MASSEY

Massey
University

www.massey.ac.nz

From the Vice-Chancellor

This issue of MASSEY looks at the activities of some of our alumni in South East Asia. Why? Well, there is an element of happenstance – one of our Public Affairs journalists happened to be visiting and our School of Journalism has a relationship with the Phnom Penh Post – but more so of design. The Massey community is a truly global one, made up of expatriate New Zealanders and overseas students who have come here to study. Here we have a sample of our alumni from one region; in future issues we will sample others.

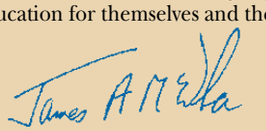
A Massey qualification is a passport to employment, and to travel. Internationally there are global shortages of labour. The European Union has 1.6 million vacancies for skilled IT workers, Japan about 600,000 vacancies annually, and the United States is recruiting vigorously. In nearly all of the social service sectors there are global shortages: of police, teachers, social workers, nurses. It is pleasing when people choose to return to New Zealand bringing their expertise and experience with them. It is unsurprising, given the salaries and career paths available to them elsewhere, when they do not.

Sometimes questions are raised about the wisdom of educating graduates for overseas markets, to be swallowed by the brain drain. However, 'drain' is perhaps the wrong word: instead, there is a brain exchange. Research by Treasury shows that while those leaving New Zealand are from a wide range of occupations, those migrating here tend to be more highly skilled.

All the same, it may be asked: What can be done to lure our graduates home? I am not sure it is a clear cut question. Instead I think we could also ask ourselves how best New Zealand can tap into the skills, expertise and networks of our graduates who live abroad.

Some of those who graduate from Massey were born here, and others were not. On behalf of Massey University, I am grateful for those who have come to New Zealand to study. They could, after all, have chosen to study elsewhere. Yes, they have paid fees to New Zealand universities and they have pumped money into local economies (and cumulatively $1 billion in foreign exchange into the national economy), but I think they have also enriched our culture.

If they stay in New Zealand, then we have gained valuable skills. If they head home, then I hope they will take with them fond memories and enduring friendships and think of New Zealand – and Massey – when it comes to seeking expertise for their ventures or further education for themselves and their families.



James A. McWha

Contents

15–17 April, Palmerston North
Environmental Biotechnology Conference 2002.

Wednesday 17 April, Albany
Pacific Island Graduation Ceremony.

Thursday 18 April, Albany
Graduation Dinner.

18–19 April, Albany
Albany Graduation Ceremonies.
To be held at the Bruce Mason Centre, Takapuna.

Saturday 20 April, Albany
Maori Graduation Ceremony.

Saturday 20 April, Albany
75th Anniversary Graduation Ball at the North Harbour Stadium.

Tuesday 23 April, Napier
Ruawharo Graduation Ceremony.

8–13 May: Agriculture and Horticulture Week, Palmerston North
An opportunity for agricultural and horticultural alumni and friends to return to the campus, meet up with old friends, and catch up with new developments.

8-10 Massey Dairy Farmers Conference
9 Sheep & Beef Cattle Conference
10 Massey Agriculture and Horticulture Open Day
10 Alumni and Friends Celebratory Dinner
11 Agriculture and Horticulture Student Ball

13–17 May, Palmerston North
Graduation Week.
Graduation Ceremonies at the Regent on Broadway and other special events.

Thursday 23 May, Wellington
Graduation Ceremonies.

12–15 May, Hamilton
Mystery Creek Fieldays.
The University will host an exhibition at the Fieldays in Hamilton and an alumni get-together during the week.

Mid June, Albany
Celebrity Debate in the Bruce Mason Theatre, Takapuna.

Tuesday 2 July, Wellington
Public lecture by Margaret Wertheim, held in conjuction with the Royal Society of New Zealand.

Friday 5 July, Palmerston North
Reunion for chemistry graduates from all years.

5–7 July, Palmerston North
Te Pūtahi-a-Toi Conference: Indigenous art and heritage, and the politics of identity.

NO, REALLY,
YOU CAN BE HONEST...

What do you think of *MASSEY*?

We are trying to put together a magazine that will interest you, our readers, and the only way we can find out whether we are being successful is to ask. What are we doing well? What are we doing badly? How can we improve?

To set us on the right track, the best way is to fill in our online questionnaire. You will find it linked from

masseynews.massey.ac.nz

Plus we have a bribe. Any of our alumni who submits a questionnaire will be in the draw for one of three stainless steel thermal mugs.

Honouring Alumni

Do you know of a particular Massey alumnus (and that does not exclude yourself) whose life and work has shown the qualities – relevance, innovation and excellence – that distinguish Massey? If so, you may want to nominate him or her for a Massey University 75th Anniversary Medal. We are looking for distinguished or outstanding contributions in research, education, business, culture, government, community or administration at a national or international level. A statement about the nominee's career, the grounds for the award of the Medal, and contact details should accompany each nomination. Nominations should reach the University by 15 July 2002.

POST: Professor Nigel Long
Massey University
Private Bag 11-222
Palmerston North

EMAIL: j.j.jonasen@massey.ac.nz

FAX: 64-6-350 2252

MASSEY is published by Massey University,
Private Bag 11-222,
Palmerston North,
New Zealand **www.massey.ac.nz**

Changes of address
alumni@massey.ac.nz

Director of Public Affairs:
Di Billing
D.E.Billing@massey.ac.nz

Editor:
Malcolm Wood
m.wood@massey.ac.nz

Writers:
Di Billing
Caleb Hulme-Moir
Rachel Donald
Amanda McAuliffe
Libby O'Connor
John Saunders
Rachel Scollay
Jane Tolerton
Niki Widdowson
Sophie Wilson
Malcolm Wood.

Photography:
James Ensing-Trussell
Leigh Dome
Dionne Ward
As credited.

Advertising:
E-mail the editor for rates.
MASSEY has a circulation of 50,000 plus.

For current news from Massey University visit

http://masseynews.massey.ac.nz

THE LOOK: *MASSEY magazine was designed by Darrin Serci, Grant Bunyan, and Simon Holmes. Grant and Darrin are both Massey alumni.*

THE COVER: *Illustration by Paul Tobin, final year VCD student majoring in Illustration.*
Illustration is one of four majors offered withing the Visual Communications umbrella.
The other majors are Graphic Design, Advertising and Computer Graphics.

5 July– 8 September, Palmerston North
Genus: Pacifica Exhibition, Manawatu Art Gallery.

Friday 12 July, Wellington
Scholars Ball.

Tuesday 16 July, Wellington
Official opening of the Art and Design Exhibition and the beginning of a week of celebration, including special lectures and a celebrity debate. The Exhibition will be open on Thursday, 18 July, from 1:00 –8:00pm (gold coin donation for scholarship fund).

Thursday 18 July, Wellington
Inaugural lecture by Professor Sally Morgan, Head of the School of Fine Arts.

Friday 19 July, Wellington
Celebration of Maori Language at the Kuratini Marae.

Saturday 20 July, Albany
Winter Music Festival. Workshops during the day, Dinner Concert in the evening.

Saturday 20 July, Palmerston North
Anniversary Dinner and Ball at Wharerata and the Convention Centre.

Wednesday 24 July, Albany
Chancellor's Seminar Series starts at the Bruce Mason Theatre. Ends 15 September.

Saturday 27 July, Palmerston North
Wharerata Centennial Celebrations.
An evening of fine dining and great dancing.

August, Albany
75th Guest Lecture Series.

Saturday 7 September, Albany
Albany Campus Festival Day.

Tuesday 1 October, Palmerston North
Institute of Food Science and Technology Conference

3-6 October, Palmerston North
Land, Food, People and Technology Festival.

Sunday 6 October, Palmerston North
Food and Wine Festival.

Monday 7 October, Auckland
Massey Food Awards presentation and dinner at the Ellerslie Convention Centre.

Wednesday 4 December, Albany
Christmas Parade. College floats featuring 75 years of Massey University. Christmas on Campus. 6:30–10:00pm.

For more about these and other events, call the Alumni and Friends Manager or visit:

celebrate75.massey.ac.nz

Honorary Doctorates, 2002

Seven people who have made outstanding contributions to business, the arts and the primary sector are to be conferred with honorary doctorates from Massey University.

Actor, director and filmmaker Don Selwyn has worked on iconic New Zealand films such as Came a Hot Friday, Sleeping Dogs and Goodbye Pork Pie. He was the casting director for Once were Warriors. His most recent work, The Maori Merchant of Venice, first a stage production and now a film, could be his most ambitious.

Stephen Tindall, the founder of The Warehouse chain, is known for his commitment to socially responsible business. He has fostered numerous innovative projects through The Tindall Foundation and through private investment. In 1997 he was awarded a New Zealand Order of Merit (ONZM) and in 1998 he was named Deloitte Businessman of the Year and New Zealand Herald Business Person of the Year.

Massey alumnus Peter Hubscher is the managing director of New Zealand's largest winemaker, Montana, and the current chairman of the Wine Institute of New Zealand. He was awarded a New Zealand Order of Merit in 1998 for his services to the wine industry. Peter has been a lifelong supporter of the arts and is an official adviser to the country's national arts development agency, Creative New Zealand.

Massey alumnus Tom Scott is a multi-talented cartoonist, writer, satirist, scriptwriter and all-round gadfly. For more about Tom Scott see MASSEY's cover feature.

Jim Bolger was Prime Minister of New Zealand from October 1990 to December 1997. Before entering national politics in 1972 he was a beef and sheep farmer in the King Country, and active in farming organisations. On his retirement from politics he was appointed New Zealand Ambassador to Washington. He is now the Chairman of Kiwibank.

Printmaker, painter, bookcover designer and teacher John Drawbridge is particularly well known for his large works. These include murals in New Zealand House London, in the New Zealand pavilion at Expo in Japan, and – currently being designed – a work that is to grace the Beehive in Wellington.

Alan Frampton is the Chair of the Tatua Co-operative Dairy Co Ltd and of Dairy InSight. He is a Massey Emeritus Professor, having held the Walter Clarke Buchanan Chair in Farm Management and been the Dean of Agricultural and Horticultural Sciences. He has also been a Trustee for Limestone Downs, the Foundation Chair of AgResearch Ltd and a member of the New Zealand Dairy Board.

Acclaimed filmmaker Peter Jackson, the recipient of an honorary doctorate in 2001, speaks at the opening of the Museum Building on Wellington campus in November 2001. Fran Walsh, Jackson's partner and collaborator, was co-awarded a doctorate.

Massey Medal Recipients

Beginning in 1973, Mrs Mary Skipworth has worked tirelessly in the gown room at Massey, organising the hireage of academic regalia on behalf of the New Zealand Federation of University Women, of which she is a longtime member. Today the profits from the gown room fund $50,000 in scholarships.

Palmerston North rose breeder and former computer science lecturer Nola Simpson has contributed to the rose breeding industry nationally and internationally.

Palmerston North City Archivist Ian Matheson has been collecting and ordering the history of the city and the region since 1971. He is a pivotal figure in local and national heritage organisations. He has taken a special interest in preserving and recording the history of the Rangitane people, and has shared his knowledge freely.

When *MASSEY* devoted a cover story to Paddy Bassett as Massey's first woman graduate, the 'first' should have been qualified. Paddy was Massey's first degree-level woman graduate. Enid Hills (née Christian), who was awarded a Certificate in Poultry Farming by Massey Agricultural College in 1935, was present at a recent gathering of current and former staff held to mark the 75th celebrations.

Described by Chancellor Morva Croxson as "the three tenors", one current and two former Vice-Chancellors cut the 75th anniversary cake.

Left to right: Sir Neil Waters, Professor James McWha and Sir Alan Stewart.

The Allan Wilson Centre for Molecular Ecology and Evolution

The Allan Wilson Centre for Molecular Ecology and Evolution, hosted by Massey University, is one of five Centres of Research Excellence to have been selected from 45 proposals submitted to the Royal Society for assessment.

The Centre will share in the operating expenditure of $40.6 million over four years and one-off capital funding of $20 million for investment in strategic research assets that has been set aside by the Government.

The Allan Wilson Centre will bring together world-class ecologists, evolutionary biologists and mathematicians who will work together to unlock the secrets of New Zealand's plants, animals, and microbes. How did they get here? How fast does evolution happen? What are the underlying processes that explain the evolution of our biota? How might these processes affect us in the future? There are all questions that the Centre will strive to answer.

The Centre is led by Professors David Penny and Mike Hendy. Senior researchers from Massey University, the University of Auckland, Victoria University of Wellington, and from Canterbury and Otago universities will collaborate in the work.

The late Allan Wilson is regarded as "the most influential figure in the empirical study of molecular evolution". A New Zealander, Allan Wilson had a particular interest in this country's unique biogeography.

More varying work options

Fancy a sole-charge position with no holiday pay, odd hours, no workmates and, in fact, no surety of a job next week?

Welcome to the world of non-standard work – one that more and more New Zealanders are keen to sign up for, according to the latest study in the University's eight-year long Labour Market Dynamics research project on changes in the nature of work in New Zealand.

The latest is a snapshot study of 40 people aged 20 to 55 involved in skilled, non-standard work (contract work). It was presented to Auckland local governments, the Auckland Regional Council, Skill New Zealand and Napier City Council representatives at the Albany campus recently.

The study's findings will provide a basis for policymaking. Research Programme leader Professor Paul Spoonley says the structure of the labour market is changing rapidly in all industrialised countries.

"In some areas, policy does not keep up with reality. For example, self-employed people and those who have worked for a company for less than 12 months are not eligible for paid parental leave. This means the growing number of non-standard workers are simply left out."

Professor Spoonley says it is time to understand the future of work and recognise that changes are already well under way. "In the United States and Canada almost half of all new employment in the past 20 years has been in the form of non-standard work. We must ask ourselves whether we are preparing students for the new way of working."

Defining non-standard work as that in which the worker determines the time and place of work, the study uncovered a variety of combinations: some contractors worked for one employer, some had multiple employers, some worked through recruitment agencies and found their own work, some telecommuted for one company.

Did they go or were they pushed? The researchers found that while retrenchment forced some people into non-standard work practices, most chose the work style to accommodate family needs, seek more purposeful and meaningful work, earn more money or gain autonomy. And, contrary to researchers' expectations, insecurity was not found to be a major issue.

"This might be because people felt uncertainty about their work flow but nevertheless felt in control of their working life. They know they will get work, but at irregular intervals," says School of Social and Cultural Studies researcher Patrick Firkin.

Older job seekers at risk of long-term unemployment

A study conducted by College of Business Professor Judy McGregor and researcher Lance Gray has looked at 954 unemployed job-seekers over the age of 40 years who were listed with Mature Employment Support Agencies based in Whangarei, Palmerston North, Christchurch and Invercargill.

It found that 45 percent of job-seekers over 45 years of age are long-term unemployed who have been looking for work for over six months, and in many cases up to, and over, five years.

The research into the barriers and experiences faced by mature job-seekers is the first of its kind to come out of this country, and is one of the largest surveys into this area internationally.

Professor McGregor says the survey shows that long-term unemployment affects the older worker substantially more then any other age group. "If you are over 45 and unemployed then there is almost a 50:50 chance you won't succeed in finding work despite still being 10 to 15 years away from receiving a government-funded superannuation."

This high percentage of long-term unemployment is not caused by lack of job-seeking says Professor McGregor. In the first six months of job-seeking older workers, particularly those who had been made compulsorily redundant, were as vigorous in trying to find a job as any other age group.

The survey also found the first four to six months of job-seeking were critical to the success of mature job-seekers re-entering the labour market. After this time older job-seekers become increasingly frustrated, insecure and depressed.

While many of those surveyed placed a high value on upskilling, particularly in computer skills, they found it did not help with employment. Many blamed their difficulty in finding work on ageism. They felt older employees were often perceived as being more expensive than their younger counterparts, and they thought younger em-ploying managers were threatened by the greater experience the applicant had to offer.

There was a roughly even gender split in those surveyed, with neither sex finding it easier to secure employment, despite there being very different reasons for men and women looking for work at a mature age. The main reason given by mature women for seeking employment was returning to the workforce from family responsibilities. For men, it was compulsory redundancy.

Those surveyed said the social contact work provided, and the status of being employed and feeling wanted, were the least important issues surrounding work. For mature job-seekers securing their financial future is still their main priority.

Professor McGregor says it was a surprise to discover that mature job-seekers rely on formal job search sources such as newspaper advertisements and employment agencies rather than the contacts they have established during their working life. Younger workers have been found to rely on less formal job sources, such as networking, to secure employment.

The survey, funded by the Public Good Science Fund, was conducted between November 2000 and May 2001 .

Research into change for Māori

A group of Massey researchers is to undertake the most comprehensive study yet into the political, social and economic issues faced by Māori since 1945.

The study, commissioned by the Crown Forestry Rental Trust, will be a point of reference for claimants to the Waitangi Tribunal.

Dr Danny Keenan, School of History, Philosophy and Politics, says this will be the first attempt to track the events that have impacted on Māori since the Second World War – a period of immense change for Māori. "There is a dearth of research on this time, which some people call the second great migration."

Dr Keenan, Professor Mason Durie and Dr Monty Soutar will lead a team taking a Māori-centred approach to the research. "The challenge is to come at the project using Māori terms of reference and Māori forms of research, which will help us gather the information we need but also give the findings validity in the eyes of Māori."

What defines Massey?

Ever tried to define Massey University in a few words? It isn't easy, as those involved in preparing a new 10 Year Plan for the University are finding out.

Discussion amongst senior executive members and other staff has identified the distinctive qualities of Massey as its unique ability to contribute to economic, social and cultural growth and, of course, its distance education delivery. Associate Education Minister (Tertiary) Steve Maharey is apparently thinking along the same lines. At a function to launch the 75th celebrations, he described the University's contribution to national growth and well being as "second to none". He also used the 'innovative' word and, perhaps more cryptically, described Massey University as "characteristic of New Zealand". The 'defining' of universities will take on more importance under the Government's new tertiary education strategy, which places emphasis on 'profiles'.

Don Turner appointed Massey Agriculture Fellow

Don Turner, managing director of Turners and Growers, is the second Massey Agriculture Distinguished Fellow.

The Fellowship recognises Mr Turner's outstanding contribution and commitment to New Zealand agriculture and to Massey. He joins Sir Dryden Spring in the Massey Agriculture Academy, which was formed to promote the importance of agriculture to New Zealand and to highlight the many opportunities and successes in the land-based industries.

Bruce Phillipps retires

Wellington campus Principal Bruce Phillipps retires from Massey at the end of April.

Having held senior management positions for 17 of his 30 years on the campus, he made a key contribution to the former Wellington Polytechnic and to the Polytechnic's successful merger with Massey University.

Mr Phillipps rates the merger as a critical factor in ensuring developments of the '90s (13 degrees were developed in the pre-merger days) were built upon, rather than lost.

"The lead up to the merger was a heady time. We had set ourselves upon a course of merging, rather than standing alone, but Victoria either didn't or couldn't share our vision at that time, so the choice was obvious. On the outside it might have appeared there was close competition between Victoria and Massey, but I have to say that it wasn't close at all."

In many ways the merger accelerated the trend towards rationalisation that had been evident throughout the '90s. Mr Phillipps describes the transfer of some courses to Weltech as a healthy outcome for the region.

"There had to be rationalisation – (the demise of) CIT is clear evidence of that. The demand for some courses had dropped to the point where they were uneconomic. Wellington needed a tertiary institution with a special focus on the trades, and now we have it, at Weltech."

Mr Phillipps says with the establishment/integration of the Wellington campus virtually complete, the time is now right for him to retire.

"The campus is entering a post-establishment/development phase. I can see that over the next five years the physical spaces will be more efficiently integrated and the campus will be more user friendly. Staff will be clustered in research/teaching-focused groups, and the research culture and specialist research centres will become a feature," says Mr Phillipps.

He advocates working to strengthen the regional economy and says his successor will find the position "very stimulating and rewarding".

He will now catch up on some travel with his wife, Janette, currently Director of School Organisation at Samuel Marsden Collegiate School.

"I can't see myself ever lying back in a deck chair, though. For me, the change is about doing different things, not fewer things. It's a change of lifestyle.

"My very best wishes for the future go to the Massey community."

Mechatronics team joins Massey

An internationally respected mechatronics research team has joined Albany's Institute of Information and Mathematical Sciences.

Nkgatho Tlale, Professor Glen Bright and Johan Potgieter

Nkgatho Tlale, Johan Potgieter and Professor Glen Bright, who have worked as a team at the University of Natal for the past eight years, will teach senior students in the Bachelor of Engineering and Bachelor of Technology degrees.

Mechatronics is the design and engineering of intelligent machines. It incorporates mechanical engineering, electronic engineering and control engineering. CD players, digital cameras and airbags are all mechatronic.

The new staff are expert in integrated mechatronics: the design and development of control systems for manufacturing processes combined with Internet technology.

Managing cultural diversity

Former Race Relations Conciliator Dr Rajen Prasad will teach the principles of diversity management in a new paper on Public Policy and Local Government.

The paper, offered by the School of Social and Cultural Studies at the Albany campus, will prepare policy analysts and makers to deal with the new Local Government Act, which obliges councils to promote the "sustainable cultural wellbeing" of constituents.

"Some forward thinking local authorities with strong leaders, such as Manukau's Barry Curtis, Christchurch's Garry Moore and Dunedin's Sukhi Turner, have been promoting genuine cultural diversity for a number of years.

"The new legislation will require all Councils to adopt a similar approach to promote a democratic and inclusive society," says Dr Prasad.

Dr Prasad says the demography of New Zealand will have changed considerably by 2046: 20 percent of the population will be Māori, 12 percent Pacific peoples, 12 percent Asian and 50 percent will identify as Pākehā or European.

"During his presidency Bill Clinton said managing cultural diversity was the single most perplexing problem of the 21st century," says Dr Prasad.

The other components of the paper – governance of local authorities, their relationship to the Crown, Treaty partnership, regional development, planning and the annual budget process – will be taught by Associate Professor Marilyn Waring and Mark Bellingham.

IN MEMORIAM

Sir Peter Blake, KBE, the head of blakexpeditions, was tragically shot and killed on 6 December 2001, in Macapa at the mouth of the Amazon River.

A few weeks earlier Dr Orams, Massey lecturer and a longtime friend, had been with him.

"Peter was starting out on a new adventure, looking forward to all the things he was yet to achieve. The tragedy is it was cut short," says Dr Orams of Sir Peter's quest to raise environmental awareness.

"He saw this as being a life's work. He was so passionate about what he was trying to achieve, even more than he had been for the America's Cup."

"He really truly believed in what he was doing. He wanted all he had experienced as an ocean going yachtsman to be preserved for the next generations. He saw deterioration and he wanted to bring it to people's attention. He saw a role for science and saw a role for advocates for the natural environment and that's what he had become. That fits with what Massey tries to do: it tries to make a difference and that's one of the reasons he was proud to receive the Honorary Doctorate from Massey."

