional operations and the theory and application of the military appreciation process in tactical decision-making. The simulation incorporates the latest wireless networking technology which gives the exercise an added element of realism.

For more information about programmes in the Centre for Defence Studies (College of Humanities and Social Sciences), visit: http://defence.massey.ac.nz

Date: 06/06/2005

Type: Research

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences

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# Exhibition focuses on controversial filmmaker

Texts and Subtexts is a new exhibition by John Di Stefano, an interdisciplinary visual artist, videomaker, writer and curator at the School of Fine Arts. He is Associate Professor and Director of the Postgraduate Studies programme.

In this exhibition, Mr Di Stefano explores the controversial figure of Italian filmmaker Pier Paolo Pasolini (1922 1975).

As a politically engaged artist and openly gay man living in the tumultuous Italy of the 1960s and 1970s, Pasolini was continuously portrayed by the media as a social outcast. His name became synonymous with scandal and 'otherness' despite the fact that he was highly respected as an artist and intellectual. He was assassinated in 1975 leaving behind a rich and varied body of filmic and written work.

Pasolini's opposition to the liberalisation of abortion law and criticism of the radical students made him unpopular on the left. From Porcile (1969), in which a son of a Nazi father is eaten by pigs, Pasolini's films became increasingly controversial, but at the same time his ideological stance become more concealed and individualistic. His last film, Saló, or The 120 Days of Sodom (1975), set in the last years of WW II in Italy, linked fascism and sadism. The film was banned virtually everywhere.

Mr Di Stefano's installation comprises video, sound, photography, interactive book-work, and site-specific works. It forms a sort of alternative museum that attempts to critically reframe aspects of the public archive of press imagery, filmic material and varied ephemeral texts left behind by the slain filmmaker.

Texts and Subtexts, 13 May 4 June 2005

The Film Archive, Cnr Taranaki and Ghuznee Sts, Wellington http://www.filmarchive.org.nz

Date: 06/06/2005

Type: Research

Categories: College of Creative Arts

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# Understanding Pacific Island teaching

A week in Cook Islands classrooms brought significant benefits to a group of teacher trainees, and to local children and their teachers.

The eight strong group of trainees from the Albany campus visited Rarotonga recently and worked with children in two primary schools. This foray to the Pacific also took place last year and is the initiative of Albany lecturers Michael Irwin and Bobbie Hunter.

The teacher trainees, says Mr Irwin, were able to gain much greater understanding of Pacific Island students through the exercise.

It has been a valuable part of their professional development to work with these children within their own schools, in their own country. Young teachers in New Zealand have many Pacific children in their classes. Through this visit, our trainees learned a lot about where these children come from and their way of life.

While the trainees took classroom lessons, they freed up local teachers who were able to take part in professional development sessions run by Mr Irwin and Bobbie Hunter.

Aware that the schools in Rarotonga had fewer resources than schools here, the Massey team arrived with an impressive contribution.

From the Albany campus and the wider community, they gathered 250 kg of art, reading and maths resources, which were flown free to Rarotonga by Air New Zealand.

Date: 06/06/2005

Type: Research

Categories: College of Education

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# High pass rates for nursing students

The School of Health Sciences is celebrating 100 percent pass rates in national exams among both its nursing and midwifery students.

From the Palmerston North and Wellington campuses, 64 Bachelor of Nursing students passed the state final exams, and this year's Bachelor of Midwifery students all passed their exams set by the National Midwifery Council.

Midwifery programme coordinator Associate Professor Cheryl Benn says the 100 percent pass rate extends to all students who have been through the programme since it commenced in 2001. She attributes the success of the students to the highly qualified and experienced lecturing staff, the pre-selection processes, and the partnerships between students and practising midwives who work with students on a one-to-one basis.

The three-year Bachelor of Midwifery degree was thoroughly revised in 2001 and is one of five midwifery degrees available in New Zealand to offer the latest in clinical research, skills and care. All graduates are eligible to sit the Nursing Council State examination, which midwives must pass before they can be registered, and midwives cannot legally practise without registration.

With a national average pass rate of 83 percent, the 100 percent pass rate of Massey nursing students illustrates the quality of the teaching and structure of the three-year Bachelor of Nursing, says Professor of Nursing Jenny Carryer. Students at Massey and other universities benefit from the breadth of research and contributions of researchers, including sociologists and public health academics, to the programme.

Professor Carryer says there is much opportunity for graduates to continue at a postgraduate level and about 95 percent of Masters of Nursing students are in clinical practice. Postgraduate specialist areas include age care, pain management and child health.

Date: 06/06/2005

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences

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*Caption: Professor David Officer demonstrates the electroluminescence of the popular Star Wars' light sabre with research technician Shannon Bullock.*

# The electroluminescent light sabre

They are a big improvement on the day-glow plastic models sold at the time of the first Star Wars blockbuster, but a high-tech toy light sabre currently on the market is sensitive to sunlight and users are restricted to fun-in-the-dark.

cer, Director of the University's Nanomaterials Research Centre, and Centre technician Shannon Bullock, are working to optimise the electroluminescent lamps inside the sabres. The pink hue of the particular toy sabre (modelled on the sabre of Jedi Council character Mace Windu) will fade in sunlight to the un-dyed, natural, blue-green colour emitted by the electroluminescent compounds.

Sold to Star Wars fans on the Internet and in the United States for between $370 and $616, the toys are powered by an ordinary 9-volt battery, and come in a variety of colours. Inside the sabre's plastic tube is a rolled up, bendy strip of plastic the electroluminescent lamp less than 1mm in thickness. The lamps are constructed of layers of conductive materials, including the compounds of zinc sulphide and indium tin oxide, and the electrical circuitry is screen-printed onto the plastic.

Invented by American firm, Parks Sabres, and using technology developed by Christchurch company Screen Sign Arts, the sabres have made their way to Professor Officer and the Nanomaterials Research Centre. Professor Officer says the Centre has a long association of research with the Christchurch company, which is leading the development of this type of electroluminescent technology.

Ms Bullock is studying the light emitted by the lamps, analysing its wavelength and structure, and optimising the production of white light. If they can develop the electroluminescent materials that produce white light, then that light can be dyed to a desired blend that is resistant to the damaging effects of sunlight.

The applications of this extend well beyond light sabres says Professor Officer. Once perfected, the electroluminescent lamps may replace the conventional glass bulb, which can lose up to 97 percent of its energy to heat, and which is costly to produce. Bulky, glass-tubed neon lighting could be replaced by bendy and extremely efficient plastic lamp strips. Ms

Bullock's next project is to make an electroluminescent t-shirt screen-printing the circuitry onto the fabric.

Date: 06/06/2005

Type: Research

Categories: Any

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*Simon Morris: somewhere to sit, 2004 - for Constructed Colour, Artspace Sydney*

# School of Fine Arts launches new research initiative

LITMUS is the newest development in a dynamic portfolio of activities at the School of Fine Arts.

Focusing on curatorial and artist projects which are public, temporary and which operate beyond gallery space, LITMUS as its name suggests aims to test a range of strategies and conditions for the practice and reception of contemporary visual art.

Operating, as we do, from the former Director's office of the now relocated National Art Gallery in the Old Museum Building, LITMUS inherits a rich contextual history, says Project Director Kate Griffin.

Embracing this context and its associated potential as a site for the development and presentation of contemporary art LITMUS, in its first year of operation, focuses its activities in the Museum Building. In a series of projects, the initiative will invite significant national artists to engage with the particularities of this remarkable location.

The inaugural LITMUS project will be a new site-responsive work for the LITMUS research space by Wellington artist and Fine Arts lecturer Simon Morris.

Radically transforming the standard and anonymous office space currently occupied by LITMUS, Morris's work will vitalise the space as an environment for research and discussion, and as a facility committed to the development of contemporary visual art.

Sit Talk Look Write will present a process-based wall drawing, together with new furniture, reworked existing furniture and interior surfaces to encourage viewer awareness of space and function.

While inhabited by Morris's work, the LITMUS facility operates as both exhibition site and office. The viewer becomes participant and vice versa.

Closely aligned with the aims and scope of LITMUS, Morris's practice has long been engaged with the conditions of site.

His work has developed from the field of painting into the expanded terrain of installation, architecture and public space. In previous projects, he produced wall drawings that aimed to reveal a space's architectural qualities and heighten the viewer experience of space in time.

More recently, this trajectory has concerned itself with ideas related to objects in three dimensions.

Importantly, Sit Talk Look Write will pilot the international peer review process, by which all research generated through LITMUS will be quality assured. The project signals the role of LITMUS as an important contributor to dialogues surrounding arts practice and presentation in New Zealand and beyond.

In July and September respectively, LITMUS will host two artists-in-residence. David Clegg from New Plymouth and Monique Redmond from Auckland will each develop a new body of work by way of response to selected sites within the Museum Building.

While on campus, the artists will contribute to teaching, research and professional dialogues.

LITMUS will be launched on 27 May at 6pm. Sit Talk Look Write will be open to the public from 28 May to 8 July, with weekly hours of Wednesday Sunday, 12noon 4pm.

Date: 06/06/2005

Type: Research

Categories: College of Creative Arts

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# Scientists push the benefits of plant esters

Since the very significant benefits of plant esters in fighting cholesterol were discovered, food scientists have been pushing for their addition to a range of processed foods.

Food scientists have mounted a seminar series this month to present the latest findings on phytosterol esters and the regulatory and technical issues relating to their promotion for health and nutritional benefits.

They are presenting on phytosterol esters to leaders in food research and the food industry in Auckland, Palmerston North and Wellington.

Phytosterol esters are natural components of edible vegetable oils. Their cholesterol lowering properties have been known for half a century but their introduction to foods came only in the last decade.

Since the 1990s they have been added to edible fat spreads (margarine) in Australia and New Zealand but are yet to gain approval for addition into a much wider range of prepared foods in these countries.

In Europe a number of processed foods are already fortified with esters derived from vegetable oils. In New Zealand, applications to add the esters to more products are now under review by the Food Safety Authority of New Zealand. Concerns about their introduction include criticisms that there is insufficient information about the long-term effects of ingesting high doses.

Food scientist Professor Ray Winger leads the Institute of Food, Nutrition and Human Health (INFHH)seminars on this hot topic.

This is in reality the first effort at introducing a potential functional ingredient (medicine) into a food system. In a way it is a test case for how functional ingredients will be treated as food additives in the future.

There is a good philosophical debate about the use of these materials in a food matrix, as distinct from a medicine or tablet. Is food the right vehicle for these highly active functional materials? Many people eat the phytosterol margarines and probably do not get an effective dose because they don't eat enough each day. Some people eat too much and overdose. There is no control, as there is with prescribed medicines.

Issues concerning the Food Safety Authority of New Zealand, in its review of the case to add plant esters, include the risk that consumption could exceed the maximum scientifically justified level of safety.

While research and debate continue, a number of Australian products that had phytosterol esters added to them in Australia, have been withdrawn from the market. Food producers are looking at fortifying many more foods including bread, yoghurt, soups, breakfast cereals, cheese, soy beverage and biscuits.

Dr Manny Noakes, a research dietitian at the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation in Adelaide, is involved in clinical dietary trials that aim to explore the effects of foods, diets, supplements or pharmaceuticals on health.

Dr Noakes presented research at the INFHH seminar series on the effects of phytosterol esters on cholesterol levels. She says more than 40 scientific studies have shown that an intake of 2g of the esters per day will result in a 10 percent lowering of cholesterol. She says the effect is sustainable long term and this dose is not associated with any significant adverse effects.

Current research at the University is looking at sterol levels in New Zealand edible oils. Substantial research has been completed on cold pressed avocado oil which has been found to contain a high level of phytosterols.

Date: 06/06/2005

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences

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# Oxford double for Business lecturer

World-class recognition has come to Dr Romuald Rudzki, Programme Manager for International Business at Palmerston North and Extramural: He has landed a double with two separate papers accepted at two different Oxford conferences this year.

The first paper is a joint paper entitled The dragon awakes: the rise of Chinese MNCs (multi-national corporations) and is based on Dr Rudzki's research with Yue He, a Master's student he supervised last year.

Although Yue had had enough of writing by the end of the year, says Dr Rudzki, he agreed to allow part of his research to be included in a much larger piece of work for which I am happy to credit his contribution through co-authorship. The paper will be presented at the Global Conference on Business and Economics to be held at St Hugh's College, Oxford from 26 to 28 June.

The second paper is a sole authored piece of work to be presented at the Philosophy of Management Conference, to be held at St. Anne's College from 6 to 10 July. The paper is entitled Managing without managers: the Fractal Process Model and explains what could well be a paradigm shift in our understanding of management, moving it away from what managers do (actions such as lead, control etc) to what management is for (purpose).

As Dr Rudzki puts it: Management is about running things well. This may be self-evident but it is surprising how many managers forget this and are driven to focus on other things such as politics, profitability or productivity gains.

Professor Antonios Vitalis, Head of the Management Department, has expressed his satisfaction with the double: Rom is independent of mind and this recognition of the quality of his academic work is a wonderful expression of the appreciation he is held in by his peers internationally.

Date: 06/06/2005

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Business

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# Father and daughters share graduation

The ceremony to honour Māori graduates was truly a family affair for Douglas Tassell who graduated with his daughters on Friday 13 May.

Mr Tassell completed his Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy and English. His inspiration for study came from seeing the achievements of his daughters. Susan (pictured on left) has completed her Master of Nursing degree and now works for Capital Coast Health where she is a supervisor in the meningicocal vaccine programme.

She has also worked in the area of mental health with the Hutt Valley District Health Board.

Natasha (pictured on right) is a scholar of Te Rau Puawai and works as a graduate assistant in the School of Psychology. She has completed her Master of Arts and is now working towards a postgraduate diploma in Clinical Psychology. She is also an online volunteer for the United Nations assisting in research-related projects involving training programmes and education.

Natasha showed me the ropes, Mr Tassell says. Having been out of the education system for so long, university would have been a very daunting place without that support.

Mr Tassell passed that support on to further students during his time spent studying. He worked as a peer mentor for 100-level Māori students studying Written Communication.

Mr Tassell and his daughters chose to graduate in the ceremony to honour Māori graduates in order to cross the stage together. It was a day they could share with their friends and whānau.

To graduate with my daughters is so special , Mr Tassell says.

I take my hat off to the work they do. With our education, we have an obligation to help others, and I'm so proud to share this day with them.

I love them as people, and I love them as souls. They are battlers for humanity.

Date: 06/06/2005

Type: Graduation

Categories: Graduation; Graduation (Palmerston North); Palmerston North

# From the speeches

**Dr James Bull**
The recipient of an Honorary Doctorate in Science, agribusiness entrepreneur Jim Bull told science graduates to stick to agriculture. He said the industry still holds the key to New Zealand's future, and urged the agriculture, horticulture and veterinary science graduates to devote themselves to what New Zealand does best. To my mind you have chosen well. Agriculture is the Silicon Valley of New Zealand. Agriculture is the powerhouse of the New Zealand economy and will continue to be so throughout your lives and those of your children. He said that the growth of industries such as tourism and technology had no threat of overshadowing the consistently strong performance of agriculture and horticulture, which in turn had an unmatched ability to fund New Zealand's social services. The Jim Bull Potato Company grew to become one of the largest in Australasia and expanded rapidly from a first crop of potatoes on 14 hectares of leased land.

**Tony Nowell**
The managing director of Griffins Foods, Tony Nowell, congratulated graduands of food technology, process technology, agricultural engineering and dairy science for taking the first step towards a career in an exciting industry that currently employs more than 328,000 people. He emphasised the critical role the sector plays in New Zealand. I have no doubt that food production will continue to be at the economic forefront of New Zealand for the foreseeable future. He said there are significant challenges for new graduates.

Obesity, lifestyle foods, nutrigenomics and globalisation are words or concepts that undoubtedly have a familiar ring. Developing the foods to meet these challenges will require significantly more research, innovation, development and market testing than we have seen, or been able to afford to date. He said the sector will also require significantly heavier investments in capital equipment and new processing technologies, to meet the demands of an increasingly discerning global consumer.

**Sean Weekes**
Addressing graduates of information, mathematical and medical laboratory sciences, Sean Weekes urged them to strive towards a life of continued learning.

The manager of ICONZ, New Zealand's third-largest business Internet service provider, gave an insight into his roles as a technologist, manager and leader.

He emphasised the crucial role played by information and mathematical scientists in shaping new technology. It's so exciting. You will be able to create things that right now, we are not even thinking about. You will be able to provide solutions to enhance people's lives.

Mr Weekes said more leaders are necessary to build a stronger New Zealand, both socially and economically. Leaders are required to lead the change process for organisations. They are required to be able to feel what is coming, as well as recognise gaps within their current environment and be able to determine what this means for their organisation's vision, strategy and goals.

**Bob Field**
Business graduands were advised to seek local experience rather than opt for OE. The Chief Executive of Toyota New Zealand, Bob Field, said workers with overseas experience are no longer as attractive to employers. The best possible career development and training environment for new business graduates is here in New Zealand not in the UK, not in Australia, not in the USA but right here on your doorstep.

Mr Field said business graduates do not have to leave home to kick start their careers. In fact

if my company was employing a recent business graduate tomorrow with, say, two years work experience, and we had two candidates who were equal in every respect except one candidate had been working offshore and the other one had been working locally we would now favour the candidate with local work experience.

It is a complete about face from the situation 20 years ago.

**David Ware**
MBA alumnus David Ware admitted that when he left Massey, he was a bit confused: I felt that all I had was a bunch of ideas.

I had this theory that to succeed in business there is only one thing that matters, and that is people. I'd also decided that I wanted to work with my friends in a work-hard, play-hard environment and I wanted to see if it was possible to build a telecommunications company that kept its promises and at the same time made money.

In 1994 David Ware formed TeamTalk Limited with the aim of building the best little telco in New Zealand . The company was listed on the stock exchange last year. He told Business graduands that the only tool they now needed to succeed was a dream.

**Gordon Dryden**
Gordon Dryden, co-author, The Learning Web Ltd. told College of Eduation graduands he has a very simple belief: that all the major problems in the world, including the problems of education and learning, have been solved, somewhere in the world, and that the first nation to put together all the best solutions and make them happen will lead the world in the most important challenge of all: to create a truly learning and creative society.

Mr Dryden highlighted examples of New Zealand schools leading the world in education and reflected on a new generation of students who utilise communications technology in education.

I'm sure your time here has prepared you well to join the learning revolution — and lead it.

**Professor Ivan Snook**
Emeritus Professor Ivan Snook challenged the values of education in the currrent political 'marketplace' and encouraged graduands to conform where they have to and resist when they can.

The task of educators is to develop the minds and hearts of young people by introducing them into the traditions of human thought and feeling painfully gained over the centuries, yet, under the new regime, you are asked simply to prepare young people to be workers: their future as informed and thoughtful citizens is neglected.

The ability of people to participate in society is dependent on the quality of the education they receive. And this depends, not on large bureaucracies, glossy brochures, curriculum documents, or flowery mission statements, but on the personal qualities of teachers. I wish you well in your task of helping to create the future.

**Professor Peggy Koopman-Boyden**
Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic at the University of Waikato, Professor Peggy Koopman-Boyden congratulated a diverse group of graduands of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences. You are now a respository of knowledge about environmental planning, geographic information systems, Māori development and Māori visual arts, or education. I expect those of you with health qualifications to know about things such as health management, nursing, midwifery, psychological neuroassessment, cognitive behaviour therapy, and rehabilitation.

A sociologist, Professor Koopman-Boyden commented on the medical and technological advances to influence human health and wellbeing, and also on the impact of a healthier environment, better food and hygiene. She asked the graduates to consider their potential

roles as professionals who are there to help people, to bring together medical, technical, societal and cultural knowledge. Health is a nation-wide issue, and an international one. Similarly, in the area of resource and environment planning, environmental issues are not only local but are also global.

**Dr Jock Phillips**
An author and editor of Te Ara: the On-line Encyclopedia of New Zealand, Dr Jock Phillips praised graduands of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences for succeeding in the hard business of thinking and writing. He outlined the era in which he was a student. It was not a very honourable thing being a student, let alone a graduate, in those days.

Most of us worked our way through varsity by doing labouring jobs in wool stores or freezing works, or in fruit-picking or as shearers' vocesties, and endless were the pranks played on 'you bloody stewnce' to show that you weren't as smart as you thought you were.

Times have changed and a sophisticated urban society has emerged. Our best selling books are serious histories by Michael King, not memoirs by cauliflower-eared lock forwards.

Instead of assisting the retention of sheep, we now assist the so-called 'creative industries'. Instead of good Kiwi know-how and no.8 fencing wire practicality, we look to specialised knowledge, trained thinking and intellectual creativity as the heart of our future and our identity. We are heading towards a meritocracy.

**Sarah Reo**
Entreprenur Sarah Reo CEO Cultureflow New Zealand addressed the ceremony to honour Māori graduates on Friday afternoon and encouraged graduands to push boundaries and challenge expectations.

At 18 years old I had no idea who I really was, or what I really wanted.

Today, a mother of two, and director of three companies, my vision is somewhat different.

If anything, now is the time to reflect. Reflect not only on 'how you're going to pay back that student loan' but 'what it is that you stand for, and how you can use your expertise to represent that in your life'.

New Zealand culture isn't one built on encouragement or celebration - especially if you're Māori. Often it's misconceived as arrogance or vanity. But I say that, as future leaders, you not only have the capability to change what is acceptable to the average Kiwi but I'd almost be so bold as to say that you have an obligation to push those social boundaries, and challenge what's expected of you. Because we all now know that you can.

**Created: 20 May, 2005**

Date: 06/06/2005

Type: Graduation

Categories: Graduation; Graduation (Palmerston North); Palmerston North

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*From left: Dr James Bull, Honourary Doctorate in Science; Dr Heather Hyland Gifford - Doctor of Philosophy in Māori Studies and Dr Paul Ryan Hirini - Doctor of Philosophy in Psychology.*

# New PhD graduates at Palmerston North

Emma Natasha Bermingham - Doctor of Philosophy in Animal Science
Dr Bermingham's research provides infomation to help control the effects of parasite infections which cost New Zealand farmers around $200 million per year. Her research aimed to determine the effects of feeding forages that contain condensed tannins.

Jennifer Leighann Burke - Doctor of Philosophy in Animal Science
Dr Burke investigated digestion and fermentation characteristics of forages and related these to the production of growing lambs and lactating cows. Sulla was identified as having potential for feeding with pasture.

Wei-hang Chua - Doctor of Philosophy in Animal Physiology
Using Japanese quail, Dr Chua investigated the corticosterone response (the main stress hormone in birds) including its effect on the reproductive axis. His research contributes to understanding the mechanisms involved in stress physiology in birds.

Entin Daningsih - Doctor of Philosophy in Plant Science
Carbohydrate storage in roots is a key determinant of asparagus productivity. Dr Daningsih investigated the effect of bud number and size on production and quality of asparagus spears, identifying factors that affect the length of harvest season and marketable yield.

Sharon Jane Henare - Doctor of Philosophy in Physiology
Gonadotropin-releasing hormone (GnRH) is the principal hormone controlling reproduction and has been used to induce ovarian growth and ovulation in seasonally anoestrous mammals. Dr Henare investigated the potential of GnRH treatment to increase reproductive output in endangered native birds.

Stephen Lindsay Lewthwaite - Doctor of Philosophy in Plant Science.
Dr Lewthwaite's research increases understanding of the genetic and physiological factors underlying production of the sweet potato or kumara. His study examined propagation systems that optimise plant establishment, while conserving genetic fidelity.

Qanhe Liu - Doctor of Philosophy in Soil Science
Dr Liu investigated the role of ectomycorrhizal associations of fungi and roots in acquisition of phosphorus by Pinus radiata from phosphorus-deficient volcanic ash soils of the central North Island. The results will help improve the phosphorus uptake and phosphorus fertiliser

management of pine forests.

Janice Kathryn Foyer-Lloyd - Doctor of Philosophy in Veterinary Science
Dr Foyer-Lloyd investigated the relationship between dog handlers and their guide dogs to identify why some partnerships are successful but others not. Dr Foyer-Lloyd found mismatches arose mainly from problems related to the dogs' working behaviour followed by social/home behaviour. The guide dog industry is using her findings to predict appropriate matches.

Ian Geoge Mayhew - Doctor of Science in Veterinary Science
Dr Mayhew developed standardised examination procedures and ancillary testing methods for diagnosis of neurological diseases in domestic large animals. His research adds to the understanding of 'nerve-like cells' in the intestines of horses and their role in Grass Sickness.

Juan Antonio Canumir-Veas - Doctor of Philosophy in Bioprocess Engineering
This research focused on colour and textural changes during kumara processing. Mathematical models developed during the study provide a tool for New Zealand processors to optimise kumara product quality and add value to the export industry.

Shantanu Das - Doctor of Philosophy in Food Technology
Yeasts are used as aerobic adjunct cultures in surface-ripened cheeses, such as camembert and limburger. Dr Das investigated the ripening and flavour producing potential of yeasts in anaerobically ripened cheeses.

Kim Tha Kelvin Goh - Doctor of Philosophy in Food Technology
Exopolysaccharides (EPs) are relevant to the food industry because of their ability to improve and/or modify the physical functionality and sensory attributes of foods. Dr Goh studied EPs from two bacterial strains using rheological and light scattering techniques.

Andrew Richard Hinton - Doctor of Philosophy in Food Engineering
Thermophiles (heat-loving) bacteria are capable of growing within milk powder processing plants where they can contaminate the product. Dr Hinton investigated the role of fouling deposits in this contamination problem.

Valarmathi Narendran - Doctor of Philosophy in Food Technology
Bacterial attachment to meat surface was studied to optimise hygienic efficiency of slaughter and dressing operations. Dr Narendran explored the option of the removal of bacteria to further the development of decontamination technology.

Maya Wulansari Sugiarto - Doctor of Philosophy in Food Technology
Many technological problems occur when food products are fortified with nutritionally important minerals. Dr Sugiarto developed new types of protein-iron and protein-zinc complexes that allow these minerals to be incorporated into food products without adversely affecting quality.

Matthew Richard Low - Doctor of Philosophy in Zoology
Dr Low studied the sexual behaviour of the stitch bird an endangered species with very large testicles and the only bird in the world that has sex in the 'missionary position'. He showed that male stitch birds use force to control sexual access, contrary to current thinking that female birds determine mating patterns.

Giovanna Lucia Moretto - Doctor of Philosophy in Chemistry
Dr Moretto assessed the utility of ion beam analysis for the evaluation of conducting polymer materials. His study involved a marriage of two disparate areas developed by two New Zealand Nobel Prize winners: Lord Rutherford and Professor Alan MacDiarmid.

William Nash - Doctor of Philosophy in Physics
Dr Nash used theoretical techniques derived from dynamic light scattering studies on ideal polymer solutions to investigate non-ideal polymer solutions. His findings increase

understanding of the characteristics of certain foodstuffs and pharmaceuticals.

Alasdair Dewar Lowe Noble - Doctor of Philosophy in Statistics
Dr Noble's research relates to small area estimation, a collection of statistical techniques using additional information from a larger survey, or related parts of the same survey, to improve estimates for smaller sub groups. He revealed an alternative algorithm that has a wider applicability and is more easily understood.

Patrick Reuben Rynhart - Doctor of Philosophy in Mathematical Physics
Granulation is an industrial process whereby fine particles are bound together to form larger agglomerates. Dr Rynhart's research developed analytic and numerical models for the granulation process, using a novel, geometric model.

Mohammed Abdul Wahab - Doctor of Philosophy in Genetics
Dr Wahab's research looked at the possible biological effects of electrical energy. His results make a significant contribution towards determining whether weak, low frequency fields, such as those emitted by power appliances, have an effect on human genetic material.

Nives Botica Redmayne - Doctor of Philosophy in Accounting
Dr Redmayne examined the production of audits in the public sector. Her study extends prior research and examines two new determinants of audit effort: political risk and structure of the board of directors.

Sebastian Link - Doctor of Philosophy in Information Systems
Dr Link's research focused on a core area of database theory: the syntactic characterisation of properties of well-designed databases. It is the first time that problems have been addressed for databases storing complex data and the results are likely to have an impact on the future database management.

Lance Ian Gray - Doctor of Philosophy in Communication and Journalism
Dr Gray examined job-seeking activities and experiences of mature job-seekers. Mature job-seekers displayed no less effort than younger job-seekers in their job-seeking activities and did not seek special treatment, although they depended upon a narrow range of job-search behaviours.

Peter Richard Lind - Doctor of Philosophy in Education
Dr Lind's research examined student teaching experience and supervision in a New Zealand teacher education undergraduate degree programme. The study contributes to the debate on the role and function of the practicum in pre-service teacher education and the need for a deeper understanding in its implementation.

David James Butts - Doctor of Philosophy in Museum Studies
Dr Butts examined the impact of the politics of indigenous recognition on relationships between Māori and museums, focusing on Māori participation in governance of regional charitable trust museums. Two case studies, Whanganui Regional Museum and Tairawhiti Museum, Gisborne, were used.

Paul Ryan Hirini - Doctor of Philosophy in Psychology
Dr Hirini's research applied a leading health care use explanatory model to a sample of community-dwelling Māori adults. The research was unique in applying the model to a modern indigenous population to explain use of six types of health care.

Christina Mary Howard - Doctor of Philosophy in Psychology
Dr Howard examined the debate over the reality of repressed and recovered memories of childhood trauma. She analysed ten 'pop' psychology texts to understand how authors constructed their arguments, referring to a perception that the debate is essentially an argument between researchers and clinicians.

Caryl Ann Huzziff - Doctor of Philosophy in Psychology
Dr Huzziff's research addressed the need for increased knowledge around treatment for childhood anxiety disorders. Her results have implications for informing future research on therapist choice of treatment and tailoring therapy strategies to individual clients.

Trevor George King - Doctor of Philosophy in Development Studies
Dr King studied land use, livelihoods and sustainability in a part of Fiji where seasonal grass fires are common. He concluded that sustainable development should have an increased emphasis on culturally-relevant livelihood strategies and environmental amelioration instead of economic development.

Xun Li - Doctor of Philosophy in Geography
To test the role of climate and disturbance on vegetation dynamics, Dr Li studied pollen records from stable and disturbed sites. Her results indicated that non-equilibrium dynamics, driven by long-term climate change, characterise both stable and disturbed sites.

Nancy Eleanor Stuart - Doctor of Philosophy in Psychology
Dr Stuart developed and examined structural models of how biological and environmental risk combine to affect anxiety and depression in childhood and whether children's self-beliefs can help protect them from such risks. Her findings have implications for identifying and helping parents and children at risk.

Kerryellen Vroman - Doctor of Philosophy in Psychology
Dr Vroman examined how individuals with low back pain understand and adjust to their condition. She used people's appraisals of their most important self-directed activities or personal projects, to predict their ability to function with low back pain.

Deborah Elizabeth Laurs - Doctor of Philosophy in English
Dr Laurs examined the depiction of rites of passage, juvenile delinquency, family relationships, and sexuality, by New Zealand authors. She found that New Zealand young adult novels tend to disempower adolescents, implying an idealised sense of adult-ness in the process.

Philippa Mary Wells - Doctor of Philosophy in Social Work
Dr Wells explored the role of support to caregivers in strengthening care outcomes for children and young people with mental health problems in the care of the Department of Child, Youth and Family Services. Her results support the role of spirituality and respite care.

Heather Hyland Gifford - Doctor of Philosophy in Māori Studies
This research produced data on the historical, social, economic and cultural context of smoking for Ngāti Hauiti tamariki, rangatahi and whānau. A framework was developed for tobacco control research and intervention activities.
Ngāti Hauiti is implementing an intervention based on her research.

Date: 06/06/2005

Type: Graduation

Categories: Graduation; Graduation (Palmerston North); Palmerston North

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# Business excellence acknowledged

The name emblazoned on the many machines in operation on the North Island's roads is that of the man behind one of the region's most successful companies.

The University awarded Higgins Contractors Ltd a business excellence award for an outstanding contribution to the economic development of the region. Pat Higgins (pictured), chairman of the company's directors, accepted the award at the annual Business Link function, co-hosted by the University and Vision Manawatu in the week of graduation ceremonies.

Locally owned and run since the 1950s, the Higgins Group of companies developed from a civil contracting company. The group remains a family owned and run business that covers much of the North Island employing more than 700 staff. One third of employees are based in the Manawatu, and despite increased contractual involvement in Auckland, the group will remain in Palmerston North.

You never run away from your grass roots. We have the same philosophy as when we started back then. Those people who were loyal to us, we have been loyal to them, Pat Higgins says.

Presenting the award, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Palmerston North) Professor Ian Warrington said the company had built a reputation for consistently high-quality construction and maintenance. Its role and contribution to the community took precedence and the University acknowledged Higgins as an organisation that shared its own principles of excellence, relevance and accessibility.

The company's links to the University are strongest through its Napier-based research and development laboratory. The group's core business is horizontal civil construction, including earthworks, subdivisions, drain-laying, pavement construction, spray sealing and asphalt paving. The business consumes more than 20,000 tonnes of liquid bitumen annually, and up to 40,000 tonnes of cement on projects around the North Island and occasionally in the Pacific.

Guest speaker at the Business Link function was Associate Professor Claire Massey, Director of the University's Centre for Small and Medium Enterprise research at the Wellington campus. Dr Massey has had more than 15 years' involvement with the SME sector, and is recognised for her expertise in enterprise development.

She has been a successful clothing designer, business leader and advisor in Palmerston North, and was chief executive of the Palmerston North Enterprise Board before completing her PhD and taking up her present position.

Date: 06/06/2005

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Business; Palmerston North

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# International success for interior design students

Interior Design students took two prizes at the recent Design Institute of Australia competition.

Hannah Ferens won first place in the interior design category with her entry Paranoia.

The brief was to design an emergency information box for a Wellington disaster, she says. I identified that a hazard can be more than a physical occurrence. The hazard of paranoia is fed, fuelled, and accelerated by media portrayals of disasters, imminent or improbable. Whichever the case may be, we as the viewer are unable to make the distinction. In either case we experience fear.

The information box questions our response to visual media. Its function is to show media imagery in a different light. By this I mean it is literally shown in a new way through new technologies, in a different context and setting. International media rarely gives a completely true account of events. Thus what we view is often tainted or contaminated.

Digital screens within the space convey this by displaying imagery being broadcast currently in any manner of forms, including the news, advertising and even sitcoms. The digital screens have parameters to communicate levels of paranoia, including the viewer's control over their own contamination or manipulation by the media. Disorientation and confrontation may be felt within the space. What is reality or truth is questioned.

Ms Ferens says she likes the way interior design challenges her to think about the way people and their environments interact.

Jane Apthorp won third prize for Thresholds. My project examined the way the lobby at Wellington Railway Station could be used, she says.

Date: 06/06/2005

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Creative Arts

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*Pictured at College Street School are from front: Dianne Attwood, test Analyst; Adele Lambert, College Street School Secretary and Brian Pawson MUSAC Director*

# Ministry accreditation for software in schools

A Massey-based vendor and developer of administration software for schools has achieved accreditation from the Ministry of Education this year.

Based in the College of Education, Massey University School Administration by Computer (MUSAC) has been in the business of developing and supplying administration software to schools for more than 15 years. Accreditation means the team's software has met tough Ministry standards which measure business fortitude as well as student database, assessment, and attendance software performance.

MUSAC Director Brian Pawson is delighted with the result and believes MUSAC has a strong future as a software vendor in an environment in which schools will be strongly encouraged by the Ministry to move to accredited software.

The first accreditation assessment highlighted areas of improvement for us, but it's good to know that the effort we've put in over the last 18 months has been on target.

More than 2000 schools are now using our product, Mr Pawson says. It's a credit to Rory Butler, inaugural MUSAC director, and Dr Pat Nolan who got the project under way, that we are now the dominant supplier in New Zealand.

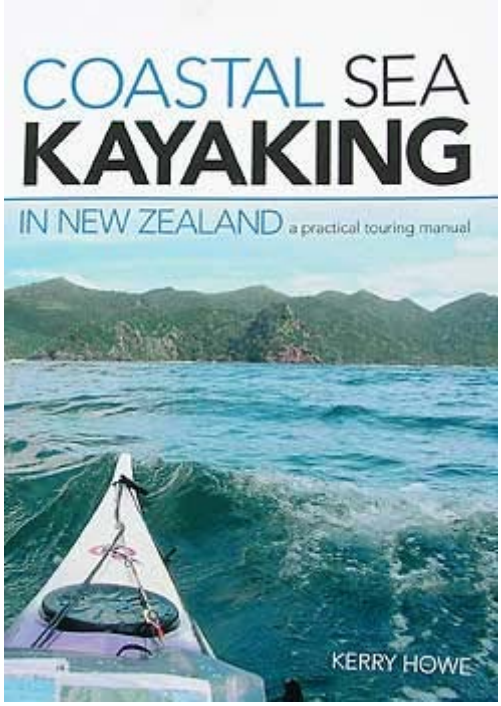
The whole team has contributed to this great result, which gives MUSAC a sound footing for the future.

Date: 06/06/2005

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Education

# Historian publishes a personal passion




Kerry Howe, widely published Professor of History, has just published a book on his other great passion sea kayaking.

Proffessor Howe, who has been kayaking for nearly as long as he has been lecturing in history, has paddled thousands of kilometres around the coastline of New Zealand and written a number of articles for outdoors publications. Books on sea kayaking, he says, are mostly set in the Northern Hemisphere and they advise venturesome kayakers to look out for bears and frozen waters. He decided the time was right for a guide to sea kayaking around this country's coast and his book, Coastal Sea Kayaking in New Zealand: a practical touring manual has just been launched by New Holland Publishing.

The book is for sea kayakers who want to venture beyond day trips to long distance sea kayaking. It offers a wealth of information on how to make these expeditions safe and successful. It covers planning, equipment, navigation, communication, environmental issues and much more.

Professor Howe made many trips around the southern coastline in his 23 years at the Palmerston North campus. Since moving to Albany campus he has made a number of long kayaking journeys, notably his solo trip from East Cape to North Cape via Great Barrier Island.

His book covers safe small boating practice and has been endorsed by Coastguard.

Date: 06/06/2005

Type: Research

Categories: Book; College of Humanities & Social Sciences

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# Sculpture marks school centenary

Pupils at Dannevirke High School returned from their summer holiday to find a new sculpture outside the school. The sculpture, designed by College of Creative Arts senior lecturer, Kingsley Baird, was commissioned to celebrate the school's centenary.

Tiller is based on the form of a boat's tiller; the lever fitted to the rudder and used to steer a vessel.

Mr Baird says the sculpture is intended to make connections with the future and the past.

It is a metaphor which describes the role of the high school in guiding pupils through their lives at school.

It instils in them values in which to approach their academic, cultural and sporting activities, and provides a template for their future. It also recalls and recognises the roots of the people of Dannevirke. These roots lie in distant lands across the sea: Hawaiki, Denmark, Norway, and other destinations in more recent times.

Because the work on Tiller ran in parallel with another project of Mr Baird's, The Tomb of the Unknown Warrior, he was grateful for the input of others in the College of Creative Arts.

Industrial Design senior tutor Peter Fraser translated the artist's model into drawings, to enable the engineering company to build the full size Tiller.

Third year industrial design student Carl Hobman built the pattern for bronze casting.

The three metre high sculpture is constructed in bronze and corten steel. The bronze tiller was cast by Heavy Metal in Lower Hutt and the steel rudder was manufactured by Easteel Engineering in Dannevirke. Mr Baird worked with Easteel over summer to ensure the sculpture was installed in time for the pupils' return.

Date: 06/06/2005

Type: University News

Categories: College of Creative Arts

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*Scenes from the four day event including cultural performances and the presentation of a magnificent paddle.*

# Educators gather to navigate the arts

Art educators from around New Zealand and the world gathered in Palmerston North last month to 'navigate the arts in the Pacific'.

