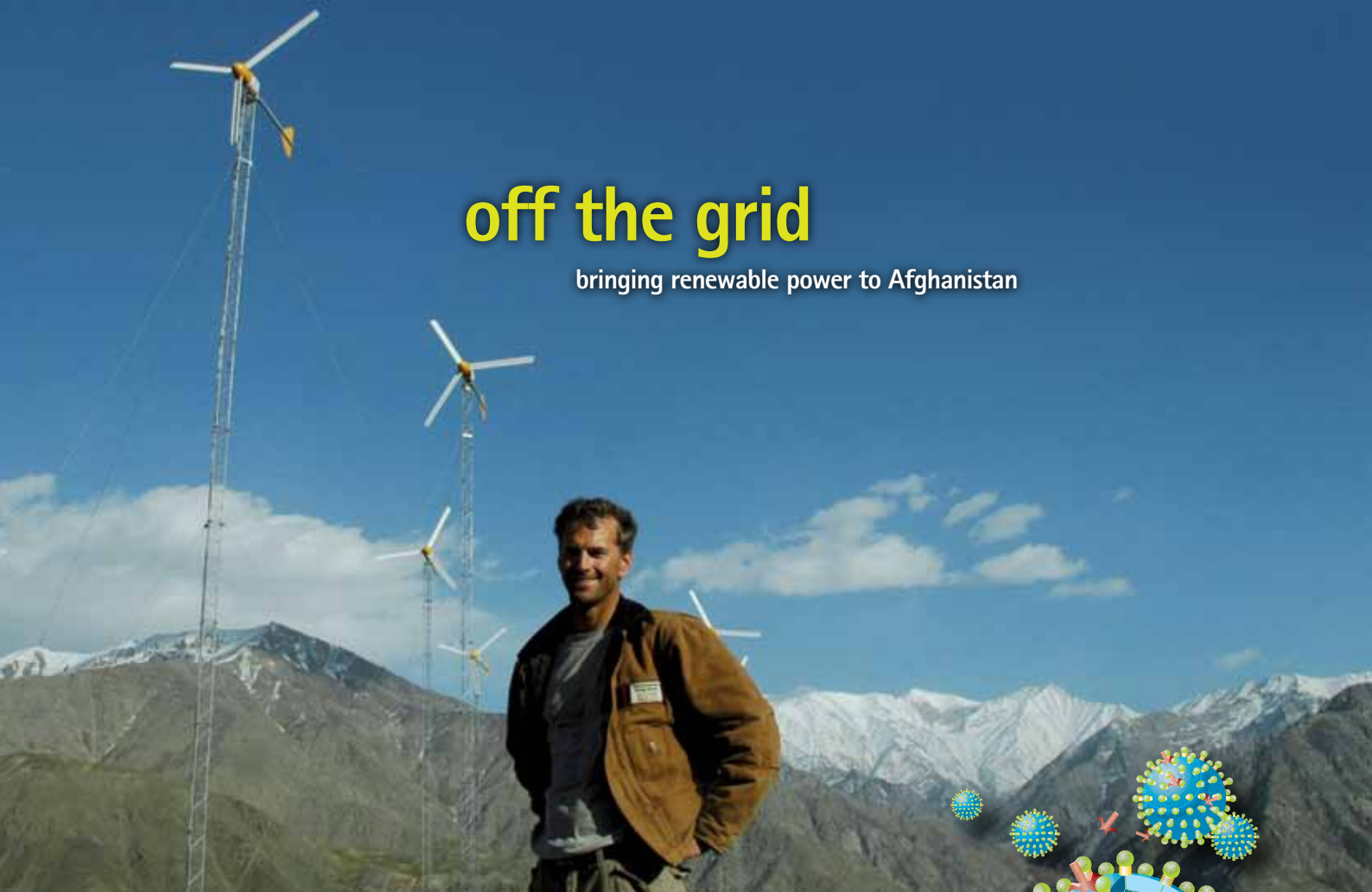


Massey

The magazine for alumni and friends of Massey University | Issue 28 | May 2011

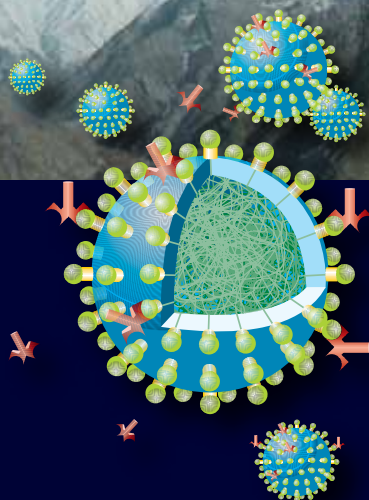
off the grid

bringing renewable power to Afghanistan



+ small wonders

the scientific and commercial promise of
Massey-developed 'biobeads'



+ Mister Speaker + Cheetahs in the Czech Republic



MASSEY UNIVERSITY
TE KUNENGA KI PŪREHUROA

COVER STORY

12

Small Wonders

The Massey commercial spin-off PolyBatics is using bacteria to produce miniscule beads of bioplastic with a range of potential uses. Meet Professor Bernd Rehm and his team.

FEATURES

16

Writing Home

Letters written home by New Zealand soldiers at Gallipoli remain deeply moving.

18

Dr Smith Goes to Wellington

We talk to a genuinely nice guy: Speaker of the House Lockwood Smith.

22

At a Good Clip

The first woman to qualify through Massey as a wool classer, Hazel Riseborough later became a pioneering historian and successful author. Hers is a remarkable life story.

26

Off the Grid

Tony Woods has established a Kabul-based enterprise bringing renewable power to Afghan villages.

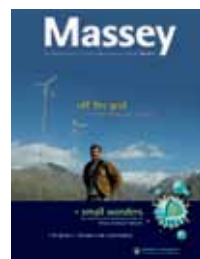
DEPARTMENTS

3 Campus Wide: A round-up of news from Massey's three campuses.

10 Awards: Massey recognises the achievements of staff and alumni.

29 Mixed Media: The history of distance learning, how the kakapo was saved from the brink of extinction, the merits of Prime Minister William Massey, and much else.

37 Alumni Notes and News: All about the Massey alumni community.



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The recent death of wildlife conservation expert Don Merton will have brought back very personal memories for many New Zealanders. Memories from back in the early 1980s of gathering after dinner before the family TV to watch the saga of the Chatham Island black robin unfold.

Produced by what would later become Natural History New Zealand and narrated by Massey alumnus Peter Hayden, the documentaries told the story of how a small team of wildlife experts led by Don Merton rescued a species that at one point numbered just five individuals.

Somehow, though technically unsophisticated, the documentaries had all the right elements. They had a cast of tiny, bright-eyed birds, each bearing the name of the coloured band it wore: Red, Blue, Yellow, Green and White. They had sexual intrigue – Mr Red stole Ms Blue from Mr Yellow, and Mr Yellow in turn stole Ms Green from Mr White. They had an agile sub-tribe of men clad in beards – Merton the clean-shaven exception – bush shirts, walk shorts and woolly hats bounding over rocks, clambering up and down cliffs, and crossing perilous seas to translocate the birds from one island to another.

There was suspense – would the species survive? – and the most uplifting of endings: today there are 200-plus Chatham Island black robins and the species no longer holds that least-coveted distinction of being the most endangered species on Earth.

These were, even by the standards of the time, understated, frill-free

productions. But the story was a genuine one, and New Zealanders were hungry to learn more about their country's natural environment and its native species. The story of Don Merton and the saving of the Chatham Islands black robin created a groundswell of public interest in the conservation of New Zealand's wildlife and natural environment. For this and other work Don Merton was awarded an honorary Doctorate of Science by Massey in 1992.

Kerri Morgan is too young to have seen the documentaries when they were first shown, and quite where her interest in wildlife health and conservation comes from is uncertain. Her Balclutha parents deny that it came from them. What she does know is that at age 12 she delivered a speech to her classmates about conserving the yellow-eyed penguin, and that at age 14 she was transfixed by a video documentary, its subject Don Merton's rescue of the Chatham Islands black robin.

These days, as an avian and wildlife veterinarian and one of the founding staff of the New Zealand Wildlife Health Centre, Kerri is following in Merton's footsteps, working to conserve New Zealand's wildlife heritage. Currently three takahe and two kiwi are convalescing at the centre. In fact, during its eight-year existence, 25 takahe have been treated by the centre, which is around 10 percent of all of the takahe in existence.

Kiwi are another set of patients the centre knows well. Every year about 30 kiwi spend time in the centre. Often they have fallen victim to poorly placed traps, been savaged by dogs, or hit by cars. With each year the centre amasses more knowledge and clinical experience about how to treat their very special patients best. The kiwis are hand fed tiny meatballs. The takahe are tube fed – a procedure that Kerri says can be performed in the space of five minutes with little discomfort for either the feeder or the fed. The centre has become expert in administering kiwi-to-kiwi blood transfusions.

Year on year, the success rates for treatment have climbed, and at the same time the number of people attempting to cram themselves into the centre's 58-square-metre premises (that's the size of a one-bedroom apartment) has climbed. Veterinary nurses mix with resident veterinarians and students, both undergraduate and postgraduate, and a stream of visiting researchers.

Hence plans are afoot for a new centre, with five wards and a much greater floor area, and a more prominent role in public education and awareness. Why do I want to introduce you to Kerri Morgan? In the next while you will probably see something of her as part of Massey's new campaign. She is one of Massey's informally designated 'defining people', the inspirational subset of intelligent, driven idealists who are enlarging New Zealanders' sense of possibility. Kerri will be appearing in a series of television spots,

as will fashion designer Kate Sylvester, one of the movers behind New Zealand's \$300-million fashion export industry.

Perhaps Kerri Morgan's story, like that of Don Merton, will serve to inspire others.

But Kerri Morgan and Kate Sylvester are far from the only defining people Massey has to offer, and television is far from the only available screen. The web allows us to choose the content we want rather than have it chosen for us, and to have that content delivered in a range of ways. It enables every one of us to become a content producer, not just a consumer.

So when next you find yourself at your computer, tap in the address www.engine.ac.nz. Meet Kerri Morgan and Kate Sylvester and a collection of other remarkable individuals who are part of the engine of the new New Zealand.

No smoke. No mirrors. Real people, genuine stories, and an invitation to tell the world about the Massey staff and alumni who have inspired you. Join us there.

Steve Maharey,

Vice-Chancellor





A message from the Vice-Chancellor

Our profound sympathy goes to those who are grieving for family or friends lost to the terrible events of 22 February. Our thoughts too are with those who are living with the aftermath: the destruction of houses, property, businesses and jobs; injury or illness; the loss of essential services; the disruption of normal life.

Massey has confidence in the resilience of Canterbury and its people and is committed to working with Canterbury and Lincoln Universities and others in the tertiary education sector to help the province to rebuild in the testing times that lie ahead.

**Steve Maharey,
Vice-Chancellor**



The Manawatu campus community observes two minutes' silence for victims of Canterbury's earthquake. Similar gatherings were held on the Albany and Wellington campuses.

Emergency management training at work

Steve Glassey, a senior tutor at the Joint Centre for Disaster Research, has returned to Massey's Wellington campus after several days in Christchurch leading a combined universities search and rescue team.

Glassey is a former United Nations disaster management officer and is responsible for the development of many aspects of the New Zealand Urban Search and Rescue programme, including the national disaster search dog programme, response team accreditation systems and national training frameworks.

He says Massey graduates helping out with disaster relief in Christchurch include employees of the police and fire service as well as civil defence response volunteers and support staff within

the Emergency Operations Centre. "It was really good to see a lot of our students and alumni out there doing what they were trained to do."

Glassey also worked with disaster specialists from Victoria and Canterbury Universities, several of whom are graduates of Massey's Diploma in Emergency Management, as well as search and rescue personnel from Taiwan in the days following the 22 February quake.

Glassey, who has experienced other large-scale events, including the 2009 tsunami in Samoa and a typhoon in Laos, says overall the response to the disaster has been well co-ordinated.

The Joint Centre for Disaster Research will continue to work closely with Civil Defence and the Christchurch recovery operation.



Massey's recently created Veterinary Emergency Response Team, the first of its kind in Australasia, has been at work in Christchurch. The 12-member team is trained in disaster assessment and can perform both technical rescues and in-field veterinary treatment.



Combined universities search and rescue team leader Steve Glassey (centre in white gloves) discusses search tactics with members of the Taiwan Special Search and Rescue Team in Christchurch.

Talking Points



“Then there was the woman at the EXMSS After-Grad Dinner who said she was of rich cocky heritage, whose father thought education was only to equip a woman for marriage. She married and later took up extramural study to the chagrin of her husband, who said: ‘It’s either your study or me!’. And you will notice who’s not here tonight.”

“I got home at 2am, cold as charity and saw the light was on in the wash house. I found my wife, Claire, standing by the freezer, books open, studying. ‘What the hell are you doing?’ ‘If I went back inside,’ she said, ‘I’d get warm and go to sleep’.”

“Sorry my assignment is late, we were attacked by pirates in the South China Sea.”

“Perhaps because I was a bomb-armourer in Iraq they were thinking of my safety when they blew up the ...”

“I’m terribly sorry to ask for an extension for my essay next week but my husband has burnt all my books.”

Excerpts from speeches delivered at EXMSS After-Grad Dinners as taken from *The EXMSS Files* by Peter Hawes, reviewed on page 29.