He praised Sir Peter for the courage he displayed in pursuing his dreams while fully understanding the risks. "He will be remembered for his kindness, his courtesy and his consideration of other people. For me he was not just a personal friend but a hero."

Sir Peter's Honorary Doctorate was conferred

High-tech air navigation degree a first

Airways New Zealand and the Massey University School of Aviation are to develop a combined degree course in Air Navigation Services (ANS), an appellation that covers air traffic management, navigation services and communications. The degree will meet international demand.

Airways, with 50 years' experience in the international market, has the practical experience to offer a full range of ANS training including satellite-based air traffic management (CNS/ATM), while Massey is a world leader in tertiary aviation training but lacks the regulatory approvals to deliver internationally recognised ANS programmes.

The new aviation degree course will add to the suite of degree courses already available through Massey. These include a Bachelor of Aviation and Master of Aviation. The degree should be launched in 2003.

Gene research deals blow to blowflies

Dr Max Scott from the Institute of Molecular BioSciences has been awarded the 2001 Applied Biosystems Medal from the New Zealand Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology for his research into chromosomes and gene structure.

Dr Scott and colleagues have been investigating how changing chromosome structure regulates genes. He's been applying this basic knowledge to develop genetically modified strains of the Australian sheep blowfly that would be ideal for sterile release programmes.

The relatively recently introduced Australian sheep blowfly is a major cause of flystrike in New Zealand, which is estimated to cost $37 million annually in lost production and control measures. Increasing resistance to some insecticides and a demand for wool with low insecticide residue has created demand for a biological method of control. The sterile release control Dr Scott is working on (where sterilised males are released into the field to mate with fertile females but produce no viable offspring) is similar to successful international programmes which have been used to eradicate screwworm from North America, tsetse fly from Zanzibar, Queensland fruit fly from Western Australia and medlfy from Mexico.

Dr Scott's work is possible because of one of the distinguishing features of eukaryotes (fungi, plants and animals). Their genes are part of linear chromosomes that are contained within the nucleus of the cell, each of which can contain relatively large amounts of DNA. For example, DNA isolated from the nucleus of a single human cell if arranged end-to-end would total almost two metres in length. To house this entire DNA in the nucleus, eukaryotes have evolved highly sophisticated mechanisms for packaging the DNA into a compact structure. The bulk of the DNA is in a highly folded, compressed, closed structure. A small fraction of the DNA is in a much more open, unwound structure. It is the latter that contains the genes that are being expressed (switched on) in a cell.

"Over the past 10 years it has become apparent that changing the chromatin structure of a gene from a closed to an open state is a critical step in gene regulation. We know that this process is regulated by large multi-protein complexes that have components found in all eukaryotes."

Dr Scott works on one such complex, the MSL complex in the vinegar fly, Drosophila melanogaster, translating this across to the blowfly. The MSL complex binds to the male X chromosome and precisely doubles the expression of X-linked genes. Dr Scott and colleagues have been studying the role of one of the proteins, MSL1, in complex assembly and X chromosome binding. They have also been investigating how the complex so precisely controls gene expression for thousands of X-linked genes. Since some of the MSL proteins are found in other eukaryotes, including humans, the research is likely to be generally applicable.

Dr Scott's work breeding an Australian blowfly that would be ideal for a male-only sterile release programme has been funded by Wools of New Zealand since 1997. Working with a group at AgResearch Wallaceville, Dr Scott has constructed a gene that under certain conditions is lethal to female flies but otherwise has no effect on either male or female viability; has identified a method of carrying the gene into the blowfly chromosomes; and has developed a way of distinguishing the transgenic fly from the much more plentiful non-transgenic flies. They are now working on inserting the female-killing gene into blowflies.

When good cats smell bad

It may sound a little like an upmarket perfume, but, for humans, felinine, the amino acid responsible for the way tom cats smell, is anything but.

And while Dr Wouter Hendriks and his team from the Institute of Food, Nutrition and Human Health can't yet promise to neutralise the smell, they have uncovered how the felinine is transported in the blood of male cats.

"This is a major breakthrough. Ever since the amino acid was discovered in 1951 people have hypothesised about how it was synthesised. The prevailing hypothesis was that the kidney synthesised the felinine directly. We've disproved that theory and found a tri-peptide in cats' blood that contains this amino acid. This opens up whole new areas of research."

Dr Hendriks says felinine is excreted in enormous amounts, about two grams in every litre of urine, in only certain species of cats. By analysing the urine of 32 species of cat, from tigers and lions to the domestic moggy, they've found members of some families previously thought to be genetically linked don't excrete felinine in the same amounts.

"That means either the genetic relationship is wrong or the cats have selectively started to excrete it."

The species that do excrete felinine are generally forest dwellers. Big cats such as lions use their roar and scratch marks to communicate and mark their territory. Smaller cats in forest or urban settings communicate through their urine.

"Felinine is related to testosterone, so females can identify potential mates through the level of testosterone excreted, which tells them how big and strong the male is, and whether it's good father-potential."

Dr Hendriks says there could be potential to develop organic repellents against rodents using felinine, or even a spray to neutralise tom cat urine.

Spectators behaving badly

No children's sport is immune from barracking from the sideline or the phenomenon of the ugly parent.

But you may be surprised to learn that the ugliest parents are on the netball sidelines and some of the nicest at the basketball. It may also concern you that nearly half the comments from spectators at children's sports are negative.

These are some of the findings of College of Education student Janine Bannister, who looked at the Nature and Target of Supporters' Comments from the Sidelines of Sports Games for her final-year Physical Education course.

Bannister's study took five different sports – rugby, netball, basketball, in-line hockey and soccer – with participants aged between 10 and 16 and recorded and analysed spectators' comments.

She found that 46.4 percent of the comments were negative, 66.5 percent were directed at teams, 30 percent at individual children, 1.6 percent at officials, and 1 percent at other spectators.

Basketball had the best behaved spectators with the highest proportion of positive comments (64.5 percent) and lowest negative (35.5 percent). By far the worst behaved were netball spectators: 55.5 percent of their comments were negative. Netball was the only sport in which negative comments outnumbered positive.

Bannister speculates that proximity to the players may have something to do with it. "In both basketball and in-line hockey, where spectators were best behaved, they are required to sit in stands a distance back from the court. In soccer, rugby and netball spectators stand right on the sideline."

The only other major difference she noted was that most of the netball spectators were women.

A cluster of the magnificent Massey Rose, a hybrid tea created by Dr Sam McGredy.

Just the answer

I'm trying to find out just how many times better is a dog's hearing compared to a human's. I have heard between 10 to 12 times better. Is this correct, and would it hold true for wild animals like coyotes or wolves?

Thank you for your time on this.
Steve Taylor

This is not an easy ques as different animals have that responds best to differe sounds. Humans with norm hear sounds between abou and about 18–23 kHz depen age. The acuity of hearing by audiometry, which inv subjects to particular freq increasing the volume until subject presses a button to indicate when they have heard something. Audiometry is calibrated so that the limit of normal human hearing at a particular frequency is set to 0 decibels. Unfortunately there are a number of complications which make comparison with other animals difficult.

You can't test hearing in animals and very young children using this test as they are unable to co-operate with the examination and press the button at the right time. Hearing in animals can be assessed in two ways. In the first method the animal is trained to perform a certain behaviour when it hears a particular sound. After a period of training, the volume of the sound is reduced until the animal no longer performs the behaviour. This technique is very time consuming, uses lots of animals to build up a comprehensive picture of hearing and works better with some species than others.

In the second method the electrical response of the animal's brain to the sound is ced on the scalp. The onse is called a brainstem d potential (BAEP). The o perform but the results fficult to interpret. The electrical response is ated by areas of the brain the brainstem that process the nervous signal from the ear before passing the information on to the cerebrum, at which oint the animal becomes ious of a sound. Very quiet may be processed in the but not passed on to the entres of the brain. These e a BAEP, but will not be rd by the animal.

erms, a dog hears sounds itory range more or less al person. However, the hearing range of the dog extends up to about 50 kHz. This means that a dog will hear high-frequency sounds to which the human ear does not respond. Devices such as dog whistles take advantage of this by producing a sound which is beyond the limit of human hearing but still easily heard by the dog. When dogs hear things before people it may be that they are responding to sounds outside the human hearing range rather than hearing the same sounds with greater sensitivity than the person. For example, many dogs hear visitors' cars arrive before their owners do. They may be responding to high-frequency sounds made by the cars, which are too high pitched for the owners to hear.

Dr Craig Johnson,
Institute of Veterinary,
Animal and Biomedical Sciences

Friends have been accusing me of going berserk in the garden. I think they exaggerate. What would I hav to do to go berserk?

I suppose in the modern sense of frenzied and out of control you might just make the grade with your secateurs, but you'd have to do better to win some respect fro a Viking. The word berserk is likel derive from the Norse words for coat ('bjorn' 'serkr'), though in dress code a wolf-skin would hav just as well. What mattered was tha be as thick as possible, to deflec swords, throwing-axes, and suchlike berserks probably worked ther into so frenzied a state that they be themselves to be the bears and w whose skins they wore. Many would h carried names that harked back animals whose fierceness they wished

Bjorn ('bear') was a common name ('wolf'). Being berserk was not a rsuit. Berserks would typically have r-bands of a dozen or so young ing for their chief.

Were drugs used to reach the berserk nzy? Attractive as the idea may be o a certain counter culture, it's unlikely. The only assistance was divine, as berserks called on their favourite god, Odin.

Russell Poole,
School of English & Media Studies

Is it true that New Zealand has the highest asthma prevalence in the world?

No, though the misconception is widespread. For 20 years people have been saying that we have the highest asthma prevalence in the world, but this is all based on anecdotes and speculation. Now good international parisons have been we know that that othing exceptional Zealand: all of the speaking countries ly high prevalence. allergens from lust mites, cats and cause asthma? ady have allergic things may trigger ck or make your ut they don't seem to be important causes for you getting asthma in the first place. In fact, there are other centres in English-speaking countries, such as Tucson, Arizona, with virtually no exposure to house dust mites, but they have the same asthma prevalence as us. It now appears that having a high allergen exposure early in life may even be good for you; for example, having a cat in the house early in life may even protect you against getting asthma.

Oddly enough the increasing incidence of asthma may have to do with increasing cleanliness and affluence and consequently a decline in childhood infections. When your body senses it is under attack the immune system responds with T cells. There are two main types. One type, the Th1 cells, respond to infections such as viruses and bacteria. The other type, the Th2 cells, respond to parasites (helminths), but also are involved in the allergic response. It may be that it takes the odd childhood infection to 'switch' the immune system in a TH1 direction and away from the TH2 (allergic) direction which predominates around the time of birth. We have become 'too clean', allergically speaking, for our own good. We generally live longer and healthier lives, but the price has been that of becoming more prone to allergies and allergic asthma. If we could work out how to mimic the beneficial effects (and avoid the hazardous effects) of infant infections then we could develop an 'asthma vaccine'.

Professor Neil Pearce,
Centre for Public Health Research

ENTREPRENEUR

Name: Michael Whittaker

Qualification: BBS

The man from At-lantis

Michael Whittaker doesn't have a CV. Why should he? The 2001 New Zealand Entrepreneur of the Year, and multimillionaire Auckland businessman, has never been an employee.

So when MASSEY's photographer asks Michael to angle his face a little more toward the light, there is a moment's hesitation. Obliging Michael is, but he is clearly unused to being told what to do.

At high school in Hawke's Bay he made money propagating plants and running his own small nursery. While studying towards a BBS at Massey he would fly between New Zealand and South East Asia importing leather and ceramics. After university it was down to Queenstown to establish a new brand of ice cream, the forerunner to the premium ice cream brand, Killinchy Gold. Then it was establishing the Exchange Tavern in Auckland.

But it's the 30-year-old's latest venture, The Atlantis Group, that's making people take notice. Currently growing at 300 percent (a slight slowing on the exuberant 700 percent of 1998), The Atlantis Group is the second fastest growing company in New Zealand according to the 2001 Delloite/ Unlimited Fast 50 Awards. It provides end-to-end customer service for a clientele that numbers Mobil, McDonald's, Caltex and the Dymocks booksellers franchise among its ranks.

Part of the package is a smart card technology for which the Atlantis Group is the sole international patent holder. The 'smart card' contains a technology that changes the messages on the face of the card with every transaction. Swipe your card at a point of purchase and you can be offered any number of incentives, such as points to earn rewards or instant prizes. The cards can also work as reusable, deductible, electronic gift vouchers. The cards are being used for ski ticketing in Europe, for bus passes in Germany, and, here in New Zealand, for the Mobil Max card.

And the hub of all this is here. Here in a Symonds Street building in Auckland. Here where the 200-member team Michael terms his brains trust works in modest corporate surroundings. Here too, with a bit of luck, is where you'll find Michael, but you'd best book ahead, for Michael averages just five days a month in New Zealand. The remainder he spends living on the move, flying between offices in Sydney, Singapore, Tokyo, New York and Kansas, brokering deals with clients and assisting staff.

What keeps him here? Despite the logic of relocation, New Zealand is where Michael's heart lies, where he wants to be. "If I put the skills and 'brains trust' located in this company into the US, we would have a multi-billion dollar company. One of our nearest US equivalents is listed at US $1.8 billion, approximately NZ $5 billion," he admits. It is difficult for a New Zealand company to be seen in the US as anything other than a New Zealand-based company. "But we stay here because we like it. We like the lifestyle and it's great to be able to keep some of our talent in New Zealand."

Michael works incredibly hard, although the work/leisure distinction is not one he employs. "I'm not here to work, I'm here to do the things I enjoy. I often joke about how I don't want to sleep for more than 12 years of my life. Some people who live to 70 seem to sleep for 35 years. That's not the type of person I am. I sleep for four to five hours a night at the most."

"We stay here because we like it. We like the lifestyle and it's great to be able to keep some of our talent in New Zealand"

The concept for Atlantis came to Michael when he and some friends were on holiday, taking their ease on a Hawaiian beach, batting around ideas over the pina coladas. There was a consensus that there would be a New Zealand market for a superior outsourced data management service, so in 1996 Michael went out and founded Atlantis.

At first Michael had reservations about the quality of data the company was able to offer. He knew they could do better. "We approached five companies, some of New Zealand's largest multi-nationals, all of whom are still clients today, and asked them to sponsor a database that would offer more. They agreed and we built it in record time, under budget."

As Atlantis began to do well, it expanded the services it offered. First it offered a data input, data management and data analysis service. Then the group started carrying out customer service operations on behalf of its clients by phone, letter and email. All of those mundane, daily operations that bedevil and distract companies could now be passed on to Atlantis – whether analysing customer spending habits or sending out promotional letters to customers. Then came the 'smart card' technology, another way for clients to communicate with their customers, says Michael, and so a logical move.

In 1997 the Atlantis Group bought the smart card distribution rights for the Asia–Pacific region, and, at the beginning of 2001, it bought out the American company who owned the technology, acquiring all of the related global patents. "We liked the company so much we ended up buying it. We liked the technology but we were frustrated by the parent company because all they were selling was cards and technology," says Michael. "We wanted to sell a solution, we wanted to extract more value." This means the daily management of the promotions and incentive schemes for which the cards are used worldwide.

So why has Atlantis grown and grown? Michael credits a large part of the success to good-old-fashioned customer service, something that had been forgotten by the large corporations that dominated the market.

Atlantis offers a 500 percent guarantee on all of its data: if the quality is less than perfect, Atlantis will reimburse the client five times over. The work place culture forbids the use of 'can't do', 'won't do' and 'shouldn't do'. Atlantis is known for always delivering ahead of schedule, and it seldom goes over budget. Michael also swears by meeting clients face-to-face. "This is what makes business go around. I have no more credibility than the person next door to me but I gain credibility by turning up."

The headache of recent months has been dealing with the fallout from the events of September 11. "At the time we were in full US expansion. We were asking companies to commit to programmes and roll out expenditure but September 11 created an environment where no one could commit to anything. It was not until January this year that the tap literally started turning on like it was September 10."

Does the man from Atlantis have the Midas touch? Full disclosure: not strictly. Among the winners are some also-rans. It took a number of years for Michael to recoup losses from his involvement in the Exchange Tavern, and not every Atlantis project has made it to fruition. "You don't go into a business venture worrying that it's going to fail. If you do that you may as well not even start. The reality is, though, that seven out of 10 ventures will fall over," Michael says cheerfully.

Michael doesn't believe he thinks any differently to most other people, he just does things differently. "I do what I want to do. If I want to go and try something, I will. This is not a selfish approach, it's just the way my life is at the moment. Just do it – Nike were on the money when they coined that phrase." Had it not been for Michael's attitude Atlantis might be no more than a good idea talked about on a Hawaiian beach.

Atlantis is not Michael's only going concern. He recently opened a factory in Christchurch that is producing a new organic ice cream under the Thorntons brand. There are other ventures too. But Michael is close-lipped – for now.

DAIRY FARMER

Name: Gene Roberts

Qualification: BAgr

When dairy farmer Gene Roberts has a bad day he doesn't write it off as just one of those things. It's not just that he has high standards ("I hate under-performing. I like to be good at anything I do"), but as the 2001 Wrightson Agmardt Young Farmer of the Year he feels he has expectations to live up to.

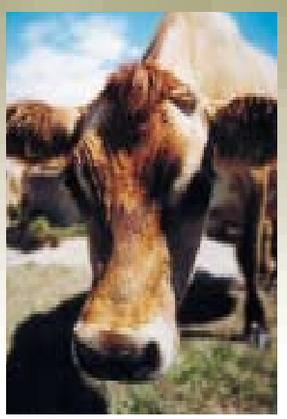
"I get in at the end of a bad day on the farm and I think 'how can this be, I'm supposed to be the young farmer of the year?'" says Gene.

To win the Young Farmer of the Year is to win the Olympics of the farming world. To place you have to display not only good general knowledge and knowledge of the entire farming industry, but be able to demonstrate it in a series of tough practical challenges and to withstand the pressure of being quizzed in front of the nation.

For 33 years the cream of New Zealand's farming youth have gone shovel-to-shovel, fence strainer-to-fence strainer and buzzer-to-buzzer in the iconic annual event. Though the farming image may be forever Swanndris and Redbands [brands of felted woollen top and gumboot], today's competitors need to be business-smart and computer savvy. They could be called on to write and present a report on international finance markets or cook scones, shear a sheep or erect a fence. And then there's the grand final, when 12 of the country's finest don black tie and compete live on television answering quick-fire, general knowledge questions.

Despite those days when he has his doubts, Gene's win was no fluke. In 2000 a mate dragged him along to the local Young Farmer of the Year contest in Whakatane. He won the local and regional competition and went on to take third in the national final (an outstanding effort, as many previous winners have battled their way to the finals more than twice, gaining experience, before nailing the big one).

He hadn't trained for the district competitions ("I've got shocking study habits") and went into the 2000 finals thinking he would come last. "After getting third I analysed where I went wrong and decided I could do this thing." In 2001 a good all-round performance secured the title. Gene didn't win any of the events on the two days leading up to the televised show, but won the question round convincingly with his good general knowledge.



He says stress and nerves performing before a national audience were his downfall in 2000 so last year he brushed up his skills, practised a bit and – with some stern words from fiancee Jo on the night of the televised finals – went out and won.

"A lot of people are daunted by what they see on TV. They shouldn't be – the fact that I won is proof anyone can do it. You've got nothing to lose and everything to gain. It was very humbling to win. At times I still struggle to accept that I did it."

As Young Farmer of the Year he sees himself as a role model for young people looking at their career options. "Agriculture is an excellent career option for young people. In dairy farming especially there is a clear path of progression. You can start in a basic waged position and can quickly work up to managing a farm, then sharemilking where you're building an asset. There are plenty of opportunities to grow your business quickly if you're dedicated."

Gene admits farming is still a big commitment but "you don't get rewards without hard work. There's no glamour in it but it has a lot of positives too." No one wants to get up at 5:00 am every morning to milk cows, but no commuting, no traffic, no rent and working outside are a drawcard. (Well for Gene at least. Jo, also a Massey grad, prefers her job in marketing.)

"The competition helps highlight the positives about farming. It's a progressive industry and what New Zealand does well. Farming pays the bills. Farmers are the ultimate innovators: we've had to be to compete internationally."

Gene manages 320 Jersey cows on an unremarkable 80 hectare dairy farm a stone's throw from the sea, just down the coast from Papamoa and its rich neighbour, Mt Maunganui. The property is one of five owned by a local family. After five months of Gene and Jo's management the property is producing 93,000 kilograms of milksolids annually, making it the most productive of the five.

Gene grew up on a 10 acre block in the Wairarapa where he spent his holidays working on local dairy farms. After graduating with a Bachelor of Agriculture (now a major in the Bachelor of Applied Science), Gene headed to the northern hemisphere for his big OE. He milked cows in Ireland, did agricultural contracting work in England, then spent six months cooking in a London pub – which he says reinforced his conviction that he didn't want to live in the city.

Gene says the overseas experience opened his eyes to the different farming practices in use throughout the world but most of all showed him how lucky New Zealand farmers are. "The moderate weather is one thing, but it's not just farming. We are so lucky to live here in every way."

Gene and Jo travelled through Europe and Africa before returning to New Zealand and taking up the manager's position in the Bay of Plenty. They've been working for the same family for nearly four years – three years on another farm down the road, before moving up to this property with the aim of going sharemilking in a couple of years' time, depending on their finances and the price of cows. Then eventually farm ownership, when Gene hopes he'll be able to have a more hands-off role, making the most of his experience and making room for more young people to enter the industry.

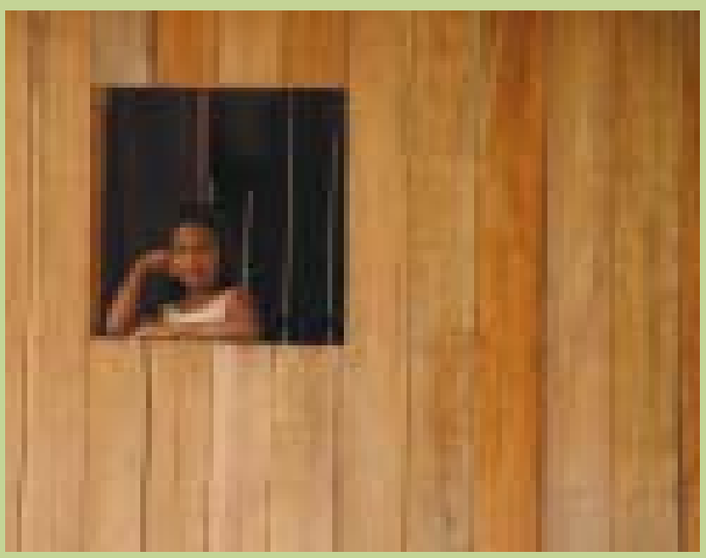
in the heart of the amazon

Getting an interview with Dr Mark Orams is a process for acquiring spiritual virtue. Along the way you develop patience, you live in constant hope, and you keep faith that one day your phone calls will coincide and a meeting will take place.