The Aotearoa New Zealand Association of Art Educators (ANZAAE) held its biennial conference at the Hokowhitu site, marking the first time that this conference has been held outside a main centre.

In a ceremony held on Monday 18 April, Dr Cliff Whiting, ONZ, was welcomed back to Te Haonui Marae at the College of Education a poignant tribute to a man noted particularly for his contribution to the University, Māori visual culture and community involvement.

Awarded a Doctorate of Literature by the University in 1996, Dr Whiting returned to Massey as a keynote speaker for the conference, highlighting a professional and personal journey through art education and noting significant changes in the social, economic, and cultural landscape of New Zealand.

Other keynote speakers included:

Dr Gregory Cajete who is a member of the Education faculty and Director of Native American studies at the University of New Mexico a visual artist whose work is dedicated to honouring the foundations of indigenous knowledge in education.

Mr Teweiariki Teaero, from the Department of Education and Psychology at the University of the South Pacific, a practicing artist and poet inspired by traditional art motifs, legends, and contemporary issues in the Pacific region.

Professor Elizabeth Grierson, advisor to the United Kingdom Global Studies Association, who this year has assumed the position of Professor of Art at RMITT University in Melbourne. Professor Grierson examined the specific conditions of New Zealand educational policy and cultural practices, and looked at the context of global governance and the broader issues of

globalisation that impact upon New Zealand's local sites of practice.

Presentations and workshops ranging from Utilising Cultural Symbols to Tell Visual Narratives to Composing Motion were given by Massey staff-members and guests.Cultural performances, art exhibitions, and a visit to local artist Paul Dibble's workshop were also highlights of the four day event.

Date: 06/06/2005

Type: Research

Categories: College of Education

# Sustainable development in South-East Asia

Environmental and social problems arising from the rapid industrialisation and development of cities in South-East Asia demand a holistic approach from government, the community, aid and research groups.

Dr Donovan Storey, from the School of People, Environment and Planning, recently presented the outcomes from more than a year of fieldwork in Thailand and the Philippines to Indonesian researchers, social workers and students.

Dr Storey was invited to present at the Bandung School for Social Welfare, to the Indonesian Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, students and community development workers from throughout West Java. With a focus on riverside communities in Thailand and the Philippines, the seminar focused on initiatives and projects aimed at improving both the environment and the lives of those who live in it.

The duality of people and their environment is a concept not often reflected in the funding of 'environmental clean-up' projects underway in countries such as Indonesia says Dr Storey.

With a comparatively recent state of democracy, the recognition of the rights of people in poor urban communities is still at an early stage.

One of the major issues for South-East Asian governments is the decline of the environment with the growth of cities. What is becoming clear is that the environment is becoming the centre of other battles and issues, such as democracy, human rights and access to services and land.

Dr Storey says a typical approach to a badly polluted area, and riverside communities in particular, focuses on the eviction of the people in the area, and to re-build housing or commercial properties for higher socio-economic groups.

For the communities in these areas, these types of projects are another type of marginalisation. The urban poor of the region see their environmental conditions as the outcome of social, political and economic marginalisation, whereas other social groups tend to view river pollution, in particular, as an environmental issue which can be dealt with through eviction, cleaning and beautification. This is leading to increasing conflict over responsibilities as well as solutions.

As the state of the environment becomes increasingly politicised, both government and non-government organisations are looking to other countries tackling similar scenarios. Community-based environmental projects in Thailand are of particular interest to Indonesia because they best fit their context, Dr Storey says.

His seminar to the Indonesian Bandung School for Social Welfare discussed both successful and faltering initiatives currently underway in Thailand and the Philippines. Dr Storey talked about the expectations and attitudes of the government and funders in creating sustainable cities and how these were often in conflict with urban poor communities who live and work in marginal environments.

He says the large-scale  mega-projects , funded in the region by organisations such as the Asian Development Bank and the World Bank are vulnerable to failure as a result of their size and distance from the cause of the problem.

In comparison, successful and smaller community-based projects in Thailand focus on providing the community with funding, education, and the skills to make gradual improvements to their infrastructure and environment. The first step for many communities is to use the funding they receive to assess their short-term future, to make realistic plans and designs for sustainable living, and to identify the major problems in the area, such as a polluted river or lack of a local school.

These plans are then submitted to local government, and a partnership is formed between city planners and development experts, and the community representatives.

Dr Storey completed his fieldwork in Asia as a visiting fellow at the Institute of South-East Asian Studies in Singapore. His seminar in Indonesia was organised by Dr Edi Suharto, a doctoral graduate of Development Studies at Massey who teaches at the Bandung School for Social Welfare.  Dr Storey is currently researching and writing a book on the politics of the environment in urban South-East Asia.

Date: 06/06/2005

Type: Research

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences

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# Do adoption reunions mean instant family?

When adopted people seek out their birth parents and establish contact with them, there is no predicting the future pattern of that relationship.

The longer term experiences of adoptees who had been reunited with a birth parent a decade or more ago are the focus of a Masters thesis by Albany based Julee Browning. She conducted her research with 20 adoptees ranging in age from 26 to 71 years. Her principal finding was that reunited relationships have no predictable pathways.

She presented her findings to interested peers and representatives of social agencies in a seminar The labyrinth of family membership in long term adoption reunion. From her research she had found that reunited relationships have no predictable pathways and are approached with varying levels of ambivalence and emotional strain. The relationships had no fixed pattern of family arrangements and relational boundaries.

It is now two decades since the passing of the Adult Adoption Information Act. This legislation made New Zealand the first country to give rights to both adopted people and birth parents to get identifying information from official records. By 2004 the number of adoptees who applied for identifying information had reached 31,247 and applications from birth parents numbered 8,648.

Previous studies suggest that the majority who made contact with each other, did form ongoing relationships. Much of the research to date has focused on the reunion event and the short-term post reunion relationship, says Ms Browning. Her research shows, that as time moves on, these relationships face many challenges in uncharted territory.

While her 20 case studies all have different stories to tell about how things had worked out 10, 20 or more years after the reunion, some major themes emerged from their experiences:

Some of the adoptees were grappling with notions of obligations to their birth family and how to handle them whether to attend family gatherings, whether to exchange gifts. What should birth relatives call each other? What is the birth mother's mothering role? How does the adoptee identify with the birth family compared with the adoptive family? Questions relating to inheritance also arose.

t the onset of reunion it was unknown whether a relationship would form and be ongoing, says Ms Browning. They actually grappled with this at the time of reunion. Some are able to come to agreement but others leave it all unsaid and it becomes an ongoing challenge. So the agreement between the two parties (if there was one at all) can change over time. One member may over time want something different from what was initially agreed. This creates a problem because a barrier to communicate their wants and needs is difficult to manage. There is a very deep seated desire not to upset the apple cart and so often they live with the not quite so satisfying relationship, she says.

The results of her research provide insight that could be valuable to adoptees in future dealing with reunited relationships and to those who advise or counsel people dealing with these issues. The research may also assist in understanding the issues surrounding the reunion between egg and sperm donors and their offspring in the future, says Ms Browning.

Date: 06/06/2005

Type: Research

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences

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*From left: Cosmas Makamet. Gerardo Canales Gonzalez, Lisa Hooker, Shannon Casey, Nirosha Seelaratne, Muhamad Fikri.*

# New approaches to environmental management and sustainability

The core of legislation intended to help achieve sustainability in New Zealand, the Resource Management Act (RMA), introduced a new approach to environmental management in 1991.

The establishment of the Act caught the attention of planners and policy-makers worldwide, who have since kept a close eye on amendments and new initiatives, says Associate Professor Bruce Glavovic.

This interest in reflected in the consistent demand from international students seeking post-graduate programmes in Resource and Environmental Planning, he says.

This year there are six international students enrolled in the Masters programme, an internationally recognised qualification accredited by the New Zealand Planning Institute. The majority of international Masters students are on sabbatical from employment in their home countries, whereas New Zealand students tend to study while working.

From San Bernado, Chile, Gerardo Gonzalez is a scholarship Masters student who works for the Chilean government's Ministry of Planning. He is especially interested in public policy and environmental economics and, in New Zealand, the Treaty of Waitangi and the Waitangi Tribunal. He says there are many similarities between New Zealand and Chile and the countries share the primary industries of forestry and horticulture.

Nirosha Seelaratue works for the Sri Lankan government, as an assistant director preparing development proposals and concepts to be implemented in the central province of Sri Lanka. Her family are also here while she completes the two-year degree.

She is especially interested in New Zealand's eco-tourism industry and says there is potential for growth in eco-tourism in Sri Lanka, with a population of 19 million.

From Lombok Island in Indonesia, Muhamad Fikri works for a governmental regional development planning agency in Mataran City. With Indonesia facing increasing deforestation and environmental degradation, he will focus on building his knowledge of the ways in which developed countries develop and maintain environmental policy and practice.

At a national level, Dr Glavovic says there has been a renaissance in future-based planning, triggered by events such as the amendment to the Resource Management Act in 2004 and the Foreshore and Seabed legislation.

Environmental issues are as prominent in the Government agenda as they are in the public mindset. They have political relevance, increasing so since the start of the modern environmental movement in the 1970s.

He says the discipline of planning has tended to focus on effect-based planning, based on the implementation of the RMA, but that future-based planning is on the rise.

Students are not always planners to start with. They come from areas such as ecology and economics and move into specialised areas of planning such as urban design and international development.

Date: 06/06/2005

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences

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# Record entries for Young Scientist awards

Judges of this year's MacDiarmid Young Scientists of the Year Awards will find almost one in every three entries is from a young Massey scientist.

There is a record number of submissions this year, and a contribution of 40 from Massey is the largest number submitted by one institution since the annual event began in the late 1990s.

Bob Parsons, Technical Manager in the Institute of Fundamental Sciences, personally delivered the big bundle of Massey posters outlining the students' research projects.

Hosted by the Foundation for Research, Science and Technology (FRST), and sponsored by the University, the awards recognise achievement and excellence in the science sector.

They are named after Nobel Prize winning New Zealand scientist Professor Alan MacDiarmid, and recognise the work of New Zealand's top up-and-coming scientists and researchers, who can submit a poster highlighting their work in one of nine award categories. The winners will be announced at a gala dinner in Auckland on June 22.

Murray Bain, Chief Executive of FRST, says the global interest in last year's winning research is evidence of the high regard in which New Zealand scientists are held and the significant opportunities for international collaboration in leading edge science and research.

This year's team of judges, which includes leading New Zealand scientists, business executives and communication experts, will be looking for top quality science and research that benefits New Zealand and is clearly communicated to a lay audience.

Entries were submitted in one of the following categories: Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing; Manufacturing and Material; ICT and Creative Industries; Biotechnology; Infrastructure; Environmental Sciences; Maori Knowledge and Development; Health and Medical Sciences;People and Society.

The winner of each category receives $2000 in prize money and is eligible to become the 2005 national award winner or runner up.

The overall award winner receives a trip to Washington DC to join the winners of a similar competition organised by the prestigious American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) and they also have the opportunity to meet with key USA media representatives. The overall runner-up will be sent to Australia to attend a science communicators event.

**Created: 6 May, 2005**

Date: 06/06/2005

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Sciences

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# The impact on mainstream health services on Māori women

The interactions Māori women have with mainstream health services can often have a negative impact on their overall health and wellbeing. Researcher Dr Denise Wilson based her thesis on a study of the interpretations Māori women have of health and well being and the bearing this has on how they are faring within New Zealand's existing health care structure.

Existing health data shows the health status of Māori women is less than that of the non-Māori population despite the right to equality of experiences, says Dr Wilson. Her study The Weavers of Health and Wellbeing is possibly the first to look closely at the how Māori women interact with and perceive mainstream health services.

Dr Wilson is a recent graduate with a PhD in Nursing and lectures at the Albany campus in the School of Health Sciences. After years of nursing experience she took up a teaching role in Rotorua in the mid 1980's. She has been an education advisor to the Nursing Council and a lecturer in this field for more than a decade.

She has Tainui affiliations and took a Māori centred research approach using Professor Mason Durie's Māori centred concepts of mana Māori (control), whakapiki tangata (enablement) and whakatuia (integration). She interviewed 23 women aged between 18 and 80 years.

In undertaking my research it was important to me that I would produce something that could make a contribution to improving the health of Māori and more specifically, Māori women.

The impetus for this research arose out of my role as a registered nurse, the concerns about the appropriateness of some health services delivered to Māori and my observations of community and acute 'mainstream' health services. The delivery of appropriate and acceptable services, therefore, is crucial to improving the health outcomes of Māori.

There are many complex issues contributing to the scenario but major factors are a lack of understanding of things Māori. Her research subjects had interacted with health services in a wide range of circumstances births, deaths, surgery, visiting etc. Their experiences had often been alienating and given rise to a resigned acceptance of the way things are, says Dr Wilson.

It is this, she says, which makes this group hesitant to seek health care from mainstream services.

As a result of her research into this subject, Dr Wilson has developed a model to guide the education and practice of health care providers working within mainstream health services.

Date: 06/06/2005

Type: Research

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences; Explore - HEALTH; Maori

*Professor David Lambert and John Hogan*

# Three Streams resource for Albany

A large tract of bush gifted to North Shore City, is within a stone's throw of the Albany campus and the biological scientists based there.

The Three Streams Property is 37,000 square metres of native and exotic bush. It has been gifted to the community by well known conservationist John Hogan who has lived at the property and worked tirelessly on replanting it over the past 30 years.

Biologist Professor David Lambert has taken an interest in Three Streams and is pictured with John Hogan (right) at the handover ceremony which was attended by environmental advocates including the Minister, Chris Carter.

We are expanding our biological science papers at the Albany campus and this wonderful resource is right on our own doorstep, says Professor Lambert.

Date: 06/06/2005

Type: University News

Categories: Auckland

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# University embarks on eCommerce project

The University is embarking on a project to empower departments to buy goods and services more simply and economically than in the past.

The Director of Finance Operations Trevor Sew Hoy says when the Finance One project started, the consultations included discussions about purchasing. There was agreement that it would be worthwhile to have this as part of our finance package. As Finance One got going, it was found that while it was an admirable accounting package the purchasing module appeared to be less appropriate. This was confirmed at a presentation late in 2001, which included a number of potential users.

Mr Sew Hoy says a review of payment records during 2000/2001 shows a number of inefficiencies and inappropriate buying patterns. Many staff are unaware of arrangements made with suppliers for favourable pricing.

We are aware that staff throughout the University spend considerable time on obtaining goods and services. While this task is necessary, most staff feel that the less time spent in this area the better.

Overseas research has suggested that savings of up to 10 percent of the University's total annual non-employee related spend of $50 million could be made. The immediate target for the University has been set at 2 percent or $1 million per year.

A project control group will comprise Mr Sew Hoy, Director of Information Technology Gerrit Bahlman, Chief Accountant Debbie Bellamy, Assets Accounting Manager David Bateman and Projects Accountant Heather Tootell. Specific users will also be asked to join the project team as necessary to ensure that a user focus is maintained.

More information on the project is available on the staffroom web site. If staff have any questions they should contact Trevor Sew Hoy ext 4409, Gerrit Bahlman ext 5049 or Heather Tootell ext 2725.

Date: 06/06/2005

Type: University News

Categories: College of Business

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# Political advertising: a waste of taxpayers' money?

On 18 April the Electoral Commission announced the allocation of time and money to political parties for broadcasting of election programmes in the lead up to this year's General Election.

All 20 parties claiming eligibility are to get a share of $3.2m of advertising funds and the 102 minutes of opening and closing address time on each of TVNZ and National Radio.

Labour and National have 18 minutes each for addresses; the Greens, New Zealand First and United Future each get 10 minutes; the Māori Party and Progressives seven minutes; The Alliance, Christian Heritage, Destiny New Zealand and Libertarianz which are not represented in Parliament get one minute.

Ms Robinson says parties should be able to use the time allocated for opening and closing addresses in slots when they think their target audience is watching or listening.

All parties are disadvantaged by having to produce opening and closing night broadcasts, she says.

Although smaller parties have access to a larger television audience than they may otherwise be able to afford, the pressure to use their free time to broadcast alongside competing parties forces them into spending their small allocation on broadcasts which may be shown on, say, a Friday night when their niche audiences may not be watching.

Also, their segments will probably be shown towards the end of the broadcast, when audience numbers have dropped off considerably.

Once their broadcasting allocation is spent they have no more resources left to advertise on television, she says.

The allocation of free time for opening and closing night broadcasts also disadvantages larger parties who have to spend a substantial portion of their broadcasting allocation on the production costs for long election programmes.

Although Labour and National's 12 minute opening night broadcasts in 2005 will be considerably shorter than the 25 30 minutes they had in 1996 or the hour they had in 1984, in today's televisual world length of broadcast is not the key factor in communicating a successful message.

Rather it is the visual and verbal content of a message and the meanings experienced by its target audience over time that has the most influence.

All parties need more control over the process of targeting their messages at strategic times that are determined by the party, rather than the State, says Ms Robinson.

The requirement for TVNZ and National Radio to provide time for the broadcasting of opening and closing night addresses should be removed from the Broadcasting Act 1989, she says.

It is hard to assess how much impact political ads have because they don't exist in a vacuum, she says.  People get their political information in many ways.

But political ads do have value, she says.  They contain the party's message what they stand for and what they hope to achieve. If a voter did nothing but watch the ads they would be

relatively well informed.

Although one minute of ad time isn't long, it is possible to run punchy ads in a 15-second slot, she says. Funds allocated by the Electoral Commission can be used by political parties for buying advertising time on television or radio, and for production costs. Parties cannot use their own money to buy time but can use their own money for production costs.

Date: 06/06/2005

Type: Research

Categories: College of Business

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# Doctor of Literature for innovative educator

Education reformer Susan Baragwanath will be awarded Doctor of Literature (honoris causa) at the third of the Wellington campus graduation ceremonies, on Thursday 26 May.

Mrs Baragwanath is the founder of He Huarahi Tamariki (A Chance for Children), a school that gives young parents who had their high school education cut short due to the birth of a child the chance to complete their schooling. The school has an annual roll of 50 students and has an attached pre-school for the babies.

She founded He Huarahi Tamariki in November 1994 after returning from an Eisenhower Fellowship to the United States, where she studied similar schools.

Mrs Baragwanath was then the deputy principal of Porirua College, of which He Huarahi Tamariki would at first be an offshoot.

He Huarahi Tamariki's first quarters were in a disused hardware store, which was overcrowded from the day it opened.

They then moved to the old Waggoners Bar in Cannons Creek Top Tavern. Later the school would shift to a purpose-built state-of-the-art pre-school and high school complex in Linden.

Many of her former He Huarahi Tamariki students have gone on to university and successful careers.

From its inception He Huarahi Tamariki and its work with young parents has been widely lauded. However, until recently the school, which failed to fit within any particular category in the system, struggled to find an assurance of continuing funding.

There are now more than 35 such schools, with more in the planning stages. Mrs Baragwanath has been successful in convincing the Government that these schools are an important supplement to mainstream education.

Porirua Mayor Jenny Brash says the high academic results that the students achieve speak louder than anything else.  The establishment of second-chance schools throughout New Zealand could never have happened without Susan's leadership, commitment and sheer determination.

Maxelyn Tudman from Zonta International also paid tribute:  The success of He Huarahi Tamariki was attributable to the determination and vision of Susan Baragwanath. Her contribution to education has been outstanding.

In 1999 Mrs Baragwanath won the community service category and the supreme award in the Wellingtonian of the Year competition.

She has been teaching for 37 years. She graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in 1968, a Diploma in Education in 1986, and holds a Master of Arts degree from the University of London. She is also a Fellow of the Royal Geographic Society.

Date: 06/06/2005

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Education; Graduation

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# Outstanding leadership against the odds

The outstanding leadership of James Bull (OBE) and his contribution to farming and agribusiness in New Zealand will be acknowledged with an Honorary Doctorate in Science.

The founder of the Jim Bull Potato Company in Rangitikei will receive his doctorate at the first of this year's graduation ceremonies in Palmerston North, for graduands of veterinary, agricultural and horticultural sciences. Pro Vice-Chancellor of the College of Sciences, Professor Robert Anderson, is to present the doctorate with a citation highlighting Mr Bull's vision and success.

Professor Anderson says Mr Bull's leadership over the past 52 years is one of the best exemplars of why New Zealand's agricultural sector sustains an against-the-odds position in the global economy. From its first 14ha crop of spuds, the Jim Bull Potato Company grew to become the largest in Australasia within 20 years, with a year-round production of 20,000 tonnes.

Diversification of the business saw the establishment of companies for the marketing and distribution (both domestic and export) of fresh and processed potato products. The 'Jim Bull' potato and the 'Westerns' french fries brands were to become household names, and by the time Wattie Industries bought the potato business in 1984, some 267 people were employed.

Professor Anderson outlined Mr Bull's association with the University, a relationship spurred by the demand to apply new technology in potato production. Mr Bull's ongoing search for new ideas to further develop his potato, pea and onion enterprises led him to become the first businessman to fund a research contract at Massey. Drs Richard and Mary Earle now Professors Emeriti of the University, helped devise better methods for processing potatoes into french fries, and efforts to avoid soil damage by over-cultivation took him to the minimum tillage research of Dr John Baker.

To enourage graduates in agriculture, Mr Bull established the James Bull Group Agricultural Scholarship in 2002, and the first scholar graduated in the ceremony at which Mr Bull received his honorary doctorate. In his citation Professor Anderson outlined some of the numerous distinctions awarded to Mr Bull, including the prestigious Royal Agricultural Society of New Zealand A.C Cameron Award in 1972, and the Wanganui Region Air New Zealand Enterprise Award and the Rangitikei / Manawatu National Barley Grower of the Year in 1982. In 1995 he was awarded an OBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours List.

In 1966 he won an Outstanding Young Man of the Year National Award, and was a founding member of the Board of Trustees of the Massey University Agricultural Research Foundation from 1979 to 1982.

Date: 06/06/2005

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Sciences; Graduation

*Vice-Chancellor Professor Judith Kinnear and Dr Wayne McIlwraith*

# Fellowship for leading equine surgeon

It's a mouthful, but for one month Dr Wayne McIlwraith will hold the title of: The New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing Massey University Foundation Visiting Fellow in Equine Science.

A leading equine surgeon and the recipient of an honorary doctorate from the University in 2004, Dr McIlwraith arrived in New Zealand late last month from Colorado, in the United States. At the joint invitation and sponsorship of the Foundation and the thoroughbred racing regulatory organisation, he will address a variety of organisations and groups in the equine industry.

His fellowship commenced with an informative seminar on injury prevention in horses, at the Palmerston North campus, to the New Zealand Pony Club Champ riders and supporters, who were in the region for the 50th Anniversary Championship competition.

Later in the month Dr McIlwraith will meet with executives of the Canterbury Standardbred Association, and give a seminar to association members on the maximisation of athletic health for both standardbred and thoroughbred racehorses.

In Wellington he will meet with Minster of Racing Damien O'Connor to promote the role of research within the industry and to outline the current projects under way at Massey. Dr McIlwraith will also make the most of his Fellowship by meeting with New Zealand's equine veterinarians and students, with plans for a workshop for University staff and students.

A skeletal and joint disease specialist and a New Zealander, Dr McIlwraith is internationally known for his pioneering research in equine arthroscopic surgery for horses. He is a researcher in a collaborative project with the Institute of Veterinary and Animal Biomedical Sciences, and, as a Professor of Veterinary Surgery at Colorado State University, he assesses and treats the world's top competition horses.

New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing, sponsors of the Fellowship, promotes research and the development of equine training programmes. Assistant Chief Executive Simon Cooper says Dr McIlwraith's participation is an excellent opportunity to benchmark against international racing jurisdictions.

More information about the Massey University Foundation can be found at:
http://alumni.massey.ac.nz/foundation

Date: 06/06/2005

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: Conference/Seminar; Explore - Agriculture/Horticulture; School of Veterinary Science

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# Transforming the Old Dairy Factory

It takes more than a lick of paint to turn a near-derelict dairy factory that had been empty for almost two decades into a building fit for fledging businesses.

Redesigned and refitted by Roger Billington from the Institute of Technology and Engineering, the University's Old Dairy Building has a new lease of life as the Bio Commerce Centre, a business incubator for the region's bio-industry scientists.

Designed and built in 1928 by Roy Alston Lippincott, the brick and shuttered concrete factory building has since seen a number of refits. In 1972 a fledgling New Zealand Pharmaceuticals Ltd opened its first biochemical pilot plant in the old factory, eventually outgrowing the space to become an export leader and inspiration for science and technology enterprise in the Manawatu.

Mr Billington says the building is important by any historical standards, and has, over the years, sustained significant abuse from its many occupants and users. He says the original brief demanded a building which was creative, intelligent and adaptable, and which led to the need for unusual flexibility throughout the process of design, as the final occupants of the building could not be identified until closer to the launch.

The design evolved through research of the site, the building, and a relatively recent heritage assessment, and resulted in a contrast between historic and new elements. Mr Billington says the building's heritage status inspired the restoration of significant internal features and a return to the original exterior.

The building was internally stripped back to the bare shell, and in order to minimise any further damage to the original structure, a suspended cable tray was fitted for lighting. All ceilings were renovated to the original 1928 designs and the walls left partially tiled and damaged. A new concrete electrically heated floor was poured throughout and all doors and architraves - a decorative strip framing a door or window - were replaced of necessity.

Date: 06/06/2005

Type: University News

Categories: College of Sciences; Palmerston North

# Are junior doctors' work patterns a health and safety hazard?

Resident Medical Officers (RMOs) in public hospitals work long hours. In a recent survey carried out by the Sleep/Wake Research Centre, more than half reported working an average of 50 70 hours in each of the preceding two weeks, and one in seven worked more than 70 hours a week. What effect does this have on patient safety and practitioners' health? Should we be concerned?

Those are the questions researcher Heather Purnell (pictured) has been studying for two years. Ms Purnell is a Junior Research Fellow at the Sleep/Wake Research Centre. She completed an MSc (Hons) in physiology at the Palmerston North campus before joining the Sleep/Wake Research Centre in 2003.

This month she was awarded a Fulbright Travel Award to present findings from the study to the Association of Professional Sleep Societies meeting in Denver, United States in June. She will also visit research laboratories at NASA and at Harvard Medical School.

Ms Purnell and her colleagues surveyed more than 2,000 junior doctors in public hospitals. They achieved a response rate of 63 percent. That's considered a high response for this kind of study, she says. We were absolutely rapt at the level of interest in our work. As well as completing the four-page questionnaire, more than 800 doctors added comments.

Medical students receive minimal training on sleep at medical school, in relation to their patients, or to coping with their own work demands. That concerns me, because achieving a balance between demanding work patterns and the rest of your life depends on understanding circadian rhythms and the effects of sleep restriction, she says. For example, our study found that for many RMOs, work patterns had a high impact on social life, home life, personal relationships, and other commitments.

Our focus is on understanding the aspects of work patterns that can increase the risk of negative outcomes for both patients and the RMOs themselves. The outcomes addressed in the survey included fatigue-related errors in clinical practice, and sleepiness while driving.

The Health and Safety in Employment Act 1992 was extended in 2003 to cover stress and fatigue as identifiable workplace hazards. This has provided a strong incentive to introduce fatigue management measures in workplaces. In Europe a working time directive will reduce doctors' working hours to a maximum 48 per week by 2009, from the current maximum of 58 hours.

The study on junior doctors is funded by the Health Research Council, and collaborators include the New Zealand Medical Council, the Resident Doctors' Association, and Te Ohu Rata o Aotearoa (the Māori Doctors' Association).

Ms Purnell's colleagues in the study were Professor Philippa Gander, Noemie Travier, (from the Sleep/Wake Research Centre), Professor Alastair Woodward (University of Auckland), and Dr Sandy Garden (University of Otago).

The research team is now seeking funding to implement a fatigue management system in an Intensive Care Unit.

Date: 06/06/2005

Type: Research

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences

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*National Bank Regional Manager Duane Kale and Chris Ulutupu. Nova Gas Account Manager Fraser Clark and Margaret Tuala. Enoka Jessop and PIPEF chair Sashi Meanger*

# Awards for Pacific Islands students

The Pacific Islands Polynesian Education Foundation (PIPEF), in conjunction with two corporate sponsors, awarded scholarships to four Massey students at a ceremony on campus this month.

PIPEF chair Sashi Meanger says the scholarships assist Samoan, Tokolauan, Nuiean, Cook Islands, Fijian, Tongan and other Polynesian students into courses of their choice. The financial help enables and encourages students to take courses that might not usually be popular with Pasifika people.

The foundation sets aside $46,000 of its government funding each year for dollar-for-dollar scholarships within tertiary institutions around New Zealand.

This year the four Massey Wellington scholarship recipients were again co-funded by sponsors The National Bank and Nova Gas Ltd. The scholarships are each worth $1,000.

The National Bank scholarships were awarded to Chris Ulutupu, who is in his first year of a Bachelor of Performance Design, and Corina Beaton, a Bachelor of Design (Fashion) student.

National Bank Regional Manager Duane Kale says development of our people and community involvement are two of the bank's core values.

Mr Ulutupu says he aspires to be a director, and that the scholarship will help with his living costs.

Nova Gas awarded two scholarships one to Bachelor of Nursing student Margaret Tuala, and another to Bachelor of Construction (Quantity Surveying) student Enoka Jessop.

Nova Gas Account Manager Fraser Clark says that as a new entrant in the gas market, Nova Gas knows what it is like to be an underdog, and was delighted to offer its support.

Ms Tuala is in her final year of a nursing degree. After working in a rest home for five years she set her sights on a nursing career. She says the scholarship will definitely make her life easier.

Mr Jessop says he transferred from another course to Massey as the Bachelor of Construction degree will give him more options when he graduates.

At the ceremony, Mr Meanger thanked the University for helping make the scheme a success. As a former director of a training establishment in south Auckland, I've seen the struggles students go through to get to tertiary study. It really makes me feel good that our partners and PIPEF can support students in this way.

Date: 06/06/2005

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: Pasifika

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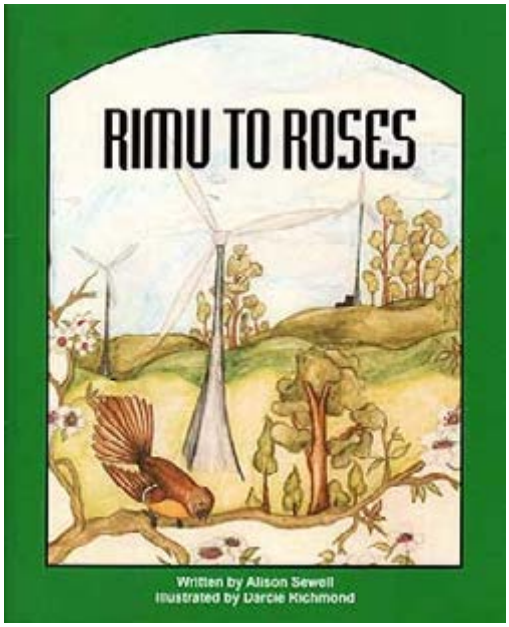
# Rimu to Roses: exploring change




A new children's book encourages readers to participate in social decision-making and to consider the effects of change on values, responsibilities, and the environment.

Written by Alison Sewell, a senior lecturer and author in the Department of Social and Policy Studies, Rimu to Roses was published last month. From the perspective of a fantail, it tells the history of College Street in Palmerston North, illustrating its transformation from a virgin forest rich in wildlife to a rose garden in the middle of a city.

The picture book has involved five years of research alongside teaching, PhD research, and writing for Ms Sewell, who has embedded the history of College Street in conversations between the fantail and a little girl.

It was important that the story be for children, as well as being historically accurate, she says.

The story focuses on how people, places, and even attitudes have changed over time. The text and accompanying illustrations give a glimpse of the lives of previous generations and outline the ways in which the responsibilities of children have changed over the years.

The clearing in the forest bustled with new life. Shops were built and everyone was busy, even the children had responsibilities, recalled the fantail.

What were they doing?

Well, they milked the cow, collected kindling and ran errands.
Gosh! I only have to keep my room tidy, Sophie smiled.

The book is being used in the social studies curriculum at Colyton School near Feilding, to shape learning about the history of the children's own environment.

Each page in the book is a stimulus to provoke social studies learning, Ms Sewell says.  Children learn important information about decision making, change, and responsibility, while developing the skills to participate in society and connect with the environment around them.

With strong Massey connections, Rimu to Roses is illustrated by College of Education graduate Darcie Richmond, and dedicated to the memory of Dr Sally Newton who taught at Massey before she died in 1988.

The book is set in the place where Sally once lived, Ms Sewell says  So I felt it was appropriate to dedicate it to her memory.

Rimu to Roses is published by Kanuka Grove Press
http://kanukagrove.massey.ac.nz/

Date: 06/06/2005

Type: Research

Categories: College of Education

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# College of Creative Arts launched

The College of Design, Fine Arts and Music is now the College of Creative Arts.

Pro Vice-Chancellor of the College, Professor Sally Morgan says,  The old name was rather like a list, and that limited our choices about how we might develop. The new name describes the breadth and thrust of our activities, and allows us to develop into related areas. It places us firmly at the heart of the creative capital of New Zealand.

The College is streamlining some of its management processes so that fewer people are dealing with compliance issues. This will free up more time for academics to research and develop postgraduate programmes.

Departments are being amalgamated, and there will be two academic units in Design rather than four. A new School is being established to provide a point of connection between all the College's academic units and, potentially, the rest of the University.

The names of the new units will be:
• The Institute of Design for Industry and Environment,
• The Institute of Communication Design, and
• The School of Visual and Material Culture.

Subject areas will stay largely the same, but will be grouped differently for managerial and research purposes. People outside the University will still be more aware of Fashion and Textiles at Massey, or Photography at Massey than the Schools and Institutes themselves, Professor Morgan says

Our subject areas are the soul of what we do. The Schools and Institutes are the management structures that support them.

We believe that the new College structure will give us the flexibility to develop our burgeoning research capability and to grow postgraduate activity within the College, whilst at the same time maintaining the excellence of our undergraduate programmes, she says.  This will provide tremendous opportunities for both staff and students. Staff will be able to flower as national and international level researchers in the creative arts, and our best students will have more opportunities to undertake postgraduate study within a lively, research-led environment.

Some staff will experience a change of line-manager, but no staff will be made redundant as a direct result of these changes. As the process develops staff will have increased opportunities for engaging in postgraduate supervision, linking up with colleagues with similar research interests, and developing their programme leadership potential. This will enhance their ability to develop their careers, gain promotion, and achieve recognition in the world beyond the University.

Students will receive the same good educational experience that we have always given them, she says.  We are very proud of the achievements of our students and our graduates and we mean to maintain and enhance our reputation for excellence at every level.

Date: 06/06/2005

Type: University News

Categories: College of Creative Arts; Wellington

# Forever clouds and 'tiny news'

Chinese journalist Michelle Qiao reluctantly ended an inaugural exchange scholarship with the School of Journalism at the end of March.

The Shanghai Daily senior features writer had come to Wellington thanks to an Asia New Zealand grant, which also sees a journalism student working on the Shanghai paper each year after their graduation.

The New Zealand destination was negotiated after successful first visits to China, first by journalism lecturer Alan Samson, then pathfinding scholar Sally Kidson in 2004.

After immersing herself in the pre-Easter section of the journalism course studying interviewing, news writing and newsgathering skills Ms Qiao took the chance to see a bit of the country, from Auckland to Queenstown - and fell in love with it.

It's very clean here, she says. You can use white curtains. Even your shoes keep clean here. She described with wonderment Wellington's forever clouds, its seagulls always circling overhead, the white sails in the harbour and the white seaside houses.

Ms Qiao was cautious in offering opinions on the standard of New Zealand's press. After visits to The Dominion Post and the New Zealand Herald, she observed that she was impressed with their professionalism. But she had been taken aback by an apparent obsession with tiny news.

Sometimes things are a little bit boring because there's only tiny, tiny news, she says. No news is too small here.

The scholarship programme had been worthwhile, however, and should be continued. It allows people to meet from two sides of the Pacific Ocean. They have an opportunity to be together and communicate and learn more about each other.

The China scholarship is one of two offered by Asia New Zealand and the School of Journalism: two graduates each year also go to Cambodia to work on the Phnom Penh Post.

Date: 06/06/2005

Type: Research

Categories: College of Business

# Book crossing honours writer and lecturer

Neither lost nor forgotten, books left lying around in the month of May are meant to be taken home and read!

Books written by New Zealand authors will be 'released into the wild' during the first week of May in a book crossing to honour author and Massey lecturer Bronwyn Tate, who died in Palmerston North on 25 February.

Dr Lisa Emerson, a senior lecturer in creative writing in the School of English and Media Studies organised the crossing, where books are left in public places to be picked up and recirculated once read.

It is a particularly appropriate tribute to a woman who was very committed to New Zealand books, Dr Emerson says. Bronwyn promoted them whenever she could. She was an inspiration to many emerging writers, a woman of great humour, and a vital voice in New Zealand writing.

With the help of some of Mrs Tate's former students of the first-year Creative Writing course including many hundreds of extramural students living in New Zealand and abroad the book crossing will stretch across the country.

Participants are encouraged to choose one of Mrs Tate's books or a novel by another New Zealand author, and organisers hope the event will encourage people to read more New Zealand fiction. Books will be labelled to identify them as part of a book crossing and released in cafés, at airports or bus stations among other places.

Mrs Tate's first novel, Leaving for Townsville, was published in 1997, followed by Russian Dolls in 1999, Halfway to Africa in 2002, and Lily's Cupola in 2003. A fifth novel was completed shortly before her death, and will be published at a later date. All were published by Otago University Press.

Date: 06/06/2005

Type: Research

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences

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# From the speeches

**Chancellor Nigel Gould**
In his speech, Chancellor Nigel Gould observed that the Auckland ceremonies marked the start of the University's graduation season, with 20 ceremonies to be held over the next six weeks. The Chancellor also noted that there were the first Albany graduands from the College of Creative Arts, formerly the College of Design, Fine Arts and Music.

He said his greatest pleasure came from the conferring of degrees at graduation in an atmosphere of excitement and pride.

Mr Gould spoke of recent events and achievements at Massey Auckland, describing the Albany campus as achievement oriented . He also touched on Government policy for the tertiary education sector, saying the University is pleased to enter a new era in which a balance will be struck between competition and cooperation among universities.

**Vice-Chancellor Professor Judith Kinnear**
The Vice-Chancellor commended graduands for their commitment, dedication and hard work and also congratulated University staff members who now see the result of their mentoring and teaching. The success of their students, as exemplified by today's graduation ceremony, is one of their greatest rewards.

To illustrate the importance of determination and perseverance, Professor Kinnear shared with graduates the story of Elizabeth Garrett Anderson, the first woman to qualify as a doctor in the United Kingdom after a series of battles with, first, her father and then with the medical and educational establishments and bureaucracy.

The future is yours, said Professor Kinnear. Grasp it with both hands. You certainly have fewer barriers than Elizabeth Garrett Anderson had.

**Julie Salthouse**
The speaker at the first of the Auckland ceremonies had the very best of credentials: Julie Salthouse, managing director of Salthouse Marine Group, told Science and Creative Arts graduands that she was not only an extramural student but also the mother of a Massey student.

She exhorted her audience to follow her example: One important thing that you have acquired is the skill of learning. Don't underestimate it. You will always need it, believe me. She recommended use of the University's extramural programme as part of your development in the way ahead .

Ms Salthouse also talked about the driving forces and culture in the marine design industry, operating in a global market. They include the absolute requirement that companies think well outside the square.