Squadron Leader Graham Hanify MBE stands with a piccolo trumpet he has donated to the New Zealand School of Music brass programme. “I imported the instrument more than 20 years ago,” Hanify explains, “because I had been invited to play J S Bach’s *Brandenburg Concerto No. 2* with the Auckland Philharmonia Orchestra. I’ve used it several times since, including a stint in a Wellington production of Lloyd-Webber’s *Jesus Christ Superstar*. It is unusual in that it is an elongated ‘fanfare’ style trumpet – most piccolo trumpets have the same length of tubing but curled around into a much more compact instrument.” Wellingtonians may know Hanify, a former principal trumpet with Wellington’s regional orchestra, as a member of the saxophone quartet Saxcess and the recently formed Klezmer Café! ensemble.



Work has begun on a student amenities centre for the Albany campus. The \$15 million two-storey centre includes an enclosed plaza, a food hall, social and dining spaces, retail outlets, a health and counselling centre, and space for the students’ association and clubs. It is expected to be completed in February 2012.

When researchers at Victoria University of Wellington developed a way of bonding nanoparticles of gold and silver to wool, they decided to showcase the fabric by persuading five Massey fashion design students to employ it in their work.

"By blurring the lines between the clothing and jewellery, consumers will now be able to wear gold in a way like never before," says Tiffany Kong, whose gown is shown here. "It won't just be a designer label that is important in the future of high fashion, it will be the amount of metal in your garment."

The Merino Gold Fashion Show formed part of the launch of the Year of Chemistry by the Royal Society of New Zealand.



Twenty-seven of the 37 Massey students who took part in the 2010 Commonwealth Games returned with medals from 14 events – a better haul than most participating countries. Pictured is Kayla Sharland of the silver-medal-winning Black Caps.



Three Institute of Communication Design students, Yannick Gillain, Felix Telfer and Shinji Dawson, have won the Panorama Asia-Pacific Design Challenge in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Calling themselves the Three Amigos, the team created a digital animated short film, called *Circuit*, for their final-year design project, and this became their competition entry. *Circuit* plays with the idea of conflicting technologies and mankind's desire to upgrade constantly whatever the cost. With the win came US\$1200, a trophy and software from Autodesk.

Hallmarked



The newest members of the College of Creative Arts Hall of Fame are (from top) textile designer and artist Avis Higgs, Māori clayworker and artist Manos Nathan, and Fane Flaws, who has variously been a graphic designer, painter, songwriter, director of music videos, short films and commercials, and writer, illustrator and publisher of children's literature.



With a turning of the sod ceremony, work has officially commenced on the construction of a \$20 million arts building for the College of Creative Arts on the Wellington campus. Containing a mix of flexible gallery and studio space, the Athfield Architects-designed building is to open in July 2012.

Shadowlands, a garment created to evoke the world of fungi, has won College of Creative Arts (CoCA) student Luka Mues the Shell-sponsored student design category of the 2010 Montana World of WearableArt Awards. Mues, alas, could not be there. He was in San Francisco attending the Academy of Art University on a \$2500 exchange scholarship funded by global telecommunications company AT&T. Another CoCA student, Loren Shields, was the category runner-up with Smouldering Energy, an entry taking its inspiration from a burning West-Coast underground coal mine. A third CoCA student, Renee Ingram, was a finalist.



Volcanologists from Massey and the University of Hamburg in Germany are now able to record every explosive burst out of Mt Ruapehu in rain or shine, day or night, with a new high-speed Doppler Radar system, the first of its kind in New Zealand.

The instrument has a 1.2metre-diameter radar dish that focuses its narrow beam precisely over the crater lake to detect immediately any explosive jet or ash-laden eruption column that rises more than 200 metres.

Professor Matthias Hort, a geophysicist from Hamburg, says the Doppler effect is like listening to an ambulance passing on the street. "As it comes towards you the siren is high pitched, but it sounds much lower pitch when driving away," Professor Hort says. "This difference in pitch or frequency can be used to calculate the ambulance's speed. The volcanic radar uses radio waves, inaudible to the human ear, to track the velocity of particles moving within the radar beam."

Director of the university's Volcanic Risk Solutions team, Professor Shane Cronin, says the radar will become an important addition to the existing range of warning instruments installed at Mt Ruapehu.

PG Diploma in Specialist Teaching launches

Jenny Tippet's son was eight years old when the so-called mainstreaming law was passed, allowing children with disabilities and special needs to attend state schools.

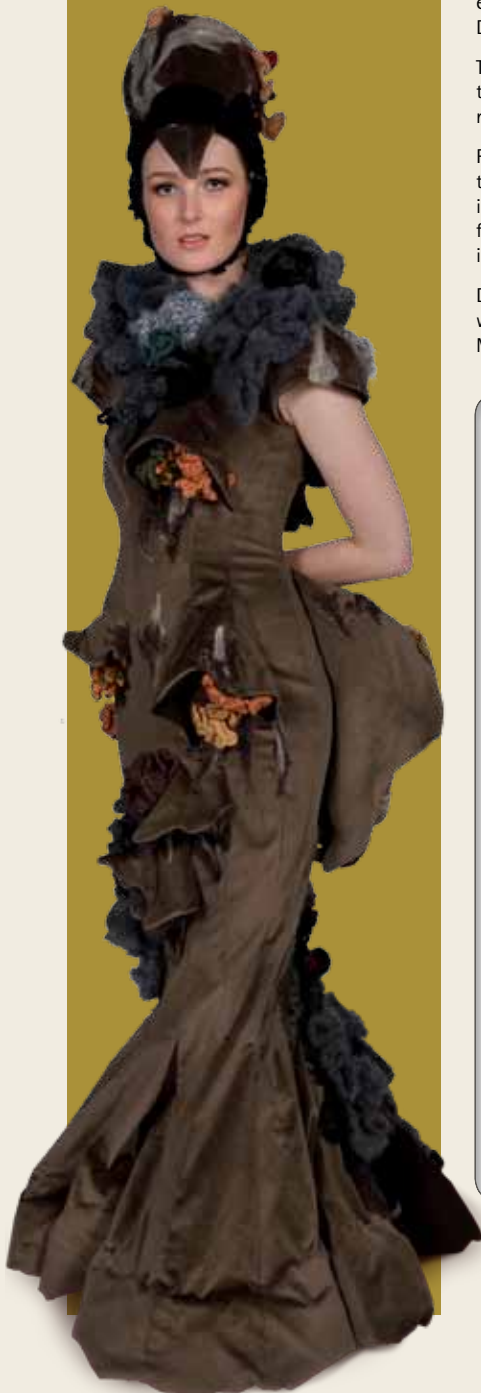
But it would take a further six years – a time during which he was bullied and teased by pupils and misunderstood by teachers who saw him as lazy and non-compliant – before he was diagnosed with Asperger's syndrome and began to receive help.

Today he is a successful, happy 29-year-old who works full time for a government agency, and his mother, who works in special education, has just enrolled in a new Postgraduate Diploma in Specialist Teaching, which aims to overcome the barriers special needs and gifted children still face in large parts of the education system.

The two-year diploma, being offered this year by the university's College of Education at Albany, is intended to improve the quality of special education, which a 2009 review found was being offered successfully by only half of New Zealand's schools.

Mrs Tippet, from New Plymouth, who holds a Master of Education, is one of 180 special education teachers enrolled for the diploma. She is undertaking the programme "so that no other children replicate my son's experiences at school".

The university is partnered with the Ministry of Education and the University of Canterbury to provide the programme, which is designed to fit closely with 'Success for all – every school, every child', a Government campaign begun in 2010.



going anti-viral

Funded by the World Bank and the European Union, Massey launches a multimillion-dollar epidemiology education programme in Asia. Bryan Gibson talks to Emeritus **Professor Roger Morris** (pictured) and programme leader **Dr Eric Neumann**.

In April 2009 an international flight landed at Auckland airport. Aboard was a group of students from Rangitoto College, returning from a visit to Mexico, where a new strain of swine flu had been raging, killing 81 people. During the flight several of the students had begun to display flu-like symptoms: sweats, aches, fever. Quarantine awaited them. Every passenger was tested. No chances taken. The arrival of H1N1 on New Zealand soil made the news around the world.

This new virus, which had arrived nearly simultaneously in a number of other countries, looked like the makings of a major epidemic: it was highly contagious and mortality rates appeared high. Worldwide, anti-viral drugs were stockpiled, plans for a major civil emergency compiled. Families set aside food and water.

And then? The disease spread rapidly and a number of those infected – mostly the young – were severely affected. For a time, flu cases clogged intensive care wards, but most people recovered. H1N1 turned out to be a much milder agent than had at first been feared.

Even so, there were major consequences, particularly economic. H1N1 destroyed trade and tourism. Scared of contagion, the world stayed home.

“Rumours spread exactly like diseases, but they’re harder to control. Economic harm is done not just by disease but by the perceived threat of disease,” explains epidemiologist Emeritus Professor Morris.

Hence the entry of an unusual player into the field of public health: the World Bank.

It was to Morris – who happened to be in Laos working on avian influenza when swine flu emerged – that the bank turned. It had decided that something needed to be done about addressing potential epidemics at source, which for many of the world’s emergent diseases meant Asia.

“The bank found that more epidemiological training was needed for these areas in Asia. It wanted an organisation [like Massey] that could train people in a variety of languages and understood the realities of Asia. I had first-hand experience from 40 years of involvement in international disease control,” says Morris.

The result is a joint European Union and World Bank funded, Massey-run programme for South Asia-based veterinarians and public health professionals that will lead to Master’s degrees in either public health or veterinary medicine. Sixty-seven health professionals from India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Afghanistan and Nepal are currently studying as part of the programme.

Why the concern with Asia in particular? Overcrowding; poverty; inadequate health systems; permeable land borders; the intermingling of people with domestic animals, particularly pigs and poultry, each with their own reservoirs of infectious agents: these are some of the factors that make Asia a petri dish for emerging epidemics.

So too does man’s encroachment on formerly natural landscapes, bringing contact with new species of wildlife and the bacteria and viruses they host. “Every now and then a new disease pops up. AIDS, avian influenza, SARS – they all came from wildlife,” says Morris.

Dr Eric Neumann, who joined Massey’s EpiCentre in 2005, heads the teaching programme, which combines online interactive teaching modules with conventionally taught short courses and is taught by staff from the Institute of Veterinary, Animal and Biomedical Sciences and from the School of Public Health.

A first meeting was held in July 2010 in Singapore, and students from the South Asia cohort met again in New Zealand in December.

Beyond postgraduate training, the project is also funding a OneHealth hub in each country to support ongoing medical and veterinary collaborations in the investigation of emerging diseases.

As the programme expands, it will next be offered in Russian. ■



On the front line

If biosecurity is a concern for the small, isolated first-world nation of New Zealand, spare a thought for Dr Rattan Ichhpujani (pictured) of the National Centre for Disease Control in India. Some numbers: 3.3 million square kilometres of land, 1.2 billion people, 12.6 percent of the world's avian wildlife species, 283 million cows, 53 billion eggs produced each year, land borders with Pakistan, Bhutan, China, Nepal, Bangladesh and Burma.

Last year alone, Ichhpujani says, his team at the centre detected 800 outbreaks of disease.

"India faces three main types of disease challenges: conventional communicable diseases, non-communicable diseases, and emerging diseases, of which 75 percent can be transmitted between animals and humans."

Ichhpujani is one of the 67 veterinary and public health specialists from across South Asia that make up the inaugural cohort in the master's programme. He says collaboration is the key.

"A holistic approach to combating these zoonotic outbreaks is vital," he says. "This course is not only giving us the skills to combat these new diseases, but also appraising us of the networks that are needed to bring veterinary and public health professionals together."

"We are being taught the framework to apply to a disease outbreak. In the future we'll be able to use that framework to deal with any new disease that may emerge."

Veterinarian Dr Zaib Ullah Khan, who works for the provincial government in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in Pakistan, says outbreaks of disease are becoming more prevalent in the province. "We look after the care of livestock in the region, including disease prevention and vaccination," he says. "Poultry is a major industry, and recently there was an outbreak of H5N1 (bird flu), which claimed two human lives."

He says his studies have helped. "We had been working in a very traditional way and had a lot of problems," he says. "Now we have better techniques and technical knowledge that are helping to identify and prevent these outbreaks, which in turn will help the economy." ■

Notable appointments



Associate Professor Heather Galbraith is the new Head of Massey's School of Fine Arts. Galbraith has been a senior curator at the Museum of New Zealand – Te Papa Tongarewa and Wellington's City Gallery. In 2009 she was the deputy commissioner for New Zealand in Venice and the co-curator of New Zealand's Venice Biennale project.



Professor Brigid Heywood has taken up the position of Assistant Vice-Chancellor Research and Enterprise. Heywood comes to Massey from the United Kingdom's Open University, where she was the Pro Vice-Chancellor for Research and Enterprise.



Dr Peter Munro, a 17-year veteran at the Fonterra Research Centre (and its predecessor the New Zealand Dairy Research Institute), is the first appointment to the Massey University Fonterra Chair in Food Material Science. Munro was formerly a Professor of Food Engineering at the university.



Professor Ian Yule has been promoted to the position of Professor in Precision Agriculture. Yule describes his work as being about reducing error margins. "Rather than giving the whole farm an average and applying fertiliser based upon that, we find ways to map the pasture or crop precisely," he says. "We then apply only what's needed." Whereas precision agriculture elsewhere in the world focuses on crop farming, in New Zealand pastoral farming is a major emphasis.

Honours



Professor Don Cleland has been awarded the J and E Hall gold medal by the British Institute of Refrigeration. Cleland heads the School of Engineering and Advanced Technology.