This man is busy. The first overtures for an interview were made in October when the reporter heard the Massey marine scientist and lecturer was on his way to the Amazon to sail up the Rio Negro with Sir Peter Blake. Yes, we would get together when he returned and MASSEY would have a story that would be the envy of National Geographic. Late November, Dr Orams was back but the reporter, holidaying in the far north, wasn't. The first television seen in a week was switched on. There was Dr Orams on the tail end of the breakfast programme talking about his friend Sir Peter. As the day developed and the wandering reporter came into radio earshot the full horror of what had happened on board Seamaster unfolded.

Dr Orams: ecstatic to be a part of blakexpeditions.

Back in Auckland, Dr Orams was preparing to go to England for Sir Peter's funeral and we hastily determined to try for an interview some time mid January. Three weeks after Christmas, and it became a matter of telephone tag between MASSEY and Team New Zealand headquarters, where Dr Orams was spending the summer at sea helping the team in their weather programme, as he did for the successful defence of the America's Cup in 2000.



At last, in a silent outpouring of gratitude to the god of deadlines, we sit down in February in a sunny office crammed with citations and degrees from around the world, maps, pictures of dolphins and marine creatures and his children's paintings. Plenty to look at and muse upon while Dr Orams is on the phone dealing with an urgent IT problem that is holding up preparations for teaching and researching in the year ahead.

Mark Orams grew up "messing around" in boats in Torbay (where he still lives today) and eventually became a professional yachtsman. A friendship was forged with Peter Blake as they raced in 1989–1990 in that most arduous of yachting events the Whitbread Round the World Yacht Race. Then they worked together in the successful America's Cup defence. Sir Peter asked Dr Orams to join him as a member of his new marine environmental organisation blakexpeditions as an on board scientist and crew member. However, with a young son of barely a year and a new baby on the way, Mark was reluctant to spend months at sea away from his new family. Completely supportive of his decision, Sir Peter extended a standing invitation for Mark to join him on expeditions whenever he could. He passed on the Antarctic expedition but later jumped at the chance to spend a month journeying 2000 miles up the Amazon and Rio Negro in Brazil.

"I was ecstatic to have the opportunity to be involved with blakexpeditions and appreciate the support of Massey University for me to do so. My plan was to get involved hands-on with local scientists there. I was lucky enough to meet with Dr Vera da Silva, the foremost scientist studying river dolphins in Brazil. She is director of the Aquatic Mammal Laboratory at the Amazon National Research Institute in the city of Manaus, where the Rio Amazon and Rio Negro meet. Here many of the most important scientists working on the ecology of the Amazon are based.

Dr Orams's own research has focused on marine dolphins and assessing the impacts of tourism – but he had never before seen fresh-water dolphins and was excited about the opportunity to observe and learn about these uniquely adapted marine mammals.

There are two species of dolphin found up the Amazon River and its tributaries: the larger Boto and the smaller Tucuxi. In particular Dr Orams was fascinated by the Boto, the largest of the world's five river dolphin species. Unlike many other animals in the Amazon basin and river dolphin species around the world, Boto numbers are fairly healthy. "Other related species, such as the Ganges River dolphin and the Indus River dolphin, are on the verge of extinction, and in the Amazon mammals such as the giant otter and manatee are endangered. As a result I was curious as to why Boto numbers have remained so strong." After the expedition Orams thinks the reason for their success could be both biological and cultural.

"From a biological perspective the Boto is

All photographs used courtesy of *blakexpeditions*. Photographers: Dr Mark Orams and Don Robertson.

The Amazon parrot, one of many species of parrot found in the Amazon basin.

The floodplain of the Amazon and Rio Negro lacks nutrients, so the locals purchase soil to grow vegetables, placing them in containers above the river to prevent the plants drying out in the heat.

a dolphin – it has a prominent and bulging forehead, known as the melon. Attached to this is an unusually long and narrow beak, accounting for about 18 per cent of its body length. The Boto also has a flexible neck so that it can turn its head sideways and up and down. All of these features suggest the Boto has developed an elaborate and extremely accurate form of echolocation. Of course such an adaptation would be important for navigating and hunting in the low visibility of the Amazon and Rio Negro."

Additional adaptations may have contributed to the Boto's success – they prey on more than 50 different fish species and, most importantly, most of these are fish not targeted by commercial or subsistence fisheries. The Boto can also survive the huge variations of water level that are such a feature of the Amazon river system. Dr Orams described in his diary times when they hauled the Seamaster's centreboards up in depths of less than 2.5 metres. "In the dry the Boto focuses on the confluence areas where rivers join and presumably there are more fish. In the wet it extends its range out onto the flood plain, searching amongst trees on the forest floor where its flexible neck and body are a great advantage."

But there is another important explanation for the Boto's successful survival, and it has little to do with its biology. "Apparently there are many local legends associated with the Boto. Everywhere in the Amazon it is considered bad luck to harm Boto. Many of the Amazon's indigenous people believe the Boto are the souls of drowned people. Some tell of an enchanted city under the water where the Boto kingdom lies. Another story warns that anybody who looks at a lamp fuelled by Boto oil will go blind," says Dr Orams.

All good reasons to taboo hunting this creature. But there are others. For some peoples the dolphin are putative kin – they believe the Boto can appear as a handsome man who seduces young women and impregnates them.

"Apparently not so long ago the birth register for parts of the Amazon contained a number of babies with the father registered as the Boto."

The Botos' protection by custom illustrates the convergence of the cultural and the biological, a relationship often overlooked, says Orams, when biologists despair about disappearing species. While biologists tend to consider degradation of the environment through human activity or climate change as the cause of declining numbers, they tend not to look at the intricate links between human beliefs and behaviour and biology. When the rest of the world piously offers up biodiversity or the preservation of wilderness as a rationale for saving the Amazon, and prescribes an end to logging and hunting, there is little connection being made with the lives of people who are living at a subsistence level.

The Amazon and its tributaries are home to more than 10 million people. Most live in small villages of about 45 people. They are mainly hunters and gatherers supplementing their livelihoods with some cultivation and trade. The river, says Dr Orams, is the most important influence on their lives. "It is their base for transport, it provides food, a place for washing and for disposing of rubbish." Although disappointed at the lack of wildlife he saw, he felt unease at pontificating on solutions to the decline in the Amazon ecosystem.

A diary entry in early November: "The Peixi Boi (manatee) continues to be hunted for food despite it being severely endangered and illegal. The local people also (perhaps understandably) seem to kill anything that could be a threat to their safety. Three days ago we found a coral snake macheteed and yesterday we were told of a large anaconda the locals had killed near the waterfall we had visited. Today we were shown the skull of a large caiman (alligator) that had been killed near the village."

"It is sobering to experience this – what it shows is that conservation is primarily the cause of the rich."

"When you are worried about providing for your family and keeping them safe, whether an animal is endangered or not is of little consequence."

"I feel caught over this issue. Here I am, the part-time visitor, from a rich Western country, here for a matter of weeks passing judgement on the way of life of a people who are friendly, welcoming and happy living a simple life. Yet I cannot ignore the plastic bags and other non-biodegradable rubbish I have seen all around Santa Helena (a village) today. There is no doubt that we in the so-called developed world are contributing to this situation – much of the plastic rubbish I saw today was probably made in developed countries. It is not productive to search for blame. Answers are what is needed."

Alleviating poverty and feeding and housing those 10 million plus people is the most immediate challenge facing anyone involved with preserving the Amazon environment, says Dr Orams.

Marine tourism provides a potentially sustainable industry. Orams consider that wildlife watching tourism operations and 'catch and release' angling such as that provided by the Peacock Bass fishing industry, which is already functioning in parts of the Rio Negro, are a potential way forward.

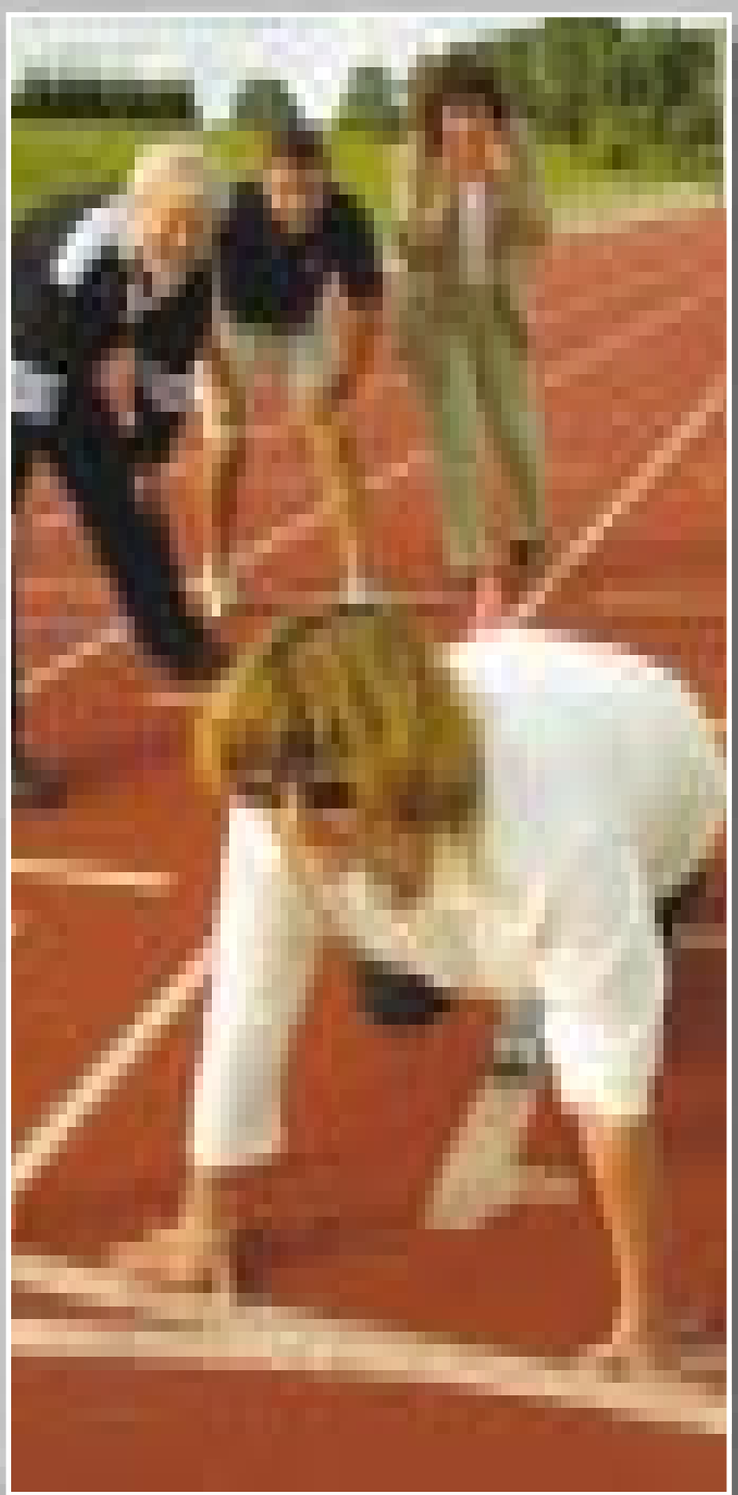
In addition, Dr Orams found hope in education: "I glimpsed a potential answer on a visit to the Santa Helena school, a small open-air building with no walls, worn old desks and 15 bright-eyed, smiling children. Our guide Miguel told them that we came from Nova Zealandia where 'there are no caiman, no jaguars, no snakes or monkeys, no otters, manatees or river dolphins' and explained that we were here because the Amazon was so special and the animals that lived here so important.

"As I looked at these beautiful delightful children I hope this seed planted in their minds might develop and grow into a sense of pride and caring for their

GETTING WITH THE PROGRAMME

A BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO SELF RENOVATION

It started with a chance remark. Well, I say a chance remark, but of course it was made in Wellington by a journalist at the daytime social venue, Astoria, where remarks are almost always strategic and targeted, and frequently competitive if not downright bitchy. Most people at Astoria have made themselves thin. This is also known as Being in Control of Your Life.



"Isn't it bizarre," said the chance remarker. "Here we are in Wellington, working to keep our weight down and stay fit, despite access to countless stunning restaurants and having to spend literally hours driving through rush hour traffic to get to the gym. And there you are up at Massey with it all laid on for you and you're not. Isn't it odd?"

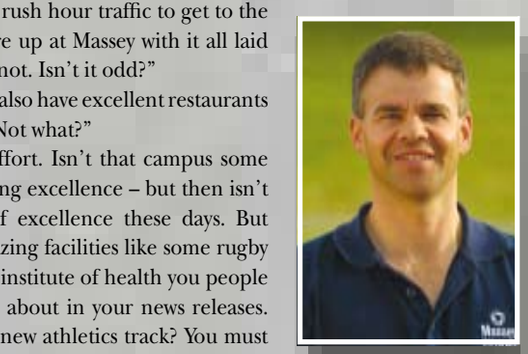
"All laid on? Yes, we also have excellent restaurants in Palmerston North. Not what?"

"Not making the effort. Isn't that campus some sort of centre of sporting excellence – but then isn't everything a centre of excellence these days. But you do have some amazing facilities like some rugby thing and that famous institute of health you people are always banging on about in your news releases. Haven't you just got a new athletics track? You must have a gym!"

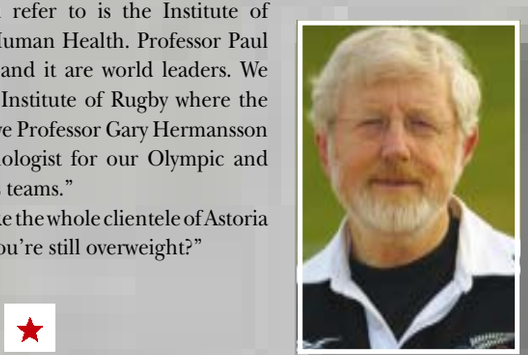
"It is called a Recreation Centre. In fact our athletics track is an all-weather one, state-of the-art. The institute you refer to is the Institute of Food, Nutrition and Human Health. Professor Paul Moughan runs it. He and it are world leaders. We also have the addidas Institute of Rugby where the All Blacks train. We have Professor Gary Hermansson too. He's sports psychologist for our Olympic and Commonwealth games teams."

"What!" It sounds like the whole clientele of Astoria have joined in. "And you're still overweight?"

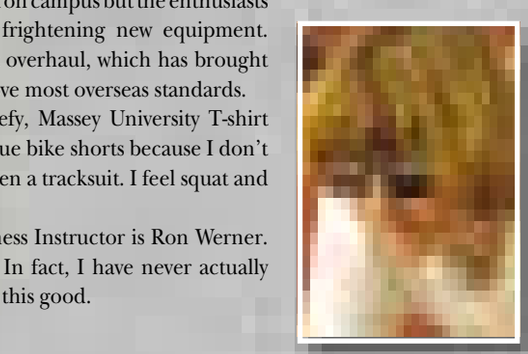
Nutrition expert: Dr Jane Coad



Health and fitness instructor: Ron Werner



Motivational psychologist: Professor Gary Hermansson



The beginner: Di Billing

It is relatively quiet at the Rec Centre on the morning I arrive for my Fitness Assessment. The students aren't yet back on campus but the enthusiasts are there, trying out frightening new equipment. It's all part of a recent overhaul, which has brought facilities up to and above most overseas standards.

I am wearing a beefy, Massey University T-shirt and unexciting navy blue bike shorts because I don't have any leotards or even a tracksuit. I feel squat and foolish.

My Health and Fitness Instructor is Ron Werner. He is very tall and fit. In fact, I have never actually met anyone who looks this good.

Ron explains the tests that provide the information for an assessment. They will take about an hour, during which he will feed data into his computer, analyse it and print me out an assessment. The tests are 'submaximal' (not too strenuous) and involve measurement of height, weight, blood pressure, pulse rate, body composition, aerobic fitness, abdominal strength and control, and upper body strength and flexibility.

I have no problem with all but the second of the guidelines:

1. Do not perform strenuous activity prior to the test.
2. Restrict food intake to nothing more than a light snack for at least one hour before testing.
3. The most suitable attire is shorts and a T-shirt/singlet. Leotards and track pants limit the accuracy of body components and measurements.

The tests include press-ups, on which I try to cheat. This is immediately detected. Ron says most people try to fake it, but unless you do a press-up properly, there's no gain.

I realise this is not a competition. Or, if it is, it's between me and the New Me.

The assessment confirms that I am overweight for my height and age. I do not qualify for the dangerously overweight category but come dangerously close. Body composition is 26 percent fat. But muscle density is comparatively good, says Ron, which under the circumstances is enormously encouraging. Aerobic fitness is Low.

We identify my Programme Goals as: Well-being/Health/Enjoyment; Aerobic (cardiovascular) Fitness; Weight Loss/Fat Loss; Flexibility and Toning. We skip Strength and Increase Muscle Size. I like walking and my six-week programme has to be achievable and 'safe' for the overweight, unfit, middle-aged woman that I am. At this stage the programme requires:

1. continuous use of the cardio equipment (cycle, crosstrainer and stepper) for 25 minutes three times a week
2. continuous walking for 45–60 minutes two or three times a week.

Ron suggests I use the new all-weather track for walking.

The 400-metre track is splendid, and in the early morning I have it to myself. World record holders run 400 metres in under 40 seconds. I estimate I can manage ten laps walking in 45 minutes (60 minutes is for later). I enjoy the walk and do some serious thinking about work projects and family matters. Afterwards I feel good. I have a sense of achievement. This abates on my return to the office where a bank of emails, phone messages and mini-crises await me. "Where have you been?" asks somebody.

On my desk, however, is a story about Sports Management and Coaching lecturer John Downey. He is also President of the Manawatu–Wanganui Veteran Athletics association. He has just begun a PhD at Massey, exploring issues surrounding ageing and sport. Mr Downey is urging veterans to use the new all-weather track. He says at age 40, people can have a good 30 years of sporting competition ahead of them.

Two days later I set out to try the cardio equipment. My instructions are to be sure to monitor my heart rate, the intensity of which should be between 115 and 125 bpm. The equipment resides in a huge room in which I perceive that around 15 amazingly fit people, wearing excellent gear, are totally focused on rapid exercise with absolutely no regard for their heart beats per minute. They all seem very young. The students are back. Two of the walls of the room are mirrored. It is truly terrifying.

I blot it all out, mount the cycle, set it for Level One, activate the heart rate monitor and go for it. The process is truly fascinating, especially the titillating business of seeing the monitor shoot over the maximum and having to slow down to bring it back. It's tempting to let rip and see what happens. But this is not a competition.

An hour later, as I prepare to leave, I realise at least five others in the room are as old and as overweight as me. They are wearing T-shorts and bike shorts. They keep a close eye on their heart monitors. The others, not to be confused with us, are serious sports people aiming at Peak Performance and, no doubt, Strength.

I hurry back to the office to share my new experience. "Everybody gets excited the first time they use gym equipment," says a colleague. "But it wears off."

It's time to factor in the heavy smoking. At the Human Performance Lab, which is part of the College of Sciences, I meet Dr Roger Pack and manager (and power lifter) Brett Guthrie. We all agree that, regardless of my fitness project, it is desirable to reduce my cigarette intake of 30 a day and, in due course, to stop smoking altogether. This is incontrovertible.

Dr Pack, however, wonders whether it might not be better to tackle the two projects one at a time, to avoid setting myself up for failure. There is a theory, he says, that suggests when you stop or drastically reduce smoking, your respiratory performance can deteriorate in the short term (but improve later). He stresses that this is based on anecdotal evidence only, and is not proven. All the same, I decide to defer the smoking project while I focus on fitness.

Then Dr Pack drops a bombshell. He is supervising a thesis for a masterate in science by researcher Amy Barr. Her research supports the conclusions reached by other studies into the effect of a six-week programme, just like mine, on the fitness and weight of previously sedentary middle-aged women. Generally, the effect is nil. But the majority of the women surveyed said they felt better and fitter as the result of a programme. The conclusion, however, is that a six-week fitness programme alone will not do the trick. You have to stick with it for much longer. To lose weight over a six-week period you will probably also need to make changes to your diet.

Somewhat discouraged, I consult the staff of

I enjoy the walk and do some serious thinking... Afterwards I feel good. I have a sense of achievement. This abates on my return...where a bank of emails, phone messages and mini-crises await me.

the Institute for Food, Nutrition and Human Health. Dr Jane Coad offers to analyse my food and drink intake over the next two days. She will then assess that intake against my actual needs, for my age, weight and height. I promise to keep careful notes and be scrupulously honest. This I do, despite the two-day period coinciding with intense social activity, including a dinner party.

"You create a picture in your mind's eye and in doing so aim to bring it about. You may have a mindset about who you are and you perhaps need to modify that."
Prof. Gary Hermansson

Friday:

0700	One large glass high-calcium, low-fat milk.
1030	Three chocolate biscuits, coffee (University Council meeting morning tea).
1230	Large baked potato with the works, from the student cafeteria. Works = grated cheese, chilli con carne, sour cream, salsa, bacon, cheese sauce. One bottle of V energy drink.
1700	Three glasses chardonnay. One glass beer. Four deep-fried party savouries with salsa dip. Barbecued sausage with slice of bread.
1900	One packet cashew nuts. One large Dutch speculaas biscuit.
2000	Medium portion of left-over salad, including mesclun greens, potato, pinenuts, feta cheese, tomato, cucumber, olive oil, lemon. Whittakers peanut chocolate bar.

Saturday

0900	Large glass tomato juice. Large glass high calcium, low-fat milk. Three cups of coffee.
1000	Two slices of Vogel toast with Logicol butter replacement, topped with two tomatoes, salt and black pepper.
1230	Two salami sandwiches with tomato, red onion and peanut butter.
1500	Approximately four ounces Gouda cheese. Two speculaas biscuits.
1800–2000	Five glasses chardonnay.
1900	Two large pork chops cooked with onion, Calvados, garlic and quarter pint of cream. Three new potatoes. Four zucchini. Green salad with olive oil and lemon.
2400	Whittakers hazelnut chocolate bar.

Initially Dr Coad's report is devastating reading but it also contains the most helpful advice I've ever been offered on how to lose weight:

The energy intake is about 160 percent of what is required for maintenance. To reduce weight it needs to be less than 100 percent of the maintenance figure. Key contributors to that energy intake are alcohol (this may reflect a higher level of social interaction at the weekend) and fat. The estimated fat intake is 43 percent of the energy intake compared to the recommended 30–33 percent for an adult. The five-a-day fruit/vegetable aim is also not achieved.