**Graeme Dingle**
Mountaineer Graeme Dingle, MBE, ONZM and organiser for the Project K Trust, confessed that he had never graduated from a university. When he was asked to be a graduation speaker, he offered to wear his crampons in lieu of academic regalia.

He talked about the work of Project K which aims to maximise the potential of young people by various means and challenges, especially those who are struggling, perhaps for economic or social reasons. He told the story of a typical student called Katy, aged 14, who was initially struggling and suicidal but ended the programme intending to do Bursary, having achieved her first goal by making the North Harbour netball team.

His advice to College of Education graduands: To succeed in challenges, you have to be adventurous.

**Deborah Manning**
Humanities and Social Sciences graduands gave Deborah Manning, from law firm McLeod and Associates, a round of applause mid-speech, when she questioned the importance of money as a motivation to succeed.

Define your values and think about what success means to you, rather than what it means to your parents and friends or what is conveyed by billboards and in the media.

Ms Manning describes herself as a human rights lawyer dealing mainly with refugee and immigration issues, and represents detainee Ahmed Zaoui. Referring to aspects of the Zaoui case she urged the audience to be more outspoken on contemporary issues, as a privilege . She suggested that academics in Australia and the United Kingdom are more outspoken than in New Zealand: Too many decisions are made in fear or ignorance.

There was more applause when Ms Manning criticised the culture of meetings as a factor in good ideas falling by the wayside.

**Mark Orams**
Mark Orams is an academic staff member and executive director of the Sir Peter Blake Trust. He said greatness was an appropriate word to describe Sir Peter's qualities, not because of his wins but because of the way he went about those achievements .

Mark Orams sailed with Sir Peter in the Whitbread Round the World yacht race in 1989/90 and used that experience to stress the importance of team work. On learning that Mark Orams was the most highly qualified crew member, Sir Peter immediately assigned him to clean the toilets and bilges. In a good team, no one is too good for the low jobs.

As his audience learned, Sir Peter introduced Mark Orams to Princess Anne as the one who has an honours degree from Massey University and who cleans the toilets .

Dr Orams told Business graduands to be aware of the support they had received in their studies. You've had a team around you, whether you know it or not, he said, citing academic staff, Library staff and office staff, among others.

**Vijaya Vaidyanath**
The Chief Executive of the Rodney District Council, Vijaya Vaidyanath was speaker at the second of the Business ceremonies on Friday morning.

Ms Vaidyanath stressed the importance of a university degree, reminding graduands that most people in the world do not get an opportunity to graduate.

She described the moment as a rare event, steeped in history and tradition and the study to earn a degree as the acquisition of an invaluable set of skills .

She noted the true diversity of the group of graduands and urged them to be ambitious and aim high: Two and two do not make four. They make 22.

They should also find strength in themselves. The degree is the icing. You are the cake.

**Rod Oram**
Business journalist and Adjunct Professor at Unitec Rod Oram used his speech at the third Business ceremony to argue for a more concerted effort by New Zealanders to reforge paradise .

New Zealand, he said, could lead the world as a creative and inventive country, small but

attractive and alternative and  in touch with land and sea.

However he suggested many New Zealanders choose not to bother to rise to the tough challenges:  Complacency is very dangerous.

He also argued that big is not necessarily better for companies competing in a global market. As an example, he described an Onehunga company with only 12 employees which is now active in 45 world markets.

Date: 06/06/2005

Type: Graduation

Categories: Auckland; Graduation; Graduation (Auckland)

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# New PhD graduates at Auckland

OLAF DIEGEL PhD in Product Development
The objective of Dr Diegel's research is to improve the speed and quality with which new products can be brought to market. He has developed a new engineering problem-solving technique and a software package that have assisted in cutting design time significantly in a number of commercial projects.

LISA MARJORIE DUIZER PhD in Food Technology
Her research focuses on all the factors that contribute to the consumer perception of foods being crisp. For her investigation Dr Duizer designed and developed an apparatus for measuring bite force directly in the mouth.

IVAN SANG-YOON LIM PhD in Chemistry
His research evolved around relativistic quantum chemistry to determine highly accurate electric static dipole polarizabilities and ionization potentials of atoms and ions. The accuracies achieved were among the best available to date, significantly improving on experimental values.

CYNTHIA WANG PhD in Mathematics
Dr Wang has been investigating the effect of waves on large flat masses floating in water. She constructed models to represent the ice floes that are common in the Arctic and Antarctic regions, for example, and very large structures like floating airports and runways.

JOSEPHINE BOWLER PhD in Education
Her research examined the New Zealand controversy over the 1977 Report of the Committee on Health and Social Education (the Johnson Report), noting that it was the first bi-cultural curriculum document in this country. She examined the reasons for the report, its outcomes and why its opponents succeeded.

NICOLA CURTIS PhD in Psychology
Her research examined the use of multisystemic therapy in the treatment of severe anti-social behaviour in youth. It was introduced to New Zealand in 2001 and Dr Curtis' thesis aimed to examine how effective MST might be as it is applied in this country.

KAREN MCBRIDE-HENRY PhD in Nursing
Dr McBride-Henry is a registered nurse specialising in child and family health. Her doctoral research study explored how breastfeeding is experienced by New Zealand women. Her results demonstrate that breastfeeding women encounter unique life experiences, which facilitate a close relationship between mother and child. She also finds social norms that inhibit breastfeeding women.

**Images from left:**
**1: PhDs in Science; Dr Lisa Marjorie Duizer - PhD in Food Tecnology, Dr Olaf Diegel - PhD in Product Development, Dr Ivan Sang-yoon Lim - PhD in Chemistry, and (front) Dr**

HUGH MORRISON PhD in History
His research focused on New Zealand Protestant involvement in overseas missionary activity between 1860 and 1930. Ongoing research includes completing a database of New Zealand missionaries, and exploring the connections between missions, identity, imperialism, gender, childhood, community values and international influences.

KEITH MACKY PhD in Management
Dr Macky investigated the relationship between employees who experienced organisational downsizing and their attitudes towards their work. He found those who had experienced downsizing in their organisations had poorer perceptions of job security, reduced employee commitment towards their employers, poorer job satisfaction and lower trust in management when compared to employees who had never experienced downsizing.

MARGARET SYMES PhD in Social Anthropology
Her research examined the effects of ethanol contained in alcohol on the developing foetus and the often resulting serious birth defects involving organic brain damage. She also presented an analysis of the dynamic political process surrounding foetal alcohol spectrum disorder.

DENISE WILSON PhD in Nursing
A grounded theory study, informed by a Māori centred approach was undertaken to discover the interpretation Māori women have about health, how this influenced their health behaviours, and the interactions Māori women have with health services.

**Cynthia Wang - PhD in Mathematics.**

**2: Dr Josephine Bowler - PhD in Education.**

**3: PhDs in Humanities; Dr Karen McBride-Henry - PhD in Nursing, Dr Hugh Morrison - PhD in History, Dr Margaret Symes - PhD in Social Anthropology, and Dr Denise Wilson - PhD in Nursing.**

**4: Dr Keith Macky - PhD in Managemeent is congratulated by Chancellor Nigel Gould.**

**5: Dr Denise Wilson is pictured with fellow nursing student Candice Stagge, who graduated Master of Nursing in Mental Health.**

Date: 06/06/2005

Type: Graduation

Categories: Auckland; Graduation; Graduation (Auckland)

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# Auckland: a week of celebrations

Days of brilliant weather, a week of celebrations, more than 1000 happy graduates and their friends and families made graduation 2005 the biggest and boldest yet for Massey Auckland. It was also the launch of the graduation season for the three University campuses.

The annual event has grown incrementally from the first on-campus graduations less than ten years ago to six ceremonies for 2005, in line with increases in student numbers and degree completions at the Albany campus. This year there were six ceremonies and six colourful processions through the centre of Takapuna, as well as on-campus celebrations for Pacific Islands and Māori graduates, and a special dinner for staff, graduation speakers and invited guests.

Although Albany's graduation processions have only recently become an established event in the North Shore City, the processions this year made a big impact in downtown Takapuna. Each day began with a champagne breakfast in the North Shore City Council courtyard followed by processions to the Bruce Mason Centre each morning and afternoon over three days. The week ended on a high note with the Māori graduation ceremonies at the campus.

Two mature students in their seventies. Shirley Wyatt (left) and Nan Carey both graduated BA. Nan has already embarked on a Masters degree in English. The 75-year-old says she enrolled at the University at this stage in her life because she found herself with the time to devote to serious study.

# Festivities for Pasifika community

Guests were welcomed in seven Pasifika languages at a dinner organised by the Massey Pacific Islands Students' Association.

This year there were 11 Pacific Islands graduates at the Auckland ceremonies, including four Masters and Student Liaison Adviser Sean Strickland who graduated BBS, majoring in Sport. The four Masters graduates were Arun Kumar (Master of Educational Administration), Karanina Siaosi Sumeo (Master of Philosophy), Desmond Pemerika (Master of Management) and Emerline Lillian Afeaki (Master of Philosophy majoring in Social Policy).

Emerline Afeaki runs an Auckland-based service called Affirming Women which provides mentoring for Pacific Islands women.

Not all of the graduands could attend the dinner: As one speaker noted, several had already returned to their home countries to put their new knowledge to useful practice. However, the turnout was the largest yet for the annual event and included family and friends, members of the Pacific Islands community, University staff and Council members.

The night of dance, speeches and feasting was organised by a team from MAPISA, including Surava Elaisa who shared compère duties. The roll of honour was read by Albany academic Tafa Mulitalo-Lauta. Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Auckland) Professor John Raine and Vice-Chancellor Professor Judith Kinnear both delivered speeches and awarded certificates. The keynote speaker was community leader and member of the North Shore City Council, Mike Tafua.

*A pōwhiri was held for Māori Graduates, whānau and friends of the Albany campus.*

# Graduates gather with whānau

There were 16 Māori graduates from the Albany campus this year including four Masters degrees and one PhD. They were joined by whānau, friends and staff for a day of celebration on campus, ending with a buffet dinner at the nearby North Harbour Stadium.

The recipients were called forward by Albany's Dr Fiona Te Momo. Presentations were made by Chancellor Nigel Gould and Natasha McCausland, representative of Te Waka o ngā Akonga Māori.

PhD graduate Denise Wilson studied Māori women and their interpretations about health and their interactions with health service. Her thesis Ngā Kairrāranga Oranga the weavers of health and wellbeing provides an explanation of how Māori women weave together their health and wellbeing.

Naomi Patterson has been raising a large family while working towards her BA in Social Policy and Media Studies. She celebrated graduation with her children: (from left) Cara, Jack, Caleb, Bradley (rear), and Chance.

Melissa Stewart graduated Bachelor of Business Studies. She is pictured with her sons, Michael and Steven, and her father, Robert Gray. Ms Stewart is now working at the Albany campus.

Desmond Pemerika has completed a Masters in Management while teaching at Avondale College. He's pictured with his wife, Caroline, his father, Manu, and daughter, Aria.

Date: 06/06/2005

Type: Graduation

Categories: Auckland; Graduation (Auckland)

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# Sports Sciences Lab achieves top accreditation

Elite athletes are coming to the University's Sport and Exercise Research Laboratory for world-class sport science testing.

The Wellington-based lab has recently been accredited by Sport and Exercise Science New Zealand (SESNZ) as a Level 3 Exercise Physiology Lab. SESNZ is the professional body of sport and exercise science practitioners.

Accreditation means that Lab staff can test elite athletes for the New Zealand Academy of Sport.

Level 3 accreditation is as good as it gets in New Zealand, and makes us one of the top sport science labs in the country, says Lab Manager Rhys Thorp.  Our level of research improves, because we are working with higher level athletes. Our teaching also improves because we are consulting with athletes every week. The students can see us applying what we are teaching them, and they get the chance to work with the athletes as well, which is great.

Rees Buck is one athlete taking advantage of the Lab's facilities. He is a top middle distance runner, and has been national 3000m champion and New Zealand cross-country team member since 2003.

I recently returned from the world cross-country championships in France. Now I'm in a three-month build-up period before I return for the track season in Europe. I came into the Lab to get a lactate test done. It helps me measure progress, and gives me an accurate idea of how hard I need to train in order to improve. When I'm training here in Wellington I have favourite routes, and I can assess how fast I should be running.

Blood lactate production correlates with different exercise intensities to establish performance.

Mr Thorp says,  We test the athlete by drawing a blood sample every four minutes as he completes a workout on the treadmill. We gradually crank up the speed so that he has to work harder.

With a resting heart rate of around 40 beats per minute, it takes more than half an hour before Rees Buck hits his top speed of about 20 km/h.

The blood samples are then tested to measure lactate content. A graph of blood lactate concentration against heart rate is done, and where the graph deflects upwards steeply, is where an athlete's threshold is. At that point, the body cannot remove lactate as fast as they are creating it, and they cannot sustain the effort for long.

Sport and Exercise lecturer Dr David Rowlands says the lab is a key teaching and research tool for the Institute of Food, Nutrition and Human Health. The Institute also has sports exercise labs on the Albany and Palmerston North campuses.

The Institute is a leading provider of knowledge for food and health innovation in New Zealand. It delivers research and education across the food and health sector, in sport and exercise science; food science, technology, engineering and business; human nutrition and health; food

evaluation; health science; and agribusiness. Its vision is  better foods, better nutrition, better health, and better lifestyle.

Date: 06/06/2005

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Sciences

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# More success in national awards

Two of the prestigious and sought-after government awards for excellence in teaching for 2005 have been won by Massey academics.

They are Dr Regina Scheyvens from the School of People, Environment and Planning, and Associate Professor in Veterinary Anatomy, Dr Alexander Davies.

The awards were presented by the Minister of Education Trevor Mallard at a formal ceremony held in the Grand Hall at Parliament on Tuesday 26 July. The New Zealand Qualifications Authority, which administers the awards, says the ceremony provides an opportunity to celebrate the success of the awardees and to promote excellence in teaching in the tertiary sector.

The event was attended by Vice-Chancellor Professor Judith Kinnear who says the achievements of Dr Scheyvens and Dr Davies reflect very well on the University and the importance that is placed on focused excellence in both teaching and research.

They have my very warmest congratulations. They join other distinguished Massey academics who have been honoured in the national teaching awards since they were established in 2003.

Professor Kinnear says the success of Dr Scheyvens and Dr Davies also confirms the appropriateness of the move two years ago to extend the University's Vice-Chancellor's awards for excellence in teaching to cover each of the three categories of the national awards and to open the awards to both individuals and groups.

Dr Scheyvens received both the University award and the national award for Sustained Excellence in Teaching. Dr Davies received both awards for Innovation in Teaching.

To be considered for the national awards both were required to prepare extensive submissions and were supported by the Training and Development Unit for this.

Dr Scheyvens' teaching portfolio covered 10 years of teaching at the University, in Human Geography and Development Studies, covering all levels, from first-year students through to supervision of PhDs. Her portfolio outlined her teaching philosophy and responsibilities, and covered course design, student learning, evaluation and professional development

My aim is that students passing through the courses I teach will enter the workforce and the

wider world with confidence, with skills in writing, research and critical thinking, and a better appreciation of how the world works, she wrote. Ideally, they should have an enhanced sensitivity to the concerns of marginalised peoples. If they have open and enquiring minds and if they are life-long learners, then I will know I have done my job well.

Dr Davies has been at Massey since 1974 and has long been recognised as one of the University's most innovative teachers.

There is a huge challenge in facilitating a more exciting way of learning which is both practicable and ethical, he wrote. It must be practicable in an environment of increasing class sizes without a concomitant increase in teacher numbers, and less teaching time.

But in the 1980s, technology rapidly changed. We could do things electronically that we could never do before. Electronic images could now be easily modified and copied, and interaction with computers was possible.

This is an account of a variety of initiatives I have attempted using computer-aided learning with varying success. They are alternative and adjunctive to traditional ways of learning gross, macroscopic and topographical anatomy, embryology and medical imaging in the curriculum of the first, second and, formerly, third years of the Bachelor of Veterinary Science course. They relate to the many and diverse species of animals of veterinary interest that include not only an increasing range of domesticated mammals but also fish, birds and wildlife. They also indicate my eagerness to apply new technological tools as soon as they became available.

Professor Davies recorded that his greatest reward as a teacher is when students show excitement at what they see.

Date: 06/06/2005

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences; College of Sciences

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# 'Quack' websites potentially dangerous, Massey economists warn

Internet users placed a higher value on health information they downloaded from the web compared with the amount they would pay for a visit to their GPs, according to a Massey University study.

The study was set up in December 2004 to determine how people use the internet to find health information, and whether it is an effective way of reducing the gap in information between providers and users of health care.

Respondents estimated the benefit of the information they found on the internet as $60, compared to the cost of an average GP visit of $42.

However this did not necessarily indicate that people did not trust their GPS, as more than 35% went on to consult a GP after seeking out health information online. The most common response 57.9% - was to talk to a family member, friend or workmate.

The study's authors warn of the dangers of 'quack' websites offering potentially harmful advice and are urging the Government to set up an improved health information website.

Given that some of the information may be unreliable or even unsafe, a valuable public health policy initiative would be to provide an improved New Zealand health information website, said co-author Dr Guy Scott, from Massey's Department of Applied and International Economics.

The website could contain information on how to evaluate data sourced from the world-wide web and links to a range of useful and trustworthy health information sites.

Dr Scott said some of the results of the survey were surprising. One third of respondents said they'd changed eating or drinking habits after seeking medical information on the internet, and almost 10% said they'd given up smoking. Some 13% said they'd done nothing.

Dr Scott said there had so far been no study of whether people had actually given up harmful behaviour or just claimed to have done so, but that this could be a topic for future research.

He said the study showed both the potential benefits and dangers of the internet as a source of health information.

Poor quality information and advice on the internet, if followed, could be deleterious to health. Harm to individuals and wastage of health care resources may be caused by non-compliance with health care professionals' advice.

Good quality information may however improve understanding of illness, increase compliance and reduce waste of resources.

Co-author Terry Auld said the research had raised as many questions as it had answered, and there was plenty of room for further study.

He said it would be interesting to know what percentage of New Zealand's population did use the internet to seek out health advice, and to find out more about the information they received. It was also important to evaluate the effectiveness of medical advice found online.

The Massey research was carried out in the Wellington region. 126 people who used the internet to find health-related information were surveyed.

Dr Scott presented the report, Consumer Access to Health Information on the Internet: Health Policy Implications , to the International Health Economics Association World Congress in Barcelona earlier this month.

Date: 06/06/2005

Type: Research

Categories: College of Business

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# Massey graduate titled Young Farmer of the Year

The third Southland farmer in three years to be titled the National Bank Young Farmer Contest champion, Massey graduate David Holdaway took home a prize package worth $125,000.

Originally from Pahiatua in the Wairarapa region, the 27 year old sharemilker graduated from the University in 1999 with a Bachelor of Applied Science in agriculture, with distinction.

Mr Holdaway demonstrated his expertise throughout the intensity of the contest's three-day grand final, the culmination of twenty-one district finals and seven regional finals held throughout New Zealand. Almost 300 young farmers contested the title this year.

Now the owner of a shiny new Ford Courier XLT flat deck utility, and a Honda 4WD ATV, Mr Holdaway also won an AGMARDT scholarship for an international executive immersion programme worth $40,000, and more than $8000 in prize money and products.

Mr Holdaway began dairy farming in Mid-Canterbury shortly after graduating and has since progressed to 50:50 sharemilker on the Meadowland Farm Trust, Greenvale, near Gore with 250 cows. With wife Lucy, he also leases 63ha at Mataura, which is used to run dairy heifers, to winter cows and to fatten beef. They have a goal of purchasing a 5000 stock unit sheep and beef property by 2012 and moving on to a 500-700 cow sharemilking position next season.

The 2005 National Bank Young Farmer Contest marks its 25th year of televised coverage. Contest Chairman James Allen says farming has changed significantly since the first contest in 1981, especially in the use of technology. Computers, mobile phones and precision equipment are now commonplace on-farm. However, despite the big change in how farming is practiced, the essence of the Contest remains the same. It still strives to promote excellence in farming, Mr Allen says.

"Many young people taking up farming today are tertiary qualified which is reflected in eleven of the last fourteen grand final contestants holding university degrees. These people are savvy and smart with numerous career options in front of them. They see that agriculture provides them with the challenges and rewards they need, otherwise they would choose another career path".

Date: 06/06/2005

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Sciences

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# China currency boost means wealth for New Zealand

China's surprise move today to revalue its currency is likely to increase the wealth of other nations in the Asia-Pacific region, including New Zealand and Australia, says Massey University finance professor Lawrence Rose.

Professor Rose, head of the university's Department of Commerce, said the move was unexpected in the sense that China had said as recently as June 26 that it would not do it. However, pressure had been building from the United States, which regarded the undervalued Chinese yuan as a major barrier to trade.

Although the yuan has not been fully floated, it will now be measured against a basket of other nations' currencies rather than being tagged to the US dollar as it has for the past decade.

In that time China's economy has boomed along with its exports.

I see this as the first step in a continuous series of steps towards cutting loose the currency, Professor Rose says.

It bodes well for the future of the Asia-Pacific region's economies.

It will increase our wealth because it gives China greater buying power and enables our exporters to sell more goods there.

It would also be good for New Zealand's education sector because more Chinese students would be able to afford to come here to study.

This reinforces the advantages of the recent fall in value of the Kiwi dollar.

Date: 06/06/2005

Type: Research

Categories: College of Business

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# What New Zealanders say on tax and Government spending - Latest nationwide survey

Most New Zealanders are willing to pay more tax in order for the Government to increase spending on health and education.

The call for greater investment in these two sectors came from 87 percent of the respondents in a survey on taxation and government spending released by the Auckland-based Centre for Social and Health Outcomes Research Evalutaion (SHORE). The respondents in this section of the survey were given the choice between increased government spending in particular areas with higher taxes or less spending in those specified areas with reduced tax.

The public opinions on taxation and spending come from the 2005 New Zealand Values Study, which was conducted by the University's SHORE and Whariki research centres in Auckland and the Palmerston North-based School of Sociology, Social Policy and Social Work. The national telephone survey contacted 2,498 people and struck a response rate of 51 percent.

Respondents were presented with a range of possible items of government expenditure and asked to choose between increasing government spending in each particular area even though this would mean paying higher taxes for this extra spending or cutting government spending in each area and thereby reducing taxes .

66 percent of respondents also wanted more government spending on pensions; 65 percent wanted more spending on help for unemployed people; 53 percent wanted more assistance for people on lower incomes, and 61 percent wanted more invested in protecting the environment.

Fewer than half were prepared to pay more tax in order to help reduce student loan debt or to subsidise mortgages for people who cannot afford them. There was substantially less support for increasing government spending in the following areas: Military, armaments defence (38 percent); cultural activity (29 pecent); special sporting events like the Commonwealth Games (25 percent); the domestic purposes benefit (24 percent); public funding for Māori language, marae and other activities (23 percent); and spending on assistance for new migrants (21 percent).

The New Zealand Values Survey is part of the World Values Survey which is carried out through universities in 60 countries and aims to provide cross-country comparisons. Recently the Massey research team released data on attitudes towards living in New Zealand.

Date: 06/06/2005

Type: Research

Categories: College of Business

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# Government funding to protect natural ecosystems

The protection, restoration and enhancement of natural ecosystems along the Kāpiti Manawatu coastline is at the heart of a research programme recently awarded government funding of $1.6 million.

From a $5 million project-based funding round for natural aquatic ecosystems research, administered by the Foundation of Research, Science and Technology, the project will focus on incorporating broader values (especially those of Ngāti Raukawa hapu involved in the various case studies) into the management, restoration and development planning of the region's wetlands, dune lakes, streams and forest remnants.

The research project is a partnership between the New Zealand Centre for Ecological Economics (a collaborative centre of ecological expertise between the University and Landcare Research Ltd), Te Wānanga-ō-Raukawa, and Te-Runanga-ō-Raukawa. Led by Professor Murray Patterson and Dr Anthony Cole, the project aims to identify practical pathways for the management and restoration of ecosystems in the iwi's rohe, and to encourage 'best practice' approaches by other iwi and projects in wetlands restoration throughout New Zealand.

Huhana Smith, a PhD student and a senior curator at the Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa in Wellington, has research interests in iwi and hapu led initiatives that determine positive futures for natural and cultural 'landscapes'. As a member of the Te Hākari committee of management, she is currently involved in a case study of a restorative project in the Te Hākari dune wetland area adjacent to Kuku Beach in the Horowhenua, and describes the project:

As a hapu and iwi led initiative over time, key representatives have read 'cultural landscape' and offered their mātauranga and knowledge according to a local, cultural and spiritual dimension, related to a wider ecological and environmental perspective and imperative for mitigating decline in ecological and environmental health.

In doing so, elders have offered a dimension that assists the wider iwi and hapū to reclaim a sense of ownership over cultural and environmental heritage decisions, to ensure positive outcomes with mutually beneficial outcomes for the wider community. Therefore, iwi and hapu have played a vital and practical role as Kaitiaki or guardians to determine positive and healthy futures for the tribal region. The research effort is a work in progress for our people with active reforestation, hydrology and water quality testing, pest control and indigenous biodiversity monitoring, with education in kaitiakitanga for iwi and hapu, well under way.

The Otaki project's core research team is composed of six Māori researchers, who are all of

Ngāti Raukawa descent, led by Dr Cole. The team also aims to demonstrate that Western scientific epistemology and a Kaupapa Māori approach to science can co-exist in harmony and that Kaupapa Māori science and indigenous knowledge systems have the potential to greatly enrich and even challenge conventional economics and science.

Led by Professor Murray Patterson, a support research team will provide specialist ecological economic inputs into the project. The New Zealand Centre for Ecological Economics, to which both Professor Patterson and Dr Cole contribute, has pioneered the research on ecosystems services in New Zealand. Ecosystem services are functions and processes that directly or indirectly contribute to human welfare and values, such as water supply and regulation, erosion control, sediment retention, soil formation, nutrient cycling, waste treatment and pollination.

Date: 06/06/2005

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences; Enviromental issues

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# Forever Kiwi surveying New Zealand values

Most New Zealanders are proud to be Kiwi and want to live in New Zealand for the rest of their lives.

The 2005 New Zealand Values Survey, conducted by the Centre for Social and Health Outcomes, Research and Evaluation (SHORE) in Auckland and the School of Sociology, Social Policy and Social Work in Palmerston North, is part of the World Values Survey which aims to provide cross-country comparisons.

Of almost 2500 people over the age of 18 asked in a random telephone survey, nearly 70 percent said they were very proud and one-quarter said they were quite proud to be a New Zealander.

Those surveyed were asked to pick a number from one to five - one being very committed to spending most of the rest of their lives in New Zealand and five not very committed. 78 percent chose one or two, 11 per cent chose four or five and the remainder were neutral.

Those aged between 18 and 24 were less likely to be committed to living in New Zealand (66 per cent), than tertiary educated people (75 percent) and those with primary education (80 percent). Regardless of their level of commitment all respondents were asked what factors they considered important to a decision to live in New Zealand.

A good public health system topped a list of eight factors in their decision with 96 percent considering it was important. A high quality natural environment was second, considered by 94 percent, and a good work/life balance and good education for children were factors for 93 percent.

A low crime rate was a factor for 92 percent of those committed to staying in New Zealand, 82 percent deemed high employment important, while low poverty and possible earnings were a factor for 79 and 77 percent of respondents respectively.

Only three factors were significantly different between those who were committed to staying in New Zealand and those less committed, says Professor Sally Caswell, Director of SHORE which carried out the survey. Those very committed to spending the rest of their lives here are significantly more likely to value a high quality natural environment, a good work/life balance and New Zealand's artistic and cultural heritage.

The survey is one part the country's most substantial study of the nation's political, social and moral opinions.

A principal investigator in all of the three previous New Zealand Values Surveys in 1985, 1989 and 1998, Dr Paul Perry, a senior sociology researcher at the Palmerston North campus, says the survey is carried out through universities in more than 60 countries.

Dr Perry says the information gathered from the surveys is crucial to the country's understanding of what New Zealanders think and feel about their lives and their country.

University researchers will use the information to analyse: the amount of information individuals have on government and politics; how responsive they believe central and local government are; whether confidence in the Government and the public service is changing; the changing support for declaring New Zealand a republic; how connected people feel with their neighbours, community, and other social groupings; what areas they think the Government should spend more money on; and whether economic growth has priority at the expense of the environment.

Date: 06/06/2005

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences

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# New links with Thailand

The University has further extended its strategy of developing new partnerships with overseas tertiary providers by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Thai Office of the Civil Service Commission.

Massey is one of five New Zealand universities to sign the MOU. Education Minister Trevor Mallard hosted the signing by Massey University, the University of Canterbury, Lincoln University, the University of Otago and Waikato University.

Thai Deputy Prime Minister Wissanu Krea-Ngam, who was visiting New Zealand, also witnessed the signing earlier this month.

For Massey the signing of the MOU is another step in developing closer relationships in Asia.

On 26 June in Beijing, last month the Vice-Chancellor Professor Judith Kinnear signed an agreement with Peking University which provides for academic cooperation between the two universities, including teaching and research exchanges.

Mr Mallard says the Thai MOU represents an important step in developing the overall education relationship with Thailand and will also contribute to developing and growing the postgraduate programmes at the different institutions with Thailand.

It is good to see these sorts of agreement being put in place that link our countries through education.

The New Zealand education system is one that encourages creativity and innovation. New Zealand welcomes large numbers of international students, professors and researchers into New Zealand to study and teach, and many young New Zealanders pursue further study overseas.

These international links keep New Zealand education fresh and relevant as a nation we are very well connected with our near neighbours in Asia and the Pacific.

Tourism has grown in both directions and Thailand is a favoured holiday destination for many New Zealanders.

I am very pleased to see New Zealand and Thai institutions collaborating for our mutual benefit.

The signing of these Memoranda of Understanding is a testament to the strong and dynamic links which have been forged between our two countries in the area of international education, Mr Mallard said.

Date: 06/06/2005

Type: University News

Categories: Any

# Win for future business leaders

A clever strategy to deal with a complex business case has earned a major success for a team of Albany based undergraduate students. The six business students have won a business strategy competition run by the Boston Consulting Group each year to test the wits of the next generation of business people.

The Massey team made a last minute entry to compete against four other student teams from universities across the country. As the New Zealand winners, they will fly to Sydney to compete at the University of New South Wales in the final of this Australasian competition.

Each team had just three hours to come up with a strategy to guide a fictitious Australian company through a particular scenario. For the competition the student teams take on the role of management consultants who present innovative solutions to the 'Board of Directors.' Because the Australian competitors are yet to grapple with the same scenario in their finals, the exact nature of the problem and the strategy presented by the Massey team, cannot be revealed.

The Massey team was pulled together just days before the competition by third year accountancy student, Craig Getz. At first he had difficulty finding fellow students willing to take up the challenge but says the last minute grouping had a unique meld of intellect and passion.

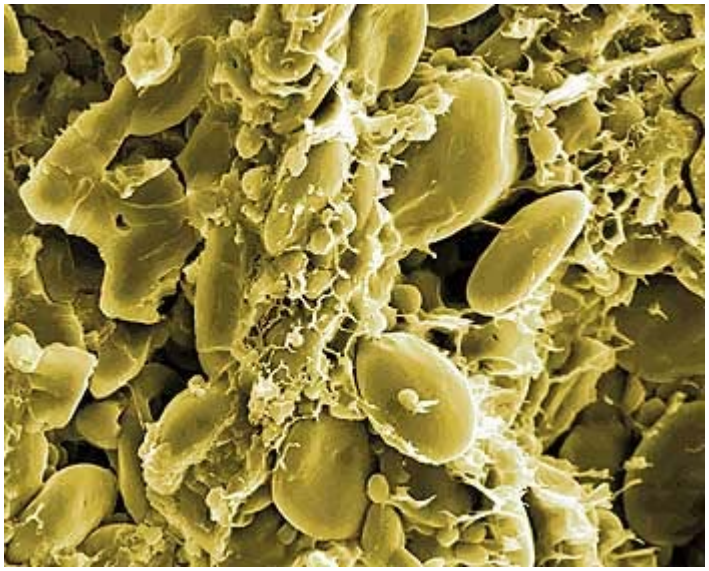
They are all top students at the university's College of Business with a number of scholarships and prizes held between them.

The team pictured from left: Shahan Peiris is studying for a double major in Financial Economics; Joe Osei-Annor is completing a major in finance; Geoff Brown is doing a conjoint BBS and BSc majoring in enterprise development and computer science; Tarryn Geach is majoring in Marketing & HR: (front) Nicola Jolly is majoring in marketing and human resource management; Craig Getz is studying for a Bachelor of Accountancy. Eugene Lai of Palmerston North (not pictured) acted as the teams coach.

Date: 06/06/2005

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Business



# Perfecting pasta

Samples of wheat from Syria escaped biosecurity authorities under the protection of a PhD project and in the care of pasta researcher Jihad Samaan.

Mr Samaan, from the University of Damascus in Syria, is studying the properties of nine varieties of durum wheat under the supervision of Associate Professor Charles Brennan in the Institute of Food, Nutrition and Human Health.

Stickiness, starchiness and the texture of cooked wheat pasta are of great importance from the point of view of both producers and consumers. Aiming to clarify the genetic and chemical compositions of wheat and of pasta, the research will also analyse its structure and texture. Chemical factors include the protein content (a minimum percentage of 13 is desirable), starch (important in terms of human nutrition), and the moisture content (this has implications for storage and milling). The manipulation of these factors within the wheat grain can optimise the processing of wheat flour and improve the overall pasta quality.

As a PhD student at Plymouth University in England, Mr Samaan worked under the supervision of Dr Brennan, whose shift to Massey in June prompted his short-term relocation. Mr Samaan's research has accelerated at the Institute's laboratories: the pasta extruder, textural analysers and rheometers are being used to test the physical and chemical nature of flours from wheat varieties grown and exported by Syrian agriculturalists.

Mr Samaan says Syria is the world's fifth largest producer of durum wheat, in demand for use in cereals and as a whole grain. As the Syrian government looks to increase its production and use as an ingredient for bread and pasta, the genetic, environmental and biochemical characteristics of the wheat varieties must be further established.

His research will help the agricultural industry to maximise its crops and to plant the optimal variety for the environment in which it farms. It will also assist the food industry in determining the right variety for the right product, which wheat variety to use for bread, pasta, and cereals.

The collaborative research project is one of many the Institute and Professor Brennan are leading in the field of the carbohydrates of food acceptability and human nutrition. Current projects include collaborations with the universities of Lund and Uppsala (Sweden) on the effectiveness of using starch, and non-starch polysaccharides to alter the carbohydrate loading of food reducing the potential Glycaemic Index. These projects aim to target the factors affecting both obesity and bowel cancer by the regulation of starch degradation, an

optimisation of resistant starch as an ingredient to produce low glycaemic breads that meet consumer demand.

Date: 06/06/2005

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences

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# Technology graduate wins top US scholarship

Massey graduate Joshua Feast is the first winner of a US$100,000 (NZ$141,000) scholarship to study at a prestigious American institution.

Information technology specialist Joshua Feast has won the Fulbright-Platinum Triangle Scholarship in Entrepreneurship. The scholarship is funded by departing United States ambassador to New Zealand Charles Swindells and philanthropists in New Zealand and in the United States.

28 year old Joshua Feast studied at the University's Palmerston North campus, graduating in 1999 with a Bachelor of Technology (Honours), with First Class Honours in Product Development.

The Fulbright awards are for graduate students who show academic excellence, leadership potential and the ability to be cultural ambassadors for New Zealand.

The scholarship, which includes travel, will pay for Joshua to complete an MBA at Massachusetts Institute of Technology Sloan School of Management, Boston, and includes a six-month internship. He will also get support to start his own business or find a job when he returns to New Zealand.

Mr Feast is currently working as a contractor to the Department of Child, Youth and Family where he heads a software development project.

He plans to specialise in technology entrepreneurship and told the Dominion Post newspaper that creating wealth and promoting innovation could help resolve some of society's ills.

"Sometimes the reasons for conflict come from scarcity, not being enough to go around. Commercial activity provides more employment, more resources, better technology."

Mr Feast says he admires IT entrepreneurs like Google founders Larry Page and Sergey Brin, whose leap of faith has revolutionised the way people get information.

When he returns to New Zealand, he wants to set up a business that develops and commercialises hi-tech products.

Date: 06/06/2005

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Sciences

# Weaving visual arts into the school curriculum

Visual arts has the power to unleash the potential of children right across the curriculum, according to School Support Services Adviser Rei Hendry in the Centre for Educational Development.

Ms Hendry works with schools from around the central North Island to support teachers in the classroom, and runs workshops to build educators' knowledge and understanding of visual arts content.

I believe that learning in the visual arts can be woven into any passion and I wish that for every person, she says.

Ms Hendry's enthusiasm is infectious and she has gained enormous respect and admiration from her colleagues as well as the teachers with whom she works.

Every day I feel I'm a privileged person to be sharing education with teachers and their students, she says. I'm only a link in the chain.

Her 'You can do it' workshops at Marewa School in Napier received acclaim in a recent edition of Te Mana Kōrero: Teachers Making a Difference for Māori Students newsletter published by the Ministry of Education and Te Mana.

The workshops involved making hand-made books, which were incorporated into everyday classroom activities. The books boosted students' enthusiasm and confidence that spilled over into their work.

The project, although based within a visual arts concept, ties in strongly with literacy achievement and it was lovely to see the students taking ownership of these taonga their own special treasures, Ms Hendry says. Children blossom through art. If that passion and excitement can be transferred to other subjects, then that is powerful learning.

Visual arts is integrated into primary and intermediate literacy, technology, and social studies curricula and is implemented by teachers supported by Ms Hendry.

The Centre for Educational Development is based in the College of Education. It is a school-based professional development initiative contracted by the Ministry of Education to work in collaboration with schools, departments, and teachers.

I'm only one of many advisers who provide support to teachers, Ms Hendry says. The level of commitment that teachers have for their students' learning is a tremendous inspiration.

Date: 09/06/2005

Type: Research

Categories: College of Education

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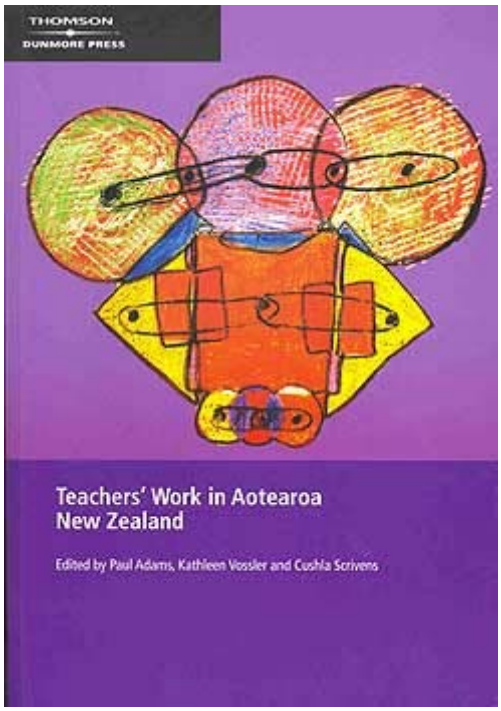
*Pictured at the launch from left: book editors Kathleen Vossler, Paul Adams, and Cushla Scrivens with National President of the New Zealand Educational Institute Colin Tarr*

# New textbook draws on wide ranging education expertise




A new book focusing on the nature of teachers' work was launched last week at the Hokowhitu site.

Teachers' work in Aotearoa New Zealand is a new text written for preservice early childhood, primary and secondary students, beginning teachers, and others involved in the education system (such as early childhood management committees, members of Boards of Trustees, teacher aides and parents).

Edited by Paul Adams and Cushla Scrivens from the Department of Social and Policy Studies in Education, and Kathleen Vossler from the Department of Learning and Teaching, the new textbook is the result of a collaborative effort from more than 20 staff from across the College of Education.