Professor Peter Schwerdtfeger, whose research has helped to explain the physics and chemistry behind the colour of gold, has been awarded a prestigious Humboldt Research Award by Germany's Alexander von Humboldt Foundation. The award recognises academics whose new theories, discoveries or insights have had a significant impact on their disciplines and who expect to continue producing cutting-edge research in the future.



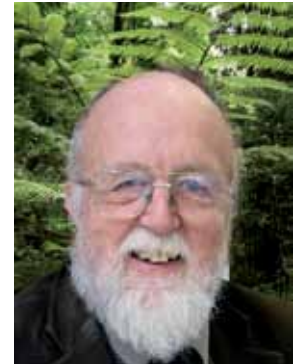
Professor Paul Callaghan has been declared New Zealander of the Year. Although with Victoria University of Wellington since 2001, Callaghan spent the greater part of his career with Massey University, joining as a lecturer in 1974 and being appointed Professor of Physics in 1984. He was the recipient of an honorary Doctorate of Science from Massey in 2010.



Professor Paul Rainey has been appointed as an External Scientific Member – and Honorary Director – of the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Biology in Plön, Germany.

Eight members of the Massey community were recipients of New Year Honours, including two past members of staff. Professor Ian Warrington became a Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit for services to science. Retired English lecturer and University Public Orator Robert Neale became a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit.

Cheating those gut instincts



An extract of a New Zealand tree fern could be the equivalent of 'stomach stapling in a can'. Professor Roger Lentle has been investigating the qualities of a highly branched polysaccharide gum derived from the trunk and fronds of the mamaku or black tree fern. It is strange stuff: try to stir it, and the harder you stir, the more it will resist; when it flows, it does so as a stretchy, dough-like mass. These two qualities – known as sheer thickening and extensional flow – baffle the digestive system.

"We know that contractions in the gut are caused by it feeling there is something in there and needing to push it on," says Lentle. "This extract seems to dupe the sensory nerves in the stomach so they signal that the stuff is flowing when it isn't and vice versa."

The result: when the gum reaches the lower part of the stomach it leads to feelings of satiety. It is a natural appetite suppressant. And while it isn't very digestible, once the stomach acids have had their way it passes harmlessly on through the gut.

A nourishing sweet carbohydrate porridge made from the pith of the mamaku is known to have been an occasional food for pre-European Māori.

Lentle is intrigued by the gum's possibilities, and would like to talk to anyone, particularly iwi, who may be interested in working with him or can tell him more about the traditional uses of mamaku and its products.



Build a better enzyme...

Reduced to a computer file, the blueprints for a human being are surprisingly small. You can fit a human genome – the entirety of an individual’s hereditary information – on to one-and-a-bit computer CDs.

And while filling those CDs has been expensive, the price is falling fast. For the original human genome, completed in 2003, the sequencing enterprise took 13 years and US\$2.7 billion. For the genome of James Watson (one of the co-discoverers of DNA), completed in 2007, the cost was US\$2 million, and today, for US\$45,000, you too can join the queue.

Gene sequencing is undergoing an industrial revolution. Gone are the labour-intensive days in the lab. The chore of reading the more than three billion base pairs that make up a genome has been delegated to banks of automated machinery.

How do you read DNA? One fundamental requirement is the ability to copy and paste strands of DNA, operations that are carried out by molecules called enzymes.

When Dr Wayne Patrick began work on Massey’s Albany campus in 2007, the polymerase enzyme used to copy DNA had already been manipulated to improve its efficiency. Could he do something similar with the ligases, the enzymes that are used to stick chains of DNA together? Patrick decided to pursue the commercial opportunity, as much as anything to see what would happen.

In the past three years, Patrick and his team have succeeded in grafting an assortment of DNA-binding proteins to a promising ligase, and they now have several candidate molecules that should make DNA sequencing faster and cheaper.

His success has brought plaudits. Patrick, who has achieved the grand old age of 33, was declared the 2010

NZBio Young Biotechnologist of the Year, and was a finalist in the Science and Health category of the 2010 Bayer Innovators Awards. (Massey’s Palmerston North-based Professor Simon Hall won the Research and Development category for his work on battery technologies.)

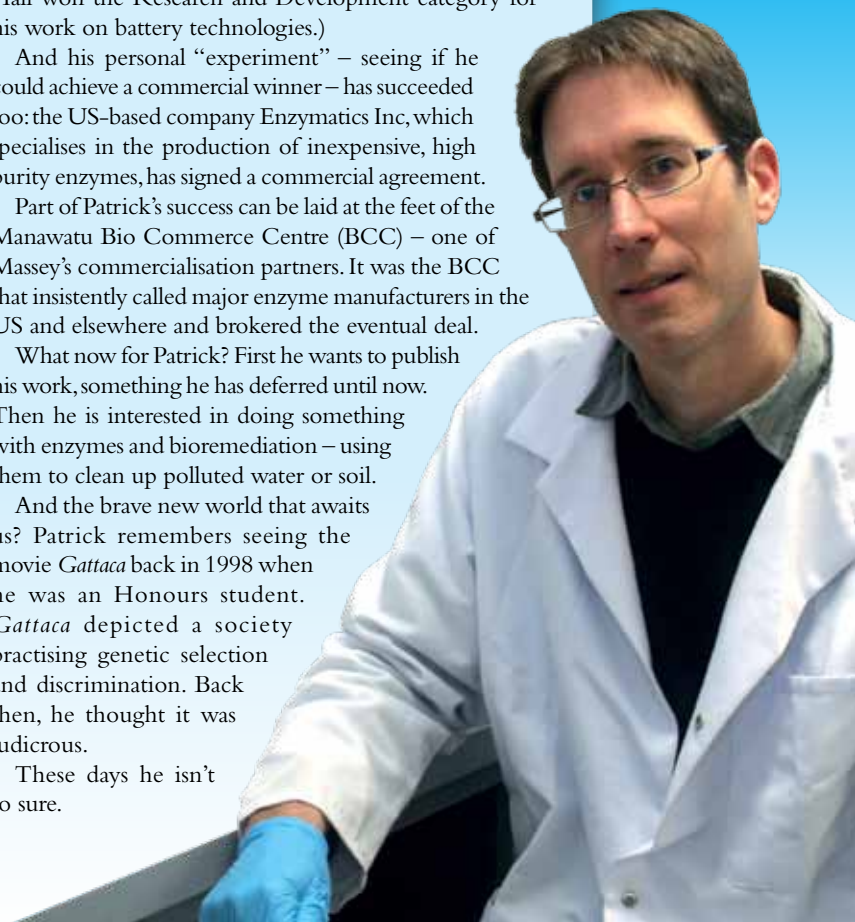
And his personal “experiment” – seeing if he could achieve a commercial winner – has succeeded too: the US-based company Enzymatics Inc, which specialises in the production of inexpensive, high purity enzymes, has signed a commercial agreement.

Part of Patrick’s success can be laid at the feet of the Manawatu Bio Commerce Centre (BCC) – one of Massey’s commercialisation partners. It was the BCC that insistently called major enzyme manufacturers in the US and elsewhere and brokered the eventual deal.

What now for Patrick? First he wants to publish his work, something he has deferred until now. Then he is interested in doing something with enzymes and bioremediation – using them to clean up polluted water or soil.

And the brave new world that awaits us? Patrick remembers seeing the movie *Gattaca* back in 1998 when he was an Honours student. *Gattaca* depicted a society practising genetic selection and discrimination. Back then, he thought it was ludicrous.

These days he isn’t so sure.



Charged up +



When Italian chemist Alessandro Volta built his first battery back in 1800, it was by stacking zinc and silver plates separated by layers of cloth soaked in brine. When he made his second, he used zinc again, replacing the silver with copper. Zinc seemed destined to be a mainstay of battery technology.

So why nickel-cadmium batteries, when zinc is cheaper and far less toxic than cadmium, or lead-acid batteries, when zinc offers far higher energy- and power-to-mass ratios?

The problem with zinc is that, as the battery discharges and recharges, long,

branching, destructive structures called dendrites form on the electrode.

Or that is how things used to be, until Massey’s Professor Simon Hall and PhD student Michael Liu succeeded in finding a way to create a stable, long-lasting zinc electrode. Their work became the basis of the start-up company Anzode, of which Hall is Director.

Hall’s work has won him the 2010 Bayer Innovators Award for research and development. Hall also holds the 2008 Fonterra Prize for Industrial and Applied Chemistry and a 2005 Distinguished Patent Award from the US Energy Department.

defining

excellence awards



"Massey is New Zealand's defining university. Our goal is to make a contribution to the shape of our nation's future and take what is special about New Zealand to the rest of the world. Of course, we can do this only if our staff and students are making a defining mark on the world – and they are. I take very seriously the need to live up to the expectations of our alumni. They have made this university what it is. We build on their legacy. We are grateful for their achievements and look forward to their continued support."

Steve Maharey, Vice-Chancellor.



Sir Neil Waters

Sir Geoffrey Peren Distinguished Alumni Award

As Vice-Chancellor from 1983 to 1995, Sir Neil led Massey through a period of prolonged change and growth, student numbers more than doubling. Among his notable achievements were the transformation of the university's research capability and the establishment of the Albany campus in 1993. Sir Neil says he takes satisfaction from having put research at the university on a sound footing in fields outside Massey's more traditional specialities. His push to establish a new campus at Albany was seen as visionary. The Albany campus gave Massey an unprecedented profile and helped break down stereotypes related to the university's roots as an agricultural college.



Gregor Reid

Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award

Professor Reid, who completed his PhD at Massey nearly 30 years ago, is an internationally recognised authority in the field of probiotics. A professor of microbiology and immunology at the University of Western Ontario, Canada, and Director of the Canadian Research and Development Centre for Probiotics, Professor Reid has been a pioneer in microbiological issues relating to women's health. His work has led to commercial probiotic products being sold internationally and is estimated to have benefited millions of women worldwide. He says his Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award is welcome recognition of Massey's biomedical credentials.



Carl Sanders-Edwards

Distinguished Young Alumni Award

Babson College in Boston, known for its work in entrepreneurship, is Sanders-Edwards' base this year as he studies towards a Fulbright-funded MBA. The 35-year-old gained a Bachelor of Technology with first-class honours from Massey. "My degree was in manufacturing and industrial technology, but the great thing about the degree was that it taught me many of the fundamentals required to succeed in the business world." Since graduating, he has worked for the global consulting firm Accenture and the British start-up company rightmove.co.uk. His current company, JumpShift, provides training on leadership and the use of cutting-edge technology to clients such as Fonterra.



Peter MacGillivray

Distinguished Alumni Service Award

For service to the university

Peter MacGillivray has devoted most of his adult life to Massey University and its predecessor the Massey Agricultural College, which he came to in 1949 from a farm in Wairarapa. A graduate of the Bachelor of Agricultural Science programme, he returned in 1958 as a lecturer in farm management at Massey and, in 1970, became the Director of the Diploma in Agricultural Studies. In retirement he has remained active as president of the forerunner to the current alumni chapters and organiser of numerous reunions of former students and activities in support of the university.



Sharron Cole

Distinguished Alumni Service Award

For service to the community and nation

With a Diploma in Education, a Bachelor of Arts (Hons) and a Master of Arts, Sharron Cole is widely known as a proud advocate of the university and in particular of its humanities faculty. Currently Chief Executive of the Midwifery Council, she was Deputy Chief Commissioner of the Families Commission from 2004 to 2009 and has been a member of the Bay of Plenty and Hutt Valley District Health Boards. Heavily involved in voluntary activities, particularly the Parents' Centre, she was made a companion of the Queen's Service Order in 2007.

MASSEY UNIVERSITY RESEARCH MEDALS 2010

The university recognises individuals and teams for their exemplary research leadership within the Massey community and for their contributions to academic research through international partnership, with organisations in New Zealand and farther afield.

*Professor Brigid Haywood
Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Research and Enterprise)*

Professor Geoffrey Jameson

Research Medal Award – Individual

Professor Jameson is Director of the Centre for Structural Biology and is one of the leading crystallographers in the world.

Professor Ian Evans

Research Medal Award – Supervisor

Professor Evans is a clinical psychologist and has supervised many psychology postgraduate students. He has established a vibrant and active environment for his research students on the Wellington campus.

The Sheep Research Group

Research Medal Award – Team

The group has contributed around 170 person-years of work to the New Zealand agricultural sector. Its members have published more than 800 refereed scientific articles in the pastoral animal production, welfare and health fields.

Dr Murray Cox

Research Medal Award – Early Career

Dr Cox is a research fellow at the Institute of Molecular Biosciences and is internationally renowned for his research into population genomics and statistical inference.

Dr Wayne Patrick

Research Medal Award – Early Career

Dr Patrick was named Young Biotechnologist of the Year last year, in recognition of his work with ligase enzymes. He has been the principal investigator in two successful Marsden Fund applications in the past two years.

TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2010

Massey University has a longstanding history of excellence in teaching. The excellence and innovation of our staff with their students is at the forefront of what we do – and makes Massey University a premier provider of education for all students.

*Professor Ingrid Day
Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Academic and International)*

Dr Angie Farrow

Sustained Commitment to Teaching Excellence

School of English and Media Studies. Dr Farrow was also awarded a national Tertiary Teaching Excellence Award in 2010.