On a practical aspect, in order to lose weight, energy intake has to be less than energy expenditure. Theoretically you can just increase energy expenditure but it is easier to reduce intake as well. The psychological aspects of weight management are extremely important – i.e. seeing an effect or having psychological support from another group member.

I would recommend changing your diet. The type of change depends on the person. Some people find it easier to have simple rules. Others find that can work against them. For example, if they eat a piece of birthday cake at work, which was 'not allowed', then the diet is broken for the day and they then eat without any restriction for the rest of that day. A lot of diets that appear effective for some people work because they are boring and the appetite is suppressed. For example: day one, vegetables only; day two, fruit only. Generally I think this type of diet should be avoided and the aim should be a better diet for life rather than a few short–term changes that result in a transient weight loss.

It works better to suggest positive changes such as eating an apple at breakfast time or at tea break or having an extra portion of vegetables rather than identifying foods not to be eaten (like biscuits). Eating more 'good' food (nutrient dense) leaves less room/appetite for 'bad' food (energy dense but lacking in other nut rients).

Excellent. The concept of filling up on the good stuff appeals to me. I know I can do it. There is, however, the psychological aspect raised by Dr Coad. It is time to see the sports psychologist.

As adviser to our Commonwealth and Olympic teams, Professor Gary Hermansson, is a formidable figure. Nonetheless, he listens carefully to the detail of my project and provides me with a set of strategies to succeed.

The key one he calls 'imaging'. "You create a picture in your mind's eye and in doing so aim to bring it about. You may have a mindset about who you are and you perhaps need to modify that. You are creating a new 'self' and that takes you away from the identity that, for example, says: 'I don't exercise. I don't enjoy sport. I don't try to get out and I don't recreate in this way. I read and I smoke, but I don't do physical things. If you shift that perception, if you see yourself doing it all differently, your behaviour is likely to shift as well."

Professor Hermansson suggests the use of challenges ("Today I will walk the all-weather track five times") and key words that suit you and trigger positive action. It doesn't work for everybody, but he mentions the Nike slogan: "Just Do It".

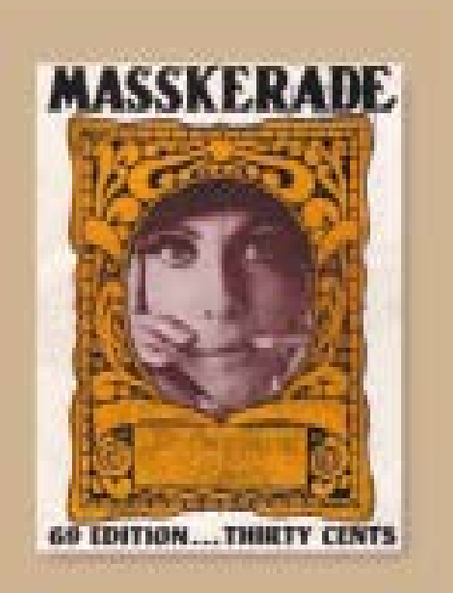
It's also a good idea to check out your family patterns and 'learned behaviour'. Did your parents walk, play sport or exercise in any way? If not, you'll be less inclined to do so. Did they eat a lot of fat and were they overweight? Break the mould.

Back for a further assessment with Ron Werner. As expected, at the six-week mark there is no change in either weight or aerobic fitness. Nor in fat composition. I admit that I have not stuck to the Programme, that work and social commitments have frequently taken priority. But I have not at any point found the activities boring, and the gymnasium equipment, culture and ambience have not lost their novelty or mystique.

This is promising and I am wished well. We note that I also have a concept for a diet that may work for me. We will meet again in six weeks time. I know I will look very different. There will still be a cigarette packet in my pocket, certainly. But I will be fit and thinner. My stride will be longer and I will no longer need to cheat on the press-ups. In my mind's eye, I can see their faces at Astoria as they see me walk in for my decaffeinated, low-fat latte. Hold the chardonnay, thank you.

Something to offend everyone

Masskerade 1969



In the view of the Tribunal the dominant impression conveyed by Masskerade 69 is one of barely relieved **vulgarity**. In word and picture its content is **coarse** in conception and **crude** in expression. Its frequent resort to the subject of **sex** as a prop for its humour, the **tasteless** attacks on religious forms and attitudes, and a series of jokes involving **disease**, **bestiality**, and **racial prejudice** undoubtedly offends against normal standards of **propriety** and **good taste**.

The Indecent Publications Tribunal provides a synopsis.

When you don the single white cotton glove of the archivist the act feels, well, ridiculous. This capping magazine was never meant for reverence; rather, the reverse. The paper is a coarse, flaking, yellowed newsprint and the cover is torn, and parted from the staples.

But it is a classic. Masskerade '69 was "Student filth", as Tom Scott, the editor and principal contributor freely admits, "but filth of the highest possible quality."

For Massey it is also a seminal document. Here is a magazine that drew the attention of priests, attornies general, editorial writers, the Indecent Publications Tribunal and an understandably vexed Vice-Chancellor. It's a magazine with a history, a window into a time.

Masskerade grew up as a very well mannered magazine, one you would never have expected bad behaviour from. From the 1940s, when it first appeared with regularity, and through into its adolescence in the 1950s Masskerade was well-matched to its small provincial agricultural alma mater. Lame mother-in-law jokes, Gilbert and Sullivan parodies, and advertisements for USEFUL AND LABOUR SAVING DEVICES FOR THE FARM, and Dixons Delicious Drinks sandwiched about the list of the year's graduates: this was the stuff of a fifties capping magazine.

But from the early sixties, as times changed, Masskerade began to turn delinquent. From mildly risque in 1962 to in-your-face by 1965; from mannered to anarchic; from tame to salacious. From an institutional bit-of-fun to a mass market commodity, to an earner. By 1969, the year of the infamous issue, Masskerade had become routinely deplored and wildly popular. Its print run exceeded 50,000 and it was being sold nationwide.

"We organised stunts to help sell. Students would go up and down the country in their [grass] skirts and they would do these primitive – these days they would be highly offensive– hakas through Hawera and Hastings and Rotorua. And they would sell quite a lot," says Scott.

As the editor of Masskerade, Scott nominally answered to a capping

committee, which in turn answered to the Students' Association, but from '67 on Masskerade was virtually the property of this bumptious former Feilding Ag pupil. He edited it, wrote most of the content and penned most of the cartoons: "I was delighting in having this power, having these magazines as my own plaything."

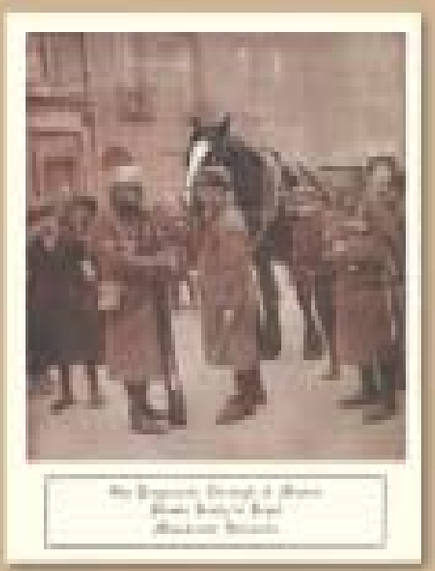
With each issue, Scott's line as a cartoonist became more sophisticated, more recognisably that of the man who would later cartoon for the New Zealand Listener and the Evening Post. The humour became harder hitting. And funnier.

"I used to read Punch and Mad magazine," says Scott. He modelled his cartooning style on the likes of Ron Cobb and Searle. "I was determined Masskerade would be as classy as a bunch of spotty adolescents could make it," he says. "There was me, John Muirhead, a guy called Murray Bramwell and a few other people. At a single stroke we became better and funnier and more trenchant.

"I keep meeting editors later on – people like Richard Harmen, Dave Smith and Roger Hall were editing student magazines in other parts of New Zealand – and they couldn't believe how suddenly good Masskerade became. And I take total credit for that."

The content? A lot of it was the capping magazine staple of the off-colour, resolutely unPC, eternally recycled jokes told in pubs and over smokos. Here Scott was lucky: "I worked beside a guy in a freezing works, and all day long he'd come up to me and tell me jokes. He had the biggest supply of jokes I had ever heard in my life. And he made me laugh all bloody day, and I'd try to remember a fraction of these jokes to put them in Masskerade."

There was the obligatory list of graduates, as slightly amended to please the whim of the editor: "What I used to do when I was writing Masskerade: Various friends of mine who hadn't passed their degrees… I occasionally gave people degrees they didn't have so their parents could read it in Masskerade. So some people they were able to say 'Look mum, see, I've got a first class doctorate in grass studies'. Even if there was no formal graduation or scroll, which could be framed, it was suitably captured for posterity in the pages of Masskerade."

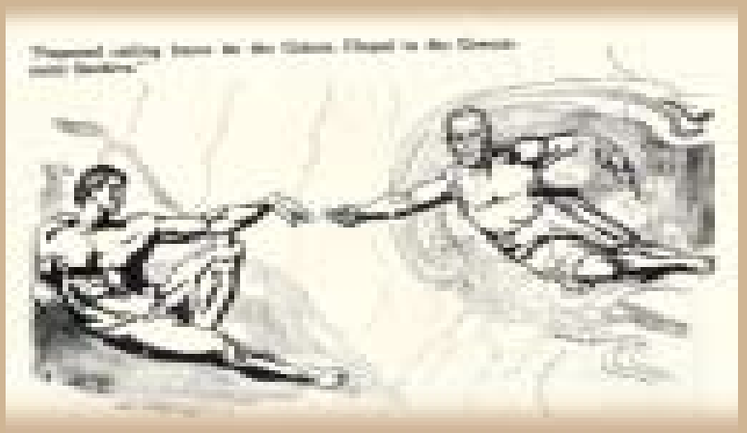


And there was blatantly provocative material: "Maximum offence – that was what you were aiming for – and to be funny," says Scott. And the '69 issue was the year in which he "really hit the straps".

"We managed to offend all the major faiths. When I showed that magazine to my mother she burst into tears, and I thought 'Oh, that must be bloody good, that's a cracker…'.

"The back cover is the best thing I ever did. We found a WWI sepia photo of troops and the caption is: 'The progressive borough of Marton prepares to repel Masskerade salesmen'.

"We had a photograph of a group of Israeli soldiers from the Six Day War, and one of them saying 'Look at that Arab kid run', and one of the other Israeli soldiers saying 'I put my money on the lion'.

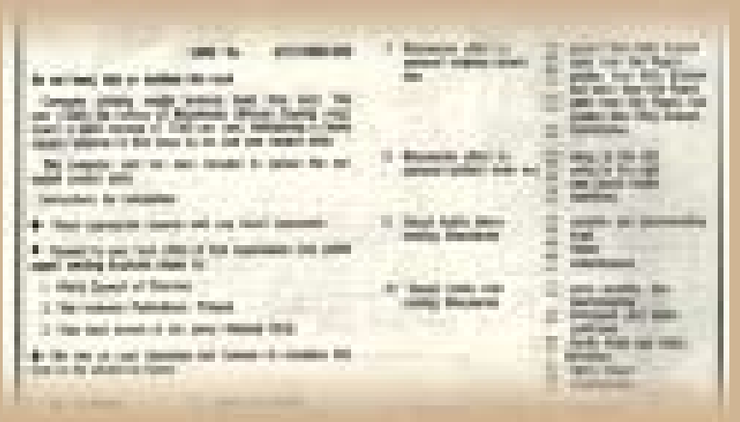


"We did the Sistine chapel: we had Keith Holyoake coming down – he was God – and instead of touching Adam's hand he was giving him the fingers."

And, better give it special mention now, Masskerade '69 had J.C. talks to Doubting Tom, a two-page cartoon gently mocking of the idea of the virgin birth, divine omniscience, the parting of the Red Sea, the miracle of the loaves and fishes, and the nature of Judas' kiss.

"I didn't realise it at the time, but someone said to me 'Do you realise you have slammed religion on almost every second page?' It never occurred to us. We never planned to have any theme to it, but some other people managed to divine one."

Would there be outrage? No doubt. Masskerade itself anticipated and spoofed the outrage it would cause:



However, no one, no one, could have anticipated how loud the outcry would be this time round.

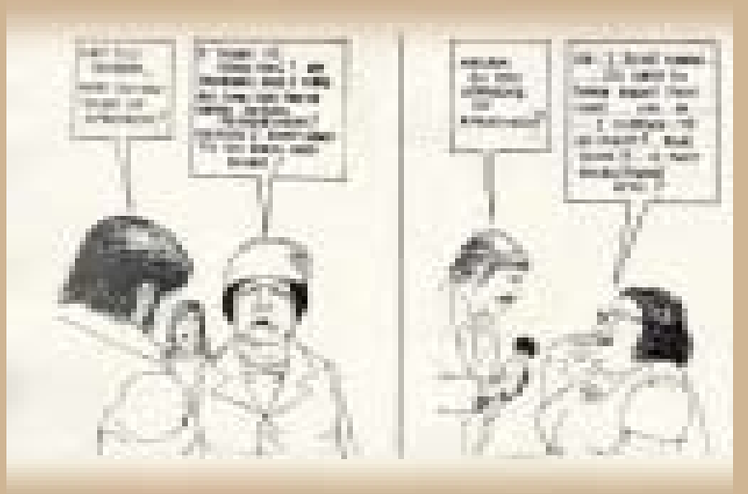
Easter 1969 came, Masskerade was distributed, and all hell broke loose. "It offended the Vice-Chancellor of the time [Dr Alan Stewart]: he was very, very angry and upset," says Scott. "And there was a Catholic priest in Hawke's Bay called Father Duffy who led a campaign to get Masskerade banned." Letters from "yours disgusted" and "outraged" poured into the Manawatu Evening Standard .

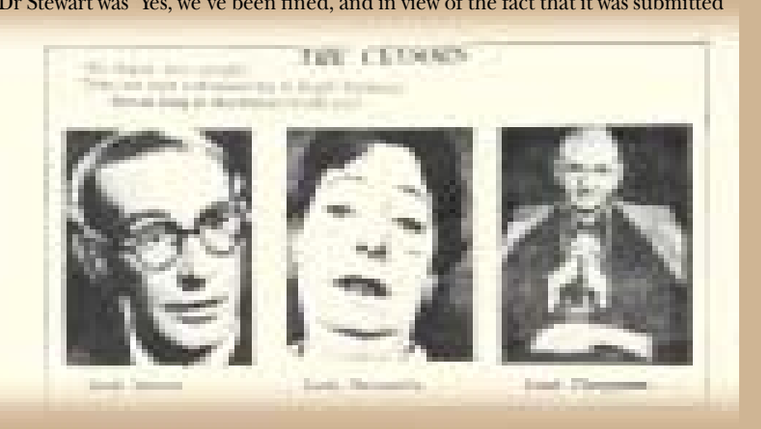
Was Masskerade the responsibility of the students or of the University? To the letter writers and public opinion the distinction was an irrelevance. The furore effectively torpedoed a University fundraising campaign for student hostels. It placed the Students' Association under threat of prosecution. Both the University and the Association wanted the controversy to go away.

"Brian Edwards wanted to fly me to Wellington to go on [the TV current affairs programme] Gallery," says Scott, "but the Student Union had a meeting and said 'No, you can't go. If you go on Gallery and get sued by one of the Churches or these charges of blasphemy continue we won't back you in any shape or form'."

Perhaps in an attempt to put some distance between Masskerade and the University, the Vice-Chancellor and the Professorial Board decided, against opposition from the AUT (the Association of University Teachers), to submit the issue to the Indecent Publications Tribunal for classification:

"It has been claimed that Masskerade contains material that could be construed as indecent but the Board considers it is not an appropriate body to judge the validity of such a claim. However, it is felt that it would be in the interests of the University if the question of whether the publication is indecent was considered by the Indecent Publications Tribunal."





"The students were of course none too pleased, not impressed at all. My own view was that we would be able to ride out the storm of criticism," says Pro Vice-Chancellor Robert Anderson, who as the then newly elected President of the Students Association had inherited the aftermath of Masskerade with his office.

Anderson and the outgoing student president Greg Taylor were summoned to appear before the Indecent Publications Tribunal in Wellington. "The lawyer acting for us was Hugh Williams, who went on to become the University's Chancellor," says Anderson. "We went to Wellington and our briefing session went on in the car going down.

"We appeared before the Tribunal and we had to stand in the witness box. There were the three members of the Tribunal, two lawyers, and Greg Taylor and myself. So away we go. A woman on the Tribunal asked the killer question. She asked Greg Taylor 'Did you personally buy a copy of Masskerade?' and he said 'No I did not. I don't buy that sort of literature.' Our case was doomed."

Doomed. Six weeks later Anderson learned of the Tribunal's decision: "indecent in the hands of persons under the age of 17" and a $2000 fine. He rang the Vice-Chancellor.

"In 1969 if I wanted to speak to the Vice-Chancellor, any time of night or day, I only had to mention Masskerade and I got an immediate appointment." The appointment that day was for 4pm, giving a useful quarter hour before Anderson's next lecture.

"Dr Stewart said 'I hear you've heard from the Tribunal.' I said 'Yes, we've been fined $2000.'A hell-of-a-lot of money in those days. In today's currency you could multiply it by at least 10, probably 12, maybe 14. So my opening gambit with Dr Stewart was 'Yes, we've been fined, and in view of the fact that it was submitted to the Tribunal by the Professorial Board, it should be the University that pays.' And with that there was a very lengthy debate, the most exhausting debate I have had in my life.

"At a quarter-to-six Dr Stewart said to me, 'What do you say to fifty-fifty?' and I said 'Done'. We'd had a very stiff discussion and he was able to switch immediately to another topic. I thought that was admirable."

In December 1969 Anderson found himself closeted with University Council member (and later Chancellor) Les Gandar and the Vice-Chancellor.

"They said, 'We don't want this again next year.' I said, 'You're dead right we don't. I've got it fixed. The editor this year is going to submit all of the copy to a scrutinising committee. The committee is going to consist of a lawyer, a housewife, and a member of the clergy, the campus chaplain.'" They were Hugh Williams, the mother of one of Anderson's classmates, and the Roman Catholic campus chaplain.

And that ought to have been the end of the Masskerade '69 incident. But there is a coda.

In late 1970 the Attorney General – and then Deputy Prime Minister – Jack Marshall wrote to Vice-Chancellor Dr Alan Stewart, brandishing the possibility that MUSA might find itself charged with blasphemous libel under the Crimes Act 1961 if the Vice-Chancellor did not rein it in. J.C. talks to Doubting Tom drew particular mention.

Dr Stewart then forwarded the letter to 1971 MUSA President Gary Emms 'in confidence' with a list of people to whom it might be made

“I am at a loss to understand what authority you have over the students...”

Could the University have exerted control over its fractious student body? Legally perhaps. The Massey University of Manawatu Act 1963 allows the Professorial Board to fine, suspend or expell students for misconduct, a term including “any conduct which is, or tends to be, subversive of discipline or which tends to bring discredit on the University or its students”.

Would it have been sensible? That is another matter. Although the Tribunal clearly saw the University as partly responsible for the publication of Masskerade “in default of preventive action”, the Vice-Chancellor baulked at the idea of the University’s disciplinary powers “assigned for the maintenance of its proper function as a university” being used to establish censorship and “intervening between society and such legal institutions as the the Indecent Publications Tribunal”.

In a letter to the Central Districts Association of the Baptist Union of New Zealand he goes on to say: “Such a request oversimplifies the purpose and value of the University’s formal jurisdiction over students in matters of personal conduct. It fails to recognise the importance of non-interference where interference is possible but unwise.”

Manawatu Cartoonists’ Exhibition

Tom Scott is one of five prominent cartoonists with strong Manawatu connections who will feature in an exhibition opening on 13 May at the Manawatu Art Gallery and Museum. The other cartoonists whose cartooning histories will be traced are Murray Ball, Malcolm Evans, Garrick Tremain, and David Henshaw.

The exhibition is curated by the New Zealand Cartoon Archive at the Alexander Turnbull Library in Wellington and co-organised by the Manawatu Art Gallery and Museum.

“No-one’s researched it yet, but there seems to be something in the Manawatu air that’s particularly conducive to the breeding of major cartooning talent,” says Ian F. Grant from the New Zealand Cartoon Archive.

The exhibition and other activities involving the cartoonists are being held in association with Massey University’s 75th anniversary celebrations.

SATIRIST, WRITER, CARTOONIST

Name: Tom Scott

Qualification: BSc

Tom Scott was born in London in 1947, his family emigrating to New Zealand when he was young. At Massey he started out to become a vet, but other matters intruded. “I was 17 or 18. I was trying to do vet and then they threw me out and I had to go finish a BSc. I was doing other things. I was doing student reviews and editing Chaff and doing cartoons for Chaff and doing basically everything except be a vet student. It was a very rigorous course and I was with some really bright people – some of the smartest people I have ever met in my life,” says Scott of the time. On graduating he briefly taught anatomy and physiology before moving into political journalism. For 10 years he wrote and illustrated a satirical column on Parliament for the NZ Listener . In 1987 he became the Evening Post’s editorial cartoonist, and in 1995 he resumed his NZ Listener column. He co-scripted the film Footrot Flats: A Dog’s Tale and the TV mini-series Fallout, and he is the author of The Great Brain Robbery, a book warning of the dangers of adolescent drug use.

His awards include Columnist of the Year, Political Columnist of the Year (three times), Cartoonist of the Year (five times), and scriptwriting awards for Fallout and for Sir Edmund Hillary’s View from the top. (Harking back to Masskerade days, Scott won his award for Fallout, a drama about the 4th Labour Government’s battle with the United States over nuclear weapons, even as politicians were threatening to sue for libel.) Four collections of his satirical writings and five collections of his cartoons have been published. He has written a play and television sit-com about his parliamentary experience.

available on the same basis. It was a misjudgement. Emms, seeing his paramount allegiance as being to his student constituency, had the letter published in Chaff.

A second letter arrived from Marshall's successor, Attorney General D.J. Riddiford. He had decided not to prosecute, but expressed astonishment that Marshall's letter should have been handed to the Students' Association. Could the Vice-Chancellor not control the Association? he went on to ask. "I am at a loss to understand what authority you have over the students..."

Scott and Marshall would later become friends. "He [Jack Marshall] became a mate of mine years later. When I was criticising Muldoon, old Jack Marshall sort of sought me out and became my buddy and pal. I couldn't get rid of him." Scott adopts a sepulchral tone: "He was 'Muldoon, ghastly man, ghastly man…' and I didn't have the heart to tell him that he once tried to sue me for blasphemous libel."

Scott went on to edit several more issues of Masskerade, "including one with John Clarke. In fact, we were both a bit older by then, and we decided to make it not filthy. I reckon it's the best one we ever did, but the students didn't like it. We'd lost our virginity by then and weren't so obsessed with sex."

And Masskerade '69?