The book covers four broad areas:
Professionalism and the purposes of education an examination of teacher professionalism, the New Zealand education system, politics and policy making in teacher education, and what teachers and the education system are trying to achieve.

The nature and context of teachers' work including the changing nature of teachers' work over the last fifteen years, schools and centre organisation and management, the role of teachers, and teacher accountability systems.

The ethics of teaching a consideration of what makes an ethical teacher, the place of codes of ethics, teacher-student and teacher-family relationships, and the ethics of research in educational settings.

The beginning teacher including getting a teaching position, facing the realities of being a beginning teacher, accessing teacher support and guidance, learning within professional

relationships, and keeping healthy, safe and positive.

The range of contributors, from a variety of departments and academic backgrounds is one of the many strengths of this book , Ms Vossler says.

It draws on the expertise and knowledge of the wider community and as a result has application and use across different audiences.

The textbook is used in a number of undergraduate and postgraduate teaching programmes and has been circulated among secondary teachers. Interest in the new text has also been shown by other university-based teacher education programmes.

Feedback we have received so far has been very positive , Ms Vossler says. This year's students have engaged with the text. Its unique place within a New Zealand context has made academic research and literature more meaningful and accessible to them.

Date: 11/06/2005

Type: Research

Categories: Book; College of Education

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# Pacific Trust success shows MBA value

The success of a Pacific Island company run by Massey MBA graduate Gerardine Clifford has confirmed the validity of the degree for her.

The Taeaomanino Trust won the inaugural National Community Enterprise Award at the business awards run by the Auckland-based Pacific Business Trust.

Ms Clifford says feedback from the judges indicated that they were particularly the impressed with the organisation's blended business concepts with a Pacific model service delivery. They were also impressed with the management systems (accountability and compliance) and the governance model.

She says most of these things were developed as part of her course work and learning on the MBA programme.

And in a message to Professor Robyn Leeming, head of the Graduate School of Business, she recalls that when she had her interview for entrance on the MBA programme in 2003, one of the questions she asked was about the applicability of the MBA to the not-for-profit sector and particularly to Pacific organisations like the one she runs as general manager.

Taeaomanino Trust is a community based Pacific Island organisation which provides holistic services to improve the social and economic development of Pacific Island people. Taeaomanino provides professional and confidential services tailored specifically to the needs of Pacific people. Services include: alcohol and drugs; social workers in schools, PAFT (parents as first teachers), family start, youth, home-based support, family violence, counselling and therapy, and child and adolescent mental health service.

The Pacific Business Awards is a biannual event and was first held in 1993 to recognise the achievements of Pacific people in business.  This year's prizes range from two $5000 business technology packages, $10,000 worth of interest free loans, travel vouchers valid throughout New Zealand and free membership of the Employers and Manufacturers Association.

Date: 11/06/2005

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Business

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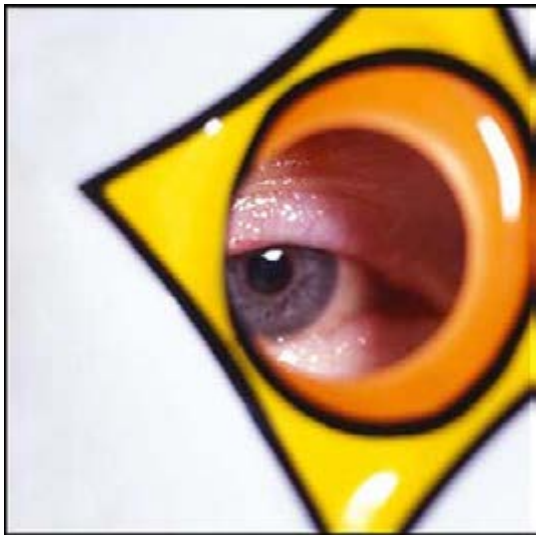
# Exploring the male body



School of Fine Arts lecturer David Cross explores the beauty of the male body in his new exhibition, Closer.

Combining video, installation, photography and a seven-hour long performance, he explores the representation of the male body, as well as attitudes to desire and repulsion in contemporary culture.

Mr Cross' practice is based in performance art, and he takes his own body as a starting point in much of his work. He has a physical condition whereby his eyes continuously leak tears and it is this 'abnormality' that he explores in his work. He says,  I want to use my body and its difference to tease out broader issues - about aesthetics, about beauty, about the function of the grotesque in our culture.

The video work in Closer mixes his own  flawed body into a line-up of male models, chosen to epitomise male beauty. The suite of photographs in the exhibition show the artist's eye peering out at us from behind cheap Halloween masks, as Cross plays off jokey cartoon-style horror against his own body, which he says has  an element of real horror about it.

 I guess a term that's important to me is 'the uncanny' the point where something familiar becomes unfamiliar. For me, that moment of uncertainty is what my work is about.

'Closer' exposes viewers to a range of these uncanny experiences, particularly with 'Bounce', Cross's one-day performance event to be held on Saturday 16 July, from 10am to 5pm.

For 'Bounce', Mr Cross will install a giant red inflatable structure in the City Gallery's foyer, and invite visitors to the Gallery to climb and jump on it.

He says of this event:  I want people to think: 'Yay, a bouncy castle, let's go and play, let's go jump all over it!' Yet at a crucial point the audience response will change, as they fully understand what is actually taking place within the work.

On Thursday 21 July at 5.30pm, David Cross will discuss his exhibition with Massey University lecturer and arts commentator Aaron Kreisler in the Michael Hirschfeld Gallery. Entry is free.

David Cross Closer Michael Hirschfeld Gallery at City Gallery Wellington, 24 June 31 July.
Visit: www.city-gallery.org.nz

Date: 11/06/2005

Type: Research

Categories: College of Creative Arts

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# Defining art as research

***An interview with Professor Sally Morgan, Pro Vice-Chancellor of the College of Creative Arts, first published in the New Zealand Education Review.***

At Massey University's Wellington campus, design lecturers are designing more and art lecturers are doing more art thanks to the PBRF.

It is perhaps a surprising outcome as, prior to the PBRF, design and fine arts lecturers were encouraged to write journal articles and conference papers spending time on paintings or installations was not regarded as real research and was generally something lecturers had to find time for after work. There was an expectation that the PBRF would simply reinforce that attitude.

Instead, says Pro Vice-Chancellor of the School of Fine Arts and Design, Sally Morgan, the PBRF went a long way toward validating the work of those in the creative arts as research. That validation came in the form of the fine arts department achieving the university's second-highest ranking.

For colleges like ours in the creative arts it's legitimated what we were doing in a way that wasn't happening before, she says.

Whereas an artist in the past might have been discouraged from going to the studio to produce works for an international exhibition, now they are being encouraged.

That encouragement includes the use of the school's research funding to support research projects and, in fine arts, a workload review that enabled staff to spend more time on research.

However, there have been some changes to what staff do, or rather, to how they explain what they have done.

Morgan says artists and designers will approach their work with a research question and a methodology and that will be evident to their peers in the art or design they produce. But it's not obvious to others. Now, under the PBRF, they have to document those aspects of their work and at Massey there have been workshops to help staff come to grips with the new requirements.

Where what you do fits the PBRF definition of research, you don't have to do anything different, you just explain how it fits the PBRF definition of research, she says.

Morgan says a lot of staff are positive about the PBRF and the emphasis on research it has brought, but other are not. It depends where your aspirations are.

And, despite the positive outcomes, the PBRF has not been plain sailing. It has been hard and it's been disappointing for those people who felt unfairly dealt with.

Originally from the UK, Morgan has experienced first hand that country's research assessment exercise and wishes New Zealand had opted for the British measurement of research outputs at the departmental rather than individual level.

That's a real negative here, she says. It's made it a less generous atmosphere in New Zealand than in the UK.

In the UK if your department had a high score, everybody in that department felt great. If someone said 'I've got a chance to do an international exhibition', everybody thinks that's great

for the department.

But the PBRF focus on individual scores opens the way for jealousies and ill feeling. Situations where the lone C in a department feels bad that they didn't achieve a B like their peers.

Morgan is also concerned that the PBRF did not measure design research fairly, but expects refinements will improve this in the 2006 quality evaluation.

She is, of course preparing for that evaluation, and says her college is using its PBRF and other research income across the spectrum of research achievement helping new researchers, backing those who look likely to get a good score, and providing a contestable fund for those in the middle.

Overall, Morgan expects the PBRF will be more than just a box-ticking exercise and really will improve the quality of research, though she notes that much depends on the definitions and interpretation of what constitutes research.

**Created: 6 November, 2008**

Date: 11/06/2005

Type: Features

Categories: College of Creative Arts; Wellington

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*Caption: Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Auckland), Professor John Raine signing the MoU with the Chief Executive of North Shore City Council, John Brockies. The Albany campus has cemented a key relationship in the northern region by signing a Memorandum of Understanding with the North Shore City Council. The memorandum is intended to guide and develop the strategic, project based relationship between the University and the city council. It reflects a commitment between the two entities to work for the good of the communities in the region by acting co-operatively and collaboratively. Above: Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Auckland), Professor John Raine signing the MoU with the Chief Executive of North Shore City Council, John Brockies.*

# Albany campus a key player in North Shore development

A recent economic impact report shows the University's Albany campus to be a substantial player in Auckland's North Shore region.

In 2004 the presence of the Albany campus contributed a total of $557.1 million to the regional economy and created a total of 908 full-time equivalent jobs.

This campus in Auckland was established 12 years ago on its site in Albany, which is rapidly developing into a major commercial and recreational centre within North Shore City. The city is now New Zealand's fourth largest, with a population of 210,000.

The impact report was prepared by Dr Christoph Schumacher from the Department of Commerce and covers both the economic and welfare contribution of the University. The analysis of economic impact considers three key areas university expenditure, student expenditure and employment. Welfare impact, says the report, arises in two main areas research and technical expertise, physical, human and social capital.

**The economic contribution of the campus is:**
• The direct expenditure of Massey University was $70.5 million
• The direct expenditure of students was $91.9 million.
• The University contributed $253.8 million worth of output to the regional economy, after taking into account the direct, indirect and induced expenditure impacts.
• After taking into account the direct, indirect and induced expenditure impacts of the University's students, a further $303.3 million worth of output was added to the regional economy.
• In 2004 the Albany campus employed the full time equivalent of 454 staff.

• For every full time equivalent position at the campus, one additional job is created in the wider economy.
The contribution of the campus and its students to the well-being of the wider community includes the following:
• Research and technical expertise, increasing the level of knowledge within the region which may result in higher levels of efficiency and living standards in the community.
• The University adds to the infrastructure and physical capital stock of the region through its stock of non-residential property such as sports amenities, conference facilities and social and cultural buildings.
• The University guides and manages human capital by educating students, developing staff and providing a research environment.
• The University contributes to the social capital of the region in the form of community activities carried out by staff members and students.

**Created: 6 November, 2008**

Date: 11/06/2005

Type: University News

Categories: Auckland

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# Massey Medal for Paul Rieger

Former Palmerston North mayor Paul Rieger received one of the University's highest awards at a ceremony at the Palmerston North campus on 30 June.

Mr Rieger received the Massey University Medal for his services to the University and the community.

Paul Rieger, QSO, JP, is a former member of the University Council and served from 1987 to 2004, for most of that time as a ministerial appointment.

He served a term as Pro Chancellor of the Council and chaired the Council's Finance Committee for 10 years before becoming a member of the Audit and Risk Committees.

Mr Rieger was a member of the Palmerston North City Council and mayor for a total of 27 years. He served two years as Deputy Mayor and 14 years as mayor, until 1998.

In a citation before the award of the Massey University Medal, the head of the Graduate Research School, Professor Ken Milne, said Mr Rieger brought much the same approach to the University Council as he did to the City Council,  in particular exhibiting mediation skills, with the ability to diffuse a tense situation by the means of thoughtful comment or jocular remark, or timely interjection.

Reflecting Mr Rieger's long association with the University, a large number of present and former staff and Council members attended the ceremony and dinner at Wharerata. Among them were former Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Academic) Graeme Fraser, former Vice-Chancellor Sir Neil Waters and former Council member Jack Dowds.

Date: 11/06/2005

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: University Council

*Rachel Crimp surveying children in Lalinda Village, Vanuatu.*

# BNZ backs genetics and environment research

Recently awarded Bank of New Zealand scholarships, Carla Eaton and Rachel Crimp were assessed for academic excellence, leadership skills and their involvement in the community.

Recipient of the 2005 BNZ Undergraduate Scholarship, Ms Eaton is in her honours year of a Bachelor of Science, majoring in genetics. Her honours research project is focused on the genetic communication between plants and endophytes - the fungi that grow inside plants such as rye grass without damage to the host plant. She is studying the ways in which signals communicated by proteins (gene products) produced by the plant have an impact on the growth and development of the fungus.

Recipient of the 2005 BNZ Postgraduate Scholarship, Ms Rachel Crimp is a Masters student in Earth Science, returning to her love of geology after 12 years' work as a nurse. Ms Crimp completed a Bachelor of Science in 1990, before training as a paediatric nurse and working around the world for more than a decade. This travel allowed her to visit some of the world's geological hotspots. She kept in contact with Professor Vince Neall via postcards of some of these sights.

While nursing in Western Australia in 2002, Ms Crimp received a letter from Professor Neall encouraging her to consider a Masters programme under the supervision of Dr Shane Cronin. She says she found the prospect of returning to study after a long break a bit daunting, but was unable to resist the proposed project, investigating children's health on a live volcano in Vanuatu, an ideal project for a paediatric nurse with a BSc in Earth Science.

In the region of Ambrym, Ms Crimp and Dr Cronin assessed the environmental health hazards of fluoride and other elements released by two active volcanoes in the area, Benbow and Marum, which continuously puff out fluoride-rich gas and ash. She says these emissions contaminate rainwater collected for drinking and cooking, and in some cases, acid rains kill or taint crops. Elevated fluoride levels in drinking water can lead to dental problems and higher levels for prolonged periods can cause a crippling form of skeletal fluorosis.

The team hiked to three of the four active volcano vents to monitor the gas emissions using an

ultra-violet spectrometer manned by Dr Clive Oppenheimer from Cambridge University. They travelled around villages collecting water and food samples, and Ms Crimp conducted examinations for dental staining in the teeth of older children in the area.

She says the results from this trip have been startling. We established that the volcano was releasing 20 000 tonnes per day of sulphur dioxide. Having confirmed this with global satellite records, we can say that Ambrym is currently the largest point source of SO2 on the globe.

She says huge volumes of fluoride are also being released, with a consequential impact upon the vegetation of the area as well as the water supplies. For the remainder of her Master project Ms Crimp will focus on assessing the gas' impact on human health, and on the development of mitigation strategies.

Date: 11/06/2005

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: Scholarships

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# Design alumni rule at advertising awards

Advertising design graduates Josh Lancaster and Jamie Hitchcock won two gold medals at the Axis Awards for their cheeky L&P television commercial.

Featuring that unforgettable 1970s fashion statement, Stubbies, they collected gold medals in the Copywriting and Television Consumer Products categories.

Mr Lancaster is currently in Cannes, where he is representing New Zealand at the International Advertising Festival competition. In April he and a colleague scooped the top prize at the Fairfax Young Creatives competition, winning the trip to France.

The Axis Awards are presented by the Communication Agencies Association of New Zealand. (CAANZ). They are New Zealand's top awards for advertising.

Euan Robertson, Programme Leader of Advertising at the Institute of Communication Design says,  I'm rapt when our graduates do well - and for four of the past five years Massey graduates have won gold in the Best Emerging Talent category at the Axis Awards. We must be doing something right. These are the people who will heading the creative teams at ad agencies in a few years.

Rebecca Johnson-Pond and Kim Ragan from Colenso were named Best Emerging Talent for their 'Nothing can replace a tree' campaign.

Other winning alumni were Anthea Goodrick and Kim Davidson, Clemengers BBDO; Mark Forgan, Clemengers BBDO; Tim Huse, Colenso; and Josh Moore, Publicis Mojo. Massey graduates won 33 awards in total.

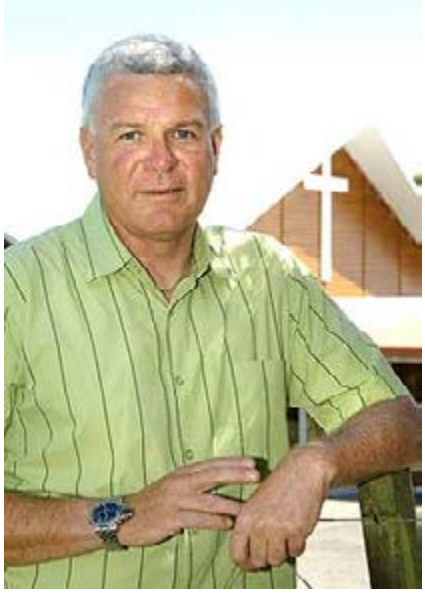
**Created: 6 November, 2008**

Date: 11/06/2005

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Creative Arts

# Tracking the trends of church-goers



About 15 percent of New Zealanders say they go to church every week and more than 30 percent report that they go to church on a regular basis throughout the year. According to a recent survey, while church-going is a minority activity it is one of the largest minority activities.

The church-going trends of the nation were analysed at a seminar at the Albany campus sponsored by the School of Social and Cultural Studies and the National Church Life Survey supervisory group. The 45 attendees came from a wide range of churches including Catholic, mainline Protestant churches and evangelical and Pentecostal groups.

A number of significant themes emerged, showing some changes in Christianity and in denominational and congregational patterns, says the convenor of the seminar, Associate Professor Peter Lineham. For example the Catholic Church currently has the biggest pattern of growth. This growth has been boosted by new immigrants and their perception that Catholic schools would be better for their children than private schools, says Professor Lineham. He says a closer look shows the Catholic Church struggles to get high levels of commitment out of these new immigrants and, meanwhile, its New Zealand-born membership is waning.

The seminar group also shared evidence on the significant changing shape of our churches, a pattern that is leaving traditional suburban churches under the most pressure. Today the two areas of growth lie with the 'mega churches' with more than 500 members, and the 'micro churches' or intimate groups without any structure. The big churches though, also report large turnovers and as a consequence need to constantly remarket themselves.

Census figures show a decline in mainstream Protestantism and that the Pentecostal churches have stopped growing. Overall researchers report a declining sense of denomination among congregants. Today, says Professor Lineham, there are far fewer precise divisions on doctrine. Most churches in the modern day have a smorgasbord of values and beliefs.

More than 67 percent of New Zealanders say they believe in God and 32.5 percent never pray, according to a recent poll. More than 61 percent of the poll say they do believe in an afterlife.

Twenty is the critical age for making decisions on going to church. While teens may have gone to church primarily for social reasons, at 20 it seems they begin to question the religious value. Keeping these young people in their congregations and helping them through this transition is one of the big challenges faced by churches today, says Professor Lineham.

Date: 11/06/2005

Type: Research

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences

# How do young adults choose food?

Health education researcher Hilde Hartman wants to know how young adults make choices about which foods they eat.

Ms Hartman says the eating behaviours and food choices of young adults are determined by an interaction of various factors.

The purpose of my study is to analyse the psychosocial determinants that influence food choices among young adults, she says.

She is undertaking a research internship with Suzi Penny and Wilma Tielemans at the Institute of Food, Nutrition and Human Health for four months, and has been studying Health Education and Promotion at Maastricht University in the Netherlands.

The results of the study will give us more insight into motivations, attitudes and barriers that determine food choices for people aged 18 24. The results will be useful for tailoring health education messages aimed at young adults.

In this qualitative study, Ms Hartman is running focus groups to discuss topics regarding food choices. The study requires 30 volunteers. Before the focus group discussion, participants fill in an anonymous questionnaire with basic facts and demographic information.

The focus groups are being conducted between June and August at the Wellington Campus.

Date: 11/06/2005

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences; Explore - HEALTH

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# Electronic graffiti in urban art

The city's courthouse, a real estate office, an art gallery and Massey's Te Pūtahi-ā-Toi (School of Māori Studies) were the targets of an end-of-semester exhibition by third year students of the Māori Visual Arts course.

A blend of performance and digital art, the electronic tagging art trail was entitled Grawhitoi by student Rewiti Arapere after a technique he developed last year to 'bomb' a moving train and a skate park.

Grawhitoi is an extension of tagging or graffiti. The word 'grawhitoi' is a playful term I created to describe my work which draws from the urban street art, graffitti, but from a Māori perspective and using new media, Mr Arapere says.

Lecturer in Toioho ki Apiti (Māori Visual Arts), Rachael Rakena, says the project arose from Mr Arapere's invitation to the class to join him in his chosen style of work, as part of the last part of the semester when students may focus on their own projects. She says the art of moving image is a particularly pertinent way of communicating political messages.

Third year student Erena Baker took the controversial Seabed and Foreshore Bill to the public domain, projecting tranquil images of the ocean onto the tarseal of a carpark in the city Square.

Another student, Ngahina Hohaia, chose the Courthouse as a canvas, and projected images of newspaper clippings collected for more than two decades. Words for War features quotes from previous prime ministers, and includes a recorded song she composed to accompany the images and text.

Reweti Te Raungaiti Arapere, Kieley Duff, Piata Winitana-Murray, Kristy McDonald, Marc Antony Kawana, Aimee Stevenson and Todd Horowai Parker also projected images and text as part of the trail. Paintings by students of all levels of the course are currently on exhibition at the gallery at Te Pūtahi-ā-Toi.

Date: 11/06/2005

Type: Features

Categories: College of Creative Arts

*Cover: Deborah Buchanan, a student liaison adviser at the Albany campus, at one of the University's two sites. Behind, Massey graduates, from left: Tom Cranswick (BNZ rural manager and graduate of the Bachelor of Applied Sciences), Kellie Anthony (Masters in Bioprocess Engineering), Scott Gordon (National Bank rural manager and graduate of the Bachelor of Applied Sciences).*

# Lining up the future of agriculture

The University's contribution to the rural sector, to the advancement of agricultural technology and to the skills of new graduates, was demonstrated at this year's National Agricultural Fieldays in Hamilton.

With a theme of 'People on Farms', the four-day event at Mystery Creek attracted more than 122,000 people, creating an excellent opportunity for the University to highlight research-led agriculture and related technologies as a career option.

Staffed by student liaison officers and senior lecturers, the University's two sites were also attracted a group of several successful graduates who talked to prospective students and people interested in what Massey has to offer.

Landscape design lecturer Martin Wrigley says the stand, which highlighted courses and research underway at the three campuses, attracted a large number of people interested in extramural study.

Director of the University's programmes in agriculture, Ewen Cameron, says Massey graduates had a strong presence at Fieldays, from across all disciplines of a diverse rural sector. National Bank rural manager and agricultural alumnus Scott Gordon enjoyed the opportunity to catch up with former classmates at the Ravensdown Fertiliser, and Balance Agri-Nutrience stands. Other Massey graduates represented banks, and companies such as New Zealand Meat and Wool and Zespri.

Graduates had another opportunity to share stories of their time at Massey at the 'Careers in Agriculture and Horticulture' breakfast, hosted by National Student Relations.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Judith Kinnear welcomed more than 30 secondary school students

to the early breakfast, at which four successful graduates gave informative and entertaining presentations. She encouraged the students to consider futures in agriculture and horticulture, and careers filled with possibility and challenge.

Professor Kinnear says New Zealand's leading edge in the primary industries has been boosted by science and technology research and the consequential application of such on the farm to add value to primary production.

Gathering the many Massey alumni present at Mystery Creek, a function was held for about 100 on the third day of Feildays where they enjoyed a refreshing drink after a long day exploring more than 1000 exhibits.

Date: 11/06/2005

Type: University News

Categories: College of Sciences; Explore - Agriculture/Horticulture

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*The Vice-Chancellor Professor Judith Kinnear and the President of Peking University Professor President Xu Zhihong sign the new agreement in Beijing. Also shown are from left are Deputy Director, Office of International Relations Mr Xia Hongwei, Pro Vice-Chancellor of Sciences Professor Robert Anderson, the New Zealand High Commissioner Tony Browne, Professor of Physics and Dean, Office for Scientific Research at Peking University, Professor Zhu Xing and Professor Xi Zhenfeng, Dean of the College of Chemistry and Molecular Engineering.*

# Celebrations in Beijing

Massey alumni in Beijing will be invited to a special celebration to mark the first shared academic venture under a new agreement with Peking University.

The High Commissioner in China, His Excellency Tony Browne, has already offered the use of reception rooms at the New Zealand Embassy in Beijing for the event.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Judith Kinnear is also looking at the possibility of holding a second function for the parents of students currently studying at Massey or who are planning to study at the University in the future.  It's an opportunity to talk first hand to parents about what we offer students, both in pastoral care and in academic services, she says.

Professor Kinnear travelled to Beijing on 26 June to sign the agreement with Peking University. It provides for academic cooperation between Massey and Peking University, including teaching and research exchanges.

A scientific symposium to be held in mid October this year in Beijing will bring together leading researchers from Beida and Massey University in areas of common interest, with a view to ongoing research collaboration and research training initiatives.

Massey academics who will take part are: Professor Peter Schwerdtfeger and Professor Geoff Jameson from the Institute of Fundamental Sciences, Professor David Officer from the Nanomaterials Research Centre, Professor David Lambert from the Allan Wilson Centre for Molecular Ecology and Evolution, and Professor Geoff Jameson from the Institute of Molecular Biosciences.

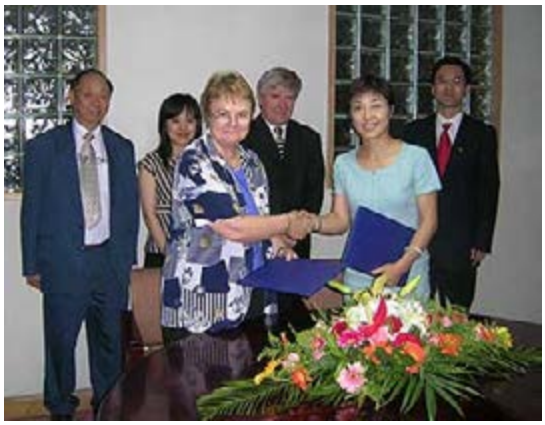
Professor Kinnear says the symposium also provides a good opportunity to bring together the University's comparatively large number of alumni in Beijing.

The New Zealand Government has already taken the initiative in this by launching an alumni network, representing all eight New Zealand universities, in Beijing in late May. The launch was attended by our Prime Minister Helen Clark and the Chinese Minister of Education Zhou Ji.

We've since been advised that 20 of the 100 alumni that attended that launch were graduates of Massey University, most of them working in key areas such as business and agriculture. Their attendance at the network launch and inquiries to our Alumni and Friends Office about establishing alumni chapters in China suggests they would very much welcome a closer relationship with the University.

The Alumni and Friends Office is also working on establishing new alumni and friends chapters in New Zealand: chapters in Wellington, Auckland, Palmerston North, Hawke's Bay and Christchurch are on the drawing board for this year. The Office is also making plans for chapters in Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne.

# More postgraduates from China



During her visit to Beijing Professor Kinnear also signed an agreement with the China Scholarship Council (CSC) which makes Massey University a preferred provider for Government-funded Chinese students doing postgraduate study abroad.

Massey is the first New Zealand university to sign such an agreement with CSC. Professor Kinnear says the Council has already made agreements with a number of Australian universities, including ANU, the University of Sydney, the University of New South Wales and the University of Melbourne. Professor Kinnear says CSC is now looking at New Zealand universities of high standing and strength in priority areas identified by the Chinese Government as appropriate for scholarship postgraduate students.

Professor Kinnear says the new agreement with the China Scholarship Council will result in the enrolment at the University of a greater number of high-achieving postgraduate students.

A delegation from CSC visited the Palmerston North campus earlier this year the only visit they made to a New Zealand university.

Above: Professor Kinnear and the Deputy Secretary General of the China Scholarship Council Ms Yang Xinyu at the signing of the agreement between the Council and Massey University. Also shown are from left Associate Professor Alex Chu, Council Project Officer Ms Pan Yue, Professor Robert Anderson and Council Director Li Hong.

Date: 11/06/2005

Type: University News

Categories: Any

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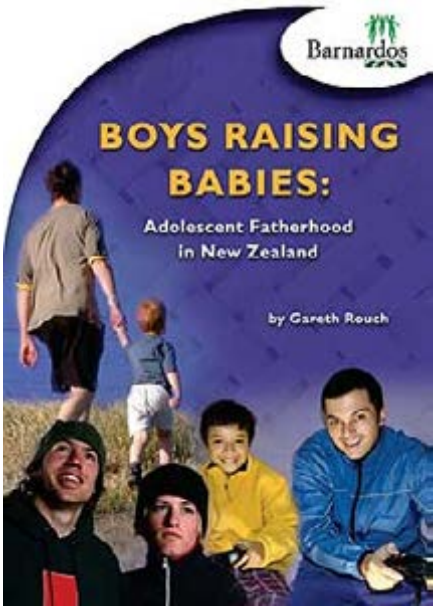
# A hard look at adolescent fatherhood




VIDEO *Watch the ONE Breakfast item:* Broadband 5.2mb

In a new book, psychology researcher Gareth Rouch takes a hard look at teen fathers in New Zealand and finds some startling results.

Boys Raising Babies: Adolescent Fatherhood in New Zealand was launched at the National Library on 14 June, by John Tamihere MP.

Using the qualitative research technique of discourse analysis, Mr Rouch allows 12 young fathers to speak for themselves.

For each of the young fathers involved in this in-depth study, parenthood proves to be a transformational experience. These young men aspire to create a better life for the child they have fathered and attempt to overcome the obstacles created by their youth, low socio-economic backgrounds, limited education, social prejudice and some difficult circumstances.

Mr Rouch says the role of adolescent fathers in the lives of their children is a much neglected area of research in New Zealand and internationally. His study places adolescent fathers in the limelight and in doing so challenges accepted thinking and policy.

Teen fathers like teen mothers are often an implicitly and unfairly maligned group in our society, says Stuart Carr, Associate Professor at the School of Psychology.

In fact, teenage fatherhood can, under the right circumstances, lead to resilience building. It is an opportunity for 're-scripting', not simply being 'written off' both for the father and the family unit as a whole.

However, obstacles to developments like these are the prejudices of others to the inclusion of the father in the lives of the children and partner.

This book is important because it casts light on the psychology of these unnecessary, and potentially destructive divisions .

Barnardos New Zealand has published this research because we need to know more about teen fathers and their potential to be effective, loving parents.

That knowledge, rather than popular stereotypes, needs to inform social policy, says Murray Edridge, Chief Executive of Barnardos New Zealand.

Date: 11/06/2005

Type: Research

Categories: Book

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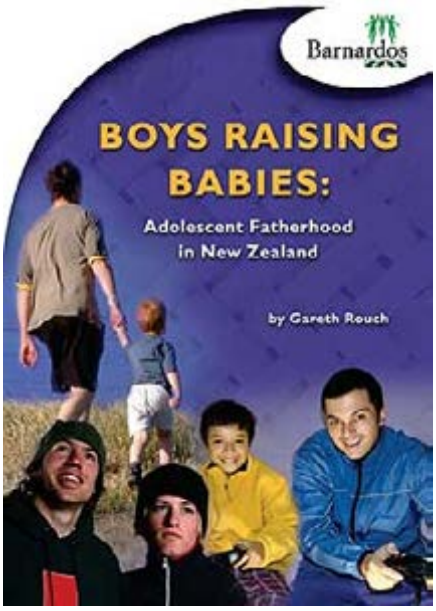
# A hard look at adolescent fatherhood

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Date: 11/06/2005

Type: Research

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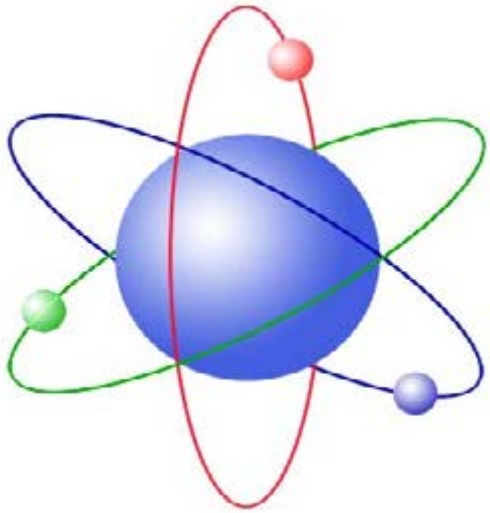
# Adding expertise to the Riddet Centre



The Riddet Centre, a partnership between Massey, the University of Auckland and the University of Otago, has announced the appointment of three new Associates and three Visiting Fellows.

A national centre for high quality research in food and biological innovation, the Riddet Centre will further its wealth of expertise with the six new appointments. Visiting Fellowships allow for short stays in the Centre by leading academics, and the honorary position of Associate is a means of recognising leading scholars and industry professionals working closely with the Centre.

Centre co-directors Professors Paul Moughan and Harjinder Singh say the contributions of the six prominent academics and industry leaders will cement a close alignment with leading and overseas organisations, and provide excellent mentoring to staff and students.

The new Associates of the Centre are:

Professor Richard Archer, Head of the Institute of Technology and Engineering at Massey University. Before his appointment at Massey, Professor Archer was a senior manager at Fonterra Tech Limited and the New Zealand Dairy Research Institute, responsible for identifying leading- edge opportunities for new products and technologies, and the generation of technology and intellectual property for the market.

Professor Manohar Garg, University of Newcastle, Australia. A former Fellow of Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research in Canada, and Assistant Professor at the University of Alberta, Canada, Professor Garg currently leads a research team specialising in antioxidants, dietary fats and oils and anti-inflammatory nutrients.

Dr Michael Boland, Fonterra Research Partnerships manager with Fonterra Marketing and Innovation. As a former researcher with the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR), Dr Boland was commercially engaged in large projects in the biochemical processing area, and was responsible for developing the first large scale fermentation facility within New Zealand. His extensive liaison with researchers in the UK, USA and Germany enabled excellence in commercial processes and innovation for New Zealand.

The new Visiting Fellows are:

Professor Paul Singh, University of California, Davis, USA. Widely regarded as one of the world's leading food engineers, Professor Singh has been a fellow of the International Academy of Food Science and Technology since 2001. He has a research focus on the quality changes in foods during storage and distribution and computer integrated manufacturing systems for food industry.

Professor Daniel Tomé, National Institute of Agronomics, Paris-Grignon, France. With a specialist interest in the nutritional aspects of dairy proteins, Professor of Human Nutrition Daniel Tomé is regarded as one of the world's foremost human nutritionists.

He has received numerous international awards and appointments to editorial boards and international committees.

Professor David Horne, formerly of the Hannah Research Institute, Scotland. Professor Horne is a leading colloid scientist and in 2002 was awarded the Marschall-Rhodia prize by American Dairy Science Association for his research on casein proteins. Since 1995, he has been a visiting Professor at the Department of Food Science, University of Leeds.

Date: 11/06/2005

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Sciences

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# Distinguished Professor award for College of Education academic

Professor William Tunmer of the College of Education is the University's newest Distinguished Professor.

He is the fifth senior academic to be announced by the Vice-Chancellor as a recipient of the University's highest award to its academic staff. Last month Professor Kinnear announced the appointment of four Distinguished Professors from the College of Sciences. They are: Professor David Parry, Professor Paul Moughan, Professor David Lambert and Professor David Penny.

Professor Tunmer is described as an outstanding academic who is internationally recognised for his research on metalinguistic abilities in young children and its connection to how they learn to read. Professor Tunmer's international standing was recognised through the award of the Dina Feitelson Award for Excellence in Research from the International Reading Association.

He was appointed Professor of Educational Psychology at Massey in 1988, later becoming Dean of the Faculty of Education.

Professor Tunmer was nominated by Professor James Chapman, Pro Vice-Chancellor for the College of Education.

Nominations were considered by the committee against the primary criteria of the eminence of the nominee's work as attested to by national and international recognition of the highest order which they have received from the scholarly community.

The awards are the first under new protocols approved by the Academic Board and the University Council last year. The title of Distinguished Professor has been established to recognise professorial staff who have achieved positions of eminence internationally within their field.

No more than 10 Distinguished Professors will hold this title at any one time.

The award of the title brings with it the highest recognition the University can bestow on a member of its academic staff and reflects the importance it places on the work and achievement of its recipients.

Recipients retain the title of Distinguished Professor for the duration of their appointment at Massey University.

Date: 17/06/2005

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Education

# Funding for breast cancer drug resistance research

A joint research project of crucial potential to the treatment of breast cancer is to be funded by the Cancer and Bowel Research Charitable Trust.

A collaborative project between the University and Palmerston North Hospital, the research will investigate drug resistance which prevents effective chemotherapy treatment of cancer.

Senior biochemistry lecturer Dr Kathryn Stowell and medical oncologist Dr Richard Isaacs aim to refine previous work to identify the genes that cause drug resistance, a common barrier to chemotherapy treatment of breast cancer.

The pair have worked together since 1997 and have identified a group of genes in breast cancer cells which are either turned on or off in response to chemotherapy. The research aims to identify the role of the genes in determining sensitivity to anti-cancer drugs.

One in every 12 New Zealand women develops breast cancer and the rate is rising. Chemotherapy can reduce reoccurrence after surgery by 35 percent and produce responses in 50 percent of patients with metastatic breast cancer. However, drug resistance is responsible for the failure of chemotherapy in 50 percent of patients.

Dr Stowell says research is contributing to the reduction of the problem. When I started working in this area the figure was 60 percent of patients developing drug resistance, so in the last 10 years it has come a long way.

"The more we know about why cancers become resistant to certain drugs, the easier it will be to design new drugs and more effective chemotherapy regimens. With new funding, we're in a better position to make a difference than we've ever been before .

Dr Isaacs says the collaborative research will enable the thorough testing of hypotheses using the hospital's tumor bank, built up over the last 20 years with the knowledge of how treatment has proceeded for each patient.

He also says the research will be able to be applied in the treatment of other cancers.

Trust executive chairman Troy Manhire says the $42,000 funding for the project has been made possible by New Zealanders' donations to the Trust over the past year.
**Created: 25 January 2005**

Date: 23/06/2005

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences

# The Geographies of Consumption

Dr Juliana Mansvelt defines the geography of consumption as the way in which relationships between people, things and places are constituted around the sale, purchase and use of goods and services.

A senior lecturer in the School of People, Environment and Planning, Dr Mansvelt is the author of a new book, Geographies of Consumption, an introduction to consumption and its geographies.

As an introduction to the topic, the book gives an overview of the key issues and demonstrates that consumption is intimately related to the production and usage of space in everyday life. It also presents the perspectives geographers have used to interpret these things.

In the first chapter, Dr Mansvelt further defines the subject:  Consumption is fundamental to how geographies are made and experienced in contemporary society.

From bodies to nations, cities and homes, through markets and retail outlets, this book examines how consumption occurs, through what processes and in what places. Geographies, as the spatial expression of social and physical processes, are in turn integral to how consumption processes are constituted and articulated.

Organised into seven sections, the book provides: a detailed explanation of political-economic and social-cultural perspectives on consumption at different scales; review chapters on the history and conceptualisation of consumption; thematic chapters on consumption spaces, the body and identity, production and consumption linkages, globalisation and commercial cultures, moralities and consumption.

Geographies of Consumption also includes a range of case studies reflecting different places, practices and ideas about consumption.
In her preface Dr Mansvelt says that although shopping and retail geographies have been and remain critical to consumption as a subject of geographical research, she intended to broaden the focus of the book beyond this.

Throughout the text are illustrated boxed examples of international research on the subject.

Topics include: The online auction site eBay; the New York woman and the middle class shoplifter; capitalism, commodification, and consumption in Russia; theme parks spectacular spaces of consumption; consumer activism and global chains, and Māori as the welcoming party of Aotearoa/New Zealand.