Dr Neville Honey

Sustained Commitment to Teaching Excellence

Institute of Molecular Biosciences

Dr Bevan Catley

Excellence in Teaching First-year Students

School of Management

Dr Eva Heinrich

Darrylin O'Dea Award for eLearning

School of Engineering and Advanced Technology

Dr Craig Prichard

Darrylin O'Dea Award for eLearning

School of Management

Lois Wilkinson

Award for Excellence in Academic Support

Student Learning Centre

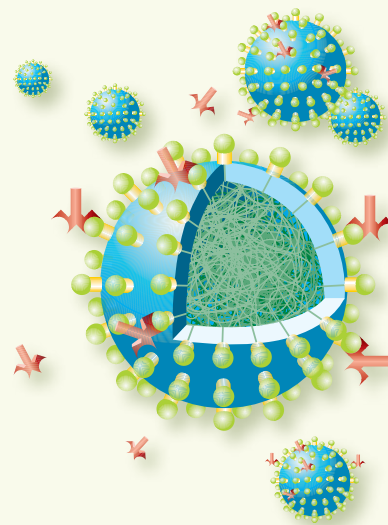
Dr Sandy Shillington

Professor Donald Bewley Award – For outstanding contribution to distance education

Manawatu campus registrar



As **Sir Paul Callaghan** has recently observed, New Zealand's future as a technology-driven nation lies in exploiting the niches of a world economy 500 times bigger than our own. We will be good where we happen to be good, creeping up on our competitors in the odd spots. One odd spot: using bacteria to custom manufacture miniscule beads of plastic. In February the Massey spin-off **PolyBatics**, which does just that, was awarded the title of Emerging Company of the Year by the biotech industry body NZBIO. **Bryan Gibson** talks to **Professor Bernd Rehm**. Additional reporting by **Malcolm Wood**.



Once again, nature got there first. While mankind first synthesised a form of plastic in the late 1850s, some species of bacteria have always been in the game.

They manufacture plastic in self-interest, storing carbon and energy in the form of PHA – a non-water-soluble polymer compound – to use as a food and energy reserve when times are hard. In the right conditions, some bacteria can produce around 80 percent of their body mass by weight in the form of plastic granules.

Of late there has been much interest in substituting this biologically produced plastic – bioplastic – for the oil-derived kind.

The problem? Price. So far, bioplastic is too expensive to compete, except in specialist applications.

Professor Bernd Rehm has a long-term interest in bioplastic. On an office shelf he keeps a cardboard box holding opaque bottles, tubes of crisp plastic flakes and a palm-sized transparent rubbery lozenge. All of this is bioplastic, sourced not from petrochemicals but from bacteria, some of them hosted in the laboratories just down the corridor.

“One hundred percent renewable,” he announces, holding up an opaque shampoo-sized bottle, then picking up the shard of a similar bottle alongside it, one side of which has been blasted away. “One hundred percent biodegradable. In the compost it dissolves into carbon dioxide and water.”

It was while working on bioplastic that he had his ‘aha’ moment. It was assumed that once isolated from the cells that had made them, the granules of plastic – the ‘biobeads’ – would soon lose their spherical shape and degrade.

But when, one day, working on a hunch, he tested some samples that had been left forgotten at

the back of a refrigerator, he found the beads were still there, intact and stable. That being so, he asked himself, what could he do with them?

Consider the granules as objects in their own right. Each is 50 to 200 nanometres in diameter (a nanometre is one millionth of a millimetre) with a polyester core surrounded by mantle of attached proteins.

Rehm realised that if he understood the processes surrounding the formation of the granules well enough, he could engineer their make-up to perform any number of useful and ingenious functions: to purify proteins, deliver drugs or diagnose illness.

Bioplastic might not yet be a viable commodity product, but in the form of biobeads it could have lucrative specialist applications.

To understand how to build a biobead, you have to understand the workings of the biochemical machinery that builds a plastic granule inside a bacterium in the first place. In a series of reactions mediated by enzymes – complex proteins that catalyse reactions – the cell first creates monomers, the basic molecular units, which are then strung together into extended chains by a synthase enzyme.

Much of the work being carried out by Rehm’s bioplastic research group springs from two key insights into the latter part of granule formation: first, that this synthase remains strongly attached to the surface of the granule it has helped to create; and second, that it can be tampered with – long sequences within it play no part in the reaction and can, in theory, be replaced.

You might, for example, by cutting and pasting in the right genetic sequences, choose to anchor an antibody (to capture antigens or proteins) to





PolyBatics-funded staff with Massey PhD and Master's students who are working on PolyBatics-related projects. Front row from left: Dr. Panimalar Vijayan, Dr Jenny Draper, Professor Bernd Rehm, Sara Ladd Middle row: Jason Lee, Manoj Kesavan, Amos Chua, Yogananda Maspolim Back row: Dr Paul McDermott, Dr Katrin Grage, Iain Hay

Why biobeads?

Diagnostics

When an organism is exposed to a disease, it generates specific antibodies. The antibodies lock on to the characteristic proteins or polysaccharides known as antigens that identify the disease-causing organism. Biobeads bioengineered to express certain antigens on their surfaces can be used to capture the antibodies from blood serum, so providing a diagnostic tool.

Vaccines

Similarly, biobeads carrying disease-specific antigens on their surface can be used as vaccines to generate immunity.

Targeted drug delivery and imaging

A biobead carrying an antibody on its surface will lock on to any tissue that displays the particular antigen the antibody matches. For example, the antigen might be a protein expressed by a tumour. In this instance the biobead could be engineered to carry more than one functionally useful molecule. It might, for example, carry a cancer-killing drug or a molecule containing an element, such as gold, that can be used in imaging.

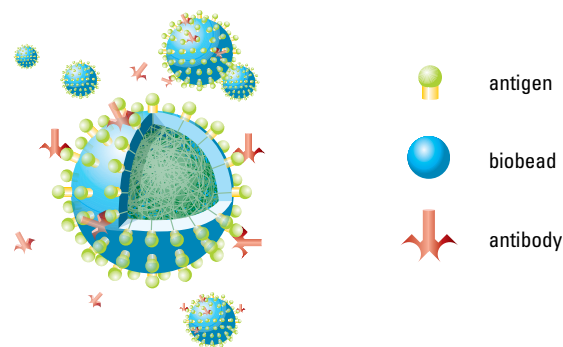
Biocatalyst immobilisation

Rehm and his colleagues have successfully used biobeads to capture the enzyme beta galactocidase, which breaks down sugars such as lactose. A process they have recently developed for the bacterial production of a biobead with immobilised alpha-amylase, an industrial enzyme suitable for starch liquefaction and biofuel production, has been accepted for publication in *Applied and Environmental Microbiology*.

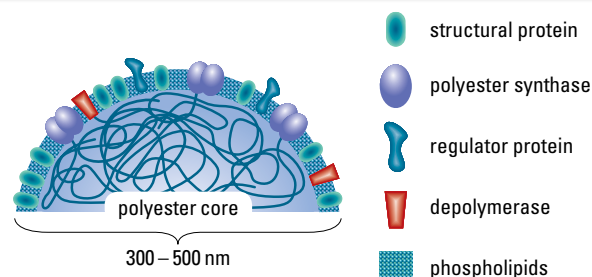
Protein purification

Antibodies are usually purified from blood serum to allow diagnostic tests. Rehm and a co-worker have developed a biobead displaying a binding domain for efficient antibody purification.

Biobeads engineered to carry an antigen on their surface are used to collect antibodies from blood serum for either purification or diagnosis.



Antigens anchored to a biobead are used to capture antigen-specific antibodies.



A PHA granule in cross-section showing the surface proteins.

A life in science



Professor Bernd Rehm is one of those rare individuals who come by their career ambitions early and pursue them undeviatingly. “At the age of 15 I knew that I wanted to study microbiology, I knew that I wanted to get my PhD, and I knew that I wanted to become a professor.”

He grew up in a rural area in central Germany as “a very free kid. There were no computers; we had to invent games”. In the woods and fields surrounding his small, ancient village he caught snakes and stoats. He became fascinated by nature, and, in his adolescence, took to reading the works of many of the pioneers in the life sciences.

At 19 Rehm went to the Ruhr University of Bochum, over the years completing his undergraduate degree, his diploma and his promotion there.

For his diploma thesis Rehm investigated the workings of the enzyme lipase in the bacterium *Pseudomonas auruginosa*. For his promotion topic, he focused on the bacterial production of alginate, again using *P. auruginosa*.

He followed this with a postdoctoral fellowship at the

University of British Columbia, looking at some poorly understood aspects of an outer membrane protein of *P. auruginosa* under the direction of Professor Bob Hancock. It was while in Vancouver that he and his wife had their first child and Rehm published his first academic paper as sole author.

Next, one of his job applications came across the desk of Professor Alexander Steinbüchel at the University of Münster. Steinbüchel’s interest was in another class of biopolymers, the

polyhydroxyalkanoates.

Steinbüchel offered Rehm an untenured position as a postdoctoral researcher. Under Steinbüchel’s mentorship, Rehm would be expected to research further into PHAs, but again he would have the liberty to pursue his personal research interest in alginates.

During the next several years Rehm established an independent research programme around PHA biosynthesis with a niche focus on the key polymerisation enzyme, and notched up the requirements for his habilitation.

He was now a highly regarded 37-year-old university researcher and teacher with a string of degrees to his name and a wife and two children. Yet, because of the peculiarities of the German academic system, he had yet to hold a permanent job – and, with his habilitation completed and a further two years of employment at the University of Münster, the system again expected him to move on.

Massey was among the universities interested in him. After a midnight telephone interview, Rehm took up an invitation to visit the Manawatu campus where he made a well received presentation. Soon after his return to Germany – astonishingly soon to Rehm – he received the job offer for a tenured position. After a Rehm family debate – his wife and children were for the adventure – he accepted.

Rehm did more than simply bring his experience with him; he also brought a number of members of his established group and, despite some delays with equipment, “after two months we were up to speed and the same year we were publishing”.

Rehm is now the principal investigator for three research groups, one investigating bacterial polyhydroxyalkanoates, another bacterial biofilm formation, and a third alginate biosynthesis.

His research has attracted a cosmopolitan group of masterate and doctoral students and postdoctoral fellows, their origins including the United States, China, Malaysia, Pakistan, Iran, United Kingdom, India, Italy, New Zealand, Japan, and, of course, Germany. ■



Dried bacterial alginate is a potentially useful biomaterial.

“[Therapeutic antibodies] are used in the treatment of cancer, auto-immune diseases, and infectious diseases, and there is a growing demand for particular purification tools to allow the efficient purification of these antibodies at a larger scale.”

» the granule surface, or an antigen (to capture antibodies or stimulate the immune system), or an enzyme (to catalyse a reaction).

Similarly, three other classes of molecule that also bind to the surface of the PHA granule – PHA depolymerase, the structural proteins called phasins, and regulator proteins – can also be genetically engineered to purpose.

Conventionally, attaching something such as an enzyme to a plastic bead would be done in an intricate series of chemical steps, as Rehm explains: “You need to form and purify the bead, you need to produce and purify the enzyme, and then you need to crosslink the enzyme to the bead with a toxic chemical crosslinker, and even then the enzyme sits at the bead’s surface at different orientations, because it is a random orientation process”.

Rehm can accomplish all this in a single step, and with an unheard-of precision and economy. “We have accumulated quite a bit of knowledge on how to design the surface of these biobeads rationally.”

Just across from Rehm’s office, there is living and breathing proof of his assertion. Contained in isolation laboratories in a series of 10-litre bioreactors, genetically modified bacteria are producing biobeads to order.

PolyBatics Ltd, the firm Rehm has helped to found, is initially focusing on a biobead that carries a ligand – a functional, binding protein – at the surface to allow the capture of antibodies. “The current annual world production of therapeutic antibodies is about 20 tonnes,” Rehm says. “These are used in the treatment of cancer, auto-immune diseases and infectious diseases, and there is a growing demand for particular purification tools to allow the efficient purification of these antibodies at a larger scale.”

Traditionally made product sells for up to \$12,000 per litre; PolyBatics believes its alternative is both more affordable and more precisely engineered. The response from the leading international companies that have tested its product to date has been positive.

And there are other biobead uses. They could be used for biofuel production, cleaning up pollution and synthesising drugs and as vaccines.

Rehm’s lab is popular with students. Currently he is overseeing seven PhD candidates and five Master’s students. “They’re keen because they can see the practical application of what they are researching.” ■



The path to market

Having that good idea or a technological breakthrough is one thing; successfully taking it to market is quite another. The worlds of business and academia are very different.

PolyBatics is an expression of a new strategy under which Massey will be working with external partners to take research to market.

Massey will retain a stake in any start-up company formed to commercialise university research, but such things as marketing and investment are now being handled by business incubator partners. In Massey’s case, the incubators are the BioCommerce Centre in Palmerston North and the e-centre at Albany, both of which have track records in research commercialisation. Massey’s Commercialisation Director Mark Cleaver explains:

“The university’s core capability is in the area of knowledge generation; we need to work closely with other people who have the specialist expertise to take that innovation to the world.”



PolyBatics Chief Executive Tracy Thompson worked extensively with start-ups in his home state of California before coming to New Zealand to take up a biotechnology commercialisation role at what is now Plant & Food Research.

All of the private investment in PolyBatics is local; if it succeeds, he says, the employment and profits will return to Manawatu and New Zealand.

“Our goal is to retain the business here in New Zealand as we deliver our high-value, high-margin products to a global marketplace.”