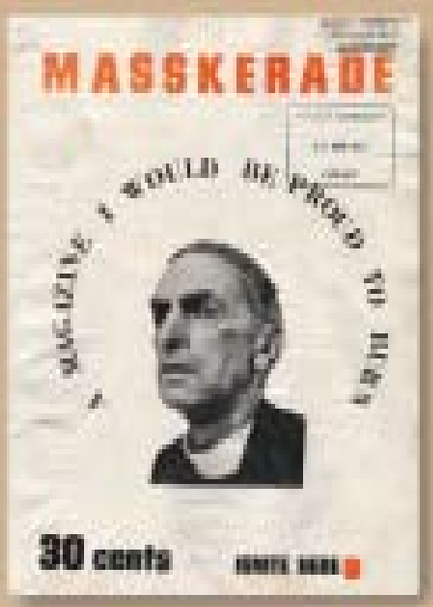
"I am proud of it: It's angry and adolescent and I am a different person now. But some of it is still very funny."

SHED MEETING

... Now Gentlemen to move on: we have with us today Mr. Tom Collerbone, Secretary of the National Union. Tom looks fit and tanned, as well he should, just back from holidaying in the Bahamas with his Mistress. Tom is here to discuss the proposed increase in Union dues.

Now Gentlemen, someone has raised the issue of getting the lockers refrigerated. I think this is a good scheme..... on hot days there's one hell of a smell down in the locker room. A lot of good stolen meat is going rotten and it's just not good enough. I approached management about this and they refused. They reckon they're concerned about hygiene and they're continually trying to raise standards yet they ignore the swarms of blowflies in the locker room. This just goes to show what a bunch of liars and cheats and hypocrites we are up against.

Now Gentlemen to move on...



The recent strident call by Hon. Piggy Muldoon for greater economies within New Zealand Universities has not gone unheeded. So much could be done at Massey by combining staff and students from the impractical, ivory tower, head-in-the-clouds departments, like, say, English, with those from the useful community-serving, forward-looking sciences like Animal Health, Farm Management, Dairy Husbandry, Agricultural Economics, Soil Sciences, Poultry Research, and so on. The result, we have no doubt, would be a truly educated rustic, one of nature's gentlemen (or as many of them as the Hon. Minister can get on the cheap), a graduate who combines the knowledge gleaned (agricultural metaphor!) from both the Humanities and the Bestialities; a graduate whom (if we may mix metaphors from the disciplines of Food Technologies and Soil Science) we might describe as "the Salt of the Earth".

Such a man, we think, should graduate as a B. Ag. Hum (Massey) after passing a final degree paper such as the following:

LITERATE AGRICULTURE III

Time allowed: Three hours. Answer any FIVE (5) questions

(1) "The lowing herd winds slowly o'er the lea"

Outline, with reasons, your design for an appropriate herring-bone shed to accommodate this situation.

(2) "Yet do I fear your nature.

It is too full o' the milk of human kindness."

EITHER: Discuss the effects of excessive anthropomorphoid trace elements in the general lactation patterns of 9th Century Scotland.

OR: Would this problem have been solved by a different pasturing or afforestation programme in the region: say, moving Burnham Wood to Dunsinane?

(3) " When Zephirus eek with his swete breeth

Inspired hath in every holt and heeth

The tendre croppes..."

Would you prefer macrocarpa or pinus insignis as a shelter belt against the prevailing westerlies during the first stage of crop germination?

(4)....

Masskerade's Other Contributors

Tom Scott: "The other guy who used to help me was Murray Bramwell, who is lecturing at the University of Adelaide, and John Muirhead, who is a lecturer in English at Massey. He did a piece called Nocturne in Masskerade '69; it's beautifully written and very funny. Bill Broughton wrote a brilliant satire called LITERATE AGRIC ULTURE III. You could reprint that. Someone else who wrote something very funny was Craig Harrison. They were lecturers and they were delighted to take part."

VICE-CHANCELLOR (RTD)

Name: Sir Alan Stewart

Qualification: DSc

As a student in the thirties, a lecturer for a part of the forties, a senior lecturer in the early fifties, Principal and then Vice-Chancellor in the sixties, seventies and early eighties, and today as one of its most distinguished alumni, Sir Alan Stewart has maintained lifelong bonds with Massey University.

From 1959, when he was appointed the second Principal of Massey Agricultural College, until 1983, when he retired as Vice-Chancellor of Massey University, Sir Alan presided over the transformation of an institution. In 1959 Massey had a student roll of 578. In 1983 there were 13,500 students in a range of disciplines and Palmerston North campus had been transfigured by a major building programme: a programme carried out with some sensitivity, for Sir Alan treasured the verdant campus environment.

Massey was blessed in having a Vice-Chancellor whose sense of vision was matched by his skills as a prudent financial manager.

Sir Alan was knighted in 1981 and awarded an honorary DSc by the University in 1984.

PRO VICE-CHANCELLOR

Name: Professor Robert Anderson

Qualification: MAgrSc

As well as being the President of the Students' Association for an 18-month term that included the aftermath of the Masskerade episode, Robert Anderson was a highly successful student. On graduating with his BAgrSc degree in 1970 he was awarded the Sir James Wilson Prize for the top student in agriculture and a Massey Scholarship. A masterate with first-class honours followed, and his appointment as a Lecturer in Sheep Husbandry. In 1975, now a Fulbright Scholar, Anderson departed Massey for Cornell University, where he completed a PhD in animal breeding and gained a Cornell Graduate Fellowship. He returned to Massey in 1978 and in 1980 was appointed Professor and Head of the Department in Sheep Husbandry. Two years later he founded the Department of Animal Science. Professor Anderson became Dean of the Agricultural and Horticultural Sciences Faculty in 1985 and was appointed Pro Vice-Chancellor of the College of Sciences in 1997.

The mix

The editor, the era, and Massey's growth beyond its agricultural college origins were all part of what made the Masskerades of the late 1960s and early 1970s what they were. A number of them bear the unmistakable Scott imprint, but they are also type specimens from the crop of student newspapers and capping magazines of the time – publications pushing an alternative agenda, saying things the mainstream media could not or would not.

"We were trying to end the war in Vietnam and we were trying to solve apartheid. These were big heady issues for angry young men," says Scott. Leaf through Masskerade and you will find all of the other preoccupations of the day: Rhodesia, the pill, police violence, Muldoon, trade unionism, homosexuality.

Massey was changing beyond measure. An institution that had gone into the 1960s as a conservative agricultural college, almost a village with the Vice-Chancellor standing in for squire, was to become a well-rounded university with plural constituencies.

Employment relations consultant and historian Alan Millar remembers the arrival of the humanities onto the Turitea site. "When I enrolled in 1967 the humanities were across [at Hokowhitu] where the College of Education is now. They arrived here in 1968, and suddenly coming into the traditional university there was another group of people who were not of the same stream. It also increased the number of women. The mix had richened up."

Enrolments soared as the baby boom began to engulf the universities, and to teach them came a crop of lecturers often little older than their students.

The main Turitea site, a small archipelago of buildings in the early sixties, became a construction site from 1964 on. In 1967 two new sets of hostels opened: Elliot House and Walter Dyer Hall. In 1968 the Library and the Veterinary Tower opened. People took to wearing gumboots around the perpetually muddy campus until pavement was laid in preparation for the Queen's visit in 1970.

For a while Massey became a hotbed of political engagement. Oddly enough, former student president Robert Anderson thinks the agricultural heritage may have helped.

"Let's face it, the agricultural colleges world-wide were not short of a fair degree of mayhem. They weren't short on ideas on rabble rousing and stirring. There was an instance at Massey when they managed to steal an army truck from Linton Army Camp and park it outside a picture theatre for instance. But traditionally it was all dismissed as good clean fun," says Anderson.

Tom Scott tells of the world's longest distance swim, a promotion for Masskerade: "Never been done before. We put a big tank of water on the back of a truck and a man called Jim Vernon put on togs and got in the tank and he endeavoured to swim in the tank while we were driving him to Wanganui. He froze his ass off.

"Couldn't happen now because all the dairy factories have now amalgamated. Back then there were little dairy factories on the way where we could stop and pour scalding hot water into the tank to stop him from going blue. We arrived in Wanganui, looking forward to a triumphant arrival — a local radio station was plotting our trip — the streets would be lined with well wishers, and flag wavers and bunting and mothers offering us their vestal virgins to deflower, and I think there were two fat ladies at the radio station saying Masskerade was filthy, and that was it. I don't think our overland swim was accorded the kind of acknowledgment it warranted. I mean, you've never heard of it have you?"

copyright:
Evening Standard

Political action was as easy. "The shootings at Kent State [University]: the students shut the University on that," says Anderson. "There was a barrier across the front gate."

"I organised that," says Millar fondly.

Massey had been a fairly traditional institution, says Millar: "It all sounds silly now. One of the issues surrounding Tom Scott and his career as a vet was that they had a dress code: I think it was a hunting jacket and a tie. You had to turn up to lectures lookin' good. Like a boys' school or something."

"As a physiology student in 1968 you had to go to laboratory classes wearing a tie," remembers Anderson.

None of this fustiness would stand. "When they opened the Science Tower and what used to be the Marsden lecture theatre, there was a professor here who was mistrustful of the vandalistic tendencies of students, so he had all the places numbered, and rosters for where students had to sit, the logic being that if any of them dared scratch their initials into the woodwork he would be able to identify the culprit," says Millar.

"There was an open day in 1969 and some bright spark unscrewed the tags and as members of the public filed in they sold them off, saying that there was raffle later that day," says Anderson. Both laugh.

The new Students' Union Building caused some contention. "We wanted to put up some posters and things, and he [the Vice-Chancellor] said no, it made it look extremely untidy. We said 'Hold on, this is our building'," says Millar.

"Which it wasn't, but we claimed it," rejoins Anderson.

"I have a Tom Scott original cartoon of Vice-Chancellor Stewart on top of the brand new Student Union as King Kong, and I am zapping around him in a biplane," says Millar.

"In retrospect Alan Stewart did a bloody good job. This place owes even more to him than people give him credit for."

So what happened? Today Massey's Turitea site is a place where students catch some sun and a cup of coffee between lectures, not a dose of political consciousness raising. (Though a flurry of pamphlets appeared during the GE debate, and issues to do with the delivery and future of tertiary education issues command attention.) Capping stunts are rare, the capping reviews a shadow of those of yesteryear.

The obvious culprit is internal assessment, which was introduced gradually during the 1970s. Students, as Dr Stewart noted in a 1977 Jubilee address, were "now often faced with 'mini-finals' throughout the year. One regrettable consequence is that they participate less in extra-curricular activities".

Alan Millar: "People have to remember how it worked then. In the humanities to get what you called terms to allow you to sit the exams you had to meet a very minimalist set of requirements. There was no record kept of your attendance at lectures, you had to turn up to a minimum number of tutorials, and you had to produce a certain percentage of the number of essays required. But it didn't matter what marks you got for them, you didn't actually get credit for them. Everything hinged on the exam. So you could rage about in student politics and have a good time.

"With the heavy workload associated with internal assessment it became very difficult to make those other commitments," says Millar.

As for Masskerade, the last issue appeared in 1985. Even then it looked like an anachronism. Times had moved on.

EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS CONSULTANT

Name: Alan Millar

Qualification: BA Hons

A series of accidents with one thing leading to another, or maybe a headlong rush from the threat of boredom: Alan Millar is prepared to offer up a number of explanations for his life to date as he suns himself at a cafe table, dapper in his signature Cape Breton fisherman's hat.

Might the hat be an affectation? Only marginally. Millar may not be a Cape Breton fisherman, but back in his native Scotland Millar's people were all fishermen and seamen and Millar himself left school at 15 to go to sea.

Settling in New Zealand in the early sixties, Millar became a psychiatric nurse and then union official. He enrolled with Massey part time for a history degree in 1967 and promptly caught the rising wave of student activism, helping form the New Left Society, "a totally non-dogmatic group", doing so "for sincere reasons, but also for fun". Millar the activist became known as a soap box orator, often, in slightly surreal fashion, appearing in tandem with a gypsy violinist.

It didn't last. In the early 1970s, with the Muldoon government and the union movement at loggerheads, Millar put his BA aside. It wouldn't be activated again until the 1990s when Millar, fearing he might grow stale, took early retirement from the PSA. "I'd been 30 years in the front line then," he says.

Not that it had ever been dull. "I even had death threats," he says. "Someone phoned up before a strike and said 'I have a .303 here and a box of ammunition and every bullet has your name on it.' It was right in the middle of dinner."

Millar set up an employment relations consultancy and began studying towards a Diploma in Dispute Resolution at Massey.

"I enjoyed being back here as a student, so I reactivated my BA, graduating in 1999, then went on to do honours. It's turned out to be extremely satisfying and interesting."

Readers unacquainted with Millar the student or unionist may have encountered him as a television actor, freelance journalist, or as a frequent guest on the National Programme's Sunday Supplement. To find out about his honours research, watch this year's documentary series Secrets, which purchased it from him. "All will be revealed in the fullness of time," he says stage-darkly.

In the Lifetime of a Goat:

Writings 1984–2000

Bridget Williams Books $34.95

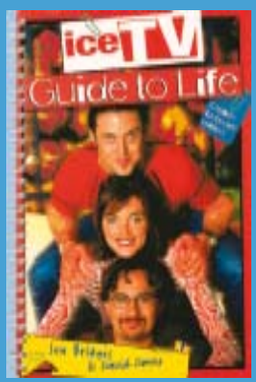
She's acting the goat on the front cover – but only there. What is striking now in reading Marilyn Waring's writing from the past decade and a half is the straightforwardness, the tightness of her prose.

She doesn't go for the cosy intro in her magazine articles. She gives you the fact, the statement, the point, what she wants to say up front. What she says is still bound to annoy some readers – even though she first said it years ago.

One of these articles, the one written for the NZ Listener when she left Parliament in 1984, certainly annoyed Rob Muldoon. In response to her comments on male MPs' behaviour, he "abused me in the whip's office, the night he decided on a snap election" barking at "his chief whip (later Commonwealth Secretary-General) Don McKinnon, 'We don't behave like that do we, Don?'." (She tells us this in one of the little contextualising pieces she adds to the end of the articles.)

But the article wasn't meant for him. The Listener columns which make up much of this book were "Letters to my Sisters" from someone who had entered Parliament at 25 as one of only four women and been the only woman in government in her second term there. Marilyn Waring went on to produce a considerable amount of writing afterwards – sending in her columns from all over the place as she pursued her post-parliamentary life after retirement from politics in 1984. And then from down on the farm. She bought land in 1986 – and started raising goats.

The book's title comes from Waring's having noticed that 16 years is "the maximum lifetime of any goat I have known". As presented in this book, the writings are divided into six 'series'. The first deals with her own life and career, and the second with other 'women of influence' she has met around the world. The third considers the issues of the eighties and nineties – including fertility, harassment and pornography. The fourth reports from other places. The fifth considers things like the high cost of rugby injuries, Waihopai and the electoral system. And the last is about 'having a real life' in the country, including skiing, planting, fences and visitors. Most of the pieces in this book carry small editorialisings – 'now' comments on 'then' writing. They beg the question of how Waring sees it all now – and they made this reader wish this new book from Marilyn Waring had been new – had been in fact a full-scale autobiography.



ice TV Guide to Life

Jon Bridges and David Downs

Hodder Moa Becket $24.95

Writing a review

Okay, so someone asked you to write a review. You never expected it but there you are. And while your trusty ice TV Guide to Life – by chance the very book we are going to review here – has the good oil on most things, this bit is missing. Bit of a stuff-up there Jon.

So here are some good things about writing a review. Mostly you get to keep the book, and sometimes, like this time, it is a really good book. Having books around your home makes you look intelligent. Sometimes you get paid as well. You can show off a bit. For example, I can tell you that the tradition of compendiums of advice on how to live one's life can be traced back to sources like Benjamin Franklin's Poor Richard's Almanac of 1733 and you'll think to yourself, what a madly erudite guy this reviewer is, and you'd be right.

On the other hand you probably should read the book. Well that's just my opinion. Sometimes you can just take notes from the reviews on the back cover of the book or even some other totally different book.

I mean the ice TV Guide to life, profoundly disturbing, thoughtful and unnerving as it is, is not just an important book – it may even be a necessary one. Bridges is undoubtedly a master of his subject, delivering one of the most searing accounts of battle... (Editor's note: you are losing it here.)

Try to be honest. You don't want people to think you are a suck up. On the other hand if you write a mean review you could have the author and his friends firebomb your cat. Ask yourself, 'Do I like my cat?' Remember, New Zealand is a very small place.

Luckily this is a good review. A great review. It is a good review because Jon Bridges is a totally phat* Massey alumni who wrote it with some other guy called David Downs. It is full of really important stuff that I am not going to tell you about here because you really should buy the book.

*Reviewer attempting to appeal to youth demographic.

Ordering Women's Lives:

penitentials and nunnery rules in the early medieval west

Julie Ann Smith

Ashgate

Having pursued medieval queens and queen-making rites for her doctorate, Dr Julie Smith arrived at Massey University on a post-doctoral fellowship with an ambitious project – which would have involved making her way through every piece of writing she could find by, for and about women in the middle ages.

Then she discovered the penitentials written to help parish priests dole out punishments following confession. These documents in themselves, she realised, said a great deal about women in the middle ages, and if you added the rules for nuns, you covered the medieval female gamut.

Ordering Women's Lives: Penitentials and nunnery rules in the early medieval west is the result of her study of these little-studied documents on how the church dealt with the bad girls of a bygone era and tried to tidy women's behaviour into patterns acceptable to itself, even if they differed from traditional modes. "Taken together", writes Dr Smith, "the two groups of texts can be seen to have constituted a programme of behavioural control for women. No other surviving textual form can be shown to have impinged upon women's experience as did the penitentials and nunnery rules."

The book first considers penitentials, outlining their purpose and their place in women's lives, and then working through the various sins and situations to which they were applied – for married and unmarried women.

Many of these had to do with sexuality, but others had to do with work – and with magic. As Smith writes, "The overriding issue for the compilers of the texts was women's involvement in pre-Christian practices... Paganism occupied the thoughts of many compilers of the penitentials."

In nunneries the rules are considered under the headings of "abstinence" – things like relinquishment of status, detachment from the secular world, avoidance of friendship, poverty, simplicity of dress, fasting and food – and "work", including prayer, reading and domestic labour.

Part way through researching and writing the book, Dr Smith got her present job in the History, Philosophy and Politics Department at Massey University.

With a new passion for women's history inspired by the medieval work, she has now embarked on the topic of women and pilgrimages. In fact, she plans to retrace the steps of countless women down the centuries on the pilgrimage to Santiago de Compestella in Spain – and take a group of women with her, to look at their present-day reactions.

Anne Noble has just come back from photographing Antarctica, but don't expect cute images of emperor penguins diving off icebergs. Noble has side-stepped the clichés; employing her photographer's eye to question what humanity's role on the ice continent might be.

"We only know Antarctica because we've gone there as explorers and scientists," says Noble, a leading New Zealand photographer and senior lecturer in photo media within the School of Fine Arts in Wellington. "So if there is a human culture – and there is one of exploration and one of science – then perhaps, as we enquire about the land and search for scientific knowledge, we should also be reflecting on our own role, our own culture. Hence the need for enquiry-based scholarship from people whose background is in fine arts or humanities."

Noble first set out to identify Antarctica as it lives in the imagination. Mankind has never settled Antarctica permanently; there is no natural indigenous human culture. So Noble read the diaries of the early explorers, trying to understand the way in which Antarctica inspires such a passion in those who've been there. The photo shoot began with the historic artefacts stored in places like the Canterbury Museum, creating "imagined reference points", which could then be compared to the reality.

"I challenged myself to arrive there with a head full of this imagined place. Antarctica exists in the imagination and generally, photography has been feeding that, there's a cycle of imagining, then setting out to reinforce that," she says.

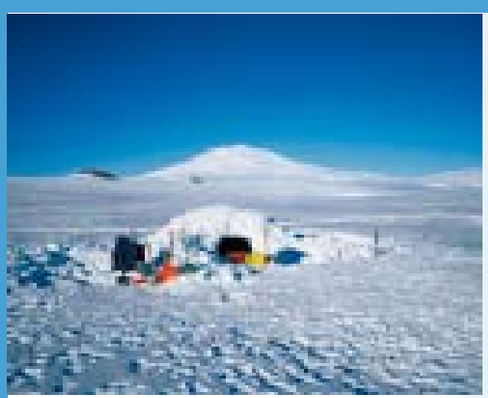
"We like to create sublime, heroic, picturesque landscapes, but I believe that if we're going to see this landscape truthfully, then we must look at it through the eyes of the culture that explores and quantifies, that seeks to find out."

Many of Noble's landscapes incorporate scientists engaged in actively measuring and sampling the land. Her approach was always to avoid the photographic conventions of other places, other cultures.

"I would photograph white sky and white ice without any reference points. I would photograph from 1000 feet up, or from situations on the ground when I couldn't see three feet in front of me. And always the results were similar: a loss of scale, loss of perspective, a feeling of losing your way."

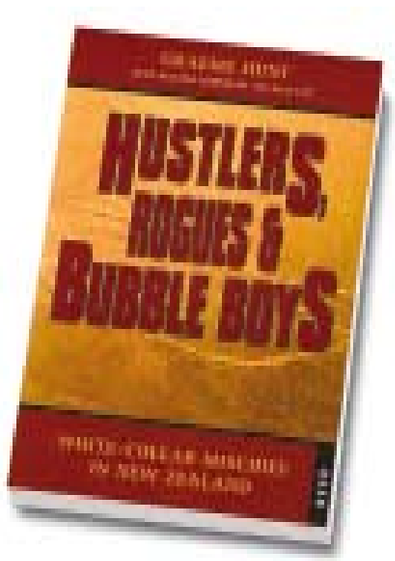
Noble is hoping for a series of up to 20 images to exhibit from the project and perhaps a book to follow. With Antarctica now on the threshold of an explosion of commercial interests, she believes the people who live there, and the work they do, should be known and understood.

Noble travelled to Antarctica as a "Scholars in Humanity" award recipient within Antarctica New Zealand's Artists to Antarctica Programme. The programme, which also includes writers, musicians, poets and artists, aims to advance our "awareness, appreciation and knowledge" of Antarctica, thereby increasing our understanding of its value and its global importance.



Under Erebus
Ice hut made during
Antarctic field tranning

A WHITE CANVAS



Hustlers, Rogues & Bubble Boys
White-Collar Mischief in New Zealand

Reed $39.95

There are many euphemisms for those who occupy the borderlands where enterprise becomes white-collar crime and corporate chicanery. The 'hustlers', 'rogues' and 'bubble boys' in Hunt's title are just three. Elsewhere in the book you will find crony capitalists, speculators, 'gentlemen who stray', junk bond promoters, land grabbers, wheeler-dealers, gamesters, quacks, would-be extortionists, and – more unequivocally – conmen and fraudsters.