Geographies of Consumption is published by SAGE Publications: www.sagepublications.com

Date: 24/06/2005

Type: Research

Categories: Book; College of Humanities & Social Sciences

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# New Psychology Clinic opens

The School of Psychology is expanding its research, training and service capacity with the launch of a new Psychology Clinic at the Wellington campus. Minister of Health, Hon Annette King opens the Clinic today at 4pm.

The launch of the Clinic is part of our increased focus on clinical research, says Dr Duncan Babbage, Director of the Psychology Clinic. The aims are to increase health research capacity, continue to support the postgraduate Clinical Psychology training programme, and to provide a high quality clinical service to our clients.

Research conducted by the Clinic aims to be a bridge between academic knowledge and frontline health services, providing immediate outcomes for our clients while informing practice throughout New Zealand.

The Psychology Clinic was recently identified by Vice-Chancellor Professor Judith Kinnear as a key Wellington campus development.

The Clinic offers important services such as assessing people with traumatic brain injury and neurological impairment, says Dr Babbage. It has a particular strength in the area of neuropsychological assessment and neurorehabilitation services.

Massey University has the largest Clinical Psychology training programme of any university in New Zealand, with students based at its campuses in Wellington, Palmerston North and Albany in Auckland.

The Psychology Clinic provides a private fee-based Clinical Psychology service to the community. It holds assessment and treatment contracts with agencies such as ACC, for whom it provides psychological and neuropsychological assessment services, psychological treatment, and pain assessment and treatment services. The clinic has a particular area of expertise in neuropsychological assessment and rehabilitation. Professor Janet Leathem, the only Professor of Neuropsychology in New Zealand, is based at the Clinic.

Date: 06/08/2005

Type: Research

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences

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*Prime minister Helen Clark and Vice-Chancellor Judith Kinnear inspecting a horse at the Veterinary Teaching Hospital.*

# The power of partnerships

***Massey to work with agricultural and equine industries in multi-million dollar research partnerships***

*Watch videos on each partnership - Equine and Agriculture*

The Government has announced a multi-million dollar investment in two new University projects to develop teaching and research partnerships with the equine and agricultural industries.

The University's projects are two of six awarded nationwide under the Partnerships for Excellence scheme.

They involve:
- $8.95 million for a trust established by Massey and Lincoln Universities, to enhance research in the agricultural and biological sciences. The private sector partners include Meat and Wool New Zealand, Dairy Insight, Fonterra, the New Zealand Fruitgrowers Federation and the Agricultural and Marketing Research and Development Trust (AgMardt), taking the total investment in the trust to more than $22 million.
- $5 million for the University to create a research-based partnership with the equine industry. The partners are Bomac Laboratories, Matamata Veterinary Services and others in the equine industry

The Vice-Chancellor Professor Judith Kinnear says equine and agricultural research is an iconic aspect of the University's strengths, and the funding is a milestone for both the University and the industries.

The Partnerships for Excellence funding acknowledges the importance of these areas of research, and will be a compelling catalyst to further the University's contributions of graduates and researchers who can take these industries forward and outwards to the world.

The Prime Minister Helen Clark announced the partnerships at the University's Palmerston North campus, a celebration attended by both universities, government representatives, and industry leaders. Of the Agricultural and Life Sciences Partnership between Massey and Lincoln universities and New Zealand's primary industries, she says:

"The projects will integrate research and learning with industry requirements in particular developing leaders capable of taking New Zealand's primary industries into a new phase of productivity and export-led growth.

Enhancing New Zealand's international competitiveness is vital if primary industry is to remain a foundation of our economy.

In response to a need identified by industry leaders, the Agricultural and Life Sciences Partnership will integrate the research and educational capabilities of the two universities with the requirements of industry. Its focus is to ensure that the on-farm and near-farm sectors of the agricultural and biological industries: continue to be led and managed by outstanding individuals who are consistently upgrading their skills and capability; are sustained by a steady influx of New Zealand's best and brightest minds; and are supported and informed by leading edge research.

Professor Kinnear says the project is a landmark opportunity to collaborate with an industry as diverse and important as agriculture in a way that has not been possible in the past. Not only will it better enable the strategic alignment of New Zealand's $17 billion agricultural industry with its two leading agricultural universities, it will also be a powerful catalyst for further engagement and investment , she says.

The Vice-Chancellor of Lincoln University, Professor Roger Field, says the partnership builds on the strengths of both Universities, and the excellent relationships they both have with the industry. The two universities have sought opportunities to work more closely together for some time, and this partnership will enable real and meaningful collaboration to develop .

The chairman of Dexcel and a director of Fonterra Ltd, Jim van der Poel, says there has been continued support for the partnership from the dairy industry. Massey and Lincoln universities have played an historic role in building the agricultural industry, which has grown to contribute 7 percent of the country's GDP and up to 60 percent of its exports in total, including forestry and horticulture. For New Zealand to maintain its status as a world leader, it needs a world-class faculty, and this partnership is a crucial step in this direction.

Mr van der Poel says there is significant focus on productivity improvement in the dairy industry, and a strategic framework has been developed to identify and further develop priority areas, such as environmental sustainability, forage and knowledge transfer. He says the partnership is well aligned with these industry objectives.

Mark Jeffries, chief executive of NZ Meat and Wool, says the company and the wider industry is excited about the partnership. Meat and Wool New Zealand, with a number of independent organisations representing farmers, view this opportunity as an important step in improving the focus of agriculture as a career choice for school leavers. Mr Jeffries says farmers will be pleased with the partnership, which will maximise existing efforts and resources.

Peter Silcock, chief executive of the NZ Fruitgrowers Federation, says giant opportunities lie ahead for New Zealand's $2 billion horticultural export industry as a result of its inclusion in the scheme.

We see the Partnership for Excellence as a matchless new platform from which fruit growers, vegetable producers and others in the horticultural sector can lift the industry's state of play to a whole new level. With the unique, specialised partnership now established between Massey and Lincoln universities the country's critical mass of research and development that can be applied to horticulture has been instantly enlarged.

It is a winning situation because these two universities have always been the industry's teaching and research powerhouses and sources of graduates, says Mr Silcock.

The second of the University's successful projects, the Towards a Future-Focused New

Zealand Equine Industry Partnership, aims to assist the equine industry achieve its full economic potential through increased equine teaching and research capability. Hon. Helen Clark says the country's equine industry has the potential to achieve foreign exchange earnings per hectare at an equivalent or greater rate than an industry such as dairying. To date, however, investment in equine research has been small compared to that in other land-based industries.

Professor Grant Guilford, head of the University's Institute of Veterinary and Animal Biomedical Sciences says education and research are critical to a brighter future for the New Zealand equine industry. A distinguishing feature of the high performing sectors of the agriculture-based economy is the tremendous value they place on an educated workforce and good quality research to keep their noses ahead of the international competition. We want to facilitate a similar integrated suite of educational opportunities for the equine industry through this partnership.

One specific goal of the equine partnership is to increase the number of persons with in-depth knowledge of equine science, technology and business entering the New Zealand equine industry to manage and grow equine enterprises. Another is to increase knowledge of equine husbandry and training to improve the skill and ability of persons to raise and train winners and to reduce equine wastage (the incidence of injuries that reduce a horse's performance or push it into retirement).

Research is key component of the partnership. Professor Elwyn Firth, the University's leading equine researcher, will lead a research programme targeting a range of research outcomes of vital importance to the industry. With colleagues at Colorado State University, Lincoln University, Matamata Veterinary Services, Otago University, the Royal College, London, the University of California, Davis and Utrecht, research will be undertaken into such issues as equine wastage, performance, genetics, fertility, biosecurity and health care. With Bomac Laboratories, research will further develop the company's extensive range of equine pharmaceuticals and nutraceuticals. Partnerships for Excellence were launched by the government in 2003, established to enhance innovation, encourage greater private sector investment in tertiary education and foster relationships between tertiary institutions, business and industry. The government has pledged more than $40 million this financial year to Partnerships for Excellence, and its contributions to the two Massey projects come to a total of just under $14 million.

Date: 06/08/2005

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences; Explore - Agriculture/Horticulture; School of Veterinary Science; Video Multimedia

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# Sir Bob Jones and the Philosophy students

Sir Robert Jones' appreciation of the pursuit of higher learning in the traditional subjects of philosophy, history and classical studies has prompted a further round of scholarships.

Last year Sir Robert announced the inaugural Robert Jones Philosophy Scholarships, for two Massey students. This year he has extended his support of the humanities in the form of a further two scholarships for students of history, and three prizes for students of classical studies. All recipients are selected for their academic merit.

He visited the University's Palmerston North campus to present the scholarships, with hearty congratulations and a signed copy of his latest book. He says subjects in the humanities encourage the sheer joy of learning, something that has been lost but is perhaps on the rise again .

The philosophy scholarship for a beginning student was awarded to Sophie Burgess, and Corrina Bennett was awarded the scholarship for advanced students. Both are worth $2,500. Ms Bennett is working toward a double degree in science (majoring in zoology) and arts (majoring in philosophy).

The inaugural scholarships in history were awarded to undergraduate student Laura Pascall, and to postgraduate Masters student Jacqueline O'Neill. At the end of this year, three classical studies students will be awarded Sir Robert Jones' prizes in Classical Studies.

Sir Robert says the scholarships, offered for both beginning and advanced students, are intended to encourage students to stick with their studies in the humanities. He says employers increasingly appreciate the well-rounded education and independence of graduates of the humanities, and his own company made an effort to recruit humanities graduates.

Dr James Watson, head of the School of History, Philosophy and Politics, says there is a continued interest in the study of humanities subjects, especially from extramural professionals. Papers are also in demand from students in other disciplines, especially ethics papers among business studies and science students. Dr Watson says philosophy is a discipline that fits very well with, and enhances, scientific thinking and challenges.

Date: 06/08/2005

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences

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# Failing to recognise family diversity

The Government's emphasis on family diversity ignores the situation of more than 200,000 children whose parents do not live together, says economics lecturer Stuart Birks.

Despite shared care arrangements being increasingly common in relationship split-ups, with children alternating between the homes of both parents, the family type is simply not recognised by government statisticians.

Mr Birks, who is director of the Centre for Public Policy Evaluation, has highlighted the issue several times, most recently in a paper to the New Zealand Association of Economists in Christchurch at the beginning of the month.

Entitled Government Policies and Families, the paper considered the policies that might influence families.

According to Mr Birks there is a marked failure to recognise what has become a relatively common family type, that of children whose parents live apart, especially when compared with the relatively low number of dependant children who live in households with a parent who is in a same-sex relationship.

The Government has put great emphasis on the diversity of family types, Mr Birks says. In particular, recent legislation and discussion has been directed at same-sex couples and parents.

He points out that Statistics NZ records different family types opposite-sex couples, same-sex couples, couples with children, couples without but only for families living in the same household.

While this may be convenient for data gathering, it obscures some major issues, such as the effects of government policies on relationships between children and their parents.

Are we getting an accurate picture of families in New Zealand, or have significant types been overlooked?

Date: 06/08/2005

Type: Research

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences

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# No competition in credit card costs

If you think your credit card provider has you trapped with high interest rates, fees and penalties, you are probably right.

A new study has found no evidence that there is competition in the New Zealand credit card market.

The study concluded that most card-holders don't really know or care what the card costs and those who do are often unable to do much about it.

It found smart users 50 to 60 percent of credit card holders pay off their full balance each month, avoiding interest and penalty charges.

Their only concern was the fee for having the card, which can range from $15 a year to $450, depending on the bank and type of card.

Most fees are at the lower end of that range and are charged infrequently, either every six or 12 months, or are waived by the banks because of the amount of other business customers have with them.

A further quarter of credit card users expose themselves to interest charges but have such low outstanding balances $500 or less - that the most interest they pay is around $8 a month.

The study found people tended, as a result of regular and widespread publicity about the perils of credit card indebtedness, to be aware that paying off the full balance was the most efficient way to operate.

But the key question posed by the people behind the study, former student Christine Chandran, and senior lecturers Claire Matthews and David Tripe from the Department of Finance Banking and Property, was why credit card companies were able to get away with such high interest rates.

What was stopping the 15 to 25 percent of card users with outstanding balances above $500 refinancing their debt at cheaper interest rates?

Between 1996 and 2003, credit card borrowing rose from about $1.5 billion ($1.1b of it interest-bearing) to more than $3.5 billion ($2.5b interest-bearing).

More cards were on issue encouraged in part by loyalty schemes and rewards for using the cards and credit limits on those cards had grown rapidly.

Over that time the gap between the benchmark cost of borrowing, the 90-day bill rate, and the rates charged by credit card companies had grown steadily.

In a report, entitled Competition in the New Zealand Credit Card Market from the Consumer Perspective, the authors asked: How is it that margins have increased, for all major banks, in what is supposed to be a competitive market?

And: How can banks get away with rates that are similar to each other?

The answers were that for up to 80 percent of cardholders the rates of interest were a trivial issue .

And for the 5 percent who had outstanding balances of $5000 or more, for whom it was a

significant issue , the report cited earlier research showing they were more likely to be credit constrained and have difficulty getting approval to refinance the debt.

From the issuers' perspective, there appears little incentive to reduce the interest rates… Reasons may include the low proportion of customers actually affected, and the need to cover the costs of providing the products.

The report found that despite card users' apparent understanding that interest rates on the cards were relatively high compared with other forms of borrowing there was quite poor knowledge of the actual rates.

65 percent did not know what their card's current interest rate was and 59 percent did not know what fees they were paying.

At the time the data was being gathered (August 2003) fees ranged from $15 to $450 per annum. Most standard cards charged about $20 but had interest rates of up to 20 percent per annum while the BNZ Platinum Visa had a relatively low interest rate of 11.5 percent but the highest fee.

The research involved a survey questionnaire distributed to 200 people, 183 (91.5 percent) of whom responded.

Acknowledged limitations of the survey were the lack of randomness in the distribution method, the relatively small sample size and low average age of the respondents compared to the general population and possible response bias due to respondents possibly wanting to show they used their credit cards more responsibly than they really did.

However, those concerns were partly assuaged by the relative consistency between the results and those of earlier research done in New Zealand and the United States.

Date: 06/08/2005

Type: Research

Categories: College of Business

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# Dioxin meeting draws world experts

WELLINGTON International and New Zealand experts on health effects of occupational exposure to chemicals will speak at a symposium at Massey University on September 7.

Professor Pier Bertazzi is Director of the Department of Occupational and Environmental Medicine at the University of Milan, Italy. He has an extensive experience in the study of environmental and occupational exposures, and in assessing their health risks. He heads the studies of the health effects of dioxin exposure in Seveso, Italy, where in 1976 an industrial accident resulted in an acute exposure of several thousand people to substantial quantities of dioxin.

Professor Allan H Smith is Professor of Epidemiology at the University of California at Berkeley, USA. He will present a health risk assessment for dioxin exposure which can be used for public health policy decision making. His presentation will include material from the document he co-authored for the Ministry for the Environment: Evaluation of toxicity of dioxins and dioxin-like PCBs: A health risk appraisal for the New Zealand population.

Professor Kyle Steenland is an epidemiologist with the Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia, USA. He studies environmental and occupational risk factors for disease. He worked as an epidemiologist for over 20 years at the US National Institute of Occupational and Environmental Health (NIOSH). Dr. Steenland will discuss the findings of a cohort study of 5000 workers exposed to dioxin while making phenoxy herbicides at 12 US chemical plants.

The symposium, Dioxin: Exposures, Health Effects and Public Health Policy, is at the Museum Building, Buckle St, from 9 5. It is organised by the Centre for Public Health Research, Massey University.

Date: 24/08/2005

Type: University News

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences

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# Sanctuary hosts eco-restoration research

Massey University is partnering with Victoria University and the Karori Wildlife Sanctuary to establish an innovative conservation programme.

The project, which has attracted $872,500 in funding from the Tertiary Education Commission's Innovation and Development Fund, will see a teaching laboratory established by Victoria University at the Sanctuary.

Eco-restoration is a developing interdisciplinary field that links science, social science, cultural understanding and management fields by focusing on the relationships between humans and ecosystems. It aims to put right the devastation wrought on native plants and animals by the introduction of foreign pests and the clearing of native habitats.

But instead of saving individual species by isolating them, firstly in zoos where they have often became sad curiosities, or on small offshore islands where they were difficult to access, eco-restoration sees them as part of mainland ecosystems that need to be rebuilt, literally from the ground up.

Eco-restoration aims to do more than just protect what we have left, but to turn the clock back and recover ecosystems so native plants and animals have a sustainable future.

Professor Russ Tillman, Head of the Institute of Natural Resources welcomes the opportunity to partner with Victoria University and the Karori Wildlife Sanctuary Trust.

A project such as this, that sees universities working together with dedicated community organisations such as the Karori Sanctuary, is exactly what the Government is seeking.

Massey University will bring to the partnership complementary expertise in key areas of ecosystem restoration.

Date: 24/08/2005

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences; Enviromental issues

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# GPS mapping for optimum pasture

A tool to assist in precise farm management, and new technology enabling the accurate measurement of a farm's pasture translates to significant industry benefits.

A concept developed by the Dr Ian Yule and the University's New Zealand Centre for Precision Agriculture, the Rapid Pasture Development systems arose from the need for improved methods of measuring pasture.

The three different models of pasture measurement sensors fit into sledges designed and developed by project partner C-DAX Systems Ltd to be towed by a farm-bike. The sledge and sensor can be towed at up to 15 kilometres per hour, over bumps and contours, through wet pasture and mud, whilst taking measurements every one or two seconds.

Expressed in kilograms of dry pasture per hectare, the data collected can then be downloaded into a computer to be integrated with feed budgeting software developed by the third project partner, FarmWorks Precision Farming Systems. Dr Yule says measurements taken before and after pasture has been grazed by stock can be used to assess which areas of a paddock are the most productive, or are preferred by stock.

Currently pasture is measured by New Zealand farmers manually and on foot using the plate meter, but Dr Yule says the time-consuming task often means only a small sample of the paddock is measured and used as a representative section. The variation of factors such as soil type, water retention and pasture composition, demands a more accurate assessment.

Dr Yule says the beauty of a tool attached to a bike is that a thorough cross section can be measured as a farmer travels across a farm whilst moving stock or getting from one place to another. The sensor's stainless steel sledge has edges designed to flick off as much muck as possible and the data collected can be calibrated for different plant species.

He says previous research suggests that a 15 20 percent improvement in pasture utilisation may be made through the use of pasture budgeting systems. This estimate is based on factors such as the better utilisation of pasture, and an improvement in actual pasture yield through better controlled grazing. The main benefit is that farmers will be able to develop a budgeting approach and make better decisions regarding feed production and use, and the application of fertiliser.

It will allow the identification of areas of low production, which can then be monitored regularly and compared over time, the ability to benchmark against other pasture within the paddock as well as other paddocks or even other farms on similar soil types. With the increase in pasture utilisation, farmers will be able to graze more stock, increasing production, and making possible an improvement in actual pasture yield through more effective placement of fertilisers.

The pasture sensory project began five years ago within another project underway at the Centre for Precision Agriculture to see how evenly cattle were grazing pasture. To do so, paddocks needed to be measured thoroughly, and with something better than the plate meter. The resulting sensors developed by the three project partners start with a basic model, which calculates the average pasture cover between the stopping and starting of measurement. The intermediate level model stores the paddock number and collected data, which can be downloaded to a computer.

The most advanced model is linked to a GPS unit, and readings are geo-referenced. This allows for advanced mapping. If paddocks have been mapped, the GPS unit will recognised which paddock it is in, and the information can be directly downloaded to mapping and feed budgeting software.

The Centre for Precision Agriculture and C-DAX Systems Ltd presented the pasture sensor systems at three daily seminars at the recent annual National Fieldays at Mystery Creek in Hamilton.

News and photographs from Fieldays will be published in the next issue of Massey News.

**Created: 17 June, 2005**

Date: 24/08/2005

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences; Explore - Agriculture/Horticulture

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# Leading the contribution to New Zealand's advanced human capital

A special report from Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Research) Professor Nigel Long

2004 was a very successful year for research at Massey University and our international research reputation was confirmed in The Times Higher Education Supplement which ranked only two New Zealand universities in the world's top 200. Massey University's world ranking of 108th clearly places us among the world's best and this performance has been confirmed by other international comparisons.

Closer to home, these comparisons would place us about 15th among Australasian universities. Considering the financial support most of these universities receive, this is a most creditable level of performance.

While rankings are a very public indicator of our relative standing, they do not capture the true essence of the research culture within Massey University. This is very much more difficult to measure and we must always be aware of the other important indicators of research. In this regard Massey University has world class researchers in nearly all of the major disciplinary areas in which we claim special expertise. Our continued success in all research endeavours will ensure our research culture will be sustained into the future.

2005 brings new challenges to the research endeavours of Massey University. Not only must we continue to build our research capability across a wide range of criteria and outputs but also we must continue to meet the added challenges of year three of the Performance Based Research Fund.

To help support staff with their research, a record amount has been spent on the purchase of new research equipment (including the NMR) and through the award of MURF and strategic grants.

In 2004 Massey University's external research and contracts income grew by 13.3% to $50.7 million and the external research income (PBRF) grew to $32.4 million. This increased revenue was achieved by a combination of a record number of external grants and a significant increase in the revenue of our rapidly growing research centres.

Research training, as measured by research degree completions, grew in 2004 by 16% from 861 to 999 EFTS. This level of performance makes Massey University New Zealand's leading provider of advanced human capital. In this regard we are making the foremost contribution to research training across a wide range of disciplines and to all New Zealanders, through both our internal and extramural postgraduate programmes. Continuing to maintain this level of graduate supervision is a major endeavour and will make a key contribution to New Zealand's economic and social well being.

This year also highlights new research initiatives from Colleges which will focus more on identifying and supporting areas of research strength and enhancing networking with partners with a similar research focus. These partnerships will enable teams to come together to form the critical research infrastructure which is necessary to achieve success in the competitive research pools.

These new initiatives, coupled with the growing willingness of staff to become more engaged and focused on research and research training, will ensure that Massey University will continue to be a leading contributor to New Zealand's rapidly growing research capability and will continue to maintain its position among the world's top universities.

**Created: 4 March, 2005**

Date: 24/08/2005

Type: Research

Categories: Any

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*Master's student and stitchbird researcher Troy Makan on Little Barrier Island eating his lunch under the watchful eye of one of the island's many kaka.*

# Saving the stitchbird

Funding from the New Zealand National Parks and Conservation Foundation has boosted crucial research by Massey University ecologists to protect the endangered endemic hihi, or stitchbird.

The Foundation presented a cheque for $18,500 to Prime Minster Helen Clark at the launch of the Department of Conservation's (DOC) stitchbird recovery plan on Tiritiri Matangi Island in Auckland's Hauraki Gulf on January 16. $13,500 of this amount will be used to further Massey research.

With the long-term goal to increase the number of self-sustaining stitchbird populations to five, DOC's stitchbird recovery plan will further expertise in stitchbird biology through directed research spearheaded by the University's specialised Behavioural Ecology and Conservation Programme.

Programme leader Dr Isabel Castro, a stitchbird specialist, says the funding is especially significant for Troy Makan, in his second year of a Masters in Conservation Biology. He is studying the unique Little Barrier Island (Hauturu) population, home to the country's singular self-sustaining stitchbird population. In 2004 Mr Makan spent two months at a time on Little Barrier Island and will continue his research throughout this year.

On the off-limits island, Mr Makan is investigating the reason behind the populations' success, without the heavy management and care required for translocated populations on Kapiti Island and Tiritiri Matangi Island in the Hauraki Gulf. Specifically, he will study the relationship between vegetation structure and composition and the productivity of stitchbirds. He will evaluate the differences in habitat utilisation by the birds in different forest types and determine the availability of suitable holes in trees for nesting. This requires full-days of scrambling through steep scrub and forests of 25 metre tall trees to find nests and spot birds.

For the first time in 120 years, DOC will this year translocate 60 stitchbirds from Tiritiri Matangi Island in to the Karori Wildlife Sanctuary in Wellington. The Hauraki Gulf Island's vegetation is relatively young in its re-growth from past burn-off, and the trees have not yet developed the nooks the birds favour for nesting. Ms Castro says year-round feeding and monitoring have contributed to the success of the Tiritiri population, but says more research is needed to find out what stitchbirds need to become self-sufficient.

Dr Castro says Mr Makan has a life-long passion for native bird conservation. She first met him as a keen 12 year old who volunteered to help with her post-doctoral research studying the stitchbird population on Mokoia Island in Rotorua. She recalls his unusual stamina in assisting in the observation of nesting females, an arduous task requiring quiet and careful surveillance. Years later Mr Makan turned up as a student in her animal behaviour class at Massey and she now supervises his Masters project.

Dr Castro's earlier work has proved vital in the management of the species. She began her doctoral study of ecology and translocations of stitchbird in mid 1991, in an effort to understand why birds translocated to Kapiti Island were failing to establish a self-sustaining population. She observed the birds' breeding and feeding ecology on the island for four years, finding evidence suggesting that the species' breeding was limited by the availability of food and that females needed much more food than was previously thought.

On Mokoia Island in Rotorua, Dr Castro later carried out experiments to determine the effect of food on the mating system and parental investment of stitchbirds, and found that the reproductive output of birds could be doubled through supplementary feeding. She also worked on the development of management techniques for stitchbird, finding that nesting boxes were necessary, as was the stringent management of mites in the boxes, to encourage breeding. This heavy management however, is not necessary on Little Barrier Island, rat and predator free since June 2004, prompting the need for further research and Mr Makan's project.

**Stitchbird facts:**

- The stichbird was thought to belong to the nectar feeding 'honeyeater' family but recent genetic work suggests it is not a honeyeater. So far, scientists have not been able to find any close relatives amongst any of the living bird families. Therefore the species may be in a family of its own endemic to New Zealand. Dr Castro says more research is necessary to confirm this.
- In pre-European times, stitchbirds were found throughout the North Island and on several offshore islands but the species became extinct on the mainland with the last recorded sighting in the Tararua Ranges in 1883. The only surviving population was found on Little Barrier Island in 1894 and the Island declared a nature reserve.
- Males have bright yellow shoulder and breast bands, white 'ear' tufts and a white wing bar. The plumage of the female is more subdued with olive-grey and brown body feathers, white wing bars and small white 'ear' tufts.
- They have a distinguishable upward tilted tail and strident warning call, which 19th century ornithologist, Sir Walter Buller, described as sounding like the work 'stitch', hence their English name. They also have a range of warbling calls and the male produces a variety of loud whistles.

For further information, please contact:
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Jane Arnott, NZ National Parks and Conservation Foundation: 09- 360 8489

Date: 24/08/2005

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences; Enviromental issues

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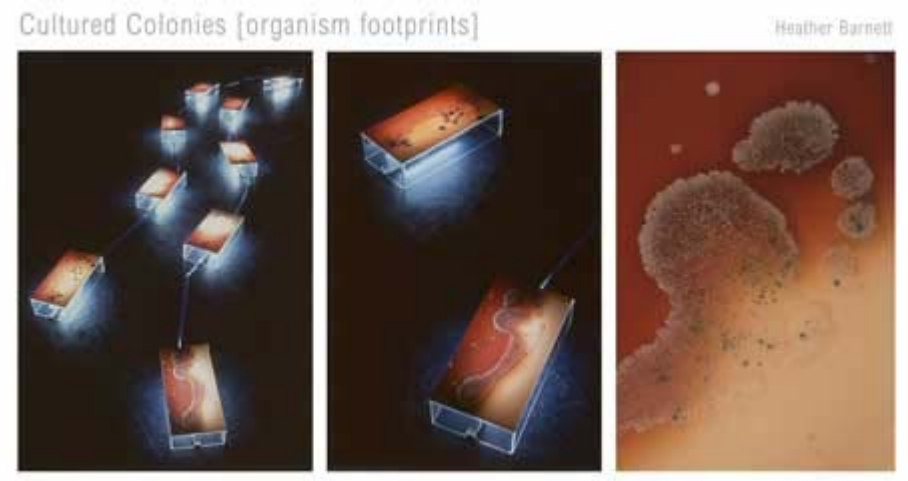


# Where Art Meets Science

What light can art shed on science? How can scientific processes be used creatively to ask and answer questions? These are issues visiting English artist Heather Barnett discussed at a seminar at Massey University this week.

Ms Barnett works on projects at the interface of art and science. Her work incorporates photography, digital imaging and installation, often working in tandem with scientific processes and imaging systems. Much of her work is collaborative in essence, having worked with scientists including pathologists, gynaecologists, botanists, geologists, and microbiologists.

In 2004 Ms Barnett was a Research Fellow at the University of Sussex. She worked with geneticists and biologists to create wallpaper decorated with images of fruitflies and cuttlefish.

In 2000 she worked with pathologists at a hospital laboratory. She says, Everyone knows what surgeons and nurses do, but the hospital thought that the role of pathologists was under-appreciated. By taking an artistic interest in their work, it was hoped their morale could be lifted, and the public would have a better understanding of their contribution to health. I created alternative portraits using laboratory tools. For example, one work shows a series of footprints made from cultured skin cells from my feet. I also designed wallpaper based on microscopic images of cells. Some people initially liked the designs until they learned they are based on images of blood or cervical smears.

Humans are both beautiful and revolting. I like the line between seduction and repulsion. It's for the audience to decide which.

The University's College of Design, Fine Arts and Music hosted Ms Barnett's seminar.

Research Director, Professor Anne Noble says that funding for such projects is available in New Zealand through the Smash Palace Collaboration Fund. The Fund has $600,000 to distribute on projects where artists and scientists work together. It is supported by the Ministry of Research, Science and Technology and Creative New Zealand.

The College of Design, Fine Arts and Music is offering three research awards to Massey University teams of at least two researchers co-led by an artist (artist or designer) and a scientist (science or technologist). The awards of $750 are to support the development of proposals to the Smash Palace Fund. Teams interested in applying are invited to submit a one page proposal outlining the proposed project, and the nature of the collaboration to Anne Noble, Research Director, College of Design Fine Arts and Music, Wellington. Applications for support will be considered up until the 10th February.

**Created: 14 January, 2005**

Date: 24/08/2005

Type: University News

Categories: College of Creative Arts; Exhabition/Show

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# Bus bullies' time to get off

*Watch the Close-Up item: Dr Juliana Raskauskastalks to Susan Wood*

Further training and resources are needed to tackle a universal bullying phenomenon that extends beyond the classroom, says College of Education researcher Dr Juliana Raskauskas.

In an article published recently in the American Journal of School Violence, Dr Raskauskas examined bullying on the school bus, identifying occurrences of bullying and harassment in an exploratory study, which has global consequences.

Although the basis for the paper was formed by studies undertaken in the United States, New Zealand research shows that students here, also report being bullied on the bus, and although the bus systems differ from those in the US, the environmental risk factors are the same.

Dr Raskauskas has found that two major factors contributing to bullying on the bus relate to relatively high numbers of students compared to adult supervisors, and the environment itself, which reduces the capacity of students to avoid confrontations.

School buses often only have one adult supervisor, the driver, and when moving, offer few escape routes for bullying victims.

The types of bullying identified in Dr Raskauskas' study included physical violence hitting, kicking, pushing or poking, and verbal behaviours that included name-calling, taunting and teasing.

Overall. 49.1% of the bullying incidents in the study included physical bullying.

A paper published in the New Zealand Annual Review of Education (1998) by Mark Cleary and Keith Sullivan developed intervention strategies, using a bus analogy to talk about school bullying. On the Bus: An Action Plan for Bullyproofing Your School and Classroom suggests an anti-bullying approach that can be used in schools to teach people about the dynamics of bullying and help them find solutions to it.

Dr Raskauskas says the article encourages bullying dialogue, which is important in helping shape further understanding of bullying, and to implement strategies for dealing with it.

Teachers and parents have been targeted by these strategies, and bus drivers too, need to be made aware of bullying, and given some useful ways to deal with it. She says.

Drivers tend to be aware of the physical bullying that occurs, while the more covert forms of bullying including teasing, taunting, humiliation and exclusion often go unnoticed. It's very difficult for drivers to supervise a large number of children, when their primary task is to drive the bus. They are not able to see everything that's happening, and the covert bully exploits this.

Dr Raskauskas is looking to develop an interactive training programme for bus drivers, to address these issues, and provide information and strategies to identify and respond appropriately to bullying occurrences.

Date: 24/08/2005

Type: Research

Categories: College of Education; Video Multimedia

# Leadership under pressure: Top brass from world's military hotspots assemble at Massey

A range of international military, sporting and business leaders will rub shoulders as guest speakers at a two-day leadership conference hosted by Massey University next month.

Businessman and former All Black captain Wilson Whineray, Defence Force Chief Air Marshal Bruce Ferguson, Black Ferns captain and Massey lecturer Dr Farah Palmer, and retired Australian General Peter Cosgrove are among those who will address the conference on November 24 and 25.

Entitled Leadership in Complex Environments, the conference has been jointly organised by Massey's Centre for Defence Studies, Victoria University's School of Government and the New Zealand Army.

General Cosgrove headed the United Nations effort to bring peace and stability after East Timor's bloody independence from Indonesia; while another speaker, Canadian Major General Andrew Leslie, was former deputy-commander of the International Forces in Afghanistan.

New Zealand's military has had significant and ongoing roles in both countries.

Other overseas speakers include Professor Keith Grint, director of one of Britain's premier leadership centres; Professor Adrian Furnham, one of the world's leading psychologists from the University College of London; and Dr Joe Folkman, President of United States leadership consultancy Zenger-Folkman.

Other New Zealand speakers include, State Services Commissioner Dr Mark Prebble, NZ Army Chief Major General Jerry Mateparae, and Massey's Vice-Chancellor Professor Judith Kinnear.

The venue is the Japanese Lecture Theatre on the Palmerston North campus. Limited places are available by registering with the organisers.

Date: 24/08/2005

Type: Research

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences; Conference/Seminar

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# Regular exercise is good for asthmatics

Regular exercise brings significant benefits to asthmatics, says a new study led by Massey University School of Health Sciences researcher, Dr Felix Ram.

Although exercise is believed to sometimes trigger asthma, asthmatics gain improved cardiopulmonary fitness from exercising, to the same extent as people without asthma, says the study.

Dr Ram led a systematic review of 13 existing studies, which is in the latest issue of The Cochrane Library, the publication of an international body that evaluates medical research. Systematic reviews draw evidence based conclusions about medical practice after considering both the content and quality of existing medical trials.

The review combines results from the studies which together involved 455 people over the age of eight years who had asthma. All were randomized controlled trials involving 20 to 30 minute aerobic exercise sessions, two to three times a week for at least four weeks.

A significant effect occurred with physical training on four measures: maximum ventilation the patient can achieve, maximal oxygen uptake, work capacity and maximum heart rate.

Exercise did not bring about a significant effect on expiratory air flow rate, expiratory volume and days of wheezing.

The researchers noted that subjectively, many people with asthma report feeling better when they are fit but the physiological basis of this perception has not been systematically investigated.

We found no evidence to show that regular exercise worsens asthmatic symptoms, says Dr Ram. There is no reason for people with asthma to avoid regular physical activity. In our study, those who did exercise, show an increased ability to take up oxygen and improved ventilation which led to improved cardiopulmonary fitness.

He says clinicians should encourage patients with asthma to exercise regularly. He says it would be advisable for patients to receive counseling on ways to prevent and treat exercise induced asthma.

Dr Ram calls for more clinical trials on the effects of physical training on asthma management.

**Created: 25 October, 2005**

Date: 24/08/2005

Type: Research

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences

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# Fine-tuning fertility testing with take-home technology

*Watch the ONE News item*

A take-home fertility-testing kit under development in a Massey laboratory will give women and couples further control over pregnancy planning.

Massey graduate Dr Delwyn Cooke and honorary research fellow Associate Professor Len Blackwell hope the kit will be available within the next two years, and will give women and couples increased control over pregnancy planning.

Under commercialisation by Manawatu BioTech Investment Ltd, the fertility testing kits test urine (in a similar way to pregnancy testing kits). The technology measures the metabolites (excreted components) of the hormones estrogen and progesterone to measure and define the most fertile period of a woman's menstrual cycle. It will enable a greater degree of accuracy to methods currently used to pinpoint ovulation and optimum periods of fertility.

Dr Cooke says the existing methods of measuring temperature and mucus cycles are complicated by the fact they are often difficult to observe, are subjective, and that they often result in unnecessary periods of abstinence (in the case of using these methods to avoid pregnancy). The temperature method picks up the post ovulatory rise in temperature and occurs after the period of peak fertility. This means it cannot be used as a direct aid for helping couples get pregnant, it is only used as a diagnostic test to tell a woman that she did have an ovulatory cycle. For avoiding pregnancy it is used as a marker for the end of the fertile phase, and most women use it in combination with the mucus method for picking up the beginning of fertility.

Dr Cooke says the take-home kit will reduce the amount of stress involved in laboratory-based fertility testing, and will also reduce the cost of this type of testing. Unlike laboratory assays it becomes feasible to monitor whole cycles on a day by day basis, and I also think it is appealing to the women as it does give them a feeling of control.

Dr Blackwell says the user-friendly kits effectively eavesdrop on the ovary , to intercept chemical information between the brain and the ovaries which controls the menstrual cycle. He says estrogen is best tested by a function test of follicle growth, indicating that follicles are growing. The kits will accurately give women all the information they usually would only able to get from a laboratory-based series of blood tests.

**Created: 11 August, 2005**

Date: 24/08/2005

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences; Explore - HEALTH; Video Multimedia

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# TradeMe will impact on the property market

Professor of Property Studies Bob Hargreaves says it's inevitable that new players like TradeMe will capture some of the real estate sales market.

But he says the process will be slow and he doesn't expect a sudden explosion in private sales. He says when dealing with housing, which is their biggest asset, people are still a bit reluctant to buy and sell over the Internet.

TradeMe has launched a real estate site in an effort to increase the 1,500 properties it already lists. It will cater for both private sellers and estate agents, charging a flat fee of $50 to advertise a property.

But Professor Hargreaves says, despite the growing use of web sites, about 90 percent of properties still sell through estate agents and he doesn't expect to see a sudden big increase in private sales.

And he warns against buyers getting carried away by property web sites: Buyers need to be careful. They have to know about the value and they have to know whether the picture they're looking at actually represents a leaky house.

There is usually a lot of money involved and, given that most people only buy and sell property every seven top 10 years, their levels of experience and knowledge are not great. So people need to make sure they get other professional advice, such as valuations and building inspections.

He says the main role of the new TradeMe property websites will be to help buyers whittle down their options and crate a staring point. So instead of going out with an agent and looking at, say, 50 properties, you can narrow down your location and the sort of housing you want.

Although he doesn't predict a sudden fall-off in business for real estate agents, Professor Hargreaves says many will be worried, particularly those with existing sales sites. They're seeing another competitor in the market, one that has already proved to be successful in sales generally and which has the potential to undercut prices.

Date: 24/08/2005

Type: Research

Categories: College of Business

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# Bad driving habits start early

A new study will investigate whether children learn driving habits from their parents, years before they get behind the wheel.

Dr Mark Sullman from the Department of Human Resource Management says the research involves sending out questionnaires to 13 and 14 year olds throughout New Zealand. He plans to follow up with the same children in two years' time when they have started driving.
Dr Sullman is working with researchers at the Herriot-Watt University in Edinburgh and the driver Education Foundation.

He says the aim is to find out whether drivers develop their attitudes to driving before they start driving with a focus on what they may learn from their parents.

There's some evidence to suggest that children learn their attitudes to speeding and dangerous driving from their parents.

If your father drives like a maniac, it's more than likely you're going to drive like a maniac yourself, he says.