<http://www.polybatics.com>

home

Kereama Beal talks to Professor Glyn Harper, the editor of *Letters from Gallipoli, New Zealand Soldiers Write Home*

▶ View an interview with Professor Harper at <http://tinyurl.com/harperww1>

Never have New Zealanders gone through such an experience... Losses have been the means of binding the survivors with a tie of sympathy and fellowship. I can truly say we are linked together in comradeship.

We are on one of the greatest and saddest battlefields of history and the lads are enduring, fighting, suffering, dying with a courage that cannot be eclipsed... If I ever reach home I'll give definite instances.

Chaplain-Major John Alfred Luxford writes home from Gallipoli. He died six years after returning to New Zealand from the effects of his war service.

Letters from Gallipoli, New Zealand Soldiers Write Home is the history of the Gallipoli campaign set out in the words of combatants writing home from trenches and dugouts to their friends and loved ones. Professor Glyn Harper and his wife Susan collected some 600 letters over the course of two years, about a third of which appear in the book. The sources they have turned to include the National Army Museum in Waiouru, the Alexander Turnbull Library in Wellington, and Dunedin's Hocken Library. Many letters came from newspaper archives and around 80 from private family collections.

"We have included the letters we consider to be most vivid," Harper says, "letters often written under the most extreme circumstances." The letters have an "immediacy, descriptive power, intimacy and direct appeal" unrivalled by any memoir or oral history, and he has chosen to publish them largely as they were written, with the original grammar, punctuation and spelling intact.

I suppose it is getting cold in Dunedin now – goodness knows it is hot enough here. We sat for a break behind a big hill facing west and in the afternoon the sun simply blazes in. Well a furious bombardment has just started which I must go and watch."

Colonel Charles Mackie Begg, the most decorated member of the Medical Corps in the World War I.

"Throughout the war, letters were used as a means of expressing how the soldiers really felt about the dreadful conditions they endured and the terrible fates that could befall them and their friends," Harper says. Yet from the suffering came solidarity: that ANZAC (Australian and New Zealand Army Corps) spirit.

The experience is such as to give one an abiding faith in one's fellow men. Hard swearing, hard living, rough men. Yet, when their comrades are wounded, and in need of assistance, nothing is too great trouble. They give everything and everything they have. They, tho perhaps badly wounded themselves, lend whatever assistance they can.

In fact, in ninety-nine cases out of one hundred, as opposed to warless conditions, it is all for their comrades and nothing for themselves. It is grand!

Keep up the address given by the Gov. & I shall continue to get the precious letters from Home.

Lieutenant George Tuck of the Auckland Battalion.

Unlike most nationally celebrated campaigns, Gallipoli, regarded as a formative event and a part of national identity by both Australia and New Zealand, was an unequivocal if valiantly fought defeat.

You will be surprised to hear that we are still occupying practically the same ground as at the start of the job here. The only advance we have made has been with the pick and shovel, with which handy tools we have straightened our line and strengthened our position...

I have not stopped any lead yet, but I had a narrow shave the other night. The Turks tried to blow up one of our advanced trenches. I was hit with fallen earth, which must have missed my head by inches, but I got out of it with only a bruised thigh, though the man next to me had his leg broken and died the next day. I can only hope for my luck to continue.

Private Henry Williamson, an Auckland serving with the Australians, died of wounds three days later.

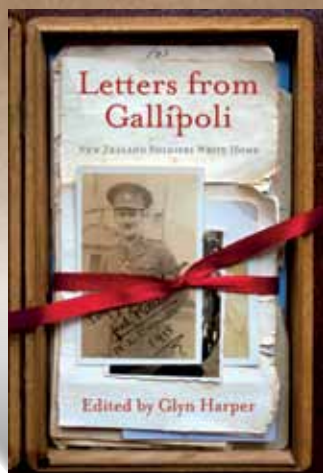
Beyond battlefield exploits, the letters reveal the nature of daily life. Down at the beaches, although at risk of shell fire, the soldiers bathed or swam to escape the heat. Parcels from home carrying news and luxury items helped to keep spirits up. Among requests was an occasional block of plain chocolate, "as we can never buy any here".

The parcel of smokes arrived yesterday, and I gloated just like Storky, and I tell you every mouthful of the 'yellows' went right into my lungs. Blessings on your head.

Private Wally Cookson, a well known Canterbury swimmer.

Just now we are doing plenty of swimming. The enemy is not at present

Writing paper was in short supply. Soldiers used anything they could find. Corporal Valentine Neels



Letters from Gallipoli,
New Zealand Soldiers Write Home
Glyn Harper, Auckland University Press
RRP: \$45

so persistent with shrapnel, so we are able to get two decent swims a day – one in the morning and one in the afternoon.

Sergeant Keith Melvyn Little, New Zealand Headquarters staff.

News from home was always precious, the more so for its arrival being uncertain.

Dear Mother,

Just a few lines to let you know I am still alive & kicking and still in this blooming hole. Seven months is a long time for a chap to stop here that is taking it on the average. Our last mail out from here got sunk through a barge capsizing. And an inward mail got torpedoed so the mails are not too certain nowadays.

Corporal Sidney James Goodyear.

Dear Mabel,

Just a line in answer to your welcome letter of 11th July. Yes, I got the cards all right; and as we get our mails now with something approaching regularity, the papers come to hand in due course. Our parcels are all astray however and turn up after interminable periods and in all kinds of places. However, things are improving in the Postal Services; and not before it was time, either: I reckon that someone deserves a public shake-up over the matter of the Military Postal Department; and many of the boys go a good deal further in expressing themselves on this subject.

Charles Alfred Warwood.

More than 300 letters from Gallipoli were published in New Zealand newspapers in 1915. "Clearly the New Zealand reading public was hungry for news of 'their boys' overseas, and newspapers served their appetite.

"It is noticeable though that, from October of that year onwards, New Zealand newspapers featured far fewer letters from soldiers as the New Zealand wounded returned home and the military censorship system became more efficient."



Photographs from the
collection of Matt Pomeroy

"Two days ago for some reason or other one of our aeroplanes came very low over our heads & landing in the mud flats of the [censored] two men got out apparently not hurt & walked over [censored].

This is one of the few letters censored by the military that the editors came across. Its author, George (Bob) Krogman from Whanganui, died of wounds in France on 15 September 1916.

The days of high hopes and "nice little scraps" soon passed. As the two sides sat in stalemate, the blazing heat and flies of summer made way for a miserable winter of snow, mud and torrential rain.

Harper says deteriorating conditions took a serious toll on soldiers' health and contributed to the eventual decision to evacuate the peninsula.

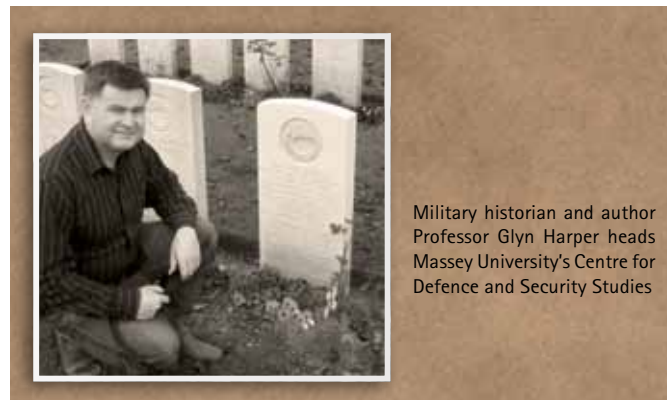
The best estimate is that 2779 New Zealanders were killed in action or died as a consequence of accidents and disease at Gallipoli. This is around one in five of those who landed on the peninsula; of them only 344 have known graves.

One soldier writes of his struggle to find paint to coat a cross on the grave of his fallen comrade – a grave he visits at twilight to avoid enemy snipers.

In the end, the most successful part of the Gallipoli campaign was the evacuation, commenced in December 1915. More bloodshed lay ahead. World War I would continue for almost another three years.

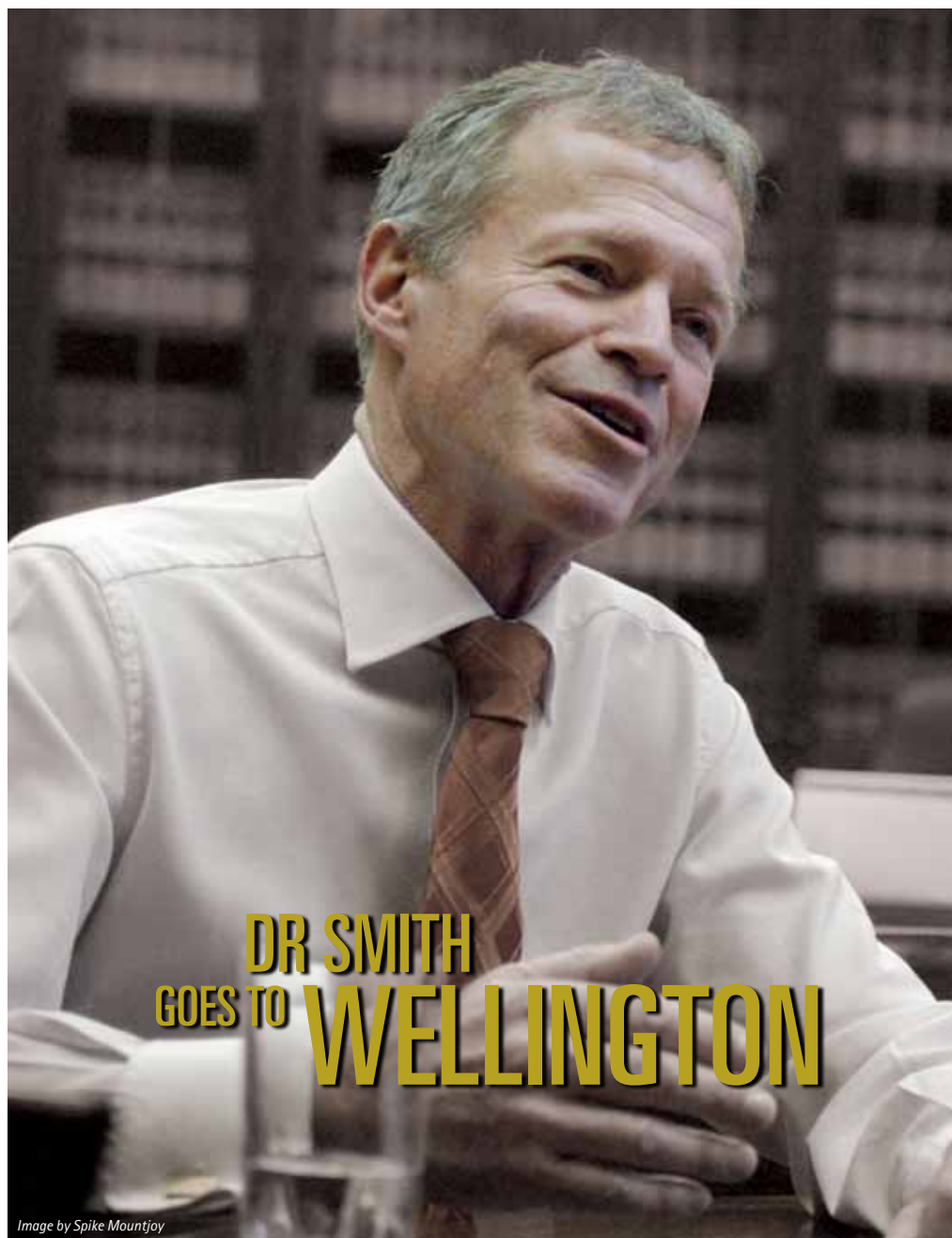
I can not be sufficiently thankful that I have been enabled to come safely through it all. Next year I hope will see me back in New Zealand and I trust that never again in our time will the world go through a year like 1915... Personally I have seen all the war I ever want to see.

Colonel Charles Mackie Begg of the New Zealand Medical Corps. ■



Military historian and author
Professor Glyn Harper heads
Massey University's Centre for
Defence and Security Studies

of the Auckland Mounted Rifles used the cardboard base on which artillery shells were rested.



DR SMITH GOES TO WELLINGTON

Image by Spike Mountjoy

In the role of Speaker of the House, **Lockwood Smith** seems to have found his calling. In the person of his wife, **Alexandra**, another member of Massey's alumni community, he has found his soulmate. **Jane Tolerton** meets a highly distinguished alumnus – and a genuinely nice guy.

Alexander Lockwood Smith's first memory of the university that would become such a part of his life is of sweeping up the driveway in a taxi – having taken the bus to Auckland and the train to Palmerston North, and stayed awake all night for fear of missing the stop. As the trees and green grass of the campus spread out before him, he wondered at how beautiful it was.

It was 1966, and the 17-year-old future politician was there to enrol for a Bachelor of Agricultural Science. It was a natural choice. Smith had started breeding sheep and cattle while still at primary school in Matakohē in Northland, where his family farmed. "I used to manage my father's Romney sheep and Angus cattle studs. As a 10-year-old, I'd take decisions on what should be culled. So from a very early age I developed a real interest in the science side of it."

Smith spent his first year in Old Hostel and his second in Pink Hostel before going flatting with Andrew McKenzie, the now retired head of the New Zealand Food Safety Authority. "Lockwood saw the world a bit differently from us guys in Old Hostel, and set his sights higher," says McKenzie. "I remember him telling us that he could recognise all of his stud sheep by sight and their performance records."