'Conmen Unlimited', one of Hunt's chapters, concentrates on convicted conmen or fraudsters. Many were convicted following the 1987 sharemarket crash. The overwhelming majority are men.

As Hunt observes, there has been an increase in the number of professional people – mostly 'gentlemen' – misappropriating or stealing clients' money. "But the extent to which this represents an outbreak of white-collar crime is highly debatable." He notes there were scapegoats aplenty after the spectacular company failures following the sharemarket crash. However, "few of those deemed responsible were charged with serious offences, let alone convicted". Many of the property developers from what Hunt calls "that bleak period" are back in business, "embarrassed but not destroyed".

Hustlers, Rogues & Bubble Boys includes boxed profiles of its subjects, with all manner of detail where available: their family history, their hobbies and predilections, their homes, their present whereabouts. Given the high profiles dubiously achieved by some of the bubble boys, it's tempting to look them up randomly. But as with Hunt's earlier book, The Rich List, it is more rewarding to read the book in its entirety.

The book's great strength (containing one of its most significant messages) is the connecting narrative, which flows between the fate of one act of unrealistic speculation, one paper company, one determined and unscrupulous corporate high flier, and the next.

There is nothing new under the sun, Hunt is saying, when he segues from the story of Christchurch crony capitalist, speculator Thomas Russell (born 1830) to that of Bruce Judge (bubble company promoter, born 1942). Judge, we are reminded, was once a "sharemarket darling and briefly an investment king". In the inaugural issue of the now-defunct Personal Investment in New Zealand, he was ranked number one of the "high fliers swoop(ing) on foreign prey". Several swoops and companies later (Euro-National, Kupe Group, Judge Corporation, Renouf Corporation, Ariadne, etc), Judge is history. His last known whereabouts? The south of France.

Not incidentally, a significant number of the more recent bubble boy stories intersperse the history of Bruce Judge.

Despite the perception by some that Graeme Hunt expresses a form of admiration for corporate chicanery and wealth by documenting it, he comes across as a writer without an agenda. His research is scrupulous and he is able to offer the facts, many facts, for readers to make of them what they will. Hunt is editor-at-large of the National Business Review and editor of its annual Rich List. His previous books do include Why MMP Must Go and Scandal at Cave Creek, but business remains his primary interest. All the same, he is an excellent investigative journalist, one of the few still operating in New Zealand. It would be good to see his fine-weave net spread wider.

Look for more on alumnus Graeme Hunt in future issues of MASSEY.

ALUMNI AND FRIENDS MANAGER

Name: Shelley O'Dwyer

Qualification: MA

In her recreational life as a rock climber and kayaker Shelley O'Dwyer likes throwing herself into – and sometimes off – things. She likes to commit. It's an attitude Massey's new Alumni and Friends manager says she carries over into her professional life. Just as well, for she has arrived in the thick of the 75th Celebrations.

No stranger to Massey, Shelley has been an internal and extramural student and Massey Scholar. "I have an idea about the Massey 'phenomenon'," she says. "I see my role as being about committed customer service, connecting people, organisations and opportunities, and about sharing and celebrating the Massey experience."

While Shelley is looking forward to meeting many of Massey's alumni at the 75th Celebrations – and invites people to call by and say hello – she says the many alumni who will not be able to make it are just as valued. "With three campuses, New Zealand's largest extramural study programme, and a range of study disciplines Massey has created an extraordinarily cosmopolitan and world-embracing community of alumni and students."

Her plea is that alumni stay in touch: a matter as simple as filling in and sending the Keep Us Posted reply card included with this magazine or sending an email.

"If we are going to talk to you, discover your needs and communicate new developments we need to keep our database up to date," she says. "We'd also love to hear your stories, news and views. Photos would be awesome too," says Shelley, "and will of course be returned. If you are interested in what has been happening in your classmates' lives, why not tell us about your own?"

The alumni website, linked to Massey's homepage or at http://alumni.massey.ac.nz , also gets a plug. "Here you will find up-to-the-minute news as well as an online version of the 'keep us posted' card."

At the moment Shelley is settling at the Palmerston North campus and enjoying the vibe, as Massey launches its 75th Celebrations and students flock back for the start of semester one.

Shelley has a Diploma of Teaching from the then Palmerston of North College of Education, went on to gain a Bachelor of Education in 1991, and graduated with a Master of Arts in Media Studies in 1997. She's worked in a range of communications and marketing roles, most recently as Marketing and Communications Manager for the Association of Polytechnics in New

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

MASSEY welcomes letters from readers. In order to keep the discussion to as many people and topics as possible, please observe the following guidelines. Letters must be signed, address issues or events raised in the magazine and not exceed 250 words.

All letters may be edited for length or clarity. The editor may decide to publish a representative sample of letters on a subject or limit the number of issues devoted to a particular topic. While universities are places of discussion where people of good will do not always agree, letters deemed potentially libelous or that malign a person or group will not be published. Decisions whether to edit or include a particular letter will be made by the editor.

The article about the merits of phonics in the most recent MASSEY, Sounding better, drew a strong response from two of our readers. Here we print extracts from their letters. The issue of phonics is now closed.

(In Reading Recovery a) tremendous amount of work is done on word and letter analysis, the sounds of letters, and word recognition. This is done mostly on text so that the child immediately sees the purpose of the work. The teaching of phonics in isolation was long ago shown to be of little use. Any experienced teacher knows that a balance is needed between the use of phonics and whole language techniques; in order for a child to learn to read with understanding. There are far too many words in the English language that simply cannot be solved by a purely phonetic approach; for example the word 'one'. Or if a five-year-old learns only the phonetic system of solving words, what is she to do when she encounters the words 'was', 'come', 'who', 'fast', 'laugh', 'want', 'night', 'one', or 'two'? All of these words appear in the basic graded readers that are in common usage throughout New Zealand schools.

All the schools I have been in, here in Napier, have used graded readers, and a balanced approach to the teaching of reading, incorporating phonics and whole language approaches. I do not know of any school that uses purely whole language methods, or any that does not use mostly graded readers, with controlled vocabulary, as well as other types of text to give variety.

Despite what Messrs Chapman and Tunmer might think, Reading Recovery is highly successful with the vast majority of children who are fortunate enough to have it.

Gaylene Anderson (née Morgan)

Professors Tunmer and Chapman acknowledge that the skills exhibited by a child at school entry already indicate that child's opportunity to become literate fast enough to avoid Reading Recovery the following year. Yet they don't go further back into those early years, into the foundation of instruction. They launch into a study of failure and expect the very same children who lack basic knowledge of phonics to be able to express, metacognitively, what they do when they come to an unknown word.

The path to literacy begins at the age of six months or earlier. Professors Tunmer and Chapman have missed four-and-a-half years in the language nests of literate homes. I suspect they have never been present either in the moment of epiphany where a child discovers he or she is a reader, or in the long and pleasurable journey a child takes in the company of books and a caring "other".

Children who stumble in literacy are often poorly supported and emotionally punished for their "failure". Reading homework, for them, does not involve a cuddle on the couch, a good book at bedtime, a laugh and a talk about the story and its illustrations. Children who are not impressive readers get to "sit at the table and concentrate" and "try again and get it right" and "listen to me" and "I told you before" and "are you thick or something?". Professors Tunmer and Chapman have, whether they intended to or not, given some currency to the latter technique.

Fiona Lovatt Davis

BUSINESS OWNER

Name: Vannessa Bell

Qualification: BBS

The taste of home

The lack of anywhere to buy a vegetarian sandwich for lunch was the beginning of a successful business venture in central Tokyo for Vanessa Bell.

Vanessa's passion for Japan began in 1992, her first year of a BBS at Massey's Palmerston North campus, when she took some Japanese papers. She decided to try to get a holiday job in Japan during her first long summer break. With help and encouragement from her lecturer, Paul Knight, she managed to get work at a gas station in a small town about an hour from Tokyo by shinkansen (bullet train). Mr Knight also helped by organising a homestay for Vanessa through a friend in Japan.

"It was a wonderful experience," says Vanessa. "Being a small town, there weren't a lot of foreigners around and everyone was very friendly. I spent a lot of time with the grandparents in my host family, and managed to improve my Japanese pretty quickly."

Back at Massey, Vanessa completed her BBS, majoring in marketing, by the end of 1994. She then headed back to Japan, again with help from Mr Knight, and taught English at a private high school in southern Japan.

"When I came back for graduation in May 1995, I mucked up my visa and couldn't go straight back to Japan," she says.

Instead, she applied to the Japan Exchange Teaching scheme, which places 5000 teachers from all over the world in work for local education authorities in high schools and universities.

In July 1996 she took up a teaching job in Tokyo, but stayed only a year before moving on to selling educational and marketing programmes to foreign firms in Tokyo.

"It was a hard job. I was cold-calling on Japanese HR managers of ex-pat companies. I had to speak to them in Japanese and needed a good understanding of Japanese people. But it was good experience."

During this time Vanessa became frustrated that she could not buy a Western, vegetarian lunch in Tokyo, so she started making her own and bringing it to the office.

Pretty soon a colleague – another foreigner – offered her $10 to provide lunch for him as well and the rest, as the saying goes, is history.

Before long Vanessa had ditched the sales job and was selling baskets of food around the offices of foreign companies in central Tokyo.

Until she got caught, that is.

"The health authorities found out what I was doing and told me if I wanted to continue, I would have to get a licence to sell food and set up a kitchen as a base for the business."

So began a long and frustrating battle with Tokyo's bureaucracy.

The first problem w
meeting the requirement to set up a kitchen. "It was very hard to find suitable premises, and those that were available were terribly expensive," says Vanessa. Most required 30 months' rent as a deposit, at an average rental of $NZ4,000–6,000 per month.

She also found it difficult to get Japanese real estate agents to take her seriously. "They didn't trust foreigners, so it was hard to do without having a Japanese business partner. But I didn't want one – I wanted to set up my own business."

Finally, Vanessa found a real estate agent who was used to dealing with foreigners. He managed to find her premises that required only 10 months' rent as a deposit. She put up her $40,000 savings to get into the building and a friend put up the same amount to help set up the business and equip the kitchen.

When she had secured business premises and obtained a licence, the next problem Vanessa faced was the need to change her visa. Once her status changed to being self-employed, she had to register as a self-sponsor. To do this, she was expected to prove to the Japanese authorities that the business was profitable.

"They took a really hard line. The business was new so I couldn't show them the profits. All I had was my business plan. They put up barrier after barrier but I kept going back. I wasn't going to take no for an answer."

She says learning how Japanese think was the key to her eventual success. "Often when they say 'no' they mean 'maybe'. They want you to get more paperwork and come back."

Eventually Vanessa was granted self-sponsor status. "I think they felt sorry for this poor, silly foreign woman who was trying to do the impossible."

Soon after setting up in her new premises, Vanessa went into partnership with Otago University Food Science graduate Kylie Hutchinson. They started with two running the kitchen and another two delivering to central Tokyo businesses. At that point they were working very hard and the business was making about $800 a day, says Vanessa.

Two-and-a-half years later, the business is looking healthy. Both start-up loans have been repaid and last year Kiwi Kitchen made a $40,000 profit.

Because it is so expensive to advertise in Tokyo, in the early days Kiwi Kitchen relied on direct selling by phone and word-of-mouth referrals from customers. These days, when Vanessa is approached to advertise in foreign magazines based in Tokyo, she turns them down. "We don't need it now. We've got all the work we need and I don't think we could expand much further," she says.

Kiwi Kitchen now employs 19 staff – seven in the kitchen and 12 handling sales. The customer base is 80 percent foreign and 20 percent Japanese. All the sales staff are bilingual. Seven of the 12 are Australians or New Zealanders.

Vanessa regards the papers she took at Massey as crucial to the success of her business. Apart from her Japanese, she says she would not have had the confidence or skills for the venture if it hadn't been for a fourth-year marketing paper about starting a business.

"We had to take an innovative business idea and work through a business plan, marketing plan, investigate available grants and think of contingency plans. That paper helped a lot. Otherwise, I wouldn't have known how to go about it," she says.

Kiwi Kitchen's range of services has expanded beyond lunch deliveries. It now does catering for international businesses and schools, office functions and meetings, cocktail parties, production companies who need food delivered on-site, and even a weekly frozen meal service.

"It's all based on foreigners in Japan looking for the taste of home," says Vanessa.

JOURNALISTS

Names: Rachel Scollay and Sophie Wilson

Qualification: Dip Journalism

an unusual student placement

"assume your fellow motorists are visually challenged psychopaths"

The Lonely Planet Guide offers advice on Cambodian road etiquette.

Phnom Penh traffic. The 125cc motorcycle as courtship vehicle, the woman riding pillion, sitting sidesaddle behind her swain; the motorcycle as sedan, carrying a family of four (not counting baby); the motorcycle as ute, its cargo a collection of astonished chickens suspended by their feet. An older man, his tendons taut as hawsers as he strains at the pedals of his cyclo, his freight a hundredweight of bananas and owner off to market. An errant motorcyclist heads at speed down the wrong side of the road. But none of these would give a Cambodian pause. Two Kiwi women on bicycles: that's another matter.

"When we first started riding our bikes around town, we were this huge object of fascination. Everyone would turn around and stare at us," says Rachel. "And now no one gives us a second glance," says Sophie. "Now if one of us is going along the road people come up and say 'Where is your friend?'"

Rachel Scollay and Sophie Wilson arrived for their placement with the Phnom Penh Post in November 2001. Though both had travelled in third world countries – Rachel in South America, Sophie making it into Cambodia in 1998 as part of a South East Asian trip – it's taken time to adjust. "I was determined not to spend any money, so with my big pack I took a moto (another of those motorbikes) from the airport and all the taxidrivers were going like this..." Sophie pantomimes throat-cutting, "telling me you're about to get killed."

"It took me a good couple of weeks not to be overwhelmed by things," says Rachel. "It was very hot when we first arrived. You'd bike off to an interview and you'd be pouring sweat, and everyone would be looking worried and turning on fans."

Soon after arriving they both had to write briefs for the paper. "Mine was about political killings and intimidation," says Rachel. "Mine was how 30 percent of sex workers in Cambodia are children," says Sophie. "Either story would have been front page news in New Zealand. That's just not earthshattering news here."

Now both feel at ease. "The smells were really overwhelming when I first got here, and now I don't notice it at all," says Rachel. They have a smattering of Khmer. "We can almost banter with the locals sometimes," says Rachel.

And they are writing stories. "But it takes forever," says Sophie. "You ring someone all morning and then you jump on your bike and then that person tells you about someone else who knows vaguely about the topic... It's not like reporting in New Zealand."

Sophie and Rachel's placement has been funded by Asia 2000, which put up the airfares and travel insurance. The Phnom Penh Post provides an accommodation subsidy. But this is not a money–making proposition. Expat Phnom Penh runs on US dollars. "It's quite an expensive city, so you do plough through a bit of cash," says Sophie. "Seeing amazing things, meeting amazing people, that's the main thing."

"I got to go to Battambang with the Minister of Women's Affairs." A junket? Not really. Her delivery becomes momentarily clipped: "AIDS orphans, dying. A ten-year-old girl, dying. Rescued street families who had been living in appalling conditions for the past three years. And trafficked children – children that had been taken to Thailand as beggars and now have to be looked after. And these are some of the lucky ones."

By the time of publication Sophie and Rachel should be back in New Zealand.

ASIA 2000 FOUNDATION | OF NEW ZEALAND

The Asia 2000 Foundation is a non-profit organisation aiming to increase New Zealanders' understanding and knowledge of Asia. Set up in 1994, the Foundation is active in four key areas: business, culture and media, education and public affairs. Within these areas, the Foundation supports and initiates a diverse range of projects, scholarships, seminars, special events and exchanges that equip New Zealanders with first-hand experience of Asia and help to forge valuable links. The Foundation is a source of information, research and analysis on developments in the region. Asia 2000 is funded by the Government, but also receives financial support from the private sector in and outside of New Zealand. For more information go to www.asia2000.org.nz

Sophie on the bike, while Rachel rides pillion with Bou Sarouen, a *Post* journalist for six years

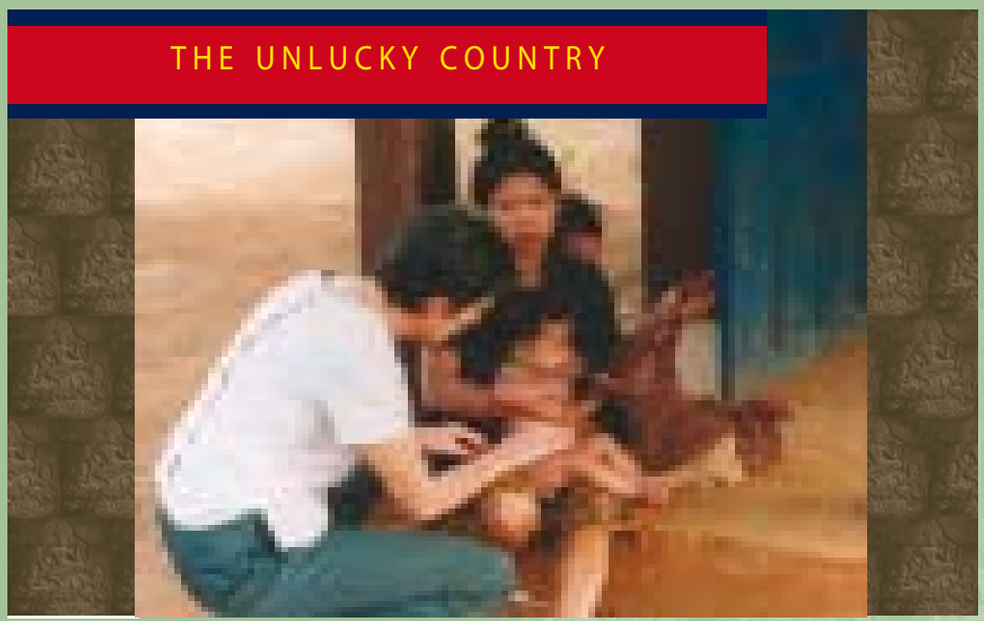
Rachel with Cherq, a Tampouen guide from Rattanakiri, in a hill tribe house.

PUBLIC RELATIONS CONSULTANT

Name: Christine Briasco

Qualification: PGDipHSM

THE UNLUCKY COUNTRY



A Cambodian woman visits a local health post to seek treatment for her husband, who remains at home. It is quite common to have people seek treatment on behalf of a family member, though often this means the symptoms are misreported.

By Rachel Scollay and Sophie Wilson

In Cambodia's remote north-eastern province of Rattanakiri, a family of five have walked several kilometres along a dusty red road to reach their local health post. Hanging in a sling around his mother's neck, a large infant with shiny eyes is obviously ill.

A former public health nurse from Napier, Christine Briasco, gently touches the child's forehead and talks to the mother. The family are ethnic Kreung, one of the five indigenous hill tribes who live in Rattanakiri, each with their own language and customs. Like many highland women the child's mother cannot speak Khmer, the official language of Cambodia. Her husband answers for her.

"This child is four," says Christine. She repeats the age to herself with disbelief. Her estimate had been two-and-a-half. Her face pinches with concern. Half of all children in Rattanakiri are moderately to severely malnourished.

"This is what tourists don't see," says Christine. "They come to the villages and say 'these people look all right'. But a 12 -year-old is the size of a six-year-old. And that's not because highland people are genetically short, it's because they haven't had enough protein and fat in their diet. For ever!"

Christine says people don't realise that behind pretty village scenes, with houses made of bamboo and tree branches, is a real subsistence way of life.

"For the amount of income those people have, if they were in town they'd be living in some little cardboard box. They don't have anything you wouldn't be able to pick out of a forest. They usually don't even have nails. But if they lose their forests then they're in trouble. Then you won't see them living like that."

Christine first came to Cambodia in 1996 with Volunteer Service Abroad (VSA). She says the postgraduate diploma in health management she did extramurally through Massey, clinched the job for her.

Coincidentally, it was while taking a break from one of her Massey assignments that Christine first saw an ad in the newspaper for a VSA job in Vietnam. "It seemed to be exactly the sort of stuff I was into," she says.

But with one paper still to go on her diploma, Christine didn't feel the time was right to make such a drastic life change, and says she "chickened out" after applying.

Later VSA approached her with a similar job in Cambodia. Within months Christine found herself in the hustle-bustle of Phnom Penh, where people casually toted AK-47s and the beginning of the rains was celebrated with a hail of gunfire as Cambodians shot into the clouds.

A much bigger shock awaited Christine when she arrived at her posting in Takeo, a rural province of rice fields not far from the capital.

"You cannot imagine, no matter how much people tell you.... That the hospital wouldn't be clean, that the delivery table would be smeared with blood and there would be pools of blood on the floor, that the toilets would be covered up to here with faeces and that the staff may or may not turn up for work."

It was a depressing and demoralising first five months. Christine's job was to strengthen health management in the district, but the director of the hospital was just not interested. "I'd be talking to him in a meeting and he'd just get up and walk off. Something like that would happen every day. Often I would shut myself in my office and just howl."

After five-and-a-half months Christine transferred to a job with the World Health Organization (WHO) and she started to enjoy living and working in Cambodia. "The Cambodian people are just amazing," she says.

The coup in 1997 meant she, and the other volunteers, had to be air evacuated out of the country. "I didn't want to go home. We were all crying because it was such a terrible situation for Cambodia. They'd been through so much already."

It didn't take long for the political situation to stabilise, however, and Christine was back at work after a five-week sabbatical in New Zealand.

When her contract with WHO finished, she worked as a United Nations volunteer, organising cars for international observers for the 1998 election. Then she was invited to apply for her current job as project manager for Health Unlimited in Rattanakiri.

An international organisation, Health Unlimited has trained indigenous people in Rattanakiri to be healthcare workers (with very low levels of education, often the training must include literacy) and has helped set up six health posts in remote areas. Christine says the health posts have been highly effective in enabling people to access care. A complete lack of transport used to mean people were limited to consulting the village arak, a spiritual medium who would advise what sacrifices were needed to appease angry spirits.

Christine explains: "If you're 30 kilometres from the nearest health clinic, what are you going to do? You'll probably do a sacrifice, maybe use some traditional medicine, but basically you're just going to wait till you get better or you die."

The task to achieve better health in Rattanakiri may seem overwhelming. The people are marginalised by language, culture, geography and economics and the statistics are dire: Rattanakiri's infant death rate is double that of the rest of Cambodia and in 1999 there was a cholera outbreak that killed 300 people. Coupled with this is an age-old belief that sickness is caused by the spirits. Education levels are extremely low.

Christine and Pronon in front of the Poey health post: a one-room building set up in the Poey commune by Health Unlimited. Pronon is one of the health workers who has received a year's training from Health Unlimited. She and the people she treats are ethnic Kreung.