Recent research by the Australian Institute of Family Studies in Victoria found that children who are hyperactive, aggressive and uncooperative are more likely to grow up to be dangerous drivers.

Date: 24/08/2005

Type: Research

Categories: College of Business

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# China professorship for Allan Rae

Palmerston North - Applied economist Professor Allan Rae has been appointed as an Adjunct Professor of Henan Agricultural University in China.

Professor Rae is Director of the Centre for Applied Economics and Policy Studies (CAPS). He was appointed to the new position at a ceremony during a recent visit to Henan Agricultural University in China. The ceremony was conducted by the Vice-President of the University, before Professor Rae delivered a seminar to students and staff.

The three-year appointment invites Professor Rae to make further visits to Henan, to present lectures and seminars, to assist in the supervision of postgraduate students, and to further develop collaborative activities.

Professor Rae made his visit to China with Dr Hengyun Ma of CAPS who is on leave from Henan Agricultural University and has spent the past two years working with Professor Rae on China's agricultural economy. The project is part of a $1.5 million FRST research project with the New Zealand Institute of Economic Research.

Professor Rae also delivered a series of postgraduate lectures and further developed research activities during his visit.

**Created: 17 May, 2005**

Date: 24/08/2005

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Business

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# What's wrong with the polls?

More robust and accurate analysis of pre-election polls is needed, says Marketing Professor Janet Hoek.

Unfortunately, like much of the pre-election analysis, the media's retrospective scrutiny of the polls is unlikely to provide the public with a robust assessment of how well the polls predicted the election outcome. The main reason for this is that, with some notable exceptions, most political reporters show little understanding of survey research and, consequently, provide at best a superficial analysis of poll results.

Professor Hoek says for polls to be useful for predicting election outcomes we first need to know what questions are being asked. Often the questions are ambiguous, she says, and produce an answer that is relevant only at that moment in time. Polls that ask people who they would have voted for today place voting in a different frame of reference again.

When the polls were conducted is also important. Polls that only interview during the week may not reach people who would have been available had the survey been conducted over the weekend. Differences in the data collection period may also explain some of the so-called poll volatility.

It's also important to realise that poll estimates all have a margin of error. This represents a range within which pollsters are very confident that the true population value lies. So, a survey of 1000 people that reports support for the Liberal party of 50 percent is really telling us that support for this party is very likely to fall within the range 47 - 53 percent. Many of the alleged movements in party support are thus likely to be attributable to nothing more than sampling error.

Professor Hoek says the margin of error is one of the most commonly misunderstood terms in polling. Each estimate reported in a poll has its own margin of error; this makes claims that minor parties are 'polling below the margin of error' quite bizarre. Those conducting the polls must cringe in despair when they hear assertions such as these, since they reveal a distressing ignorance of survey research.

She says pollsters also need to align the number that they interview with likely voter turnout as American polling companies are now doing. This technique also requires a level of understanding by the media of the different systems used so they can comment on how it may have affected the poll results.

While survey response rates have declined over the past decade, response rate details, and what these may mean, are rarely reported. Where a survey has a 33 percent response rate, we know that two thirds of the people initially contacted were not available, or were unwilling to take part in the survey. If these people differ in some material way from those who did participate, the survey estimates could be affected. For example, if the proportion of people supporting ACT were less likely to agree to take part in polls, or were more likely to be out when the interviewers phoned, ACT support could be under-represented in the poll. Response rates should be routinely reported and reviewed so potential errors in the poll estimates can be analysed.

Professor Hoek says it is little wonder that the public have become cynical about poll results, and more reluctant to participate in surveys, when these have been superficially reported and analysed. Ironically, political opinion polls have the potential to create a more informed and

interested electorate. However, until the media understand how to report the details outlined above, and how to explore the differences between polls, public scepticism is likely to increase.

Date: 06/09/2005

Type: Research

Categories: College of Business

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# Kakapo under care at Wildlife Ward

Avian veterinarians at the Wildlife Ward are treating a young female kakapo after an attack by an adult kakapo on Codfish Island.

In the last days leading to her release on the island, the six-month-old Pounamu was attacked in a pen by the older male who has since been relocated to another island. She was brought to the Ward more than a fortnight ago with deep bite wounds to her neck and around her beak.

Jenny Youl (pictured), a resident in avian and wildlife health at the ward, says Pounamu has made good progress under treatment. She was very subdued and sore, but is eating better now and seems more cheerful.

Snacks favoured by the parrot include kumara chunks and green grapes, and she growls healthily when handled for her twice-daily treatment. The kakapo, one of 86 of the world's largest and most endangered parrots, is receiving anti-inflammatory and antibiotic medication, and is being fed a special parrot mix via a feeding tube to maintain her condition.

Pounamu also has nerve damage to one wing, thought to be soft-tissue damage which will eventually heal. Although the birds are flightless, they use their wings to 'float' a little when they leap to the ground from the trees they climb.

Avian and reptilian specialist Dr Brett Gartrell knows Pounamu from happier days as a fledging under care of the Department of Conservation and wildlife vets in Nelson. He says the attack by the adult male is normal territorial behaviour for the solitary species.

Earlier this year, a three-year-old female kakapo left the ward after a seven-month stay the longest period a kakapo has spent in hospitalisation. Dr Gartrell says the ward vets learnt a lot in the lengthy treatment of the parrot's dermatitis, especially in the feeding of the birds who have individualistic food preferences.

Sponsored by Shell New Zealand, Colmalco NZ Ltd and Maritime New Zealand, the Wildlife Ward in the Institute of Veterinary and Animal Biomedical Sciences (IVABS) provides clinical expertise to the University's New Zealand Wildlife Health Centre.

The centre groups researchers from IVABS, the Institute of Natural Resources and the Institute of Food, Nutrition and Human Health, to promote and implement collaborative investigation and management of wildlife in support of the conservation of native fauna.

Date: 06/09/2005

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences; School of Veterinary Science

# Award for supercar designer

The slick lines and racing heritage of Tony Parker's head-turning Hulme supercar has won a Best Design Award, in the concept/experimental category.

The annual Best Design Awards are presented by The Designers Institute of New Zealand to showcase and celebrate the best work the design industry has to offer.

Named in honour of New Zealand's only Formula One World Champion Denny Hulme, the Hulme is a racing machine designed for road use.

Coordinating the design team is Tony Parker, Associate Professor and head of the University's College of Creative Arts, where he teaches in the industrial design programme.

New Zealand has established a reputation for building the best yachts in the world. I believe we also have the technical capabilities and the industrial infrastructure to create a quality, hand-built performance car," says Professor Parker.

The concept of the Hulme supercar is a mid-engine design with a high-tech powertrain and chassis that gives the driver the feeling of driving a Formula One car on the road. The car features a modified BMW M5 engine joined to a specially designed transaxle, wrapped in a carbon fibre body.

The design captures the essence of Formula One for ordinary road users albeit wealthy ones. A price has not yet been set, but it is expected to sell for somewhere between $400,000 and $600,000.

Alumni of the University were among many of the winners, including Andrew Haythornthwaite and Dean Edgington of Creativelab Ltd, designers of the Laser Operated Mouse and Key Board.

Massey design students placed in several categories at the Awards.

In the graphic category, Jeremy Mansford was highly commended for Mofresh

Thomas Opie Mountfort was highly commended for Tuesday & Ark in the interactive media category.

Stuart Foster, Gemma Gillet, Michelle Hughes, and Neelish Budhia were finalists in the interior

design category, for Site of Passage .

Peter Ash was a finalist in the product design section for Silverware .

Date: 06/09/2005

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Creative Arts

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# Safety expert wins Fulbright Fellowship

Dr Ian Laird, from the University's Centre for Ergonomics and Occupational Safety and Health, has been awarded the prestigious $US15,000 Fulbright Fellowship to the United States for next year.

The fellowship, only one of which is awarded annually, will be taken up at the Harvard University School of Public Health, Boston, from March to June.

Dr Laird is a senior lecturer in occupational health and safety on the Turitea campus, and has worked at the University for the past 20 years.

He aims to use the fellowship to develop a collaborative research programme between Massey and Harvard on health and safety intervention research, studies designed to determine the effectiveness of preventive health and safety interventions.

One particular area of research involves a study to evaluate interventions designed to reduce exposure to hazardous substances in small businesses.

Dr Laird said this was a problem that became evident to him during his appointment to a Ministerial Inquiry into the Management of Hazardous Substances in 2003.

An important finding of the inquiry was that the problem arose from a failure in small businesses where most chemical exposures occur - to apply information on hazardous substances rather than from a lack of available information about the substances.

This issue is one of international importance, and not just restricted to New Zealand, where small businesses employ nearly 85 per cent of the working population, he said.

It will be a tremendous opportunity to work with leading researchers in this field, to collaborate on research programmes, and to develop an important series of studies that will have great practical benefit for enforcement agencies and employers and employees in small businesses.

Date: 06/09/2005

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Business

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# Road deaths and drinking age linked by new research

*Watch the ONE News item*

There's been a dramatic increase in the number of alcohol related car accidents in the last six years since the drinking age was lowered to 18, say Massey University researchers.

Recent trends in alcohol related harms and offences since alcohol laws were relaxed, have been surveyed and reported by the University's Centre for Social and Health Outcomes Research (SHORE)

The researchers found a dramatic upward trend occurred in alcohol related crashes since the drinking age was lowered in 1999. Until that point, there had been a steady fall in drink driving incidents during the 1990's.

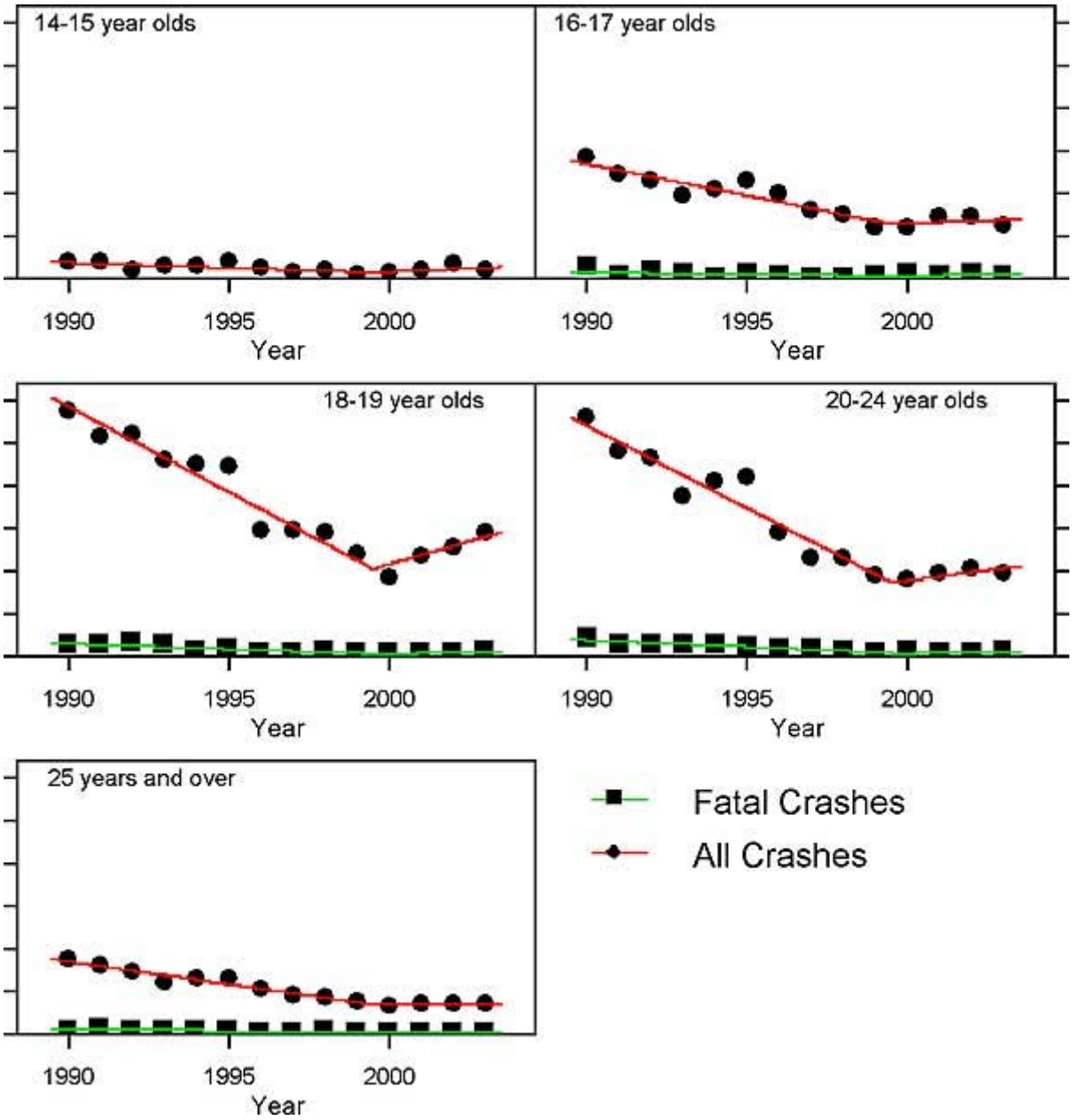
The largest rate of increased drink driving crashes was in the 18 to 19 year old group with the next largest increase among 20 to 24 year olds. The trend in these age groups was similar for driving with excess alcohol. In fatal accidents the increase in trend was 4.5 times higher than for people aged 25 and over.

Eighteen to 19 year olds and 16 to 17 year olds also had the largest rate of increase in prosecutions for disorder since the drinking age was lowered.

The study had assessed the period from 1990 to 2003, using routinely collected data from prosecutions for driving with excess alcohol, vehicle crashes involving alcohol and prosecutions for disorder offences involving alcohol.

Internationally, liberalized alcohol environments have been linked with increases in alcohol-related harm for young people, the researchers say. The SHORE study will be published in the British journal Addictions.

**Trends in rates of all and fatal crashes**




Date: 06/09/2005

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences

*Benjamin Verdery, Associate Professor Matthew Marshall and Wellington City Councillor and guitar maker Ray Ahipene-Mercer, who officially launched the centre.*

# Guitar stars gather to launch new centre

AUDIO *Listen to a piece of classical guitar performed by the Massey university Guitar Ensemble, composed by John Dowland and entitled Frog Galliard - 3mb MP3*

Some of the best guitarists in the world gathered this month to perform at the launch of the New Zealand School of Music's Centre for Guitar Studies, the only one of its kind in Australasia.

The New Zealand International Guitar Festival was the biggest classical guitar event in New Zealand in 20 years. It featured performances by Australian quartet Guitar Trek and celebrated American guitarist and composer Benjamin Verdery. Both were in New Zealand for the first time.

Guitar Trek, who are based at the Australian National University, pioneered the development of a unique family of guitars of different sizes treble, standard, baritone and bass guitars. This has opened up an undreamt of new world of creative sound possibilities for the guitar.

Benjamin Verdery, chair of Yale University's guitar department, performed music by Jimi Hendrix, J S Bach, Mozart, and his own compositions. He has been described by Guitar Review magazine as an American original, and American master .

Associate Professor Matthew Marshall, director of the new centre, says The Centre for Guitar Studies aims to be the leading international centre for research on the guitar, its music, pedagogy, performers, composers and luthiers.

It will be a focus for research, performance, composition, historical editing of music scores, publishing, and matters relating to the classical guitar, lute and baroque/early guitar.

Also performing at the festival were centre lecturer Gunter Herbig, the School of Music's Guitar Ensemble, and Matthew Marshall. The events were sponsored by the United States Embassy and the New Zealand School of Music.

William Bower makes up the trio of teachers at the new research and teaching centre.

Their expertise ranges from New Zealand composition, baroque, 18th, 19th and early 20th century classical guitar, and community guitar education.

The centre brings together the expertise of the only three guitarists teaching and researching at universities in New Zealand.

Massey and Victoria universities have combined the strengths of Massey's Conservatorium of Music and Victoria's School of Music to establish the New Zealand School of Music.

The school houses New Zealand's leading musicians, composers and musicologists. The major music programmes offered by the two existing schools of music are being reaccredited as New Zealand School of Music programmes jointly awarded by Massey and Victoria universities.

Date: 06/09/2005

Type: University News

Categories: College of Creative Arts; Video Multimedia

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# Mercury exposure linked to health problems

*Watch the ONE News item (1:46)*

*Listen to the National Radio item. 2mb mp3 (3:11)*

School dental nurses who were exposed to high levels of mercury as young women have more health problems than other women of the same age, according to a new Massey University study.

The study compares the health of 43 middle-aged women who were exposed to high levels of mercury at work and 32 women in a matched control group.

Psychology researcher Dr Linda Jones says the group exposed to mercury had more health problems, including headaches, metallic taste, dry skin, sleep disturbances, anxiety and tremor.

The most notable difference was reproductive health, where 25 percent of exposed women had hysterectomies, compared with six percent of control group, she says.

After health concerns for the dental nurses in the 1970s, copper amalgam fillings were no longer used in school dental clinics. Prior to 1974, fillings were made from copper amalgam, where pellets required heating, releasing toxic mercury vapour. This activity occurred on average 10 times per working day.

The study supports a theory that symptoms of mercury poisoning may be gradually unmasked with increasing age, as the evidence suggested that after 30 years there are health differences between the exposed women and the control group. The differences reflect typical symptoms for mercury exposure. These may become more of a concern with the women's increasing age.

Dr Jones is a lecturer and researcher in health psychology and behavioural neurotoxicology in the School of Psychology, at Massey University's Wellington campus. The dental nurses study was one part of a broader PhD thesis, titled The Quicksilver Quest: Two psychological studies investigating the effects of mercury in dentistry .

Date: 06/09/2005

Type: Research

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences; Explore - HEALTH; Video Multimedia

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# Pearce elected as Epidemiology President

Professor Neil Pearce, Director of the Centre for Public Health Research, has been elected President of the International Epidemiology Association (IEA) at the recent World Congress of Epidemiology in Bangkok.

Epidemiology is the scientific study of factors affecting the health and illness of populations.

The Association is the only global organisation of epidemiologists, and has members in more than 100 countries. It publishes the International Journal of Epidemiology, and has published the widely used Dictionary of Epidemiology.

It also conducts training courses, promotes epidemiology as a scientific discipline, and comments on issues that are of concern to epidemiologists including problems of funding, ethical issues, access to data, and access to appropriate training.

The association was celebrating its 50th anniversary at the Bangkok meeting. Professor Pearce is the first president of the association from the Southern Hemisphere. He will be president-elect for three years, before assuming the presidency at the next World Congress of Epidemiology in Porto Alegre, Brazil, in 2008.

The IEA was originally founded in England in 1955, and for many years was centred on Europe and North America, says Professor Pearce.

However, we are now particularly interested in building the work of the association in developing countries, while maintaining and supporting its current activities in Europe and North America. This trend is reflected in the fact that the meeting was in Bangkok, and that the next meeting will be in Brazil. It is not just a matter of enrolling more members in these regions, but also about shifting the 'centre of gravity' of the association in a direction that will make it more truly international.

My particular interest is the training of epidemiologists in developing countries. We plan to start an IEA international educational programme in epidemiology, which will run training courses throughout 'the South', he says.

Date: 06/09/2005

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences

# Short-term greed ignores Kyoto reality

Calls for New Zealand to abandon the Kyoto Protocol in light of British Prime Minister Tony Blair's change of heart ignore the reality of both climate change and the economic consequences of reliance on fossil fuels, says a professor of sustainable energy, Ralph Sims.

Professor Sims, Director of Massey University's Centre for Energy Research, says the claim by Northern Manufacturers' Association chief executive Alasdair Thompson that New Zealand should reconsider its position because Britain has, misses the point and is most likely wrong anyway.

Mr Blair's personal opinion on Kyoto expressed in a speech in the United States is not reflected by the policy of the British Labour Party and there are no signs coming from the party's current conference of any willingness to abandon Kyoto.

Mr Thompson's response to Mr Blair's comments have a lot in common with the recent approval given for the coal-fired Marsden B power station: They are saying climate change is not relevant to New Zealand.

Unfortunately for all of us, the climate science is very confident not 100% certain, but then science never can be that climate change will not go away. And New Zealand will not escape.

So building a cheap power station that will burn coal inefficiently for the next 50 to 60 years, and ignoring what Kyoto is trying to achieve, is cause for concern.

One group of New Zealanders believes climate change does not exist, so let's keep making money from burning fossil fuels anyway. The other group believes climate change is a major threat to the economy in terms of reduced agricultural exports, so let's reduce our dependence on fossil fuels.

The science clearly supports the latter.

It comes down to short-term greed, with the hope that future technological solutions will enable business as usual to continue, versus long-term concerns, with the vision that acting now will get us off to a good start trying to combat the inevitable threats, not only of climate change but of future high costs for conventional oil. We ain't seen nothing yet!

Governments of 156 countries, producing the majority of global greenhouse gases, have signed the Kyoto Protocol. Many individual states of both non-signatories Australia and the United States have publicly deplored their federal governments' reasons not to.

They surely have given this more thought than the New Zealand critics.

The protocol is in place only after lengthy deliberations because the world urgently needed to try and offset climate change.

Why would so many governments support it if it did not make sense for the Earth's future? They are not all stupid.

It was always going to be a first small step and it is not perfect. The next stage will be to bring in commitments for developing countries. But what else do we have?

Those opposed to it, and those willing to invest in major greenhouse gas-producing plants such as Marsden B, need to consider alternatives for the long-term future of New Zealand before looking for an easy way to make a quick return on investment.

**Created: 28 September, 2005**

Date: 24/09/2005

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences; Enviromental issues

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# Which intra uterine device works best for contraception?

A major review of copper intra-uterine devices as a contraception method is under way in the School of Health Sciences.

Since their introduction more than a quarter of a century ago, the little copper IUD has become widely accepted as a contraceptive device but is thought to have varying rates of success in preventing pregnancy. Despite many trials, there is uncertainty as to which IUDs work best. Researcher Dr Felix Ram is conducting the first ever comprehensive systematic review of the clinical effectiveness of copper intra-uterine devices.

The review was prompted by Dr Ram's experiences when he was recently a senior fellow at the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists in London. During his fellowship he was working on national guidelines for contraception in England and Wales.

While working on that project at the College, we realised there was quite a gap on research into copper IUDs. I decided to pursue this research from New Zealand, when I came to the School of Health Sciences at Massey.

Our objective is to conduct a systematic review of all available trials in order to determine if there are differences in efficacy between the various copper IUDs that are available. This review will only look at high quality randomized controlled trials where women of child-bearing age have been fitted with a copper IUD. The primary outcome for the review will be pregnancy rates for each copper IUD. Secondary outcomes will be rates of ectopic pregnancies and adverse events, says Dr Ram.

There are many brands of copper IUDs available. The copper ions in them prevent pregnancy by impairing sperm viability at fertilisation and also have a strong inhibitory effect on implantation.

IUDs vary in design, in copper content and their effectiveness in preventing pregnancy.

Data will be analysed using standard statistical software packages and each device's effectiveness will be represented as a relative risk of pregnancy.

Date: 24/09/2005

Type: Research

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences; Explore - HEALTH

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# NZ voting system open to abuse

The enrolment of a dog on the electoral roll may highlight the lack of security in New Zealand's voting system, says a Massey University political historian.

Dr James Watson, the head of the School of History, Philosophy and Politics, said the system appeared to be wide open to abuse.

I can remember going back 30 years suggestions that there were non-existent people on the roll and I don't know that anybody checks up.

He said the Electoral Enrolment Centre had done a good job encouraging people to enrol and he assumed anyone who attempted to vote more than once under the same name at different polling booths would be found out.

But with phantom voting you haven't got any checks that I know of. You don't have to provide a birth certificate when you enrol, just fill out a form and sign it.

In the case of Wanaka man Peter Rhodes, who enrolled his jack russell terrier Toby in the Otago electorate this year, a paw print was accepted as a signature.

Dr Watson said a student had asked him what was to stop her casting a vote on behalf of her sister, who had enrolled but gone overseas and had not cast a special vote.

I told her not to be so stupid because if she was caught it could ruin her life, but the fact is there was probably nothing to prevent it.

I remember the 1978 General Election was a disaster in the sense that the rolls were in a mess with vast numbers of dead people still enrolled.

However, Dr Watson said it seemed unlikely that the system was being rorted to any large degree.

You'd have to have a very well organised cheating set-up to make much difference, particularly with the party vote. You'd need thousands of extra votes and that would have to involve a large number of people with legitimate addresses.

He said part of the problem was that people could vote at any polling booth in the country, and were not required to produce ID, whereas in some countries you could vote only in your local polling booth.

I've often thought it would make interesting research to take some random pages form the electoral roll and just check up, even just to see if the addresses were legitimate.

For further information please contact Dr James Watson 06-356-9099 ext 4249

**Created: 26 September, 2005**

Date: 24/09/2005

Type: Research

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences

# Why Maori seats should stay

Uncertainty over the future of New Zealand's Maori electorates will remain at least until the shape of the next Government is decided. Massey University senior lecturer in social policy Dr Richard Shaw looks back over the 138-year history of the seats, finding it riddled with inconsistencies and discriminatory practices, and mounts arguments for retaining the current system.

**1867** The Maori Representation Act establishes four Maori seats in the 76-seat Parliament. They are voted for by Maori men aged 21 or over. Maori men therefore gain the universal franchise 12 years before non-Maori men who, until 1879, have to own or lease property of a certain value to have voting rights. They are not the only specialist electorates at the time: Three were set aside exclusively for Otago and Westland gold miners, and one for an Auckland Pensioners' Settlement electorate, although each of those four seats was abolished in 1870.

**1870**Secret ballots introduced for European electorates but Maori must vote by show of hands in front of a returning officer, and often under the watchful eye of local Rangatira, many of whom directed their people how to vote.

**1893** Maori women receive the right to vote along with all New Zealand women but only in the Maori electorates.

**1910** Voting by show of hands no longer compulsory although it is another 27 years before the law provides for compulsory secret ballots on Maori electorates.

**1919** New law requires voting in Maori electorates to be held on a different day from the general election, usually the day before.

**1949**Maori permitted to vote in national referenda.

**1951** Voting in Maori electorates returned to same day as general election.

**1967** Maori permitted to stand as candidates in European electorates, although still unable to register to vote in them unless they identify themselves by the official term 'half-caste'.

**1975** European seats renamed General. Maori given choice of enrolling on General or Maori roll.

**1993**Electoral Act provides for numbers of Maori seats to increase or reduce according to the size of the Maori roll. By this time there are twice as many Maori registered in each of the four seats as in the average General seat, of which there are 99. Over the next decade the number of Maori seats increases to seven.

**2005** General Election produces 18 Maori MPs, including four from new Maori Party. The number of Māori MPs now roughly in proportion to the number of Māori in the wider population. National Party pledge to abolish the Maori seats if it leads the new Government requires only a simple majority in Parliament whereas provisions governing the general electoral system cannot be amended without the support of at least 75 per cent of all MPs, or through a national binding referendum.

# Commentary

Dr Shaw does not believe the Maori seats are a version of apartheid, as has been claimed by some.

Apartheid was a system of institutionalised racism, which oppressed a black majority and shut it out of public life, he says.

For long periods of our history, had it not been for the Maori seats Parliament would have been a Maori-free zone.

It is difficult to see how the Maori seats can be described as a 'privilege'. Voters on the Maori roll have two votes just like everyone else. If you're on that roll, you can't pop your two votes in the ballot box then whip round and have another go in a General seat.

Also, the Maori electorates are more unwieldy than their General counterparts, covering huge geographic areas, particularly Te Tai Tonga, the Wellington-South Island seat, and Ikaroa Rawhiti on the East Coast. So, no sign of privilege there, for either the MP who has to spend long periods getting about the electorate, or for the constituent whose access to that MP is hampered by the tyranny of distance.

Boil it right down, and about the only thing that can be considered a privilege is that someone who identifies as Maori gets to choose which electoral roll they're on, while those of us who identify as something else do not. That doesn't appear to be something which gives those on the Maori roll any material gain which the rest of us don't get a sniff of.

Historically, being treated differently under electoral law has not been to the advantage of Maori. Anyway, depending on how one understands the notion, equality needn't require treating all people in exactly the same way. In fact, if equality is understood as achieving the same or similar outcomes, and if what is sought is a Maori presence in Parliament which reflects the presence of Maori in the wider population, then different treatment may well be justified.

In the end, the debate about the Maori seats is really about the form which Maori parliamentary representation should take. And it has been slap bang at the centre of this year's election action. Out there in the Maori seats, the old political verities have broken down. The Maori Party has taken full advantage of this. By taking four of the seven Maori seats, and creating a parliamentary overhang, the party has put itself right at the centre of the coalition negotiations.

While Labour does not need the four Maori Party MPs' support to form a government, at least under some scenarios, nonetheless it will talk with the party in the interests of securing a broad base of support in the next Parliament. On the other hand, as the numbers currently stand, National simply cannot create a government without the Maori Party, and it's difficult to see quite how National's promise to abolish the Maori seats can be accommodated by a party whose very existence depends on those seats. The Maori Party may well be the last cab off the rank, but if it's 3 in the morning, and there's only one cab left, then you pay the tariff.

**Created: 21 September, 2005**

Date: 24/09/2005

Type: Research

Categories: Any

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# Lahars, stars and evolution research receives Marsden funding

Research into the lahar predicted to flow from the Ruapehu volcano within the next year, and a search for planetary systems in the Galaxy are two of 12 Massey projects awarded in the 2005 Marsden grants.

Seven projects have been awarded full Marsden grants, and another five awarded Fast-Start awards, which recognise rising star researchers. They are part of $39.4 million support over the next three years from the Marsden Fund, administered by the Royal Society of New Zealand.

Palmerston North MP and Research, Science and Technology Minister Steve Maharey says the Marsden Fund results show that Massey University is moving from strength to strength.

In a news release, he said the University's major success in this year's Marsden round is further evidence of its growing reputation as a leading international research institution.

"Winning $5.2 million from the Marsden Fund is a huge endorsement of the cutting-edge research being carried out at the University.

"Massey is leading Palmerston North's drive to become an international centre of excellence in science and research. The talent the University is attracting to our city has major benefits for the local economy.

**Full Marsdens for seven**

**Dr Ian Bond** from the Institute of Information and Mathematical Sciences, will conduct a search for planetary systems in the Galaxy using a newly developed remarkably sensitive technique. Known as microlensing , the technique utilises the systems as large naturally occurring lenses, and is sensitive to planets with masses as low as that of the Earth. Microlensing events will be detected using a new 1.8 m telescope at the Mt John Observatory in Canterbury. Dr Bond's major scientific goal is to discover extrasolar planets in large enough numbers to measure the abundances of low mass (below 10 Earth masses) rocky planets in the Galaxy. A parallel goal is to look for evidence of planetary systems similar to that of our own Solar system. They will also use microlensing observations to search for isolated black holes and as a novel technique for measuring stellar shapes.

They will use the Deep Impact spacecraft to conduct stereoscopic observations of microlensing events from Earth and from the Deep Impact spacecraft. This will identify a class of lens star systems that may comprise a significant fraction of the Galactic dark matter. Led by Dr Bond, the research team's research will lay the groundwork for possible future New Zealand participation in Antarctic and space based astronomy.

**Dr Barbara Holland**, from the Allan Wilson Centre for Molecular Ecology and Evolution, will use genome-scale data sets to measure the impact of lineage-specific molecular evolution of plant species. Her team will gain a better understanding of plant phylogeny the development of a species over time as contrasted with the development of an individual. When biologists estimate evolutionary trees they rely upon mathematical models and encounter difficulties when realistic situations are too complex for the mathematical modelling. Dr Holland says that almost all mathematical models of evolution assume that the same processes across the evolutionary tree. Using these simple models of sequence evolution to estimate evolutionary trees for more recent divergences, such as mammals and birds, has been hugely successful. However, for deep divergences the fact that DNA sequences in different lineages acquire their

own properties is too important to ignore. Her study will use a genome-scale data set of nucleotide and protein alignments for 47 chloroplast genes and 30 taxa. By restricting the taxa to different subsets - flowering plants; land plants; green plants and green algae; all algae and plants Dr Holland's team will measure the impact of lineage-specific molecular evolution for a range of timescales and gain a better understanding of deep plant phylogeny

**Dr Kim McBreen** and Associate Professor Peter Lockhart from the Allan Wilson Centre for Molecular Ecology and Evolution, will use the native New Zealand plant genus, Pachycladon, to understand adaptive plant radiations.

While some plant lineages have maintained very similar forms over long periods of evolutionary time, others show recent phenotypic diversification. The floras of island groups, such as New Zealand, provide many examples of this type of diversification. The drivers of morphological and ecological diversification are unclear, but nonetheless it is generally accepted that a few key genes are involved in the evolution of plant form. Progress into the identification of these genes is being made using comparative approaches with model organisms. In particular, study of the model plant Arabidopsis and its close relatives is leading to a much greater understanding of the genetic processes involved in plant development and evolution. The native Pachycladon is closely related to Arabidopsis, recent in origin, and shows considerable diversity of form among its species. By taking advantage of the resources that are available for Arabidopsis, and the natural diversity within the Pachycladon group, the research team will make an important contribution into understanding the genetic processes important in plant species radiation. Dr Gill Norris & Dr Mark Patchett from the Institute of Molecular Biosciences will identify and study the bacterial farnesyltransferase enzyme to find out how adds farnesyl groups to proteins. Proteins are the molecular workers of life, and their diversity is far greater than can be predicted from genomes. Modifications to proteins after synthesis contribute to this diversity, effectively increasing the range of tasks that proteins perform. The addition of prenyl groups to C-terminal cysteins (one of the amino acids) of proteins is a pivotal eukaryotic modification associated with cell signalling and cancer. This modification is completely unknown in bacteria despite the universal availability of requisite isoprenoid substrates, and the existence of various other lipid-modified proteins. Drs Norris and Patchett have discovered that Lactobacillus plantarum produces a small antibacterial protein with a farnesylated C-terminal systeine, the first example of cysteine prenylation in bacteria. To carry out this modification, L. plantarum must produce an enzyme with farnesyltransferase (FTase) activity. The researchers aim to find the bacterial FTase enzyme investigate FTase distribution in prokaryotes, the biological consequences of its activity, and its evolutionary origin including any relationship to eukaryotic FTases.

**Dr Steve Pascal** from the Institute of Fundamental Sciences will study the mechanisms of protein interaction linked to prostate disease and neurodegenerative disease. Cancer, Alzheimer's disease, stroke and coronary heart disease are related to the process of programmed cell death, or apoptosis. The human body naturally kills many of its own cells from time to time, but in cases of cancer, damaged cells manage to evade apoptosis and multiply to form a tumour. In Alzheimer's disease, stroke and heart attack, otherwise healthy cells are triggered to die, damaging the brain or heart. It is therefore important to understand and work toward controlling apoptosis. The Par-4 protein is linked to each of the above conditions: it was first identified by its appearance in apoptosis-sensitive prostate cancer cells, and since has been found at unusually elevated levels in dying brain and heart cells. Dr Pascal will study how Par-4 interacts with other human proteins in order to understand how it affects apoptosis. Already, Dr Pascal's collaborators have determined that by introducing Par-4 into a tumour, cancer cells can be killed without affecting the surrounding tissue. They will study this mechanism in greater detail, and gather data which may lead to drugs designed to either inhibit (in heart and brain) or trigger (in tumours) apoptosis.

**Dr Bill Williams** from the Institute of Fundamental Sciences will investigate the nanomechanical structure-function relationships in nature's structural biopolymers with single molecule stretching. He says that there is a common perception that the smart materials and devices of the 21st century will be engineered at the nano-scale. Nature already performs such

bottom-up processing with aplomb, assembling structures at the molecular level in order to yield materials with desired macroscopic attributes. In addition biomaterials are often 'smart', changing their properties in response to external stimuli, and are processed at ambient temperatures, from sustainable resources, before being seamlessly recycled into the biosphere at the end of their usefulness. To be able to imitate this natural molecular change in the construction of our own materials and devices, the structure-function relationships it exploits must first be understood. Recently, the molecular origin of bio-mechanical properties has been investigated, with prototypical structuring biopolymers being stretched at the single molecule level: It has been found that certain polysaccharides, which play a major role in satisfying the structural requirements of both plant cell walls and animal connective tissues, undergo conformational transitions in their sugar rings under tension. This project will investigate how such transitions are controlled and utilised in nature.

**Dr Shane Cronin & Dr Vernon Manville** from the Institute of Natural Resources will conduct a highly opportunistic experiment, afforded by an expected lahar on the Ruapehu volcano, to study the the secrets of a lahar.
They will develop new techniques for understanding and monitoring geologic mass-flows. Since eruptions of 1996, the volcano's Crater Lake has risen behind a barrier of loose debris. Sudden failure of this dam and the triggering of a lahar is expected from late 2005 onward. New eruptions could also generate mass-flows at any time. The researchers will use this unique circumstance and employ aerial and digital photographic surveys to analyse post-event changes in channel morphology, sediment erosion and redistribution. They will develop innovative ways to apply mechanical, electro-magnetic, vibration, and pressure detection systems to understand the velocities, sediment distribution, flow and erosion processes within rapidly moving sediment-water slurries. The new monitoring systems will be tested in the lab as well as at Ruapehu and a debris flood-prone area in Indonesia. Results will form a globally unique dataset to enable the testing of evolving scientific hypotheses of sediment-water flow mechanics. The data will also serve as a global-standard against which the new generation of numerical and physical mass-flow models can be calibrated and refined.Fast Start grants for five

**Dr Paul Plieger** from the Institute of Fundamental Sciences will design an anion (a negatively charged ion) receptor capable of switching between binding two anions (that possess different geometric shapes and charges) with the application of a driving force. Anion recognition is an area of supramolecular chemistry (the study of molecular assembly using weak forces) that has gained increasing attention in recent years. Molecules (receptors) can be designed to 'recognise' or bind negatively charged species (anions) using appropriate functional groups, the number and position of which can induce selectivity - or the preferential binding of one anion over others. Electrical control of an anion receptor to 'catch' an anion is desirable. Currently, most research is focused on passive anion recognition where the anion receptor has been designed to match one specific anion; in order to bind a different anion a new molecular 'glove' is needed. This research aims to design an anion receptor capable of switching between binding two anions (that possess different geometric shapes and charges) with the application of a driving force (e.g. an applied electrical potential). It is intended that the skills and knowledge learnt from this study will be adapted to use for the design of anion drug delivery systems.Dr Beatrix Jones from the Institute of Information and Mathematical Sciences, will integrate information from genetic data, and information from demographic data (such as the size, age, and location of individuals) in a process called parentage analysis. She will examine parentage analysis as a tractable case study for understanding how the amount of data of different types affect parameter uncertainty. Hierarchical models are crucial statistical tools for integrating diverse data sources. One application is for studying the mating and dispersal patterns in natural populations. In many hierarchical models, including parentage analysis models, the relationship between the quantity and type of data collected and the quality of inference about model parameters is still imperfectly understood. This poses a barrier to designing efficient data collection schemes. Dr Jones' results will be applicable across the range of hierarchical models, as well as tools of immediate application to those studying population demographic structure with parentage analysis.