Tom Scott, long-time political reporter, currently cartoonist for Wellington's *Dominion Post*, who enrolled that same year, was one of a succession of other flatmates. Smith's combination of conservatism and niceness is one



"You'd hand him a salty pile of ash, and he'd still say, 'That was basically excellent'... he would not be deflected from his course of niceness." Tom Scott, former flatmate

thing Scott remembers. "He had the typical views of a conservative young man in the late 1960s-early 1970s. My mother says he's the nicest young man she's ever met. He was very sweet to Mum, and she still idolises him.

"He was very good to flat with. Everything you cooked for Lockie was 'basically excellent'. Andy and I would oversalt things or deliberately burn them. You'd hand him a salty pile of ash, and he'd still say, 'That was basically excellent'. We did everything we could to alter the pattern, but he would not be deflected from his course of niceness."

The flat had no television; they went to the next door neighbour's to watch Neil Armstrong become the first man to land on the moon in 1969.

What it did have was a piano, and Scott remembers the slightly Edwardian tableau of Smith singing alongside girlfriend Alexandra Morrison – now Smith's wife – at the piano.

"Alexandra was a very good pianist," says Smith, who was then taking private singing lessons. "She used to give up lunchtimes to play the piano for me, so that I could practise. Our relationship grew from there."

He performed in the Massey Revue; he was the music director for the annual stage show one year. And before leaving Massey he played Prince Charming in a Christmas pantomime of *Cinderella* in the Regent on Broadway.

He joined the Manawatu Car Club, competing in the national rally championship while a student. Scott remembers

that Smith had a "flash" car – actually several, a hot Mini Cooper, Ford Escort, then a Capri 1600GT and 3000GT – when it was unusual for students to have cars at all.

But above all, he worked solidly. "I knew I had to win a scholarship if I wanted to do a PhD, and therefore I had to have good marks".

On graduating with his Bachelor of Agricultural Science in 1970, he took up a position as a junior lecturer, and completed his Master of Agricultural Science in 1973. His masterate thesis addressed the nutritive value of maize silage in young cattle.

Says Robert Anderson (then another newly appointed lecturer, now Massey's Pro Vice-Chancellor of Sciences): "Lockwood was one of the first New Zealand scientists to show an interest in using maize silage as an animal foodstuff. It was a turning point in animal feeding in this country."

Smith's academic prowess won him a Massey Scholarship, placing him in the top 5 percent of graduates, and a Commonwealth Scholarship, with which he enrolled at the Waite Agricultural Research Institute at Adelaide University for his PhD in animal science: *Ruminant Protein Metabolism; a study of the nitrogenous transactions of the small intestinal mucosa*.

In Adelaide, he continued to study singing, enrolling at the Elder Conservatorium where his teacher was New Zealander Donald Munro, and he took up rowing. "I'd never

sat in a boat in my life before that, but rowing proceeded to dominate my life for the next five years." He became captain of the Adelaide University Boat Club and represented both the university and South Australia, his heavy involvement taking a toll on his study timetable.

Having extended his PhD deadline, he went looking for a part-time job. "I was pretty broke. I had next to no clothes that were half decent. I borrowed a flatmate's suit, shoes, shirt and tie – everything except my socks and jocks – and bowled into Channel Nine."

Smith, who as Tom Scott puts it, "looked like Clutch Cargo – blond haired, blue eyed and square jawed", was given a screen test that day, and became the host of *Here's Humphrey*, which starred a bear and played in New Zealand, Hong Kong and Taiwan as well as Australia. He moved on to *The Natural Science Show*, which he did once a week for the next few years.

In 1978, while home for the holidays, he visited South Pacific Television in Auckland and was sent to see Max Cryer, who was producing a children's quiz programme called *W3*.

"Max Cryer called in Ray Columbus. Ray couldn't believe this bloke who could grin and talk at the same time. He said 'You've got to be a winner on TV if you can do that', and I was offered a job on the spot. They flew me out from Adelaide several times to film about eight programmes in one session."

While writing his thesis, he had given up the idea of being

A very good year

Professor Robert Anderson, Pro Vice-Chancellor of Massey's College of Sciences and a near contemporary of Smith, describes Smith's undergraduate class as "arguably the most illustrious ever". While this may be open to dispute by those from other years, the class that graduated in 1970 certainly had its share of achievers:

- **Max Coster** BAgSci, former Principal of the University of Melbourne's Longerenong Agricultural College
- **John Luxton** BAgSci, former MP and Minister of the Crown, current Chair of DairyNZ
- **Michael O'Callaghan** BVetSc, former All Black
- **Dick Hubbard** BTech, founder and principal of Hubbards Foods and former Mayor of Auckland
- **Chris Kelly** BVetSc, Chief Executive of Landcorp
- **David Thawley** BVetSc (distinction), Dean of the University of Nevada, Reno's College of Agriculture and Director of the university's Agricultural Experiment Station
- **Ian Warrington** BHortSc, former Massey University professor
- **Dr Brian Wickham** BAgSci, Chief Executive, Irish Cattle Breeding Federation Society.

a scientist. “I realised I was too social a creature to be locked away in a lab for weeks on end. I liked thinking, testing and analysing, but the hours of dreary work on my own at night in a lab were not my idea of fun.”

So in 1980 he went to work for the New Zealand Dairy Board, which in those pre-Fonterra days handled all the sales and marketing of New Zealand’s dairy produce internationally. Smith became Marketing Manager for the Central and South East Asia regions – until the 1984 election when he threw his hat into the National Party ring.

His was a political family. “One of my great uncles nominated Gordon Coates when he stood

first white settlers in the area, the background I’d put together gave me a strong CV for representing Kaipara. I’d had a lot of farming experience, I was as academically qualified in agricultural science as it was possible to get, and I’d been involved in international marketing through the Dairy Board and in communications through television.”

But Kaipara was a strong National seat, and the competition to be the party’s candidate in the 1984 election was fierce. Another frontrunner, Smith remembers, was Winston Peters. “He was a local boy too – Ngāti Wai. He was very much the favourite candidate.”

Smith won the Kaipara selection and was elected to Parliament in 1984; Winston Peters won the selection for Tauranga.

Smith says his agricultural science and business background has given him a “huge advantage” as a Member of Parliament. That background allows him to bring a certain analytical scepticism to some of the more empty rhetoric of the day. He is nobody’s fool.

As befits his Massey qualifications, Smith has been Minister of Agriculture. He was the Trade Minister who initiated New Zealand’s first Free Trade Agreement in Asia, with Singapore, the Tourism Minister who initiated the ‘100% Pure’ campaign, and the Education Minister who led a comprehensive redesign of the school curriculum and developed the qualifications framework, opening the way for a huge expansion in tertiary education.

“Massey had a huge influence on my thinking when I was Minister of Education. I always thought the structure of a Massey degree was really interesting because it brought together both theoretical and applied learning. I have observed that many students

who went through Massey are in leadership positions out of all proportion to their number, and I believe the structure of the degree had a bit to do with it.”

This particularly influenced him in creating the qualifications framework and the technology curriculum in schools. “The idea was that students would apply their learning to problem solving.”

After National’s loss in the 1999 General Election, Smith held a number of spokesperson roles for the National Party, including those of Foreign Affairs, Commerce, and Immigration, and following the National Party’s success in the 2008 election, Smith was elected Speaker of the House by MPs, the vote being unanimous.

But there is another side to Smith: entering parliament for his home electorate meant he was able to renew the stock-breeding programme his family had dropped after he went away to school.

Since 1988 he has specialised in Belgian Blues – a massively muscled breed of cattle – winning numerous prizes with them at A&P shows. “I had an interesting base herd to build up from because we’d kept a few cows and an old bull from the Angus stud, and brought in Friesian cows and a bull, and interbred them. So I started from an Angus-Friesian base herd. A lot of farmers played round with Belgian Blues but the calving problems burnt them. In Belgium they do caesareans, but in New Zealand that’s no use. Because of my base herd, mine calved naturally. They look different from the Belgian animal, and from the conventional New Zealand one.”

He has also returned to singing. “When they refurbished the Regent on Broadway in Palmerston North in about 1995 they did a *This is Your Life*-type of



At the 1993 opening of Massey’s Albany Campus. From left: Vice-Chancellor Sir Neil Waters, Chancellor Justice Hugh Williams, Minister of Education Lockwood Smith, Albany Campus Principal Professor Ian Watson

for Kaipara. When Coates became Prime Minister he went back up to Matakōhe. His entourage was going past his old school. Dad organised his mates to stop the entourage, and spoke to the Prime Minister on behalf of the school. It was in the newspapers that this little kid had stopped the Prime Minister.” Smith’s father went on to become the Chairman of the local National Party branch.

Kaipara, then, was Smith’s natural constituency, and he could present a strong case for selection.

“Apart from being from one of the Smiths of Matakōhe, the

event, and asked if I would come back for it. I said I would, but I wouldn't sing as I'd wrecked my voice singing in Australia. They kept pestering. So I said, 'If you can find my Cinderella, I'll come and do it.' I thought there was no chance, but they tracked her down in Sydney. We sang *Love is a Beautiful Song*. It was pretty daunting because I hadn't sung for years, and there were Howard Morrison and Ray Columbus – all the people who had performed there, a line-up of New Zealand stars.

"After that I started singing again, and I've sung more and more. Every year we put on a charity concert. Dame Malvina's sung with me, and Ray

Masterate in counselling and, for a period, she was part of Massey's College of Education Community Advisory Group. And she was married.

But in 1999, following the end of Alexandra's marriage, the two renewed their relationship; 10 years later, on 4 July 2009, in the Legislative Council Chamber of Parliament, they wed.

A picture recently run in *Simply You* magazine shows them in the marble-floored, art-filled extension to their Matakoho farmhouse in a stance their old flatmates would remember well: Alexandra at the piano, Smith singing alongside her.

In 2010, Smith became the recipient of one of Massey's



Speaker of the House Lockwood Smith and Prime Minister John Key with a prize-winning Belgian Blue.

Columbus, Suzanne Prentice, Tim Beveridge. I get the young kids up performing, and some have gone on to singing careers."

What of Smith's own Cinderella, Alexandra? The two had met again briefly during Smith's 1990–1996 term as Minister of Education. Alexandra was counsellor at Wanganui High School; Smith was the visiting minister. In the time since they had known one another at Massey, Alexandra had gone teaching and had four children. She had acquired a Massey pedigree: a

inaugural Distinguished Alumni Awards, and his ties to the university remain strong.

Life has turned out well – and at least one prediction has been confounded.

Back in his days as a political reporter, Tom Scott had a word of advice for his old flatmate, who was thinking of going into politics.

"I said, 'You are crazy. You are too decent a guy. Politics is brutal. You'd hate it.' He ignored my advice, and now he's the Speaker – and soon he'll be Sir Lockwood."

Order in the House



As Gordon Campbell has written in the online magazine *Werewolf*, the Speaker's job "involves managing the egos and aspirations of 120 actors, while most of them are jostling for the spotlight at the same time". It is a role for which Smith – with his civility and his experience as a television host and politician – might have been made.

"He's very impartial, like a proper umpire – rigidly neutral. He's become Parliament's man," says Scott. "He's brought back solemnity and pageantry."

Says Smith, "I'm not trying to establish more formality but more respect for the institution of Parliament, because to me it's a very important place that was very hard fought for over hundreds of years. The freedoms of parliamentary democracy are worth preserving. New Zealand is a relatively young country, yet we've got the longest [running] full democracy in the world, with everyone voting.

"While I want members to be able to debate things freely and not be bogged down in tradition, I also want them to be respectful of parliamentary democracy. There are plaques in the debating chamber about the cost of preserving democracy in the first and second world wars. I am trying to reinforce that respect for the place."

He has noticeably shortened question time. "Those long question times weren't good quality. Time was wasted through worthless points of order and ugly argument. I don't tolerate that stuff. I've gone back to the basic standing orders. I require ministers to answer a straight question, and now they do. The officials know they have to put more work into providing answers."

As Speaker, Smith is numbered third in New Zealand's official order of precedence after the Governor-General and the Prime Minister.

Time was wasted through worthless points of order and ugly argument. I don't tolerate that stuff.





Hazel Riseborough's singular working life took her from the woolsheds of Wairarapa to researching for the Waitangi Tribunal. The first woman to qualify through Massey as a wool classer, she later became a pioneering historian and successful author. **Bevan Rapson** meets a remarkable woman whose links with Massey reach back half a century.

Never mind the dairy boom, Hazel Riseborough still prefers sheep country. The former wool classer turned historian and author criss-crossed the country researching her latest book and was dismayed at the rise of dairying in places like Central Otago, where she found shearing sheds falling down and cows on the fields where sheep once grazed. “Shocking,” she says. “I don’t care for cow country.”

Happily, a recent bus trip from the central North Island down to Massey University – which she first attended in 1949 when it was Massey Agricultural College – took her through classic sheep territory. “I suddenly felt comfortable.”

Her preference is easily explained: Riseborough’s links to sheep and wool date back to those early days at Massey when she was the first female – ‘girl’ was standard usage in those days – to qualify with a diploma in wool and wool classing, then continued through research work with wool at Massey in the 1960s and came full circle with her book *Shear Hard Work: A History of New Zealand Shearing*, published last year by Auckland University Press [see page 25].

Just those details suggest a remarkable journey, but Riseborough also fitted in careers as an Italian interpreter and as a highly regarded historian and researcher specialising in 19th-century relations between Māori and Pākehā.

She still has publishers wanting her to take on further books, but during a long conversation in a

friend’s Rotorua living room sternly dismisses the idea that she should write a memoir of her life: “Nobody needs a book about me”.