Progress is being made. It's just very slow going. Christine says the big killers and debilitators are malaria, respiratory tract infections, TB, and diarrhoea in children. Apart from TB, the staff at the health posts are now trained to deal with these things.

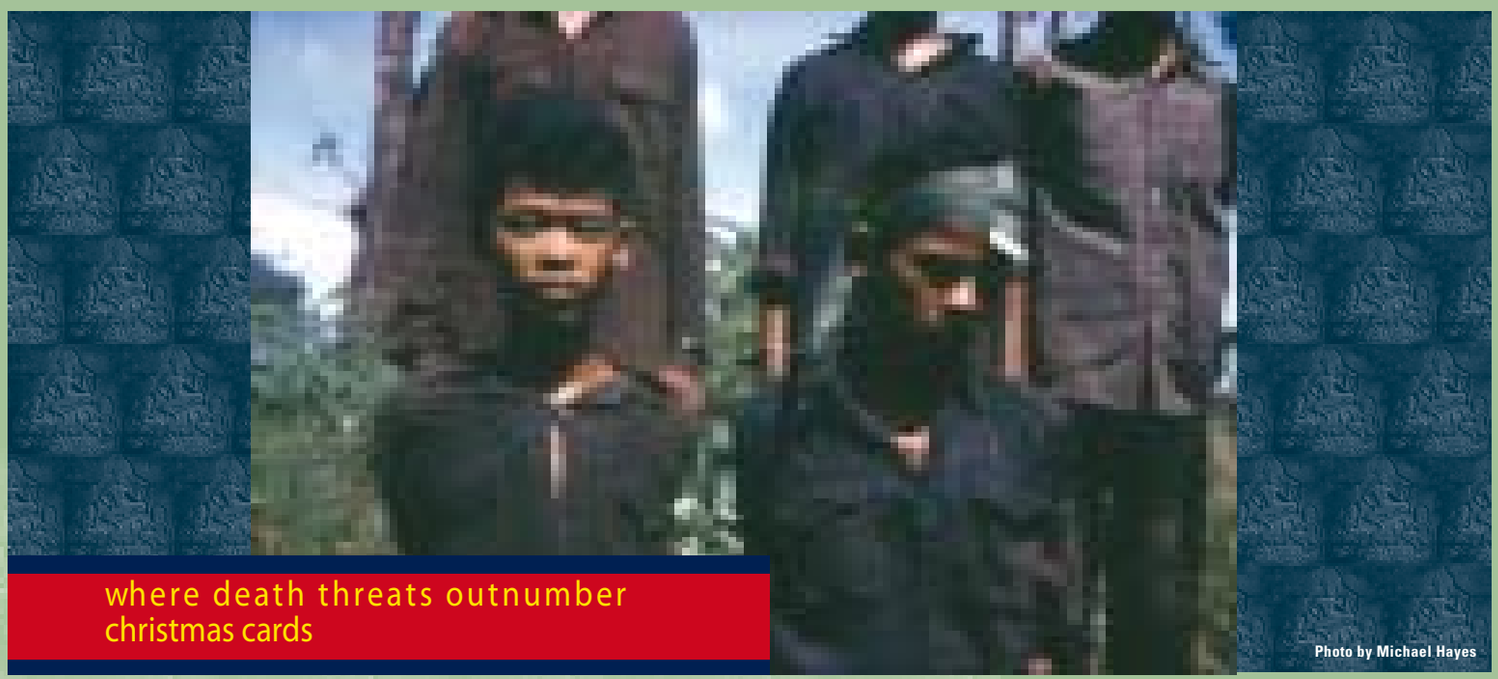
"You're still going to have problems with the less well-known things," says Christine, "but if we can make a push into the main things, it will make a big difference."

Christine Briasco will leave Cambodia in Octo-

JOURNALISTS

Names: Matthew Grainger, Jason Barber, Peter Sainsbury

Qualifications: Dip Journalism



where death threats outnumber christmas cards

Photo by Michael Hayes

Prisoners of Government forces outside Phnom Penh in 1974, before the Khmer Rouge takeover. The men, Vietnamese according to their captors, but more likely Cambodians, were probably killed shortly after the photo was taken.

By Rachel Scollay and Sophie Wilson

A Cambodian journalist sits with phone and notebook on a balcony surrounded by bougainvillea. Beyond him, monks in saffron robes are shaded by umbrellas as they wander up the hot and dusty Phnom Penh street while children play football with an old sandal.

Inside, cooled by a lolling fan, half a dozen more journalists vie for computer and phone time in the office of the Phnom Penh Post. It's deadline day on the fortnightly English-language paper and the four computers and two (tapped) phones are in constant demand. One computer blinks on and off in psychedelic death throes, but the entire room manages to ignore it.

The big news just in is that the United Nations has pulled out from negotiations with the Cambodian Government to set up a tribunal to deal with the crimes of the Khmer Rouge. There is wide concern that without the UN involvement the tribunal could be a farce. Ten years after Michael Hayes and Kathleen O'Keefe set up the paper, the Khmer Rouge still makes good copy.

American Michael Hayes first visited Cambodia in October 1974, one year before the Khmer Rouge – the communist regime responsible for the death through starvation, illness and execution of an estimated 1.7 million Cambodians – came to power.

In October 1991, after working for an aid foundation in Thailand for several years, Michael returned to Phnom Penh looking for work and instead decided to set up the country's only independent newspaper.

He had no experience in the newspaper business ("I was a paper boy when I was ten") but he and Kathleen, who were married at the time, decided Cambodia needed a paper that offered analysis of what was happening in the country. "I wanted more substance. I wanted more than what you read on the wire service," Michael says.

Ker Muntith, a Khmer journalist who worked at the Post until 1997, says the paper was established in a time of great uncertainty. The Paris Peace Accords were signed that year and the United Nations Transition Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) was attempting to put Cambodia on the path to democracy.

"There was still a lot of political tension and uncertainty at that time… Soon after the creation of the Phnom Penh Post [some] newspapers started to take a new stance with a different look, with some critical headlines that you would never have seen during the 1980s," he says.

It was hard, says Michael. "They tried to stop me and bounced me between government departments. Then I went back to the US and returned to discover a new press law which prevented foreigners from owning newspapers."

Eventually King Norodom Sihanouk personally raised the issue with Prime Minister Hun Sen, and the press law was scrapped.

Kathleen and Michael moved into the Phnom Penh Post office, a three-story villa drenched with colonial charm, in May 1992. They slept on the floor, rewired the whole building and enlisted friends to bring computer equipment in with their hand luggage on trips from America.

All the printing houses were government-run and not allowed to do private jobs. So, once a fortnight the Post reporters spent all Wednesday night smoking, drinking coffee and finishing copy. Kathleen or Michael then flew to Bangkok for printing, proofed the paper on Thursday night and

flew back on Friday morning with 20 boxes of extra luggage. "It was a huge effort, that all night stuff. We had five managing editors in those days and they all burned out," says Michael.

This period saw the birth of the Post's relationship with Wellington's Dominion newspaper and the Wellington Polytechnic (now Massey University) journalism programme.

Matthew Grainger, Jason Barber and Peter Sainsbury were to become three successive editors over seven years at the Phnom Penh Post, making up what Jason calls the "kiwi mafia" in Phnom Penh. The trio – all graduates of the Wellington school of journalism and all ex-Dominion reporters –travelling on Asia 2000 scholarships first found themselves in Vietnam.

"We had this stupid idea that we were going to create a freelance news agency in Vietnam – we even formed the AIP (Agencie Indochine Press), but thankfully it never got off the ground," says Jason Barber, who now works for the Licahado human rights agency in Phnom Penh.

"We were on the verge of going home and we met a (volunteer) from Phnom Penh." Following her advice they went to Cambodia for a two-week visit, but the editor at the Phnom Penh Post had handed in his notice and "we just didn't leave".

Suddenly, instead of walking down Lambton Quay looking for stories, the Kiwi boys were making their way through minefields to camp down on the front line.

Jason and Muntith were the first media on the scene of a 1994 grenade attack on opposition party members staying at a pagoda. "In a normal country you would pick up the phone and call an ambulance and the police. But here, what do you do? You just stand there."

Afterwards, Jason put some of the most graphic photos the Post has ever published on the front page. "Mainly because we were pissed off and we wanted people to see what we had seen…I remember thinking, I want people to feel sick when they pick up this issue of the newspaper." Bodies with missing limbs. Blood everywhere. Absolute carnage. "Not a hard decision to make. Pretty simple really."

On a less sombre note, Jason recalls going with Muntith and a foreign journalist to interview defecting Khmer Rouge soldiers. Following instructions, Jason climbed on the motorbike with "Mr Black", who had a 'bad-to-the-bone' T-shirt, a grenade launcher, and responsibility for their safety.

Muntith's motorbike broke down on the way and the English-speaking journalists went alone to the camp of Khmer-speaking soldiers who were "mostly kids". "Smiling a lot and saying 'How are you?' repeatedly was the way to go," says Jason. "We did that for 30 minutes before Muntith showed up."

"It was a lot more fun than walking down Lambton Quay," he says of the work.

The stories were "just amazing stuff. We used to joke that every police [brief] would be the object of a commission of inquiry in New Zealand. Basically, unbelievable stories hanging on trees. Just go and take them…It really raises your threshold of what makes a good story."

And in terms of everyday crimes, not much has changed over the years. This is a run-of-the-mill example of domestic violence in a 2001 Post brief: "Baul Kia, 41, and Mao Lom, 41, were killed instantly when a B-40 bomb exploded during a family quarrel at 5:00pm at their house in Svay village, Kam Rieng district, Battambang. Police said Kia knocked the bomb to the floor in anger after his wife had talked to the man next door."

In the 10 years since it was set up, the Post has seen an enormous amount of change. It covered the first UNTAC elections in 1993, the 1998 elections, and in February this year the first commune elections, intended to decentralise power.

But the concept of free and fair elections has not settled well. This year's election was preceded by bribes, threats and the murder of more than 16 opposition election candidates – despite UNTAC's $2 billion effort the path to democracy in Cambodia is barely discernible beneath the massed undergrowth of corruption.

The paper followed (and survived) the 1997 coup. The airports closed, foreigners and volunteers were shipped out and the country was "just devastated", says Kathleen. But the Post found a printer in Phnom Penh, covered the story and the paper got out on time.

Beyond the big events, the paper has continued to follow controversial stories that fall in the wake of the human rights atrocities, incredible poverty and systemic corruption that make up the fabric of Cambodian society.

"All kinds of people are pissed off about our stories," says Michael. "Death threats are more common than Christmas cards here. People use them all the time."

They have survived despite them. But can the paper survive three years of peace in Cambodia?

"Get Pol Pot in the Story," said one memo in the Associated Press news office in Bangkok during the civil war, says Michael. "The point was that in any story you do (you must) make sure you get Pol Pot in because then it has a better chance of being picked up…The Khmer Rouge makes good copy."

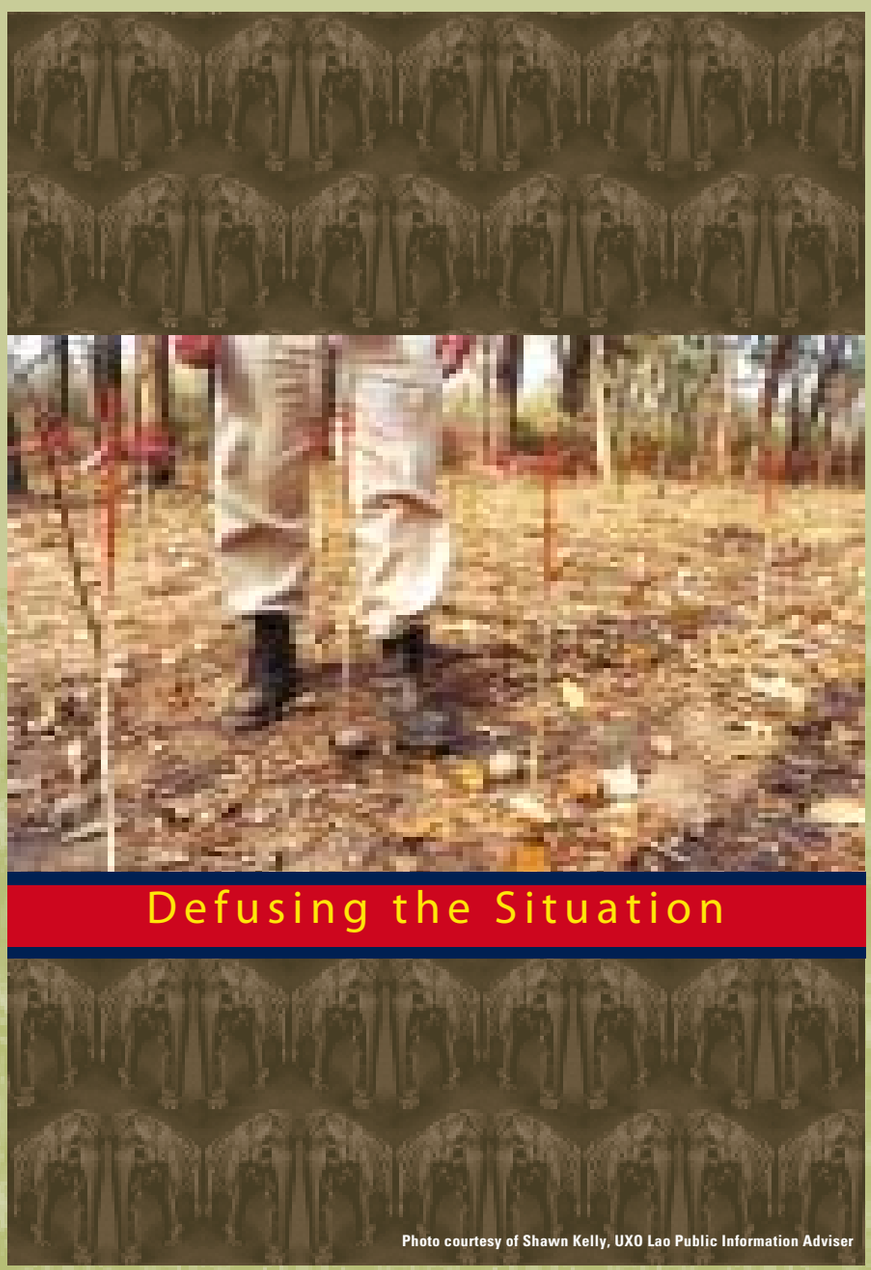
Now Pol Pot is dead, the Khmer Rouge is quiet and Cambodia has largely fallen off the pages of international papers. The news in Cambodia has become boring, they say.

"I think that boring news is good news," says Michael. "This country needs some boring news. I'm glad the war is over. There is always stuff for us to write about. This country has problems everywhere you look.

"The Khmer Rouge makes good copy but I think we've heard enough about the Khmer Rouge. Sure there should be a trial and we'll write about that. But my own personal feeling is it's a sad chapter and this

where death threats outnumber christmas cards

TECHNICAL ADVISER	PUBLIC RELATIONS CONSULTANT
Name: Don Jones	Name: Corinne Rivoallan
Qualification: MPhil (in progress)	Qualification: GradDipBusDipStuds



BLU 26 bomblets litter a forest floor like windfall in an apple orchard, each marked with a red-tipped stick. The BLU 26 is one of the most common bomblets in Laos.

In the small, forested nation of Laos, the Vietnam War has never truly ended. Each year the bombs of 30 years ago kill or maim around 200 people. Technical adviser and extramural student Don Jones is helping rid the land of this legacy.

As a city Vientiane, the capital of Laos, is no great shakes: a drab place of mounded dust, decayed French colonial buildings, wide boulevards hinting at once grandiose aspirations, and the occasional incongruously ornate office of state. And, shopper's warning, buy what you need before you head into an impoverished, nominally communist nation

But it has some amenities. The Scandinavian Bakery, the air-con oasis where I await Don Jones and his partner, Corinne Rivoallan, is one. There must also be a golf course. Don is breaking a golf appointment to meet me.

And here they are: Corinne, very visibly pregnant and freshly arrived from New Zealand, then Don, Senior Technical Adviser Operations with the New Zealand Defence Forces, looking schoolboyish in walk shorts and very XL in a land where S is the standard physique.

First business of the day: the testing choice of a pastry and coffee. Then for the tales of adventure and hardship for which I have travelled for four hours this morning from Vang Viang, on a third world bus, its roof piled high with luggage, its central aisle packed with passengers on plastic seats.

Well the Internet connection is slow here, says Corinne, who has been trying to make use of it to research one of her Massey papers, and the golf course, it turns out, is only nine holes. "But it's much more affordable to play golf here than in Cambodia," Don volunteers, anxious that Vientiane not be misrepresented. Besides, there's a good local rugby team. What about Corinne's pregnancy? Well, she thinks she'll duck down to Bangkok when she comes close to term.

As for the breath-bating business of dealing with live ordnance, Don explains that in the past five years New Zealand's two technical advisers in Laos have been operating at more and more of a remove. "It's called capacity development. You train people into more and more senior roles. You start pulling out the foreign advisers so they start to control their own programmes."

Laos needs all the capacity it can get. Vientiane was never bombed – here the hazard is broken sewer covers, not unexploded ordnance – but maps of the country are acned with areas heavily contaminated with unexploded bombs.

From 1964 until the ceasefire of February 1973, United States planes flew 580,944 sorties over Laos, dropping 2,093,100 tonnes of bombs. That equates to one planeload of bombs every eight minutes

around the clock for nine years, making Laos, with its present population of five and a quarter million, the most heavily bombed country per capita in the history of warfare.

The evidence remains. Away from Vientiane the landscape is still cratered. In some regions old bomb casings form the piles for bamboo huts. And, as in the biblical injunction to beat swords into ploughshares, at smithies around Laos the best munition-quality American steel is being beaten into shovels and hoes.

Many of the bombs are still there, still fused, still killing and maiming. Over 200 Lao fall victim each year, most too young to remember the war of which the bombs are a legacy. Most ubiquitous are the tennis-ball-sized bomblets – known as bombies – that fell in cluster bombs little different to those now employed in Afghanistan.

"They are pretty standard munitions," explains Don, "but they contaminate the ground for a lot longer. A cluster bomb could drop anything from 200 to 600 bomblets, and they have different capabilities. Most will explode. But about 30 percent won't. For conventional bombs the figure is more like 10 percent. In the war here they jettisoned them as well, just to gain height or escape an attack or anti-aircraft fire or because they were running out of fuel.

"The bombies aren't as bad as mines. If you stand on a bombie there's a good chance it won't go off. If you stand on a landmine there's a 95 percent chance it will. On the other hand, once you start digging, to build a road, or cultivate the ground, the odds are greatly increased."

In the role of capacity development, Don has just returned from the Plain of Jars – one of the most heavily bombed regions – where he has been conducting a battery of tests to select the best people to attend an Explosives Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Officer course.

New Zealand is not in the big league in providing aid to Laos, but the aid it does give – the salaries for the two technical advisers – is effective.

How did Corinne and Don come to be here? On graduating from Otago with an MA in the Phenomenology of Religion (his BA had also included history), Don signed up as an officer cadet, graduating 12 months later into the Corps of Royal NZ Engineers: "the Corps is responsible for such things as the construction of bridges and the clearing of minefields…"

In 1998 he went to Cambodia for his first stint as a technical officer with UXO (UneXploded Ordnance). "Where you met me," chips in Corinne, who had been resident for five years in Phnom Penh as a public relations consultant for a range of organisations.

By then Don had been a Massey student for a number of years. He had begun an MPhil in Defence and Strategic Studies shortly after joining the Army.

Each year he has picked off papers one by one, beginning with the four military strategy papers, which make up part A of the degree and are generally taught by army-sponsored lecturers through the Military Studies Institute.

Part B is four standard Massey master's papers. "In the last few years I have done a marketing paper and

organisation and management and I intend to enrol in human resource management for 2002."

Corinne, who holds a law degree from her native France, has completed a Diploma in Business Studies (Public Relations), some social anthropology papers and a development studies paper with Massey. This year she is looking forward to taking two anthropology papers, as well as to the birth of their child sometime in the first semester.

And Don is taking some interest papers too, adds Corinne. "French," grins Don. Because Laos was once French speaking? No, because Corinne (who also speaks Khmer, Arabic and postgraduate-quality English) still definitely is.

Does being based in Laos present study difficulties? Not many, according to Don, whose preferred mode of study is extramural anyway, even when back at Linton, close by the Palmerston North campus.

He does, it's true, miss the ability to pop into the Massey Library in the evenings. "Here I need to plan out my assignments well ahead of time, do them on time, post them out on time. But the Library has gone out of its way to be helpful."

For her part, Corinne enjoys the informal interaction with her lecturers and tutors, most unlike the divide she remembers from her law degree days.

And that's it. Don has tracked down a misplaced cappuccino and now has that rescheduled golf game to get to. I have another four-hour bus journey ahead of me. Outside the bakery we waylay an obliging couple of monks alongside a tuk tuk for an in situ shot. The tuk tuk driver moves away, thinking not to intrude.

The day is hot; the shade of a tree a balm. Don and Corinne stand arm in arm. They look unfeignedly happy.

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

Name: Apirach Sakulneya

Qualification: MA

The Chiang Mai connection

Associate Professor Apirach Sakulneya is one of a number of Massey alumni on the faculty of Chiang Mai University.

Apirach Sakulneya is taking it well, the backpacker who has ambushed her in her workplace. The unannounced intrusion is forgiven, more than forgiven. As a connection with Massey I am welcomed. How long will I be staying in Chiang Mai? What a shame that it will not be longer. Of course she will talk with me. How are things back home?

Palmerston North and Chiang Mai hardly bear comparison, but teaching hospitals must be the same world over: clean, ordered, sane. In three-quarters of an hour Apirach has a class to take, but in the meantime we can retire to table in a grassed courtyard. Hot and flustered after an hour or so of getting thoroughly lost in the precincts of the University, I gratefully accept sanctuary.

Apirach came to New Zealand in 1986. Her husband, Jiradej, had taken up a government scholarship to study towards an MBA, and Apirach, a degree-qualified nurse, set out to study for an MA with Massey's College of Nursing, taking her first class the day after she arrived.

"I didn't prepare myself enough," she admits. "At nursing college we didn't use English at all – we read, but didn't use it in conversation. The English I heard at Massey was very different from the English I heard in Thailand. That first year was very hard for me."

But the nursing college was tight-knit, and the lecturers sympathetic. "I think I was quite lucky. Our lecturer, Professor Nancy Kinross, was very kind to overseas students. She taught me one-to-one for the first few months.

"The University had a family feel. We were so close: lecturers and tutors and students."

Apirach studied nursing education: "I learned about nursing theory and advanced research nursing. The special topic that interested me was breastfeeding: psychosocial inferences about breastfeeding.