**Dr Alona Ben-Tal** from the Institute of Information and Mathematical Sciences will study the transition from normal breathing to Cheyne-Stokes respiration (CSR) in humans. CSR is a form of sleep-disordered breathing where a person experiences cycles of increasing followed by decreasing ventilation, followed by periods of breath holding. This form of breathing is seen in people with heart failure and neurological disorders, in infants and in healthy people at high altitude. The phenomenon is still not well understood. Known as bifurcation in mathematical jargon, CSR has previously been explained by one type of bifurcation found in mathematical models that average the ventilation over time. However, other types of bifurcations that could possibly give rise to CSR could not have been captured by the previous models. This research will look for other types of bifurcations (and hence new mechanisms to explain CSR) by studying simplified mathematical models that do not average the ventilation over time. Understanding the mechanism for the onset of CSR could help develop new methods of treatment and diagnosis of patients who suffer from CSR including those with cardiovascular disease.Dr Christine van Dalen from the Centre for Public Health Research will investigate the role of lung macrophage in asthma pathology. A primary feature of asthma is the persistence of acute inflammatory cells recruited to the airways during an asthma attack. They normally die soon after by a controlled process termed apoptosis. The major advantage of this form of cell death is that the tissue-destroying contents of the dead cells remain sealed away from surrounding tissues. They are then removed from the lung by engulfment (phagocytosis) within the lung macrophage, leaving the surrounding tissues undamaged. If the inflammatory cells are not removed in this way, they break apart and release their contents into the airways. New inflammatory cells are then recruited, making the airways susceptible to a further asthma attack. This project will investigate whether a defect in lung macrophage ability to remove such cells from the airways of asthmatics contributes to tissue destruction and the persistence of inflammation. It will compare the ability of macrophages obtained directly from the airways of asthmatics and non-asthmatics to engulf inflammatory cells. If the hypothesis is correct, the study will uncover a defect of cellular function fundamental to the development of chronic inflammation in asthma.Dr Sebastian Link from the Department of Information Systems will investigate complex-value database design problems using Brouwerian algebras. A key challenge for database researchers is the provision of a central approach for the representation and efficient management of complex application data. Such data occur in areas such as molecular biology, chemical reactions, cell processes, e-business, seismology, vulcanism and geographic information systems. While the mathematical and logical basis for traditional database systems is sufficient for dealing with simple data, there are not yet such strong foundations for complex-value data. Researchers have observed that Brouwerian algebras provide a coherent framework for extending traditional database design solutions to deal with complex structured data from many different application areas. The goal is to use the theory of Brouwerian algebras to formally specify dependencies among complex data; to investigate how their semantics can be captured and processed efficiently; and to study how such dependencies can be utilised to provide syntactic guidelines for semantically well-designed databases that are free from data redundancies and processing difficulties. The researchers aim to obtain a better general understanding of common characteristics of complex data, and therefore contribute to a mathematically sound foundation of future-generation databases.

Date: 24/09/2005

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Business; College of Creative Arts; College of Education; College of Humanities & Social Sciences; College of Sciences

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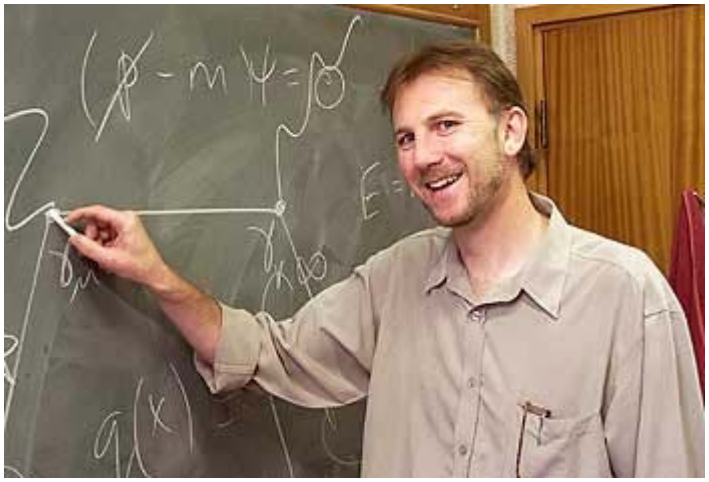

# Royal Society medal for physicist

Theoretical physicist Professor  in the Institute of Fundamental Sciences has been awarded one of two New Zealand Science and Technology medals.

Established by the Royal Society of New Zealand, the medals recognise and honour those who have made exceptional contributions to New Zealand society and culture through activities in the broad fields of science, mathematics, social science, and technology.

The recipient of a bronze medal, Professor Signal (pictured) has a long and distinguished record of bringing physics to the wider community. The medals recognise contribution beyond an immediate work environment. Importance is placed on the concept of informing the wider public in order to facilitate a greater understanding of the sciences and technology.

Professor Signal is the chairman of the New Zealand Physics Olympiad Organising Committee, and has been an examiner for secondary school scholarship physics. Through these roles, and through his work on the National Committee of CREST (an international awards scheme designed to encourage student science projects), Professor Signal has contributed significantly to the support of young people studying science.

He will be awarded his medal at a celebration hosted by the Royal Society later in the year.

**Created: 23 September, 2005**

Date: 24/09/2005

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Sciences

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# Mt Taranaki overdue for eruption

Researchers have uncovered evidence suggesting Mt Taranaki is overdue to erupt, possibly blanketing much of the North Island in ash and disrupting power and water supplies, farming and aviation.

Although the 2518m volcano, New Zealand's second-highest, has shown little or no sign of activity for two centuries, the new research suggests it has erupted at least once every 90 years on average for the past 9000 years, with a major eruption every 500 years.

This is far greater frequency than previous realised.

The study, by Dr Shane Cronin of the Institute of Natural Resources at Massey and PhD student Michael Turner, is part of a larger programme into North Island volcanic risk funded by the Public Good Science Fund of the New Zealand Foundation for Science and Technology.

It involved extraction and analysis of a series of cores from the sediments of Lake Umutekai, 5km east of New Plymouth and about 25km north-east of the volcano.

Dr Cronin said the rapidly accumulating organic sediments within the lake were perfect for trapping ash layers from Mt Taranaki.

They collected the cores earlier this year and were astonished to find almost 100 ash layers revealed in them.

By using several radiocarbon dates throughout the core, they were able to reconstruct the most detailed view ever of the eruption history of the mountain.

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, he said.

Each of the volcanic ash layers in the core are from millimetres to several-centimetres thick. The smaller units represent eruption magnitudes similar to the 1995-1996 Mt Ruapehu events, while the larger units represent eruptions on the scale of the 1886 Mt Tarawera eruption.

The Umutekai record also suggests that there is a larger eruption approximately every 500 years, the last occurred in 1655. These eruptions are large enough to shower New Plymouth with pumice and rock fragments the size of raisins, producing a deposit up to tens of centimetres thick.

An eruption of this scale would undoubtedly cause substantial disruption to much of the North Island, cutting power supplies, damaging transmission lines, water supplies and stormwater.

The bulk of the ash cloud would disrupt all main North Island airline flight paths and the prevailing south-westerly wind would the cloud directly over Auckland, closing the country's largest international airport.

Fragments from previous Taranaki eruptions have been found in lakes near Te Awamutu in the Waikato and Tutira, Hawke's Bay.

In addition there could be severe problems for farmers, particularly dairy and horticulture, with ash damage to pasture, crops and orchards and ash blocking air filters on milking shed cooling plants, limiting farmers' ability to store milk. Twenty per cent of New Zealand's dairy cattle are farmed in the Taranaki region.

Dr Cronin said at this stage there was nothing more than the statistical evidence to suggest an eruption was imminent. The mountain 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.

Dr Cronin said statistics were vital to vulcanology.

With volcanic activity, the past is the key to the future. If you consider Taranaki has been active for 130,000 years, just because it's been quiet for the last 200 years doesn't mean it has stopped.

Normally evidence for these types of eruptions cannot be found within soils, so they have been overlooked in past studies on the volcano.

More concerning than the frequency of these eruptions, is that they have often occurred in swarms semi-continuous eruptions over many years. The last, recorded in 1755 but possibly followed up with a further eruption in the early 1800s, formed the present cone on Taranaki.

A similar volcano-type, Soufrière Hills volcano on the island of Montserrat in the Caribbean, shows a present-day example of this type of activity, since it has been continually erupting for the past decade.

These new results show only the eruptions of Mt Taranaki during south-westerly winds, indicating the average frequency of eruptions may be even higher than one every 90 years.Mr Turner, Dr Cronin and colleagues at Massey University will continue collecting new cores from swamps and lakes in other areas around Mt Taranaki to ultimately come up with the most detailed record possible of the volcano's history.

These data are to be used to develop probability models in order to forecast the chances of future events and help authorities and businesses to plan for the next one.

**For further information contact:**
Dr Shane Cronin 06-356-9099 ext 7207 or 027-278-2223
**For a digital image of Dr Cronin contact:**
Dave Wiltshire 027-645-1916

**Related links:**
http://masseynews.massey.ac.nz/2004/research-mag/pdf/Research-Vulcanology.pdf
http://www.trc.govt.nz/ACTIVITIES/cdem/cdem.htm
http://www.geonet.org.nz/aboutvolcanoes.html

Date: 06/10/2005

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences

*Left: Palmerston North Blues winners. Right: Winners at the Auckland campus ceremony.*

# 2005 University sports Blues awarded

University Sports Blues were awarded recently at ceremonies in Palmerston North and Auckland.

Champion kayakers Anne Cairns and Michael Dawson were named the Bank of New Zealand Palmerston North campus Sportswoman and Sportsman of the Year.

Anne is currently completing a Graduate Diploma in Business Studies and finished first in the K1 at the New Zealand Nationals. Following the World Cup Championships in Europe earlier this year, Anne is ranked 10th in the world and her best race result was 6th in race one at the World Cup.

First-year business studies student Michel Dawson is currently ranked New Zealand's number one men's slalom kayaker and is current National Senior Champion. Michael won gold at the Youth Olympic Festival and also gained first placing at the Australian U22 National Championships. In June he travelled to Europe and competed in the World Cup Championships where he gained a world ranking of 32nd in Senior Freestyle and an overall world ranking of 44th/129.

For the second year in a row top New Zealand swimmer Helen Norfolk is Sportswoman of the Year for the Auckland campus. Helen is the national title holder for 200 and 400m freestyle and 200 and 400 medley.In world rankings she is number 15 in 200m. In the recent University games in Turkey, she was a four times silver medallist.

Yachtsman Michael Bullot was names Sportsman of the Year for Auckland campus. Michael is New Zealand Laser Champion and his world ranking is 32nd/900. This year he has finished 23rd in the European Laser Championships,3rd in the Asia Pacific Championships, second in the Australian Nationals and first in New Zealand.

The Palmerston North MUSA Awards this year were awarded to the top performing men's and women's sports Teams at the University.

The Ezibuy Massey Women's Volleyball Team was awarded the Women's Sports Team of the Year after winning the New Zealand National Volleyball Championships inAugust and is the first Central Zone Women's team to win a National title in the 37 year history of the National Championships.

The team won all five central zone tournaments and was the first team to finish with a record of seven tournament wins over seven tournaments played a perfect season of 38 wins and 0 losses.

Team members include Eloise Jillings (Captain), Rebecca Reidy , Kali Gatland , Kim Tootell, Florence Tauli, Tomoka Saotome, Anna Scarlett, Susan Blundell, Mel Parnell , Sarah McNally,

Kim Wong, Emma Preston, Lucy Todd, Warren Smith (Coach), Bevan Erueti (Assistant Coach)

The Varsity Blues Men's Hockey Team was awarded MUSA Men's sports team of the year and won the Darwick Shield 2004 and 2005 in the local Manawatu competition of six teams. The team also won the Mid Central League in August 2004 and were semi-finalists in 2005. The Mid Central League has 10 teams in it. Several players from Varsity Blues also play for the Central Mavericks Men's Hockey Team.

Team includes: Matthew Brown, Joseph Crawford, Chris Furminger (Captain), Stephen Graham, Aneil Hari, David Henderson, Charles Jenkins, Robert Lethbridge, Cody Linton, Shaun Matthews, Steven McHardy, Adrian Rigby, Vijay Soma, Jay Sorenson, Abe Pourau (Coach).

**Blues Awards were also Awarded in Palmerston North to:**
BADMINTON: Leck ChuanTham and Leck Sheng Tham; CANOE POLO & CANOE SLALOM: Tania Perrett; CANOE SLALOM: Michael Dawson, Johann Roozenburg and Mark Yungnickel; CRICKET: Andrea Stockwell and Nicole Thessman; DUATHLON: Clive Cooper; EQUESTRIAN EVENTING: Hannah Gloyn and Sam Taylor; GOLF: Stephanie McKillop; HOCKEY: Angela Croad, Marcus Emery, Zoë Gilmer, Stephen Graham, Claire Hunter, Cody Linton, Shaun Matthews; INLINE HOCKEY: Sam Beardman and James Trevena-Brown; JUDO: Timothy O'Hara; KARTSPORT: Matthew Lee; NETBALL: Erika Burgess and Lana Phipps; RALLY CO-DRIVING: Sara Randall; ROLLER SKATING: Sarah Jane Jones; ROWING: Justin Evans; RUGBY: Matthew Barnes and Nathan Ransfield; SOCCER: Chelsea Aim, Peter Halstead, Hannah Light and Denbigh O'Keefe; TRIATHLON: Alice Weaver; VOLLEYBALL: Rebecca Reidy and Kim Tootell; WILD WATER KAYAKING: Anne Cairns; DEBATING: Julia Pearce; PERFORMING ARTS: Angie Farrow; WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL :Eloise Jillings

SPECIAL AWARDS: Outstanding Contribution Awards for services to Massey Clubs, Sports & Campus Life were awarded to Julia Pearce; DEBATING: Angie Farrow, PERFORMING ARTS ; Eloise Jillings, WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL and Kaye Connor for her outstanding contribution to the Blues Awards organisation and her role on the Blues Committee.

**Blues Awards were also awarded in Auckland to:**
ARTISTIC GYMNASTICS:Ailish Nolan; ATHLETICS: Cameron Calkoen, Elizabeth Orchard; BOARDSAILING: John Paul Tobin; CRICKET: Jason Donnelly; EQUESTRIAN SHOWJUMPING: Lisa Coupe; HENCING: Yafei Fan; HOCKEY: Amanda Green, Kate Mahon, Lloyd Stephenson; INDOOR CRICKET: Heather Dawson; Judo: Alister Leat; KARTSPORT: Brent Humphrey; RUGBY: Robert Colhoun, Anna Richards, Ryan Wilson; ROWING: Richard Beaumont; ORIENTEERING: Greg Flynn and Claire Paterson; SURF LIFE-SAVING: Johanna O'Connor and Jane Moors; SWIMMING: Alison Fitch, Helen Norfolk, Te Rina Taite, Scott Talbot-Cameron; YACHTING: Michael Bullot, Sarah Macky, Alaistair Thompson, Sara Winther.

Date: 06/10/2005

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: Sport and recreation

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*Early career researchers Dr Mark Waterland (Institute of Fundamental Sciences), Dr Justin O'Sullivan (Institute of Molecular BioSciences), and Dr Stephen Marsland (Institute of Information Sciences and Technology).*

# Maharey hails research 'heroes'

The partnership between university research and teaching is here to stay, the Minister of Research Science and Technology, Steve Maharey, told those gathered at the Massey University Research Medals dinner at Parliament.

It is now very clear that our teaching needs to be continuously refreshed and informed by high-quality research, said Mr Maharey, a former Massey senior lecturer and the MP for Palmerston North since 1990.

This had not always been the case, he said, recalling how in the first half of the 20th century there was no funding allocated for university research and even active discouragement of university staff, who were primarily seen as teachers, conducting research.

In 1908 the Minister of Education made 100 pounds a year available to each college to encourage investigations likely to be of economic value to industry.

By 1946 the research funding available from the Government to all universities had increased to 10,000 pounds, Mr Maharey said, for which the Education Department received 77 applications totalling 24,000 pounds.

So you can see over-bidding is not a new phenomenon.

Things had changed a lot since.

Last year universities performed a $455 million worth of research and development, funded from Vote Education ($121 million), Vote Research, Science and Technology ($117 million), universities own funds ($117 million) and private sector funding of $16 million.

The balance came from other government departments and overseas.

The research we need to produce economic, social and environmental advances will be based on skilled and inspired people coming out of our education system.

Mr Maharey paid tribute to the energy and commitment of Massey's researchers and teachers.

Tonight's awards highlight the importance of two things, people and excellence. Whether it is about researching or teaching, the things that make the real difference are people who strive for, and deliver, excellence.

He said he was proud of the Government's achievements in introducing performance-based research funding and centres of research excellence, such as Massey's Allan Wilson Centre.

Of course it's easy to talk about high-level strategies and dollars, but in the end it comes back to people doing excellent work.

It's Ernest Rutherford, Alan MacDiarmid, Beatrice Tinsley, Maurice Wilkins and Allan Wilson who inspire us and the next generation of students.

These people are the heroes and the architects of our future prosperity and well-being. It is my great privilege to join with you to acknowledge some of the current heroes tonight.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Judith Kinnear told the gathering that one of the foundations of an innovative and prosperous nation is high quality research such as that being celebrated at the awards dinner.

She said the awards celebration is one of the ways in which the University continues to foster excellence, in all areas of our research and teaching, from informed undergraduate teaching and research training to our postgraduate research and teaching and the research efforts of all staff.

Professor Kinnear noted Massey's position as a serious research 'player' which had achieved a 50 percent increase research and consultancy income over recent years.

A remarkable achievement when you consider we do not have a medical research faculty. We achieved more research degree completions in 2004 than any other provider and we are the only New Zealand university with an involvement in the Centres of Research Excellence.

She said there is a commitment to providing facilities and infrastructure to support research and researchers, listing the NMR facility, the Double Helix, the co-location of the AgResearch Hopkirk Institute on the Palmerston North campuses, and Massey's contribution to the Synchotron as examples of that commitment.

Date: 06/10/2005

Type: Awards and Appointments

Categories: College of Sciences

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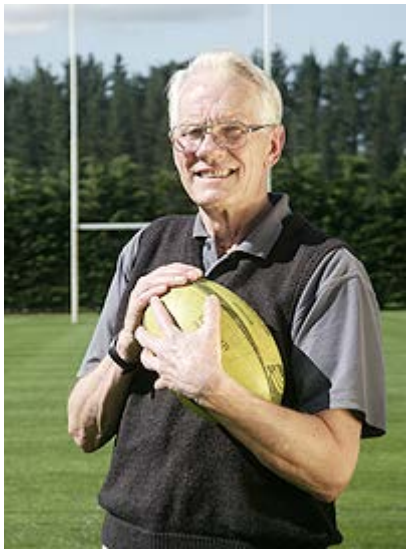
# War of the Codes: the origin of NZ rugby league



A Massey University PhD student has chosen an unusual and little-studied subject for his history thesis: the development of rugby league in New Zealand from 1908-20.

But 73-year-old Bill Greenwood is no ordinary student.

The Lancashire-born Wanganui resident has completed a masters degree in history since retiring as a secondary school teacher. The thesis was the introduction of rugby league football into New Zealand's central provinces.

For his PhD, Mr Greenwood broadened the subject matter to include the entire country and found a fascinating area of history that touches on the class divides, elitism and often bitter battle for supremacy in two of the biggest sporting codes that has barely been written about.

Unlike rugby union, which has spawned almost as many books, biographies and almanacs as there have been All Black tests, league, in literary terms anyway, has been very much the poor cousin.

Mr Greenwood found virtually all of his research depended on trawling though old newspapers from throughout the country.

He says the development of league occurred in the face of an active campaign of opposition by the Rugby Union driven in part by this country's unique demographics.

In the years between 1908 and 1920 the Rugby Union realised it could not afford to allow league to become the preferred rugby code of the working class, as had occurred in northern England and in Sydney. Had that happened, rugby union would have permanently lost its status as the country's national game.

With its small and scattered population it was only in the four large cities that the middle class were numerous enough to possibly sustain rugby union competitions without working class players.

To lose its working class players to rugby league would have meant that rugby union would have become a minor sport.
Tactics employed to keep players included:

∑ Attempts to deny league players access to municipal grounds and keep the game out of schools.

∑ A propaganda campaign to (incorrectly) brand league players as professional sportsmen, and simultaneous flouting of rugby union's amateur rules to secretly pay players either to keep them in union or lure them back from league.

Although it threatened to do so, the Rugby Union found it could not adopt the English policy of banning for life any union player who played league.

It's not in the character of New Zealanders to be dictated to so if the Rugby Union had said 'you can't come back' they would have gone anyway and stuck with league, Mr Greenwood says.

Another threat by the Union was to ban grounds used for league games from ever again being used for union games. Mr Greenwood says this threat too was largely hollow because to carry it out would have quickly reduced the available playing fields, most of which were owned by municipalities. However, it succeeded in persuading some councils against accepting bookings for league matches.New Zealand simply did not have the population to support a rugby code confined to the middle classes.

The policy followed by the England Rugby Union once it accepted it had lost the working class of the north to league was to concentrate on trying to ensure league was kept out of the rest of the country. Similarly in Sydney, there was a sufficient population base for rugby union to abandon the working class to league and rely on middle classes to supply enough players through schools, clubs and universities.

New Zealand was unique because league was introduced here throughout the country rather than to specific cities or regions and it was driven by rugby union players, who took part in a tour to Britain in 1907 organised by Albert Henry Baskiville and the 1905 All Black George Smith, and then returned the following year to promote the game.

Despite the antipathy of the New Zealand Union, many working class players did try league but many also went back to union after a few games.

To ban them from returning would have destroyed the dominance of rugby union, Mr Greenwood believes.

New Zealand did not have the heavy industry and factories that produced the tight-knit working class communities of England's northern cities or Sydney.

Many workers were skilled craftsmen employed in small establishments. Most towns were too small for the classes to lead separate lives and all lived in the same neighbourhood, attended the same schools, shopped in the same shops, attended the same churches and played for the same sports clubs.

Auckland, with a population of about 100,000, was the success story of rugby league and successfully vied with rugby union, attracting as many players and even greater spectator support during the period.

In 1908 teams from Southland, Otago and South Canterbury played each other in the South island, while the North Island provinces of Auckland, Taranaki and Wellington played one another.

In 1910 the game was launched in Wanganui and Hawke's Bay and in 1912 half the Marlborough representative rugby team defected to league to play games against teams from Nelson and Wellington.

But most big centres could support only a handful of clubs and smaller towns could barely field enough players for even one club.

Mr Greenwood says claims the league players were paid were a myth. The only payments were daily allowances to touring players, as with union, and league did not have the support base to provide the money for under-the-table payments, unlike some of the big rugby union clubs, particularly in Auckland.

**Bill Greenwood was born in Lancashire, England, and grew up in a soccer-playing town, but discovered rugby league as a teenager in the 1940s. After moving to Wanganui in 1974, he became secretary of the Aotea Rugby League Club when it was re-established.**

**He is studying at the School of History, Philosophy and Politics and his thesis is**

**provisionally entitled The Impact of the Introduction of Rugby League Football into New Zeaand 1908-20.**

Date: 06/10/2005

Type: Research

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences

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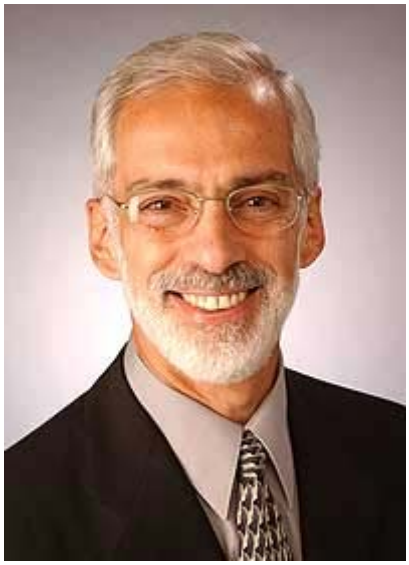
# What makes students succeed



What makes students learn and stick at the learning? How do you create equal learning opportunities for students from underprivileged backgrounds with no tradition of higher education?

One answer is to encourage learning communities in which students are encouraged to take the same subjects and build a social life around shared study.

Learning communities are amongst the many strategies advocated by Professor Vincent Tinto, a leading United States expert in the complex areas of student learning, retention and attainment in higher education. Currently Distinguished Professor at the School of Education at Syracuse University, New York, he uses his knowledge to provide advice to college and university teachers and to help formulate policy in the U.S.

Professor Tinto will visit the Wellington campus this month, as part of the annual Deputy Vice-Chancellor seminar series. He will give a public lecture on 10 October and will run an invitation-only workshop titled 'The role of student services in student success' for University staff from all three campuses.

Professor Tinto defines his interests as theory and research on student persistence and attainment in higher education and on curricular and innovations designed to enhance student attainment, especially for underrepresented and under prepared students. He has been closely involved in programmes and policy reviews at state, national, and international levels, to enhance college graduation and close the gap between different groups in society.

His current and planned writing and research include Colleges as Communities: Rethinking American Higher Education, a book on higher education reform and Taking Student Retention Seriously, a book on the application of theory and research on student retention to issues of higher education practice and reform.

He has also produced a policy position paper for the State of New York on closing the gaps in college graduation, and a longitudinal study of the long-term impact of learning communities on the success of 'at-risk' college students in so-called urban two and four-year colleges.

Amongst Professor Tinto's many strategies to improve student improve retention and attainment is the concept of learning communities. This strategy requires students to share the learning experience by enrolling in two or more courses together. The courses themselves must be linked by an organizing theme or problem that gives meaning to their linkage. An important attribute is that they serve to build academic as well as social connections.

He argues that colleges and universities should make shared connected learning the norm not the exception, of student college experience, especially during the critical first year of college.

Whenever and wherever possible students should be asked to learn together and to do so in ways that integrate the knowledge they gain from various courses. And they should participate in learning environments that requires them to be active in shaping what is learned, that recognizes that knowledge is socially constructed through connection. conversations among learners, students and faculty alike, that it is not simply the result of receiving knowledge from others .

Date: 06/10/2005

Type: University News

Categories: College of Education

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*Dr John holland (3rd from left) and the CrocTrack team*

*Watch the ONE News item: Quicktime or Windows*

# Tracking the crocodile's trail with satellite technology

In boats at 2am on a mid-July morning, Massey Masters student Bindi Thomas and team captured, satellite-tagged and released their first crocodile in the estuaries of the Adelaide River, 100km east of Darwin, Australia.

They used flashlights to illuminate the red eyes of Sputnik, a 4.2m male Crocodylus porosus, the first in his species to take part in a ground-breaking satellite monitoring programme to assist in the management of the endangered reptile.

The basis of Ms Thomas' Masters thesis, the project is a collaboration between Massey University (New Zealand), and Australia's Parks and Wildlife Service, Northern Territory and the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service.

In a procedure developed and fine-tuned by Dr John Holland and postgraduate students in the University's Natural Resource Management programme, the estuarine crocodile was tagged with a six-inch transmitter with two aerials. Attached painlessly and safely between scales on the crocodile's neck, the waterproof transmitter will communicate with a bi-polar satellite, allowing data of its location and movements to be collected for one year on a regular basis.

Using a Geographic Information System (GIS), the location data will be combined with various other types of meteorological data to gain a greater understanding of the range of the crocodile. Ultimately, the information will be used to improve the management of interaction between the species, humans and livestock.

Ms Thomas says the project will provide valuable tools to further wildlife management in Australia's Northern Territories. A protected species since 1971, numbers in the region have steadily increased from 3000 to 70,000. Consequentially there are increased interactions between people and crocodiles as they spread across their natural habitat in the area's wildlife parks.

Dr Holland says Ms Thomas' success has been extraordinary. You give her a couple of words and she comes back with gold, a real adventurer and an up and coming croc-ologist.

This research is important on a global scale, but it is especially important for the Northern Territories because it will fill a gap in the information about this shy, elusive creature. We know next to nothing about their home ranges, and with this information managers will know where they are, and where they move around, to protect both people and also to ensure they have areas reserved for them.

Dr Holland's team in the Natural Resource Management group have fine-tuned the transmitter and GIS technology in similar projects with the New Zealand falcon and elephants in Africa. Ms Thomas has designed a website that enables the public to watch Sputnik's movements themselves, and has received positive feedback from international scientists as well as children.

Visit http://www.croctrack.org.nz to see Sputnik's movements and to read more information about the project.

Date: 06/10/2005

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences

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Steady growth in value-added food exports

New research shows the proportion of value-added food and beverage exports has continued to rise steadily against commodity products, with sector enjoying growth of nearly 10 per cent in the past five years.

An ongoing study by the Institute of Food, Nutrition and Human Health for New Zealand Trade and Enterprise (NZTE) has found that earnings from value-added food and beverage exports grew to $8.11 billion, or 54 percent of all food and food ingredient exports, for the year ended June 2004.

The earnings in 2004 increased from $7.6 billion in 2003, a rise of 6.7 percent over the 12 months.

The study has been carried out annually since 2000, giving researchers the opportunity to directly compare results. Overall there has been a 53.6 percent increase in revenue from value-added products since 2000 and only a 5.3 percent rise in revenue from commodity exports in the same period.

The study uses a mix of export data, industry identification and financial analysis tools to define the dollar and percentage values of added-value and commodity food products in key export categories.

It breaks down value-added percentages in the main export categories of meat, dairy, fruit and vegetable, beverages, cereals, seafood and miscellaneous and found that the biggest increases in 2004 came from the dairy and meat sectors.

Export revenue earnings in the meat sector rose from $4.30 billion in 2003 to $4.7 billion in 2004, with value-added products accounting for well over half of the increase.

While revenue from dairy products fell overall in the year, the report indicates the sector actually increased exports of value-added products by 20 percent compared with 2003, 'a remarkable response' in a trading climate where commodity revenue continued to decline.

Project manager Professor Ray Winger says the results are encouraging. "During the five years this study has been carried out, different sectors showed a range of value-added from 23 percent to 79 percent, indicating that the New Zealand food industry has a high level of value-added products.

“There is clearly a growing sophistication in product development and marketing innovation which is essential for long term sustainability and to deliver what markets and customers want."

NZTE Group General Manager - Food and Beverage, Rod MacKenzie, says having more than half of New Zealand's food and beverage exports coming from value-added foods is a sign that the industry is clearly focused on change.

"Increasing value-added exports is vital to meet the challenges the sector faces from fluctuating commodity prices and foreign exchange movements," he says.

The full report is available at http://www.nzte.govt.nz

Date: 19/10/2005

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences

# Study: Endometriosis often misdiagnosed

Scientists at Massey University are calling for greater awareness of endometriosis and development of pain management services for sufferers.

The scientists say they found many women with endometriosis had to wait as long as 10 years for the painful gynecological condition to be diagnosed.

Endometriosis occurs when cells normally found in the uterus lodge in other parts of the body, where they can cause heavy bleeding, pain, and fertility problems. It significantly affects women's quality of life. Characteristically the condition causes severe pain and impacts negatively on the ability to work, on family relationships, and self-esteem.

Associate Professor at the School of Health Sciences, Annette Huntington, says general practitioners often told patients they were suffering such conditions as irritable bowel syndrome. But she said once the women were referred to a gynecologist, endometriosis was promptly diagnosed.

One unidentified woman, misdiagnosed with irritable bowel syndrome, said she raised the issue of endometriosis after her husband recognized the symptoms in a magazine article he was reading in the doctor`s office.

'That`s when we asked and (the doctor) said, 'Oh yeah, it could be', she told the researchers.

This raises issues about the awareness and knowledge of this very commonly experienced condition among primary healthcare professionals, says Professor Huntington.

Eighteen women were interviewed for the study. The dominant feature of the interviews was the experience of severe and chronic pain impacting on all aspects of everyday life, says Professor Huntington.

The study is detailed in the latest issue of the Journal of Clinical Nursing.

Date: 24/10/2005

Type: Research

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences; Explore - HEALTH

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# Industry in desperate need of IT graduates

University computer courses are under-subscribed yet employers are desperate for graduates, says Associate Professor Chris Freyberg.

Every day in the IT pages of the newspapers we've got stories about the lack of IT people and the industry knocking on the Government's door wanting to bring in more IT-skilled immigrants, he says.

Dr Freyberg, head of the Information Systems Department in the College of Business, says school leavers planning to go to university next year should consider doing just two computing papers in their first year to see if they like it because the jobs are definitely out there.

He acknowledges the industry has been volatile in the past but says it's time to shake the hang-over from 2000 when the over-hyped dotcom sharemarket bust and the Y2K fizzer combined to drive many away.

The reality is that companies of all sizes will always need competent computer specialists. It's a misconception that information technology is no longer a viable career.

Another misconception about the industry was that it was the preserve of nerdy backroom guys.

The industry is telling us it wants people with good social skills, who are team players they're screaming out for them. If you can't communicate with clients, or if you can't work in a team you're no use to most businesses.

And that boils down to a lot of them saying they want women.

Dr Freyberg says it does not really matter what subjects pupils study at school.

Anything that requires you to do careful analysis equips you for computing: history, economics, maths, or a science. Computing is a mixture of creativity and discipline.

He says secondary school computing courses are not essential and not having done one is no barrier.

I advise new students that they only need to take two computing papers in their first year and for the other six do anything they like, as varied as possible. In their second year, they'll do at least four papers out of the eight in computing.

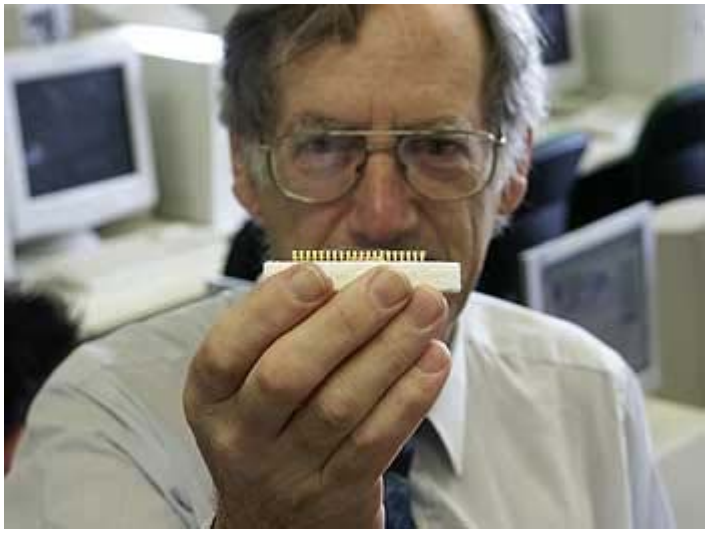
Massey offers information systems courses across each of its campuses Auckland, Palmerston North, Wellington and Extramural.

**Created: 21 October, 2005**

Date: 24/10/2005

Type: University News

Categories: College of Sciences



# Chip makers succeed on first attempt

A group of engineering and physics students has risen to the challenge of producing a silicon chip based on the same technology that powers today's microprocessors.

A semester of hard work by the 20 fourthyear Bachelor of Engineering students culminated in a chip design being submitted for fabrication at a United States silicon foundry.

Project co-ordinator Dr Roger Browne (pictured) said it was first for the University. Never before had an undergraduate class project designed a silicon chip from scratch. It was also rare for a first attempt to be successful.

For us, the fact that it actually works at all is a big thing, says Dr Browne, a senior lecturer in the Institute of Information Sciences and Technology.

To even do it at all from New Zealand is difficult. He believed only Canterbury University's engineering school had previously done something similar.

University-level teaching of very largescale integrated (VLSI) technology usually takes the simplest and safest path of computer simulation.

If the simulated chip doesn't work the first time then the students can adjust their design and try again. When you are constructing a real chip, there is only one opportunity to get it right.

To be able to get to that stage the students needed to understand the complexities of VLSI circuit design as well as coming to grips with the industrial-strength design software.

To physically produce the design, the team successfully applied for acceptance in the Southern California-based MOSIS education programme. Mosis (an acronym for Metal Oxide Semiconducter Implementation System) is a low-cost prototyping and small-volume productions service for VLSI circuit development, which helps commercial firms, government agencies and research and education facilities.

Dr Browne says one of the big driving forces behind the project and its success was visiting Professor Marek Syrzycki from Simon Fraser University in Vancouver, Canada, who spent the semester assisting him and the students.

The big question now was whether to do it again. Dr Browne has surveyed his students and found them unanimously in favour so hopes to repeat the exercise next year, despite the all the extra work it involves for staff and students and a huge amount of paperwork required by the

chip manufacturer.

The planning and hard work have paid off, he says.

With the finished chips delivered, tested, and pronounced 100% successful, there are now 20 Massey students who can say that they had a hand in the construction of a silicon chip.

And the students themselves are more from page 1 than happy: It's a massive achievement to be part of a team to build your own VLSI chip, says Andrew O'Donnell, while Khurram Mohammed says, The whole process was interesting and I'm very happy to have taken part.

Institute head Professor Janina Mazierska says the success of the project was an exciting development. It shows we are able to provide cutting-edge technology in electronic engineering. She planned to make it a permanent part of the paper.

Professor Mazierska and Professor Syrzycki were classmates at the Warsaw University of Technology but had not been in contact for most of the 35 years since they graduated.

She says when he contacted her recently and said he was planning a sabbatical, she convinced him to spend six months at Massey. "I'm very pleased I did; I got good value for money out of him.

**Created: 10 October, 2005**

Date: 24/10/2005

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences

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# Massey ranked among World's best

Massey University has again been ranked among the top 200 universities in the world by the Times Higher Education Supplement.

The annual rankings are based on criteria including ratings by other academics and institutions, international employers of graduates, performance of academic staff and scores given by international students.

The core of the Times analysis is peer review, which it says has long been accepted in academic life and across social research as the most reliable means of gauging institutional quality.

The peer-review data account for 40 per cent of the available score in the rankings, 10 percentage points lower than in 2004 because of the addition of data on the opinions of major international employers of graduates.

Two other columns of data in the 2005 table account for 20 per cent each of the final score for each university the number of citations for academic papers generated by each staff member and the staff-to-student ratio.

Auckland and Otago are the other New Zealand universities to be named in the year's rankings, both of which benefit from having medical research and teaching schools. Professor Nigel Long, Assistant Vice-Chancellor Research, says it is a great achievement for three New Zealand universities to be ranked amongst the best in the world.

"It is pleasing to once again be recognised internationally for the quality of our research, research training, and teaching. The ranking really is a credit to our staff who are achieving at an international level and to strive for the best possible learning and research environment for our students.

The University does well in international rankings because of its strength across many disciplines and especially in key areas such as animal and biological sciences, some areas of social sciences, business and education.

Date: 01/11/2005

Type: University News

Categories: Any

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*Professor Kinnear greets the delegation from Peking University in February. From left: Associate Professor Yingzi Zheng, Director of Project Management with the Office of Scientific Research, Professor Hongya Gu, Deputy Dean of the College of Life Sciences, Professor Zhenfeng Xi, Dean of the College of Chemistry and Molecular Engineering, and delegation leader Professor Xing Zhu.*

# Rare partnership with Peking University

Peking University and Massey University will this week sign a university-to-university agreement for academic co-operation.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Judith Kinnear says the agreement is one of few made between Peking University and Australasian universities and acknowledges Massey's strength and standing, particularly in the sciences and agriculture.

The agreement will be a positive factor in building high-quality postgraduate recruitment from China, consistent with the New Zealand government's strategy. It is also positive for higher education in New Zealand generally, she says.

A scientific symposium to be held later this year in Beijing will bring together leading researchers from the two universities. Professor Kinnear says the symposium will provide a foundation for ongoing research collaboration and for research training initiatives that will benefit postgraduate science students in both institutions.

One important aspect of the agreement will link Peking and Massey in cooperative activities with Xin Jiang University in the north-west of China. This will enable Massey to engage, as appropriate, in support of Chinese government policies relating to development in the western provinces, in particular in agriculture and horticulture as well as education more generally.

The new agreement follows a visit by Professor Kinnear to Peking University last year and the return visit of four professors from Peking to Massey in February this year.

As a Deputy Vice-Chancellor at the University of Sydney Professor Kinnear was part of a high level exchange programme in which she and the Vice-President (International Relations) at Peking University Professor Hao Ping spent time at each other's respective universities.

Professor Kinnear is in Beijing this week for the signing ceremony.

Peking University is the top university in China and the most sought after for academic agreements with universities outside China. It ranked 17 in the Times Higher Education Supplement of World Universities. Massey ranked 108, the second highest New Zealand university in the list.