Even growing up in suburban Wellington in the 1930s and ’40s, Riseborough was drawn to the countryside. Raised by English-born parents in a part of Wadestown now known as Wilton, she and her brother could climb through Wilton Bush and out into sheep country. “If we went the other way there was a dairy farm where they milked by hand.”

The glimpses of a semi-rural life whetted her appetite and she set her heart on studying at Massey Agricultural College.

After attending Wellington Girls’ College, then doing a stint of practical experience on a farm in Wairarapa she became one of only three girls on Massey’s Diploma in Agriculture course. “One dropped out very soon, and the other one and I went right through, and I was determined I was going on to do the wool course after that.”

The general sheep course had included a grounding in wool. “That was the part that intrigued me most. They said no girl had ever completed the wool course, and I said, ‘Well I’m going to,’ and I did.”

At that time – 1951 – there was no particular feminist sensibility attached to her ambitions. “If I wanted to do it I got on and did it,” she says.

She was the first woman to qualify as a classer through Massey, but emphasises that Māori women were classing years earlier on the



Hazel Riseborough of the Massey Agricultural College hockey team, early 1950s



Students from an early Wool Board Shearing School in the Massey shed

East Coast; “brilliant classers”, but without formal qualifications.

Riseborough’s working life began with classing in sheds on the Wairarapa coast, with Māori shearing gangs. The working environment was “whanau-oriented”, she recalls. “Mum, Dad and the kids might be there, and the littlies were looked after by the cook.”

After a few years she headed off for her first stint overseas, with farm work in Britain and a hitchhiking tour of western Europe before returning to Massey, where she began work as a technician in the Sheep Husbandry Department. She was assigned to help the pioneering Dr Francis Dry, developer of the Drysdale breed, and has vivid memories of working with him and his flocks of “these great hairy monsters”: big sheep with horns. “I’d have to catch this great big Drysdale ram, hold it by the horns and read its ear tag number. He’s

on the other side of the pen with his little notebook. Then he’d start, ‘Oh, I knew this ram’s grandmother...’ and while he told me about it he would lose his place in the notebook, and I’d have to catch the ram again.”

By 1960, Riseborough was ready for more overseas adventures, heading for Italy where the Olympic Games were held that year. She learned the language at the Italian University for Foreigners in Perugia, then worked as an interpreter at the medical school then at a scientific institute in Rome. She liked Italy enough to live there for about five years – travelling in the summers – but life there in the 1960s had its challenges. “Italian males were the main drawback,” she recalls. “You

pretty well had to have a man along to repel the others.”

Once again she returned to Massey, this time landing a job as a research assistant analysing wool blends for carpet and blanket manufacturers with the help of the institution’s first computer.

Riseborough’s Italian opened another opportunity. An Italian firm was building the Tongariro power scheme and needed an interpreter. The money was better than at Massey, and with a house supplied. “So I said to them at Massey, ‘Sorry boys but I’m off’.” Her work ranged from producing an Italian version of the local road code to taking Italian workers and their families to the doctor. “Each day I morphed from being a New Zealand girl at home to being an Italian girl in the office.”

After another overseas sojourn took her to Western Australia, she eventually returned to the central North Island where she began to develop a long-held interest in the Māori language.

At high school, Riseborough already had been drawn towards the Māori pupils in her classes and had made her first attempts at learning Māori. “There was no reasoning about it then, but later, trying to analyse what had sent me in that direction, I think I felt that to be a real New Zealander I had to be much more aware of the Māori world.”

Back from Australia, she started by recording Māori lessons on the radio and in 1974 enrolled again at Massey for extramural Māori studies papers. By 1978, having passed all of the Māori papers then available extramurally – and branched into history along the way – she moved back to Massey to continue her studies, landing a job as a clerk while she completed a degree in Māori studies, and won a scholarship to do honours.

Her honour’s thesis *An Italian View of the 19th Century Māori World* drew on her translations from books written by two Italian priests who came to New Zealand in the 1860s and 1880s.

That thesis won her a scholarship to embark on a doctorate. She chose a PhD topic that covered the invasion of Parihaka in Taranaki by government troops and volunteers. In 1981 Riseborough had been to the centenary of the event and felt the grievance of Taranaki as though it was something that had just happened. “It was so real and so alive. I thought to myself, what on earth did the government do to these people up here that left this grievance?”

She dug deeply into the government documents. Telegram communications between government ministers proved a goldmine of information. “They were so sure of the rightness of what they were doing that they kept all the documents.” Her highly-regarded thesis was eventually published in 1989 as *Days of Darkness: Taranaki 1878 to 1884*.

In the midst of the Māori ‘renaissance’ of the 1980s, Riseborough found herself involved in Massey’s establishment of a stand-alone Māori Department. While the department awaited the arrival of a new head, Mason Durie, she looked after its administrative affairs. Personally, she faced resentment from some in the department – “some of the students were very prejudiced about this Pākehā female” – but she remained philosophical about the snubs. “I understood where they were coming from, they’d been discriminated against for years and years. Who was I to complain, as a Pākehā, about Māori looking at things from the other end of the telescope?”

She remembers a turning point when Durie asked her to accompany him to a funeral. “Well it was as though he’d thrown his cloak over me;

“I’d have to catch this great big Drysdale ram, hold it by the horns and read its ear tag number. He’s on the other side of the pen with his little notebook. Then he’d start, ‘Oh, I knew this ram’s grandmother...’ and while he told me about it he would lose his place in the notebook, and I’d have to catch the ram again.”

we came on to the marae together, they greeted Mason, they greeted me, and people who hadn't spoken to me for months said, 'Hello Hazel, good to see you here.'"

Durie also arranged for her to be seconded from Massey to the Waitangi Tribunal while remaining part of the department.

Again, she immersed herself in the history of Taranaki. Riseborough, usually a matter-of-fact kind of person, was almost physically affected by some of the sinister government dealings her research exposed. "I couldn't believe what I was reading, it would be like iron spikes coming out of the page and going through my head. I can remember shielding my eyes from documents I was reading."

In 1990 she became a lecturer in Massey's History Department and recalls students sitting stunned at the end of a lecture, amazed at what they were learning about early Māori-Pākehā interactions.

Today, Riseborough is optimistic about New Zealand's race relations. "Look at the kids these days: when they go through school taha Māori is part of everybody's thinking. At the very least they learn how to pronounce names. I had students who didn't know the difference between Te Kooti and Te Kuiti."

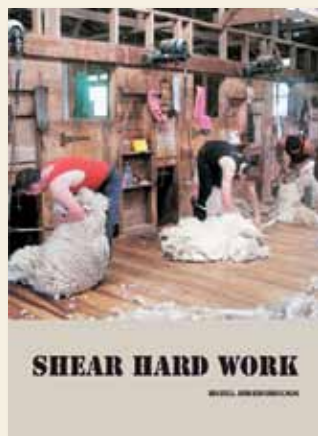
Riseborough retired from the university in 1996, taking on more research for the Waitangi Tribunal and the Crown Forestry Rental Trust. "After all those years at Massey, I walked away without a backward glance. And yet when I went back the other day to Māori Studies at Massey I was totally at home."

In the early 2000s, Riseborough's attention was drawn away from the Māori world to the sprawling central North Island sheep station Ngamatea, about which she had heard so many stories from friends over the years and first visited back in 1959. She duly researched and wrote *Ngamatea: the Land and the People*, first published in 2006 and since reprinted several times. "I got stories that I had no idea existed and was very glad that we could rescue them. Three key informants died before the book came out, but I'd got their stories."

The reception for *Ngamatea* helped lead to a history of New Zealand shearing, reacquainting Riseborough with the world of wool she had entered in 1951. *Shear Hard Work* was launched during the 50th Golden Shears championships in Masterton last year.

While obviously disappointed at the modern spread of dairying – and "everybody wearing what do you call that stuff? Polarfleece? Should be ashamed of themselves" – Riseborough declares herself confident that sheep and wool will rise again. "There is no substitute for wool," she says. "I've got my woolly vest. It keeps me quite snug." ■

Tales from the sheds



Half a century after qualifying as a wool classer at Massey, Hazel Riseborough found herself back at the classing table. Travelling around New Zealand researching her book *Shear Hard Work: A History of New Zealand Shearing*, she had the chance to dust off her old skills in between interviews.

Clocking up the kilometres across both islands she also had a refresher on finding her way through the nation's blackblocks. "I tell you what, it teaches you geography. I worked with AA maps open in front of me all the

time. Where is that station? Where on the river is that?"

In the two and a half years it took her to produce the book, Riseborough's travels led to interviews with shearers, shedhands, classers, cooks and contractors, whose words helped her tell the story of the industry. Delving into old newspapers and official documents, she traced it from its beginnings in New Zealand in the mid-19th century.

In the sheds, she found a world much changed even from the mid-20th century, not that she is nostalgic for the old ways. "Today it's so exciting and so dramatic. Yes, there's nothing like the old days but it's different, and there's no going back." Equipment has improved and so have the livestock. "The sheep are so much better, the wool's so much better. The shearers are elite athletes, with dieticians advising them, with special clothing and with exercise regimes."

A special sense of competition and co-operation drives the industry, she says. "The fellow on the next stand is your greatest rival and your closest mate, and all day you're trying to get one up on him."

She found the famous meat-heavy shearers' meals of the past aren't usual these days. "The nutritionists get in there and advise them, and the shearing contractor says to the cook, 'Fill 'em up on carbs'. They eat pasta and things that they never would have eaten before. All this 'chops for breakfast', that's pretty much gone out." Nor is smoko taken literally by top-performing shearers. "You're not allowed to smoke in the sheds any more because of wool contamination. You've got to go outside and no shearer's got time for that sort of stuff these days."

Riseborough clearly enjoyed her return to the sheds and the camaraderie of shearing. And in those odd stints on the classing table she found she hadn't lost her touch: "I started to get my eye in again."



“There’s no grey area in Afghanistan. You don’t have close calls really. You’re either perfectly fine, sitting in a café like this, or in deep shit, and there’s probably only a few seconds separating the two.”

off the grid

Tony Woods wanted to be a fireman. But the Kiwi entrepreneur ended up establishing a Kabul-based enterprise bringing renewable energy to Afghani villages. He talks to **Keri Welham**.



Tony Woods delicately cuts a pistachio, blackberry and cream cheese muffin in a suburban Wellington café, glances around, and claims this could be Kabul.

And it's true there are a few similarities between ex-pat life in Afghanistan's capital and the urban Kiwi lifestyle. "You can sit down in a café in Kabul that looks exactly like this," Woods says, surveying the blackboard menu, lunching suburbanites and black-clad wait-staff. In both cities, Woods can get good coffee, play a round of golf and take weekly salsa lessons. But that might be where the similarities end.

Kabul is 1800 metres above sea level with average January temperatures between 5°C and -7°C. It has a strong trade in replica antiques, a handful of glitzy shopping malls, a devastating legacy of war after war and a thriving development sector dedicated to improving life for its estimated 2.8 million residents and the roughly 25 million Afghans living in the valleys and mountain ranges beyond the city limits.

If this were a café in Kabul, Woods says, there would be a mass of cars passing the window (predominantly the Toyota Corollas of which Afghans and Kiwis are both particularly fond), the sidewalks would be dusty, and there would be two security guards sitting out the front with guns.

Woods, 44 and originally from Wellington, is the director of renewable energy company Sustainable Energy Services Afghanistan. He and a team of 23 staff based in Kabul take solar-powered energy to villages across Afghanistan, and have begun the process of expanding into other developing countries such as Pakistan, Yemen and Sudan. Many of the contracts are negotiated in the West, as it's often a foreign government or department that's paying the bill through an aid, development

or counter-insurgency programme. It's clear motivations vary. A foreign government might want to offer robust alternatives to the poppy harvest for landowners by introducing cold storage and water pumps to boost the success of other crops, or a non-governmental organisation may want to fulfil donor dreams of providing lighting in homes.

The resources available in each community range from wind, solar and running water to biofuel, and these resources dictate what kind of renewable energy plant will be installed. Woods and his team put in place the renewable energy plants, and teach locals how to do everything from basic repairs to reading the prepaid meters. The company's work in Afghanistan has produced some of the largest renewable, off-grid energy services in the world. The work can be dangerous for Woods' staff, as the heavily armed rebel forces are keen for rural villages to remain isolated, inaccessible and without electricity. Increasingly, local staff go out into the field and Western staff – who are much more highly prized targets for the insurgents – are among those employed in the office jobs at base. The local staff are trained to an international standard. Many are sent to the United States, Germany or New Zealand for 'on-the-job' engineering training. Woods say this is ultimately less expensive and more sustainable than sending armed guards into rural areas with Western staff. "More to the point, armed guards simply annoy the locals and won't save your neck most of the time."

Woods is a manufacturing engineer by training but the one-time Rongotai College head prefect always planned to have his own business. »

“Akmal and his three friends in the car went from joking and listening to the stereo one second to being raked with tracer bullets at 800 rounds per minute the next.”



“Once I stopped wanting to be a fireman, when I was about 10, I wanted to run a business I guess.”

While working in a war zone didn’t surface in any childhood dreams, Woods does credit family holidays to exotic locales such as Papua New Guinea with his view that New Zealand’s geographical isolation was no limitation. After school, he joined the New Zealand Army territorial force as an infantry pioneer.

“I think joining the territorials was one of the best things I did for myself. The army let you find your own limits. I loved it,” he says.

Woods has studied through Massey University to complement each phase of his career. He started with a Bachelor of Technology in 1986, did a Diploma of Business Administration in the mid-90s, and has almost completed a Master’s in development studies, which he started in 2005.