"At that time New Zealand was quite successful in terms of the percentage of mothers breastfeeding. I was able to adapt what I learned to Thailand, where changing socioeconomic conditions had led to a decline in the number of mothers breastfeeding."

Degrees completed, Apirach and Jiradej returned to Thailand in 1988, Jiradej to work with Thailand's dairy industry, Apirach to return to lecturing at Saraburi Nursing College outside Bangkok. Two years later she was appointed a lecturer at Chiang Mai University in the foothills of northern Thailand, and in 1999 was promoted to Associate Professor, with responsibility for a delivery suite, an antenatal room and a full undergraduate and postgraduate teaching load. Along the way, the expert in childbirth would herself give birth to a son – now aged 10.

She credits Massey with helping her to think more creatively and to read intelligently, skills she now passes on to her students. Her research interests too are an outgrowth of those she had while at the University.

"I now do research into breastfeeding with working mothers. The percentage of women choosing to breastfeed from childbirth has risen over the last 10 years. The problem is when the women return to work. The Thai government has become concerned, funding research that might help women who work to breastfeed until their children are at least four to five months old, by taking their babies to work or expressing milk before leaving home. Thirty percent is the target. The percentage now is about 6 or 7, or, in some places, 10 percent."

By abandoning breastfeeding Thai mothers may be inflicting ailments on their children. "A lot of Thai children have allergy-associated diseases. We have problems with high technology, with allergic diseases, with the use of Caesarean sections. Other countries use hi-tech. Our experts learn from them, so when they come back they too want to use the same techniques. Now we are trying to find the right path between hi-tech and lo-tech. We try to use natural things."

She likes Chiang Mai. The weather is cooler here than in the south, the people are friendly, and the traffic flows more freely than in perpetually gridlocked Bangkok. The University brings her in contact with overseas students. Her College runs exchanges with Canadian and Chinese universities, and she also runs a 12-week government-sponsored Safe Motherhood programme for students from developing countries, including neighbouring Laos, Mynamar, Cambodia. Students who, as Apirach once did, must cope with the difficulties of learning in the world's lingua franca, English. All in all, life is good. But she would like to revisit Massey. "I still have many Kiwi friends."

From top, left to right: Debbie Pethleung; Yai, Sureerat Thuantavee; Muangthong Thuantavee; Kaset Wittayanuparpyeunyong; Mum; Prissana Puwanan; Preecha Pethleung; Tua, Ninnath Chinprahast; Pramot Prasittipayong; Sayan Tudsri; Pao, Apirat Sakunneeya; Wichien Chatupot; Montha Chatupot; Deb, Jiradeth Sakuneeya; Saraya Wittayanuparpyeunyong (with Peat Tudsri); Klae, Pranee Tudsri; Tang, Siree Chanprasert; Wanchai Chanprasert.

Ask Associate Professor Apirach Sakulneya about the friends she stays in touch with from her Massey days and a tumble of names ensues. There is a professor of nursing at Newcastle University, a family in Upper Hutt, a fellow staff member in her own faculty. And, of course, there is 'Mum'.

Mum's Story

Gay Eustace and Wanchai Chanprasert take a samlor for a spin.

Wanchai is a Professor of the Agronomy Department of the Faculty of Agriculture, Kasetsart University

Mum – aka Gay Eustace – sits in her Palmerston North sunroom in a spread of photo-albums and travel diaries. "I often get letters from former Thai students that are simply addressed to 'Mum'," she says, "or sometimes to 'Mum Eustace'."

Yes, of course she remembers Apirach. She has stayed with the family in Chiang Mai.

"She is such an attractive lassie and her little boy is just gorgeous. He didn't speak any English when we stayed with them, but we used to have great conversations with his arms waving in all directions, and every morning he would put his head around the door to see if we were awake or not, with his mother saying, 'Don't go in there, don't go in there yet.' 'It's all right, it's all right,' he'd say in Thai. 'They're awake, they're awake.'"

Why 'Mum'? Well, the nickname itself is a natural extension of the Thai custom of addressing older women as 'auntie', but for the Thai connection itself one must go back twenty years.

"It all started in 1979," Gay says, "with my oldest daughter Jackie – all my five children are graduates of Massey. I said to her, 'If there are any overseas students who are feeling a bit sad, bring them home.'

"She met an undergraduate – Angkarb –˙ in her Geography class, and the two of them spent a lot of time together. So Angkarb came home. And the next year she stayed here quite a bit of the time, and the next year all of the time. And she met a Thai student while she was here, and Jackie was their brides-maid. And they went on to Thailand, and then on to Rome. Now their son is at university in Montreal and Angkarb went on to a PhD. When she left, a friend of hers came, and then a friend of that friend came, then Angkarb's sister came, and then Angkarb's other younger sister came...

"And so it's gone on..."

Off a hallway two large photo frames hold inset pictures of the students the Eustace family have hosted, over 30 in all. Most are Thai, but there are also a Nepalese, a Canadian and a Peruvian. Apirach is not among them: she visited but never stayed. Gay runs through the pictures one by one, cataloguing life's fortunes. "This is ..." "She's now..." "He's now..." "Their son is..."

How is Gay's Thai? Good enough to know often what people are talking about, but not that good for, in the interests of her students, Gay operates an English-only policy at home. "Even when we had more than one Thai staying here – at one stage we had five of them – we always spoke English, not Thai. And we always said that if people got things wrong they were not to mind if my children corrected them. That worked well.

"We played games like Mahjong, and that was also a good opportunity to learn English. We also read a lot of the dissertations that went through. Even now I still read quite a lot of work and just put the occasional 'the' and 'a' here and there. It's hard for them working in a second language."

What of the burden placed on her family? "I felt the children needed the exposure to people from other places, and it's been wonderful for them. They have made friends all over the world."

Like Apirach, most of Gay's protégés have gone on to enjoy prestigious careers. Mum's 'kids' are now professors, heads of department and research leaders. Many are choosing to school their children in New Zealand.

When Gay visits Thailand, as this inveterate traveller does every couple of years, she is hosted and fêted wherever she goes. Some of her Thai friends travel hundreds of kilometres to meet up with her, she says, bemused and flattered.

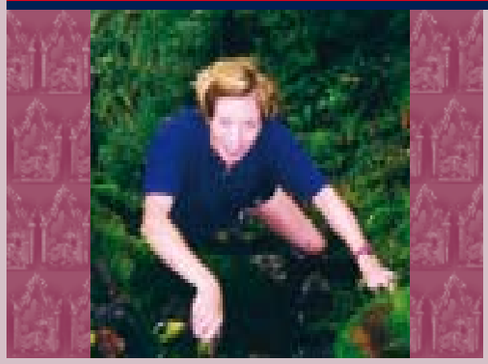
Gay's next travels are to Sicily and Turkey, pursuing an interest in Greek and Roman history. In a few years' time she will break 75, she says, and the insurance premiums will climb. Better see the world while she can.

TEACHER

Name: Libby O'Connor

Qualification: BEd

Leeches and Longhouses, Princesses and Palaces



Libby O'Connor is in her fifth year of teaching Malay children in a state primary school in the tiny oil-rich sultanate of Brunei Darussalam. She also runs bilingual education workshops for local and expatriate teachers and has been known to give kayak lessons to royal princesses, while heavily escorted by police, "who even provide chilled drinks out in the middle of the bay." In what time is left over Libby is working towards a master's in education with Australia's Deakin University and pursuing a rich recreational life. Libby writes:

I've just returned from visiting friends at Kuala Medalam longhouse. Longhouse life, where a whole village lives under one roof, is still common in rural Borneo, although more and more young men are moving to cities or to jobs in the logging industry. Longhouses are no place for solitude, as neighbours often offer advice on what you thought were private discussions through paper-thin walls. Last weekend, I tried shutting the door a few times, but numerous pairs of eyes quickly appeared at the window and, amidst muffled squeals, excited children climbed on each other to get a better view inside. Soon, once they'd decided I didn't really need privacy, the door opened and they swarmed in. So I gave up and headed to the river for a swim, with 30 squealing youngsters in tow.

The best time to visit a longhouse is during one of the traditional festivals, such as Gawai Dayak, when the end of the rice harvest is celebrated with tuak (home-brewed rice beer), dancing and traditional ceremonies. Last Gawai, the celebrations did not begin until 11:00pm. When they were over, we were expected to visit every door (ie every family) and eat and drink with them. We savoured fried river snails and tiny sago biscuits and it was 4:00am when we finally reached the last of Kuala Medalam's fifty doors. Along the way we passed the snoring bodies of those who'd given up on the way. So, as we made our way back to our beds on the floor, Mary and I were a little smug that we'd lasted the distance. However, when the cacophony of roosters crowing, pigs snorting and other longhouse noises started before 6:00am, we were somewhat less delighted.

Kuala Medalam is reached by longboat on a route once used by headhunting expeditions. The route led through Mulu National Park and out to the coast at a time when ownership of an enemy's head was the sign of a true warrior.

Mulu National Park is a World Heritage site and home to some of the largest cave passages in the world and to three magnificent mountains. My Mulu trips have usually involved exploring vast underground caverns and climbing mountains, although the most recent expedition was for a week of kayak training for two Mulu guides who have just competed in New Zealand's Coast to Coast race.

Mt Mulu (2377 metres) is a magical climb – lower, but much more challenging than nearby Mt Kinabalu (4095 metres). I'm not known for moderation in packing, so early in the last tramp when I slipped over in the deep mud, I lay there like a mired water buffalo, totally unable to stand again without assistance. (I suspect that was when the leeches got to sensitive places inside my shorts.) The skin on my shoulders and back pulped with the weight of my pack, which had broken under the strain. The gradient increased, and pushing through luxuriant vegetation, we pulled ourselves up on tree roots, edged around rock faces on ropes and grovelled under trees dripping with moss. In the early morning near the summit, we could hear gibbons hooting eerily while we watched mountain ground squirrels foraging for scraps. I climbed the last few hours packless, and lay exhilarated in the sunshine, amidst hundreds of vibrant pitcher plants and rhododendron blooms.

Now the memories of the exhaustion, drenching rain and lightning, the technicolour bruises, bites and blisters are fading, I'm keen to climb it again.

This is a place of extremes – from longhouses and jungle huts to golden palaces. Not long ago we finished the fasting month, when Moslems abstain from any food or drink from dawn to dusk – quite a challenge in the heat. At the conclusion of the month, the sultan welcomes his subjects and visitors to one of his palaces, Istana Nurul Iman, which has nearly 1800 rooms and is domed in 22-carat gold.

Another testament to the oil wealth in Brunei is the opulent six-star Empire Hotel. Ceilings, pillars and even bathroom fittings are heavily decorated with 24-carat gold – in fact the advertisements for this hotel say: "All that glitters is gold." From bargain rooms at NZ $800 per night to the Emperor suite at $48,000 a night, there are nearly 500 luxurious rooms with a lavish range of facilities. You can eat sumptuous dishes from a titanium dinner set studded with large sapphires ($25,000 worth in each goblet).

In contrast to all this opulence, schools are often dilapidated, with few facilities. My rural school frequently has no electricity or water, which makes teaching in about 80 percent humidity a real challenge. Students come in a variety of sizes, as some have repeated every year since they were in Year 1. Fortunately most repeaters are remarkably well-behaved, considering their unsuccessful school experiences. In fact, tumbledown buildings and inadequate facilities are more than made up for by the warm welcome from local teachers and students.

My original time-span of a two-year adventure in Borneo has proved hopelessly inadequate for the wealth of experiences here, and my to-do list keeps getting longer instead of shorter. This year I hope to investigate several new remote mountains and a group of unexplored caves. After that, who knows?

Notes and News

Roy Gallagher, Dip Ag 1945

Now retired, Roy lives in Asuncion in Paraguay, but takes a three-month annual summer holiday back in New Zealand. Roy began his career with 18 years as a technical officer at Ruakura Animal Research Station outside Hamilton. He was then seconded to the British Colonial Service, spending eight months with the Agricultural Research Station at Sigatoka in Fiji. There followed 19 years during which Roy was contracted to the World Bank in South America, Central America and Africa as a livestock expert. From 1983 Roy has cattle ranched in Paraguay.

T.A. Morris, BAgrSc 1951

"I trust you will find the enclosed photograph of interest for the magazine. I recently found it among my Massey memorabilia. This is the Massey Small-bore Rifle team, which competed for the first time in the 1949 Winter Tournament in Auckland.

In front is Terry Morris (Team Captain); at the rear, from left to right, are Bob Barber, George Catley, and John MacDougall.

The teams shot well enough to gain third place in the competition and Terry's shoot earned him a University of New Zealand Blue in small-bore rifle shooting."

Hugh Clifford, BAgrSc 1954

Hugh writes: "I always enjoy reading MASSEY, but I thought the December 2001 issue was the best yet – attractive as ever, and really jam-packed with interesting material.

"I have a long-standing interest in Massey. We arrived as a family in 1936 when my father became Dairy Farm Manager and my mother became Matron of the women's hostel. Our home and the women's hostel shared the Bachelor Homestead for a few years, until Moginie House was established as the women's hostel when their numbers outgrew Bachelor. We left in 1945, but I returned as a student and graduated BAgrSc in 1954. My classmates and I have mostly kept in good contact ever since then, with newsletters and numerous reunions. I became a student again last year, though regrettably not at Massey. I am pursuing my main retirement hobby by doing a Graduate Certificate in Ornithology course from Charles Sturt University in New South Wales. I don't know how this message got so long, because all I meant to say was 'Congratulations on the December 2001 issue of MASSEY'."

John Holmden, BVSc 1968

On graduating, John first took up employment as a veterinarian with the New Zealand Ministry of Agriculture. He then worked for Merck Sharp & Dohme in New Zealand and Brazil. From 1977 until his retirement in 1993 he was the Chief Veterinary Officer with the South Australian Department of Agriculture. The retirement is partial. Since 1994 John has been a part-time consultant to animal import companies and an auditor of quality assurance programmes for livestock enterprises.

Jan Velvin, Dip Hort (Nursery Management) with Distinction 1978

Horticulture alumna Jan Velvin has received the International Award of Honour from the International Plant Propagators' Society of New Zealand in recognition of her outstanding contribution to plant propagation.

Only five New Zealanders have received the award, three of them Massey Diploma of Horticulture graduates. Jan is the first woman.

Jan had been a lab technician in the cheese industry for 10 years before enrolling with Massey. "I really enjoyed the experience of Massey as an adult student and am sure I took more from the course than the younger students. I had a focus and a passion for what I was embarking on."

On leaving Massey, Jan first worked grafting subtropical fruits in the Bay of Plenty, then moved to Lyndale Nurseries in Whenuapai as propagations manager, later becoming a partner.

Now, 20 years on, Jan has her own business, Get Growing New Zealand Limited, offering consultancy, staff training and contract propagation and growing for nurseries.

"I would like to see the staff training aspect of the horticulture industry evolve. I personally have a 'hands on' philosophy about how this should proceed. I like to work directly with people on a face-to-face basis. I think that I have something to offer back to Massey University and am involved in a small way through my contacts with Horticulture staff at the University."

Andrew Hardie, BAgr 1986

Andrew married Helen Long in 1988, then headed overseas with her in 1989–90. Back in New Zealand the couple went sharemilking in the Dannevirke region, and were runners up in the 1995 National Sharemilker of the Year finals after winning the Hawke's Bay and Wairarapa title. In 1999 they purchased their own farm in a 50 percent business partnership. The farm has since expanded from 580 to 800 cows.

Today the Hardie household has three children – ages nine, six and one-and-a-half – and hosts overseas visitors through several organisations. Andrew lists his and Helen's hobbies as including flying lessons, caving, tennis, parasailing and gardening.

If you are an old classmate, Andrew would be keen to catch up with you.

Dr Lemuel Diamante, PhD (Food Technology) 1991

Dr Diamante writes: "I recently visited your website and learned that a lot has changed since I left Massey University in November 1991. I am an Associate Professor in Food Engineering at the Department of Agricultural Chemistry and Food Science, Visayas State College of Agriculture in the Philippines, where I have been working since my return in 1991. Last October 1995 to April 1996 (6 months) I was a Visiting Professor at the Center for Food Safety and Quality Enhancement, University of Georgia, Griffin, Georgia, USA, under the sponsorship of USAID-PCRSP.

"At the present, I am a Visiting Scientist for 6 months (May to October 2001) at the Department of Bioresource Science, Obihiro University of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine, Inada-cho, Obihiro 080, Hokkaido, Japan, under the sponsorship of the Matsumae International Foundation."

Paul Gregor, PGDipSportMgt 1996

Paul returned to Scotland and trained as a journalist, then took a job with Scottish Rugby Magazine before joining the national daily newspaper, The Scotsman. He left to join a new daily paper called Business am, and he is now to join Scotland on Sunday as financial editor. In 1999 Paul married a New Zealander and they plan to return to New Zealand permanently some time in 2003.

A SIMPLE PLAN: Would the last planner leaving New Zealand please turn the lights out after them? Well, that might be stretching it a little bit, but when a group of Massey planning graduates now living and working in London recently put out the word they were meeting for a quiet beer at the well-known antipodean haunt The Walkabout, in Shepherds Bush, the response was impressive. About 25 graduates gathered to talk about old times and 'old' lecturers. More than a few beers were consumed. The oldest graduate in attendance (though her exact age was "unimportant"), was Sarah Duffell, a graduate of the class of 1991, while the most contemporary was Hazel Anderson, who left Massey at the end of 1999. The group, who keep in touch via a network of emails, are planning more events in the near future.

Peter Coleman, London

Sali Quirino, DipMeatTech 1996

Sali, now an Assistant Professor at Central Mindanao University in the Philippines, writes: "After my course at Massey I finished my Masterate in Agricultural Technology Education at Central Mindanao University. I was also reassigned to my previous project, the postharvest and processing development center of our college. I was actively involved in various activities related to instruction and extension. I became well-travelled within the country.

"Two years after, I was designated as the Director of the Office of Instruction as well as the acting Vice-President for Academic Affairs of our college. My experiences at Massey University have been very helpful in the discharge of my duties and responsibilities.

"With my initiatives, our college now offers two degree courses which are similar to those offered at Massey. These are a Bachelor of Technology in Environmental Management and a Bachelor of Technology in Environmental Engineering.

"As of the moment I am finishing my doctorate degree in agricultural education. I am working on the analysis of the effect or contribution of networking initiatives among state schools (colleges and universities) and the industries of our region. I hope to finish it in March 2002."

Helen Hughes
BA (Nursing Education) 1997

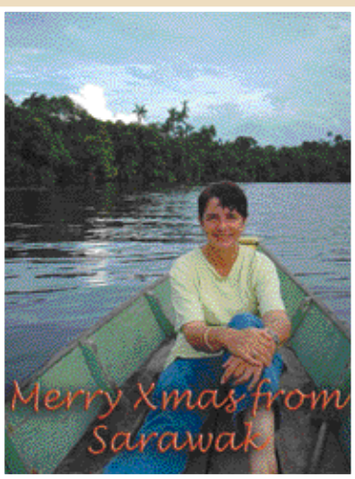
Helen Hughes writes: "I graduated in 1997 with a Bachelor of Arts majoring in Nursing Education, which I completed extramurally from Hong Kong and Australia. I have held positions since graduating as Nursing Educator for Monash University and two major teaching hospitals in Melbourne Australia. I started my Masters of Business by Research in 2001 with RMIT University Melbourne, completing it in March 2003. My thesis title is An exploration of the early career choices made by nurses. It is a collaborative project involving three researchers and three industry partners. My research aims to discover what influences nurses who have no more than five years' experience to stay with an organisation or leave that organisation or the profession. This research is important given the situation both nationally and internationally where there is one nurse staying for every three leaving the profession."

Thomas Banda, MBA 2000

"Just before graduating I was appointed Programme Manager, Eastern and Southern Africa, Volunteer Service Abroad (VSA). VSA has been New Zealand's leading volunteer placement agency since 1962, placing people with skills and experience in carefully selected assignments in the Pacific, Asia and Africa regions. I am responsible for overseeing the operations of the programme in Africa. The programme's aim is to help reduce poverty, improve living conditions and create long-term sustainable livelihoods by supporting the development process within the selected countries of South Africa, Zimbabwe and Tanzania."

Ann Appleton, BA 1997 PhD (in progress)

As readers of MASSEY will know, for the last couple of years Ann Appleton has been living among the Melanau people in Mukah in Sarawak on the island of Borneo. Her doctoral thesis will examine how traditional societies deal with so-called mental illnesses, there being good evidence that conditions such as schizophrenia have a better outcome in the developing world. In her Christmas email Ann writes:



"On my return to Mukah I went down with fever, followed by gastroenteritis, and ended up in hospital myself for a couple of days. The group discussion around my bed about the possibility of black magic being involved provided another new experience!

"The last week has been taken up with Hari Raya celebrations/visiting and now beginning the Xmas round. I've attended a wedding and memorial 'keman' for someone who died in the last few days as well – and made two overnight trips to Balingian."

Ann is now back in New Zealand, has made her first visit back to Massey, is writing up that thesis, and has been unpacking the 100 or so boxes she has had in storage . "I've been back now for about six weeks, but still walking round in a disorientated fog at times," she writes. "Only a few days ago I filled and boiled the jug when I needed some warm water."

Fleur Bennett, BBS Tourism 2001

After graduating Fleur headed to the United States where she worked at Camp Watitou, a summer camp about four hours north of New York City. "It was hard work and the cold showers were a pain in the you-know-what, but I made some wonderful friends from all over the world and adopted seven fantastic girls for nine weeks." Fleur is now a management trainee with Progressive Enterprises in Auckland.

Cape Bird, Antarctica

ANNE NOBLE

PHOTOGRAPHING ANTARCTIC

DOCTORAL AND MASTERATE SCHOLARSHIPS

BUILDING NEW ZEALAND'S CAPACITY

Call'ng for Appl'cat'ons for Massey Un'vers'ty's $2,000,000 Doctoral and Masterate Scholarsh'p Fund

At Massey Un'versity we always have been and always w'll be committed to develop'ng the knowledge 't takes to bu'ld a better New Zealand.

That's why we've launched a major new Doctoral and Masterate Scholarsh'p Fund. Scholarsh'ps of up to $25,000 per annum are ava'lable for over 60 Doctoral and Masterate students each year.

Your next opportun'ty to start 's 'n July this year. Sub'ect areas 'nclude bus'ness, des'gn, f'ne arts, mus'c, educat'on, human'ties, soc'al sc'ences and sc'ences.

Students must be enrolled full-t'me and can study on-campus at Auckland, Palmerston North, Well'ngton or Extramurally.

For full appl'cat'on deta'ls phone 0800 MASSEY (627 739).

WHERE WILL MASSEY TAKE YOU?

0800 MASSEY (627 739)
www.massey.ac.nz

T. Kyn... L. Purchase

Massey Univers'ty
AUCKLAND · PALMERSTON NORTH · WELLINGTON · ALBANY