**Visit of China Scholarship Council**

This month the University also received a visit from the China Scholarship Council. The Council's visit to the Palmerston North campus was the only University visit that they made while they were in New Zealand.

Professor Kinnear says for the visit, a programme was arranged that highlighted the University's research strength in areas of interest to the China Scholarship Council (CSC).

The Council is the agency that sponsors Chinese students to undertake full-time study, principally towards postgraduate degrees. Worldwide, CSC supports about 4000 students per annum.  Scholarships are focussed on priority areas identified by the Chinese Government and the following broad areas (with many sub-sections) have been identified:

• Communication and Information Technologies
• High-and-new technology in Agriculture, Life Sciences and Population Health
• Material Sciences and New Materials
• Energy Sources and the Environment
• Engineering Science, Applied Social Scienceand WTO-related areas.

Professor Kinnear notes that in many of these areas, Massey is active in teaching, research and research training.

During her visit to Beijing last year Professor Kinnear paid a visit to the China Scholarship Council.

**Management exchange programme to start up**

Last year The Vice-Chancellor also visited the China Education Association for International Exchange (CEAIE) and raised the possibility of a Shadowing Programme for middle level managers from Chinese universities.

CEAIE is the arm of Government that supports international exchanges and other activities related to staff development, including University staff.

Professor Kinnear says a shadowing program has now been developed by Massey in consultation with CEAIE and it is anticipated that the first group for shadowing will come to Massey over the period 21 September 11 October 2005.  I intend to visit CEAIE on the day following the signing of the Peking Massey Agreement, in order to formally conclude the arrangements for this first shadowing programme.

**Massey to host first China New Zealand forum**

Massey University, at Wellington will be the venue for the first China-New Zealand Higher Education Forum.

The forum will take place on 19 September.

Forums involving meetings of Presidents/Vice-Presidents of Chinese Universities with their counterparts in other countries have occurred for some years between China and Australia and between China and the USA.

Professor Kinnear says from the Chinese side, arrangements for the meeting are being made by CEAIE and from the New Zealand side by the NZVCC's International Policy Committee which she chairs.

**Created: 5 November, 2008**

Date: 05/11/2005

Type: University News

Categories: Any

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*Artists include: Kohai Grace, Charlotte Graham, Diane Prince, Tawera Tahuri, Jodie Tautari, Donna Tupaea, Marie Warrington and Tina Wirihana.*
*The exhibition is the first of several to launch Te Ngahuru A Decade of Toiohu ki Āpiti with Te Manawa Art Gallery, Palmerston North. The exhibition continues until 19 April 2006.*

# Māori Visual Arts celebrates ten years at Massey

Massey University's Māori Visual Arts programme celebrates ten years with the opening of an exhibition at Te Manawa Art Gallery.

Te Tataitanga Matatau is an exhibition of artwork from Massey University's postgraduate Māori Visual Arts students.

Māori Visual Arts was first introduced into the Māori Studies programme by renowned artist and carver John Bevan Ford in 1986. John died earlier this year and his work in introducing the arts to Māori Studies is still acknowledged today.

Head of Māori Studies, artist and exhibition curator Professor Bob Jahnke says it's an exciting range of diversity from Māori women.

These artists include experienced renowned artists, weavers as well as a number of relatively new and emerging artists, he says.

Te Manawa Manager and Curator Alice Hutchison says the exhibition is stunning and provides an interactive experience.

One artist has created an interactive environment which requires you to walk through a black box and view a dazzling and morphing fluorescent art work under black light, she says.

There are paintings based around the hei tiki motif, work crafted from copper wire and another from woven plastic. There is also multi media paintings and a woven cloak.

This is a high quality exhibition with a great deal of professionalism and variety of visual language displayed, says Alice.

Artists include: Kohai Grace, Charlotte Graham, Diane Prince, Tawera Tahuri, Jodie Tautari, Donna Tupaea, Marie Warrington and Tina Wirihana.

The exhibition is the first of several to launch Te Ngahuru-A decade of Toiohu ki Āpiti with Te Manawa Art Gallery, Palmerston North. The exhibition continues until 19 April 2006.

Date: 23/11/2005

Type: University News

Categories: College of Creative Arts; Maori

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# Evolutionary discoveries in penguin study

*Click here to read the full paper (PDF)*

As the great Antarctic icebergs have broken off and shifted throughout the centuries it now seems their movement caused more lasting change than has been understood.

Massey University scientists now report the movement of the icebergs has caused dramatic environmental changes that have contributed to microevolution among colonies of Adelie penguins.

The research by the team in New Zealand is the cover story in the latest edition of a prestigious American based science journal, PNAS, appeared in the latest issues of National Geographic and is making headlines world wide.

PNAS is the proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America. Its contents are closely followed by the world science community.

The research team is led by evolution biologist, Distinguished Professor David Lambert and, based at the Allan Wilson Centre for Molecular Ecology on the Auckland campus. Microevolution involves any genetic changes within a species level, such as bacteria acquiring antibiotic resistance. Detecting such changes over a long period can be difficult, says Profesor Lambert.

Professor Lambert has studied Adelie penguins for some years. A number of unique characteristics made the penguins ideal for evolution focused research.

The penguins have dense nesting colonies and the adult birds commonly return to the same birth site, giving a stable population of the same birds. Beneath the colonies there are well preserved layers of ancestor bird remains from which the research team have been able to take samples.

The researchers carried out DNA sequencing from samples taken from both the 6,000 year old

remains and from the modern colony.

Significant changes were observed in the frequency of genes between these two groups. Becauuse the sequences studied were from noncoding DNA regions, the microevolution was not likely to have arisen from natural selection.

The scientists believe gene mixing could be the cause of microevolution in the penguins. The gene mixing could have come about when colonies were scattered, through sudden disruption of their environment by some outside factor such as iceberg movement.

In 2001 a 'mega-iceberg' broke off from the Ross ice shelf and drifted near many nesting colonies, blocking the swim paths of penguins and forcing them to migrate to more accessible colonies.

Mega-icebergs on the move have been a repeated historical phenomenon. Their shifts are likely to have precipitated penguin evolution by displacing the birds, says Professor Lambert's team.

Date: 23/11/2005

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences

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# Noise annoys autistic children

A new study of noise in early education has found children with autistic disorders are among the most severely affected of any group of children in early education. Some gifted children are also affected.

We wish to highlight the serious nature of early childhood centre noise and encourage everyone to think seriously about how we can improve the learning environment for these children, says Stuart McLaren, Senior Lecturer in Health Science at the Wellington campus.

A wide range of groups of children with special education needs were considered in the study, along with young children in general. These include children with autism, Asperger syndrome, Down syndrome, ADHD, global developmental delay and the hearing impaired. While all these children are seriously affected by noise, the effects on autistic children in general are far more severe.

Mr McLaren says the wide range of noises affecting children include general classroom noise, school bells, machine noise from fans, vacuum cleaners and lawn mowing, and unexpected noises such as dogs barking and road works.

While their hearing may be normal, autistic children process auditory information differently. What others perceive as normal and tolerable can be extremely intense and painful to them. Noise can have two serious effects on these children. First, it causes them pain, distress and confusion, and second, it erodes their ability to communicate and learn, says Mr McLaren.

We intend to investigate a wide range of strategies to help these children. We have already seen some excellent individual strategies, which could be developed further. These include providing quiet spaces, and using a 'traffic light' system.

Much of the present work is focused on these children being integrated into regular early childhood education environments. However we must look more closely at the learning environment too, he says.

Why it is acceptable to expect autistic children to negotiate their way around any such environment when we never expect children with physical disabilities to negotiate their way up a flight of steps?

Date: 23/11/2005

Type: Research

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences; Explore - HEALTH

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# Occupational disease monitoring falls short

A report released yesterday by the National Occupational Health and Safety Advisory Committee (NOHSAC) reports that the systems used for the surveillance of occupational disease and injury in New Zealand fall far short of internationally accepted practice, especially for the surveillance of occupational disease.

Chair of the Committee, Professor Neil Pearce from the University's Centre for Public Health Research says, It is unacceptable that the agencies responsible for occupational safety and health in the workplace are unable to accurately measure how many New Zealanders are dying or being seriously injured at work.

The agencies are unable to accurately measure the main causes and circumstances of the deaths and serious injury, and therefore have no effective strategies to reduce the death and injury rate, he says.

The report, The Surveillance of Occupational Disease and Injury in New Zealand: Report to the Minister of Labour, finds that the data currently used suffers from

• a lack of common definitions and coding of occupation
• a lack of common definitions and coding of disease and injury
• poor capture of occupational history particularly in relation to occupational disease
• inadequate or nonexistent coding of the occupational history information that is collected
• lack of expertise and resources to manage and administer systems, particularly within the Department of Labour
• the lack of anyone in charge who can take responsibility for collecting, coding, analysing, and publishing information on the annual burden of occupational disease and injury.

The report contains recommendations for improving the quality of data collected, and provides an integrated model for the surveillance of occupational disease and injury in line with international best practice. The Committee was established in 2003 and its role is to provide the Minister of Labour with independent, contestable advice on major occupational health and safety issues.

Date: 24/11/2005

Type: Research

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences

# Banks no more efficient

Banking expert David Tripe has produced the first major study of the efficiency of New Zealand banks.

The doctoral thesis is also the first substantial research to make use of the data provided by New Zealand banks' disclosure regime. It also looks at whether New Zealand banks are more or less efficient than Australian banks.

The research found very little evidence that banks have become more efficient over time, despite what Dr Tripe describes as some commonly accepted myths.

Banks may have got bigger, and their operating costs may not have increased at the same rate as their size, but that does not mean that they have got more efficient. Linked to this is the lack of any convincing evidence for the existence of economies of scale in the commonly accepted shape of increasing returns to scale.

Commonsense encourages one to think that these ought to exist but, in this study at least, no reliable evidence has been found to support this suggestion. This undermines arguments which have been used in support of bank mergers in Australia and New Zealand.

The research says although banks' costs reduced over the period studied (1996 to 2003) this has not been reflected in corresponding improvements in efficiency. All that can be said is that New Zealand banks have maintained their levels of efficiency and this level has been at least comparable to that achieved by Australian banks.

New Zealand banks show as more efficient when compared to Australian regional banks.

Dr Tripe found that the banks that do show as more efficient generally have higher levels of revenue. He says this makes an interesting contrast with the prevalent attitude of banks in emphasising cost control.

On trade-offs between inputs and outputs, he notes that there should be no economic advantage to a bank in reducing non-interest costs if it does not also focus on interest rates, which generally comprise a greater part of overall costs.

A further key finding was that equity is an important input to the study of bank efficiency and that it is a cause of differences in relative efficiency between Australian and New Zealand banks.

Dr Tripe also points out that the quality of any research must be constrained by the quality of the data used. Although the data provided by the New Zealand disclosure regime is a great resource, it is subject to limitations, and there have been suggestions that some of the reporting is not as helpful as it might be.

The study focused on a core group of six banks: ANZ, ASB, BNZ, NBNZ, TSB and Westpac. The period of the study began with Westpac's acquisition of Trust Bank New Zealand and ended with ANZ's acquisition of the National Bank of New Zealand, which cemented the Australian dominance of the New Zealand banking system.

**Created: 8 December, 2005**

Date: 24/11/2005

Type: Research

Categories: College of Business

# An electronic inventory of all living things

New Zealand scientists are leading the way in a landmark international research project that aims to identify every living creature in the world using genetic 'barcodes'.

Borrowing a concept from scannable barcodes on supermarket products, this international project will develop an electronic inventory to identify every organism in the world, but will use a molecular barcode instead of a black and white stripe.

At the forefront of the project is a group of New Zealand scientists led by Massey University's Professor David Lambert from the Allan Wilson Centre for Molecular Evolution and Ecology.

With a cost of US$2.5 million and a time-frame of 20 years, DNA barcoding rivals the Human Genome Project. The practical benefits will be wide reaching, says Professor Lambert. Data will be stored for fast and easy retrieval and is expected to have valuable application in health, national border control, conservation management, food safety and environmental monitoring. These codes could also have a vital role in foiling bioterrorism.

Professor Lambert's team at the Allan Wilson Centre for Molecular Ecology and Evolution will create DNA barcodes for New Zealand's flora and fauna, beginning with native birds and later including other animals, plants, insects and fungi.

The team will also use DNA from ancient bones and soft tissues to identify extinct birds, such as moa, and their genetic similarity to modern species.

DNA barcoding to go backwards in time is an important tool to measure past levels of biodiversity, Professor Lambert said.

We can only interpret the effects that humans are having on the plants and animals of the Earth by knowing precisely what was here in the past, he said.

DNA barcoding makes use of the cytochrome c oxidase gene (CO1), which codes for an enzyme involved in the cell's energy conversion system.

The CO1 gene is present in all animals and, in most cases, has a species-specific DNA sequence that varies between, but not within, different species.

Initial research by Canadian biologists showed that a portion of this gene can be 'scanned' to identify species, similar to using a barcode to classify supermarket products.

Allan Wilson Centre researchers will sample these genetic barcodes from every New Zealand bird species and use them to assist the conservation of endangered species, including kiwi, North Island Saddleback, and Black Robins. Their results will be combined with other research groups from around the world to create a standardised electronic database.

Biodiversity, conservation, and biosecurity management can only be conducted against a background of the known species composition of ecosystems, habitats, or countries, Professor Lambert said.
The international DNA barcoding project is expected to be completed in 2025.

**Created: 11 January, 2005**

Date: 24/11/2005

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences

# Many new workers lack life and literacy skills

Many new workers lack basic literacy, life and personal skills, and often have a poor work attitude, according to a survey of North Shore businesses.

An Auckland-based research team reports that employers complained about the general "laidback" attitude of workers and the approach of "no problem, mate" and "taking without giving anything back".

One of the report's authors Professor Paul Spoonley says many of the 120 employers interviewed said the literacy of new workers was "shocking".

One in three said they were dissatisfied with the competency of school-leavers and university and polytech graduates also drew complaints from 12 per cent of bosses.

Enterprise North Shore, which commissioned the study, told the New Zealand Herald it shows a big task lies ahead in remedying a skills shortage that was constraining business growth. Agency chief executive Terry Hoskins said: "These were our five sunrise industry sectors and it shows school kids don't know what to train for and businesses don't know how to explain their needs to the education establishments."

Professor Spoonley says employer needs had also been tracked in Waitakere and Rodney, with the same results. "There is a high degree of employer frustration at a lack of generic skills ... they are not job-specific, they are attitude towards work, appearance, work habits and life and communication skills.

"The other side is that employer expectations have gone up ... this is a service economy now."

He says more employers are resorting to in-house training because of frustration with the result from education providers.

Date: 24/11/2005

Type: Research

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences

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# Rugby World Cup big boost for NZ sports management

New Zealand's successful bid to host the 2011 Rugby World Cup has been hailed as great news by the staff of Massey's Sports Management and Coaching programme.

They say it may mean more job opportunities for young people interested in the increasingly professional field of sports marketing and facility and events management.

The University's Department of Management is associated with two degrees, the Bachelor of Business Studies majoring in sports business management and the Bachelor of Sport and Exercise with a major in sports management and coaching.

The Sport Management and Coaching Programme Manager Sarah Leberman says the value of the courses offered by Massey is recognised around the world for the strong business skills being applied in a sporting context.

This is fantastic in terms of what we're trying to achieve, Dr Leberman says. Our students learn about facility and event management, sports marketing and team management, skills which will be sought after in the run-up to the World Cup.

There are growing numbers of jobs out there and this will only enhance that. Even during the Rugby World Cup in Australia in 2003 we had some of our students working over there, helping run events and stadiums.

Sports coaching lecturer Warren Smith says the university already has a healthy relationship with the NZ Rugby Union through its top coaches and the World Cup tournament will offer ways to enhance that.

Additionally, third-year students majoring in event and facilities, who already have a substantial practical aspect to their courses where they go out and work for sports bodies or facility operators, will benefit greatly from the opportunities the 2011 World Cup will provide.

This will create excellent opportunities to work even closer with the Rugby Union and hopefully have some of our students involved in running events during the cup itself and in the lead-up to it, Mr Smith says.

For further information please contact Sarah Leberman on 021-048-1486 or Warren Smith on 027-411-8672

Date: 24/11/2005

Type: Research

Categories: College of Business

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# NZ scientists role in Vanuatu volcano crisis

*Watch the 3 News item*

The involvement of Massey University staff in monitoring the volcanic activity and preparing for an eruption on the Vanuatu island of Ambae dates back more than five years.

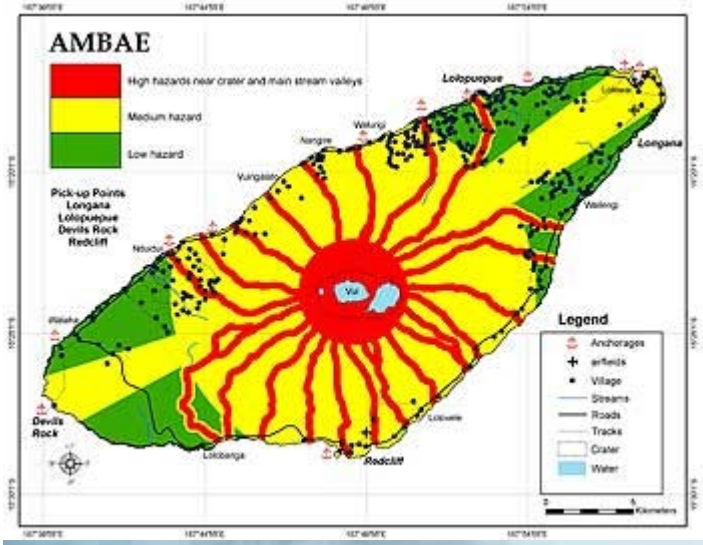
The entire island, inhabited by about 10,000 people, is a 1400m (from sea level) volcano, sometimes called Mt Manaro, with a crater containing two lakes.

It is the largest and potentially most dangerous of the six active volcanoes in the islands of Vanuatu, according to Dr Shane Cronin, director of the Institute of Natural Resources' volcanic risk programme.

Its last big eruption was in 1870 when it produced lahars that wiped out villages to the south and east causing many deaths.

From what is known about that eruption, it appears the activity prior to it was very similar to the activity now being experienced. The first sign of the current activity was in July when there was a visible upwelling of gas and sediment inside the 1.2km diameter.

This was photographed by Dr Cronin who was visiting Vanuatu to monitor the eruption of a volcano on nearby Ambrym island.



Ambae began explosively erupting through Lake Voui, one of the lakes in the crater, last week (November 29).

In 2000 the Vanuatu government asked Dr Cronin to help prepare a disaster management plan for all six volcanoes, with a special emphasis on Ambae, where in 1995 there was a disastrous response to a small eruption.

A large-scale evacuation ordered by panicked authorities that year was only partly completed and turned out to be completely unnecessary.

Dr Cronin and Massey emergency management student Victoria Miller helped local authorities complete a volcano emergency plan for Ambae in 2002.

In 2003, through a New Zealand Aid (part of Foreign Affairs) and Unesco project, Dr Cronin also prepared a volcano alert level system, a series of hazard maps and a national volcanic management plan.

Those plans are being implemented and tested during the current eruptions. They involve local movement of people within the island.

Rather than evacuate everyone off the island, the plan means those living in areas regarded as high risk relocate to parts of the island regarded as less risky because of their altitude, terrain or distance from river valleys, where lahars pose the greatest risk.

The alert level system, based on monitoring equipment and visual observations, gives a clear idea of the status of the eruption and associated hazards.

By keeping locals on the island and as much as possible in their homes it reduces the social

disruption and stress that occurred in 1995.

There is a small chance of an eruption coming out the flank of the volcano, where the magma rises to the top then flows back down inside the mountain and finds a path out through a crack on the side.

If that happens, some of the zones considered medium risk could be affected.

In those circumstances authorities would move to evacuate some residents off the island altogether.

Currently Dr Karoly Nemeth from Massey's Institute of Natural Resources is on site and has been climbing the volcano to provide daily status updates by satellite phone to Dr Cronin.

Two seismologists from New Zealand Institute of Geological and Nuclear Sciences, Brad Scott and Steve Sherburn, are also working on Ambae.

A Massey PhD student, Sandrine Wallez, is in the Vanuatu capital Port Vila co-ordinating communications between the local Department of Geology and Mines and French, Australian and New Zealand diplomatic representatives.

The current situation is the eruptions are continuing at the same level as in the past several days. Poor weather is hampering visibility but the evacuation from high-risk zones has gone to plan.

There is some concern among residents hosting the evacuees about their ability to provide food, water and shelter if the threat of eruption continues for a lengthy period.

Dr Cronin will provide updates and will travel to Vanuatu should the situation escalate.

He says the lessons learned from this volcanic crisis response are being fed into Massey's ongoing public good science fund project on volcanic risk in the North Island.

Date: 05/12/2005

Type: Research

Categories: College of Sciences; Video Multimedia

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# Engineering School's concept for high-wire tourism venture

***Q. How do you make a flying fox go faster?***
***A. Put a sail on its tail.***

That's the concept behind a plan hatched by the team from the School of Engineering and Technology who want to take advantage of Manawatu's wind to create a high-speed aerial thrills tourist attraction.

School spokesman Professor Richard Archer says the idea, provisionally entitled the Sailing Fox, arose from a discussion among staff, two of whom are keen BloKarters.

I had thought that the ideal way to use Manawatu winds would be a rail of about 2km set across the wind, but we realised the best rail would be a cable strung from hill to hill, high in the air where the wind speed is greatest, Professor Archer says.

From then on we got into a little concept engineering and now have a first version designed in CAD [computer-aided design].

We know how to control the sail, go forwards or backwards and to stop. We figure that we could get to speeds well over 100km/h, possibly 160km/h on a good day if we can get a good long run.

The idea is already being used in student projects. One student, Rob Paddison, has done the CAD work to come up with a design and another, Logan Lindsay, has photoshopped that into a photo that Professor Archer's PA, Glenda Kirk, took near her home on the Saddle Rd over the southern end of the Ruahine Range.

The image has been reproduced on two billboards erected on the outskirts of Palmerston North this week to promote the School of Engineering and Technology.

Further student projects planned include a miniature remote-controlled version probably running on a wire strung across the Turitea campus in Palmerston North.

Another is a virtual reality version on the books for a project within the Bachelor of Engineering course.

But our real hope is that someone will want us to build one, Professor Archer says.

Dr Paul Smith, who runs the BTech major in Design and Manufacture - Sports Equipment, is poised to build a prototype. But the prototype only really works if someone can provide a site and some cables. Then we can really get it working.

Professor Archer says the ideal site will be across a gully high on the ranges dissected by the prevailing wind, with a reasonably taut 1km cable.

He believes the concept is unique. As far as we can find out this is a first in the world. I certainly haven't heard of another in New Zealand.

It would really suit the Manawatu and if we could get one up and running I think it would drag in adventure-hungry tourists.

He estimates the cost of building a sailing fox would be less than $20,000 but the big expense would be the cable and its installation, which could cost more than $200,000.

Date: 23/12/2005

Type: University News

Categories: College of Sciences

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# New Zealand study investigates causes of breast cancer

Public health researchers from Massey University are inviting women to take part in a major study of breast cancer.

It is the first nationwide study of the causes of breast cancer since the 1980s, and the first to specifically recruit Maori and Pacific women.

Dr Mona Jeffreys from the University's Centre for Public Health Research says the study will investigate why women get breast cancer.

It is the most common cancer in women, but little is known about what lifestyle factors affect the risk of disease, or what women can do to reduce their risk of getting breast cancer, says Dr Jeffreys. We are aiming to discover whether any aspects of a woman's lifestyle are related to breast cancer.

Researchers will study three groups of women: Maori, Pacific and those who are non-Maori and non-Pacific. The research team includes Maori and Pacific researchers and interviewers.

Cancer is the second leading cause of death in New Zealand, after heart disease. About 2,400 cases of breast cancer are diagnosed each year.

Dr Jeffreys says breast cancer affects one in ten women over the course of their life. We want to get an overview of lifestyle behaviours and exposure factors, such as exercise, alcohol intake and smoking, throughout women's lives, she says. Our aim is to find out what we can do to reduce the risk of breast cancer.

Most cases of breast cancer are diagnosed among women aged in their 50s and 60s, although it can affect women of all ages.

The study is supported by funding from the Lottery Grants Board, the Health Research Council and the Cancer Society.

Date: 23/12/2005

Type: Research

Categories: College of Humanities & Social Sciences; Explore - HEALTH

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*Pictured from left: Judy Hamer, Paul Adams, Janet Soler, Roger Openshaw, Keith Sullivan, Pamela Benson and John Codd.*

# New books launched in education

Four new books on educational policy were launched at the Hokowhitu site on Friday 16 December 2005 in a ceremony attended by College of Education staff and Education Minister Steve Maharey.

**Books include:**
Education and Society in Aotearoa New Zealand (2nd Edition) (Edited by Paul Adams, Roger Openshaw and Judy Hamer).
Towards Effective Social Studies (Edited by Pamela Benson and Roger Openshaw).
Literacy Crises and Reading Policies (Edited by Janet Soler and Roger Openshaw).
Education Policy and Direction in Aotearoa New Zealand (Edited by John Codd and Keith Sullivan).

**Education and Society in Aotearoa New Zealand (2nd Edition). Thomson Dunmore Press, Australia. (Edited by Paul Adams, Roger Openshaw and Judy Hamer).**
This book provides an introduction to the social and policy contexts of teaching and education. The book is designed for students of early childhood, primary and secondary education studying at the undergraduate level, but is also a valuable resource for those involved in other areas of education including teacher aides, administrators, teachers and parents.
The second edition covers: an introduction to society (issues that underpin society such as social stratification, gender and ethnicity); the structures and processes in education (aims and functions of education, debates over administration, curriculum, and credentialing); and explanations of success and failure in education (biological debates, teacher effectiveness, family and parenting practices, social and political influences).

**Towards Effective Social Studies. Kanuka Grove Press, Palmerston North. (Edited by Pamela Benson and Roger Openshaw).**
Some sixty years ago, social studies was introduced into New Zealand to prepare the citizens of the post-war generation. The leading practitioners and researchers who contribute to this timely book address many of the critical issues facing social studies teachers in the twenty-first century. The content addresses the continuing debate over the subject's aims, the implementation of citizenship, ways to incorporate essential learning about New Zealand, and the development of effective strategies to enable students to a greater understanding of

societies and their actions. The contributors challenge teachers to incorporate and investigate controversial content to encourage student intellectual exploration of differing viewpoints, and they demonstrate ways for schools to take social studies in new directions

**Literacy Crises and Reading Policies . RoutledgeFalmer Press. (UK). (Written by Janet Soler and Roger Openshaw).**
This new and critically acclaimed work is the first comparative study to examine why public concern over literacy rates is so high in different countries. Looking at the broader picture, the authors build a convincing case that the problem of how to teach reading needs to be re-conceptualised as part of a deeply held social phenomenon. The study addresses the issue of literacy crises around the world and questions their wider social and educational impact, showing how literacy crises in one country can actually stimulate and shape literacy crises elsewhere. Concepts of teacher professionalism, debates over curriculum content and the whole purpose of schooling are all considered in order to obtain a deeper understanding of specific national contexts and the political pressures involved.

**Education Policy Directions in Aotearoa New Zealand. Thomson Dunmore Press, Australia. (Edited by John Codd and Keith Sullivan).**
The book comprises a collection of invited essays presenting a critical perspective on recent educational policy developments in Aotearoa New Zealand. The essays focus on educational issues and outcomes that have arisen from government policy initiatives, particularly since 1999 and the election of Labour-led, centre-left governments. They also offer comment on future policy needs and preferred directions. Hence, the book does not attempt to cover all areas of education policy. Rather, the aim is to provide a theorised and research-based account of those policies that have been most influenced by the government's overall policy direction. Part One of the book 'The Purposes of Education' examines philosophical influences on education policy, Part Two 'Policy Contexts' reflects on the impact of national and international contexts on educational policy development, and Part Three 'Policy Issues' outlines a number of critical issues for education policy development today.

**Author and editor biographies:**

John Codd is Professor of Policy Studies in Education at Massey University College of Education, New Zealand. He has co-edited several books on New Zealand education and his research on educational reform has been published in the Journal of Education Policy, Educational Philosophy and Theory, and New Zealand Journal of Educational Studies. He is a former co-editor of the NZJES, current General Editor of Delta and is co-author (with Mark Olssen and Anne-Marie O'Neill of Education Policy: Globalization, Citizenship and Education (Sage Publications, London, 2004). His current research interests include higher education policy and the implications of globalization for education.

Keith Sullivan recently moved to Ireland where he is Professor and HOD at the National University of Ireland, Galway. Before that he was Associate Professor at Victoria University of Wellington, where her worked for 16 years. He has also held positions at Massey and Waikato Universities in New Zealand and was Director of the University of the South Pacific for Kirtibati. His research interests are in New Zealand and international education reform, teachers ideologies, 'at risk' students and bullying.

Pamela Benson has been a lecturer in social studies education at Massey University College of Education, where she has developed and taught a range of courses for primary and early years students. Her teaching and senior management experience includes all levels of primary, intermediate schools, and playcentres. She has presented workshops and conference papers nationally and internationally. Pamela has produced several teacher social studies resources and is co-editor (with Roger Openshaw), of New Horizons for New Zealand Social Studies. She has been an active member of the New Zealand Federation of Social Studies Associations, and of local museums and historical associations for many years.

Roger Openshaw holds a Personal Chair in Education History in the Department of Social and

Policy Studies, Massey University College of Education. He has written extensively on educational topics. Apart from Literacy Crises and Reading Policies, with Janet Soler, (RoutledgeFalmer Press, 2006) his most recent publications include, Struggles over Difference. Curriculum, Texts and Pedagogy in the Asia-Pacific, with Yoshiko Nozaki and Allen Luke (Suny Press, NY, 2005), and Democracy at the Crossroads. International Perspectives on Global Citizenship Education, with Cameron White (Lexington Books, 2005). His current research interests include the post-World War two history of reading debates in England and New Zealand, social studies history, mathematics education history, and education policy history.

Janet Soler is a Senior Lecturer at the Open University in the United Kingdom where she teaches post-graduate and undergraduate courses in teaching literacy and continuing professional development for educators based in England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland. She has taught in schools in New Zealand and England and completed her primary teacher training at the former College of Education in Palmerston North. She gained her MPhil and PhD qualifications in educational history at Massey University and Otago University, where she also held lectureship and teaching positions before moving to the United Kingdom. She is currently a member of the Board of the United Kingdom Literacy Association (UKLA) and a member of the Editorial board for the international journal Literacy. Her most recent authored book is 'Literacy Crises and Reading Policies', Routledge Falmer. Her other recently authored books in areas related to literacy are: Meeting Difficulties in Literacy Development. London: Routledge/Falmer, and Literacy in New Zealand: Practices, Politics and Policy since 1900.

Paul Adams is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Social and Policy Studies in Education at Massey University, New Zealand. His research interests lie in policy and literacy studies. He is the co-editor (with Heather Ryan) of Learning to Read in Aotearoa New Zealand: A Collaboration between Early Childhood Educators, Families and Schools (2002); co-author (with Judy Hamer) of The New Zealand Early Childhood Literacy Handbook (2003); co-editor (with Kathleen Vossler and Cushla Scrivens) of Teachers' Work in Aotearoa New Zealand (2005), and co-editor (with Roger Openshaw and Judy Hamer) of Education and Society in Aotearoa New Zealand (2nd edn) (2005). Paul is also joint editor (with Dr John O'Neill) of the New Zealand Journal of Teachers' Work.

Judy Hamer is a Senior Lecturer in the Centre for Education Studies at the Open Polytechnic of New Zealand and teaches in the Diploma of Teaching (Early Childhood Education). Judy worked for a number of years in early childhood education as well as in early childhood teacher education for Te Tari Puna Ora o Aotearoa/New Zealand Childcare Association. She is co-author (with Paul Adams) of The New Zealand Early Childhood Literacy Handbook (2003), co-editor (with Roger Openshaw and Paul Adams) of Education and Society in Aotearoa New Zealand (2nd edn) (2005), and co-author (with Caroline Barratt-Pugh & Judith Rivalland) of Literacy Learning in Australia (in press). Her research interests lie in early childhood education and include curriculum studies (including literacy) and social and policy issues.

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Type: Research

Categories: Book; College of Education

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# Hot weather and exercise potentially dangerous

For many New Zealanders summer means an increasing number of intensive outdoor activities, including long-distance running and cycling races, triathlons and fun-runs, and while participants generally benefit from increased fitness, there are dangers.

Dr Stephen Stannard, a senior lecturer in Massey Institute of Food, Nutrition and Human Health, says exercising in the warm summer months can place some people at risk of heat-related illness, which can be fatal.

Dr Stannard warns that the risk is increased when the weather is not only warm but humid because the body struggles to dissipate exercise-induced heat.

Heat illness during exercise in cool, drier conditions is usually not a problem because the body is able to off-load its heat into the cooler air, Dr Stannard says.

In warmer weather heat illness can present as heat exhaustion or more severe heat stroke. Symptoms of heat exhaustion include dizziness, headache, nausea, confusion, loss of performance and core body temperature of 40 degrees.

Heat stroke occurs usually when a motivated athlete suffers heat exhaustion but pushes on. They may have similar symptoms but their temperature rises over 40 degrees, their skin becomes dry and they may collapse.

Dr Stannard says heat exhaustion and heat stroke can occur even when someone is well-hydrated. Most at risk are those undertaking unfamiliar strenuous activity in high humidity, those with an infection that increases body temperature or fluid loss, those affected by alcohol and some drugs, and children.

Children do not possess the same physiological ability as adults to dissipate heat although they are generally less likely to suffer heat illness because if they get hot they automatically slow down. Dr Stannard says for this reason children who complain of feeling too hot or uncomfortable during exercise should never be pushed to continue.

Well-motivated adults are generally more often at risk because they are more likely to push past the point of thermal discomfort.

He says if anyone displays symptoms of heat exhaustion they should stop, take fluids and rest in the shade. Treatment for heat exhaustion includes removing outer clothes, soaking in water, exposure to wind and putting ice packs in the armpits and groin to rapidly reduce body temperature whilst medical assistance is sought.

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# Massey man in top US research breakthrough

Massey researcher Andrew Clarke is co-author of a new study by experts from prestigious United States institutions tracking the movement of prehistoric people around the world.

Mr Clarke, from the Allan Wilson Centre for Molecular Ecology and Evolution, is studying the spread of bottle gourds and kumara through the Pacific for his PhD.

Bottle gourds were widely used to carry and store water and food, and it is now thought likely that thick-skinned gourds were brought to the Americas some 10,000 years ago by individuals who arrived from Asia.

This is according to a new genetic comparison of modern bottle gourds with gourds found at archaeological sites in the Western Hemisphere.

The finding solves a longstanding archaeological enigma by explaining how a domesticated variant of a species native to Africa ended up millennia ago in places as far removed as modern-day Florida, Kentucky, Mexico and Peru.

The work, by a team of anthropologists and biologists from Harvard University, the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History, Maine University and Massey, appears this week on the web site of the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

Mr Clarke said he became aware during his research into the origins of bottle gourds in Polynesia that the American researchers were interested in the same information.

That resulted in him doing a three-month internship at the Smithsonian natural history museum in Washington DC.

It was an incredible opportunity to visit one of the leading research institutions and work with people who were also asking questions about plant domestication and dispersal," he says.

Integrating genetics and archaeology, the researchers assembled a collection of ancient remnants of bottle gourds from across the Americas. They then identified key genetic markers from the DNA of both the ancient gourds and their modern counterparts in Asia and Africa before comparing the plants' genetic make-up to determine the origins of the New World gourds.

"For 150 years, the dominant theory has been that bottle gourds, which are quite buoyant and have no known wild progenitors in the Americas, floated across the Atlantic Ocean from Africa and were picked up and used as containers by people here," says Noreen Tuross, the Landon T. Clay Professor of Scientific Archaeology in Harvard's Faculty of Arts and Sciences. "Much to our surprise, we found that in every case the gourds found in the Americas were a genetic match with modern gourds found in Asia, not Africa. This suggests quite strongly that the gourds that were used as containers in the Americas for thousands of years before the advent of pottery were brought over from Asia."

The researchers say it's possible the domesticated gourds -- differentiated from wild bottle gourds by a much thicker rind -- were conveyed to North America by people who arrived from Asia in boats or who walked across an ancient land bridge between the continents, or that the gourds floated across the Bering Strait after being transported by humans from their native Africa to far northeastern Asia.

"This finding paints a new picture of the founding of the Americas," says co-author Bruce Smith of the Smithsonian Institution. "These people did not arrive here empty-handed; they brought a domesticated plant and dogs with them. They arrived with important tools necessary to survive and thrive on a new continent, including some knowledge of and experience with plant domestication."

Thought to have originated in Africa, bottle gourds (Lagenaria sicereria) have been grown worldwide for thousands of years. The gourds have little food value but their strong, hard-shelled fruits were long prized as containers, musical instruments and fishing floats. This lightweight "container crop" would have been particularly useful to human societies before the advent of pottery and settled village life, and was apparently domesticated thousands of years before any plant was domesticated for food purposes.

Radiocarbon dating indicates that bottle gourds were present in the Americas by 10,000 years ago and widespread by 8,000 years ago. Some of the specimens studied by the team were not only the oldest bottle gourds ever found but also quite possibly the oldest plant DNA ever analyzed. The newest of their archaeological samples, a specimen found in Kentucky, was just 1,000 years old -- suggesting the gourds were used in the New World as containers for at least 9,000 years.

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# Learning from the year's disasters

New Fellow in Natural Hazards Planning Bruce Glavovic says New Zealand faces its fair share of natural hazards but can learn from the international disasters of the past year.

That includes the Boxing Day tsunami, hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma and the earthquake that hit the Kashmir region of Pakistan.

As the year ends, Associate Professor Glavovic says the disasters of 2005 teach us that we need to:
• Improve awareness and understanding, especially about hazard-risk, vulnerability and resilience.
• Confront the root causes of poverty and inequality exposed by disasters.
• Maintain and rehabilitate the natural systems that often provide a first 'line of defence' against hazards such as floods or storms.
• Ensure there is authentic public participation in developing hazard plans and in the recovery process after disasters.
• Develop the institutional capacity and social capital that enable people to work together effectively in preparing for, responding to, and recovering from disasters.

Communities face waves of adversity and need to build layers of resilience , he says. To do this, we need to understand better the root causes and dynamic pressures that create unsafe and unsustainable conditions. And we need to integrate natural hazards planning more effectively into public decision-making processes.

Dr Glavovic has been appointed as the first Earthquake Commission Fellow in Natural Hazards Planning, funded by the ECQ and based at Massey University.

The Fellowship aims to advance hazards research and education in the social sciences and in planning in particular. The main focus is to ensure that future planners are 'hazard-literate', and to improve understanding about how to build sustainable, hazard-resilient communities.

The General Manager of the Earthquake Commission David Middleton says EQC has an important role to play in the effort to reduce New Zealand's vulnerability to hazards, through its insurance scheme, public education and the facilitation of research. As part of its research role, the EQC funds academic fellowships in seismic studies at Victoria University and earthquake engineering at the University of Canterbury. However the Commission and others have long recognised that strength in the engineering and geological facets of hazard studies has not been reflected in the social sciences.

The establishment of the new fellowship will be an enormous fillip to the field, in teaching, research and professional and community service. We are delighted to be able to make this important contribution to the ongoing work of improving the resilience of people and their environment to the natural hazards which are part of life in New Zealand.

Dr. Glavovic has wide experience in academia, private consulting and government, mainly in South Africa, the United States and, more recently, New Zealand.

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