Woods began thinking about renewable energy in New Zealand 15 years ago, but quickly realised the infrastructure in this country was too robust. There was no drive to innovate. So he set up Empower Consultants, brought some colleagues on board, and spent about 10 years advising organisations such as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade’s New Zealand Aid division and the

Asian Development Bank. They worked through South-east Asia and the Pacific, improving electricity supply to isolated communities.

One contract took Woods to Afghanistan in 1999, during the years of Taleban rule.

“It was very feral, but there were other Kiwis up there then.”

When the Taleban were overthrown, Woods realised there

was a huge opportunity in Afghanistan, where it is estimated up to 90 percent of the population has no electricity. He kept working with Empower Consultants until 2006, then set up Sustainable Energy Services Afghanistan.

It is plain that renewable energy engineering is a growth business. There are vast valleys, deserts, plains and mountain ranges across Afghanistan, and other developing countries, where electricity is not yet commonplace.

Meanwhile, a move to self-sufficiency in the field among some of the world’s biggest armed forces is opening new avenues for renewable energy operators. Sustainable Energy Services Afghanistan is currently working with the US Marines in Helmand to improve energy efficiency

at combat outposts, while also providing solar and hydro-electric solutions for locals.

Woods is overseas eight or nine months of the year, much of it spent bidding for projects in Washington DC or running the business in Kabul, where his weeks involve meetings with army engineers, customs officials and government ministries. As the boss, he’s also responsible for ironing out all the small frustrations for a business in a developing country, such as unreliable internet access.

He says his career is tough on family. Woods has three teenage children in Timaru, and he’s working on getting trusted lieutenants to run the business so he can spend more time at home. In recent months he has taken on an Afghani business partner, and hired a Kiwi right-hand man with the necessary renewable energy engineering background – and some very handy military and mountaineering experience – who will be transferring to Kabul.

Woods is in the process of employing another new staff member whose mother is worried about the threat of roadside bombs.

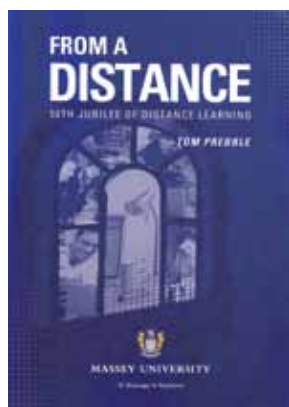
“There’s no grey area in Afghanistan. You don’t have close calls really. You’re either perfectly fine, sitting in a café like this, or deep in shit, and there’s probably only a few seconds separating the two.”

In November, would-be thieves rained machine-gun fire on Woods’ Afghani business partner, Akmal Wardak, as he drove home from a meeting in a rural area. Wardak didn’t stop when the bandits waved him down, and was shot in both legs as he drove away. Woods says: “Akmal and his three friends in the car went from joking and listening to the stereo one second to being raked with tracer bullets at 800 rounds per minute the next.”

While Woods and his staff have to be aware of the inherent danger of operating in an environment where such ambushes are possible and Western workers are sometimes targeted, the greater concern for prospective employees is that a job in a combat zone renders everyday life somewhat mundane.

“It’s hard to have a boring day in Kabul. You can do pretty much anything with a degree of caution.” On weekends off, Woods sometimes pops to Dubai, a two-hour flight away. Or he pays \$5 to swim in the pool of one of the big hotels. Or he plays a “hilarious” round of golf at the nine-hole Kabul Golf Course.

He has warned the new recruit that his expectations of what a job should offer in terms of excitement and satisfaction will be forever changed, and the life of an engineer in a hotspot like Afghanistan is often a difficult fit with the quiet rhythm of family life. ■



Distance memories

From a Distance: 50th Jubilee of Distance Learning

Tom Prebble, Palmerston North, Massey University

The EXMSS Files: A People's History of the Massey University Extramural Students' Society

Peter Hawes, Wellington, Dunmore Publishing, for Massey University Extramural Students' Society, Palmerston North

Reviewed by Lucy Marsden, former university Archivist

These books were both written to celebrate 50 years of tertiary distance (extramural) teaching at Massey. Since this started in 1960 an estimated 200,000 people, equivalent to one in 20 of New Zealand's current population, have studied in this mode through Massey. Many have been adults benefiting from the opportunity for second-chance tertiary education, while others have been middle managers, helping their chances of promotion through Massey's professional courses in areas such as business, management, banking, accounting, nursing, social work, education, regional planning, and police and defence studies. Massey's lecturers, and the content of their extramural teaching, must therefore have had a considerable influence on the thinking of this country's movers and shakers. While both books look at the impacts on some, not necessarily representative, individual students, both authors have missed the opportunity to look at this wider context, and to examine Massey's national importance as a provider of part-time education that enables professionals to upskill without leaving their employment. Perhaps the fact that both writers have been, in different ways, closely involved with the events they describe has contributed to the tendency to focus inward, and on the problems and pitfalls experienced by both students and the institution, rather than consider the bigger picture.

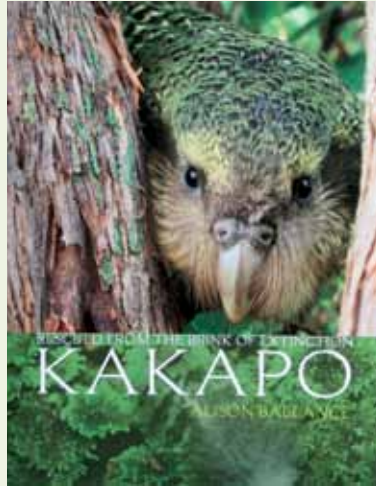
That said, these two books could not be more different, in appearance or approach, and they do usefully complement one another.

Prebble's book has a sober dark blue cover with the Massey logo marking it as the 'official' version; the contents, drawn largely from university reports, are sober, fact-filled and organised, though enlivened with some wryly humorous anecdotes. He briefly summarises John Owens' earlier history, *Campus Beyond the Walls*, which tells the story of the establishment of Palmerston North University College, its early experience of teaching extramurally, and developments at Massey up to 1985. The exciting expansion of the 1970s and early 1980s is therefore dealt with only in brief here, as is a comparison of Massey's approach with those of other institutions. Prebble describes Massey's dual-mode approach as a

pragmatic, teacher-centric model that "does not lend itself easily to central planning or control", and the 1986 ad hoc Committee on Extramural Studies noted that it has always been "evolutionary in nature". His book is essentially an account of the organisation's reactions to this since 1985, from the practical details of ensuring the timely production and distribution of study guides, arranging examination centres and dealing with the vagaries of copyright law and lecturers' attitudes to it, to the provision of study assistance for students. A chapter on 'Media Matters' describes experiments with teleconferencing and television, and the more successful recent use of the internet. Consideration is given to how broader changes within the university, such as semesterisation, the development of the Albany campus and internationalisation, have affected extramural teaching; the book concludes on a note of uncertainty about the likely effect of current government policies on Massey's extramural programme.

Hawes' book, described by its author as semi-non-fiction, is as imaginative and colourful as its Trace Hodgson-designed cover. Inevitably it covers some of the same ground as Prebble's book, since EXMSS, perhaps unusually for a student organisation, worked closely with the university for the benefit of its members. Hawes' approach is more subversive, picking some of the more quirkily amusing details from official reports and events, and offering the student rather than the institutional view. It presents a graphic picture of the highs and lows of studying extramurally, and of the intense determination and political involvement of the society's officers. For the early period he uses the device of avatars in a parallel universe representing the people involved, which some might find a little disconcerting or gimmicky. Interviews with students, EXMSS officers and university staff give more factual coverage of the later period; these interviews are lively, but could have been better integrated into the main narrative, and some judicious editing and reorganisation of material might have increased its impact.

Both books are illustrated, but unfortunately lack indexes.



Rare bird

Kakapo: Rescued from the Brink of Extinction

Alison Ballance, Craig Potton Publishing

Reviewed by Brett Gartrell, Director, New Zealand Wildlife Health

Richard Henry died on Christmas Eve 2010. He was the only known kakapo to have been recovered from Fiordland and the oldest bird remaining of his kind. It is a poignant reminder to us that despite all the care and hard work that have been invested in saving the species so far, it is far from secure. The death of a single bird, even an old bird such as Richard Henry, means an irrevocable loss of genetic diversity.

One of my lifetime ambitions as an avian veterinarian was to work with kakapo, and when I came to New Zealand in 2002 I was fortunate enough to realise that dream. My first encounter with one of these charismatic parrots was to rugby tackle a fleeing bird in a muddy Codfish Island stream. For the four years in which I worked closely with the Kakapo Recovery Team, I never lost my sense of wonder and delight at these unique birds. There is no other species remotely like them in taxonomy, natural history or personality.

Massey alumna Alison Ballance is a widely respected natural science journalist. Her documentaries and previous books on conservation have won many awards. I am a keen follower of her Radio New Zealand science and environment programme 'Our Changing World', which excels in bringing New Zealand science and scientists to the general public. I therefore had very high expectations when I opened her new book on kakapo.

For the most part, my expectations were more than fulfilled. This is an

absolutely gorgeous book in the quality of its graphic design, typesetting, layout and photography. The images so accurately capture the soul of kakapo that I half-expected to be able to smell their distinct odour on its pages.

The flyleaf of the book promises "an informative and entertaining mix of hard facts, history and accounts of the daily and seasonal routines of kakapo and their minds". The narrative of the text is well organised and clearly written. The author does manage to interweave stories about individual birds and people with factual information in a light and entertaining style.

The basic structure of the book is in three parts. The first part gives us an overview of kakapo biology and natural history; part two is an abbreviated history of the population's dramatic decline and slow increase; and the final part focuses on aspects of the recent conservation management of the species. In a sobering appendix, the name and personal history of every known adult kakapo that has been found or bred since the 1950s is listed.

My criticisms of the book are mostly minor. To a large extent, this book is an uncritical good-news story. It should not be relied upon as an academic and scholarly tome of kakapo biology. This applies to both the science and the conservation management reported in the book. My interpretation after reading the book is that the author has relied solely upon the Kakapo Recovery Team for her information.

This is especially noticeable to me in the chapters on the medical care of

kakapo and the causes of death. The information presented reflects the perceptions and biases of the current management team. For the most part this results in distortions or errors that are minor or simply controversial. It seems odd, however, that a journalist of Alison Ballance's experience would not confirm her information from multiple sources.

However, any book that claims to provide a history of kakapo management, particularly one from an experienced journalist, should be free from bias and be fair in acknowledging the accomplishments and achievements of those people who are no longer with the programme. On page 122 of this book is a photo of two veterinarians anaesthetising a kakapo for electro-ejaculation. The figure on the left, who is not named in the text, is Kate McInnes, a Department of Conservation veterinarian who was an integral part of the Kakapo Recovery Team between 2000 and 2005 when she left owing to the severe internal politicking. Kate McInnes was instrumental in the Kakapo Recovery Team's response to the erysipelas deaths in 2003, and in the development of semen evaluation and pelleted diets, and was responsible for the veterinary care of kakapo between 2000 and 2005. Her complete excision from the pages of this history is astonishing.

The scientific study of kakapo is hampered by their iconic status, their critically limited numbers and the fact that there are no similar species to use as research models. As such, much of our scientific knowledge of the



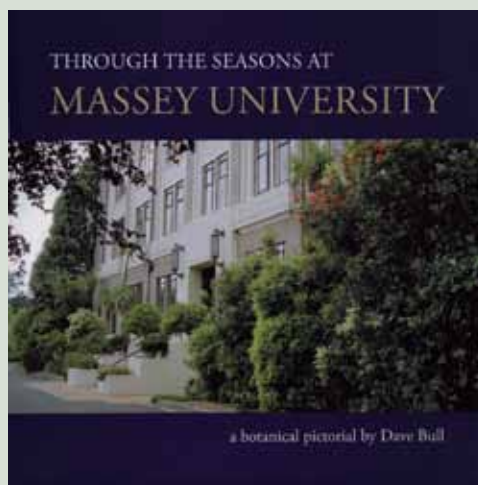
Underground company frontage (ATP), Space Center, Kansas City, Missouri, USA 2004

This is one of the images featured in fine arts photographer Associate Professor Wayne Barrar's book *An Expanding Subterra*. Over a period of seven years, Barrar visited subterranean locations in America, France, Australia and New Zealand, with his subjects including nuclear waste repositories, caves, hydro stations, paintball venues, World War I tunnels and the underground houses of Australia's Coober Pedy.

species is fragmentary, and theoretical at best. No hint of such uncertainty is evident in the text, which often presents theories and speculation as established fact. Examples of this include the use of a single semen sample to establish the breeding potential of male birds (p116-117), the long-term exposure of kakapo to *Erysipelothrix rhusiopathiae* from seabirds (p182) and the attribution of the increase in the number of eggs laid between 2002 and 2005 to the supplementary food being used at the time (p108-109).

In terms of the conservation management of the species, the book is likewise uncritical. The conservation management of kakapo has always been controversial. It is the most well funded single-species conservation project in New Zealand. The birds inspire a tremendous dedication and passion in the people involved in their conservation and this often results in conflict. This book makes no mention of such conflicts and provides no criticism of current recovery efforts. Perhaps this is for the best. In the most recent issue of *Trends in Ecology & Evolution*, Garnett and Lindenmayer (2011)¹ suggest that conservation science must engender hope to be successful. If you want a hopeful, beautifully presented but uncritical summary of the conservation of kakapo, this book delivers.

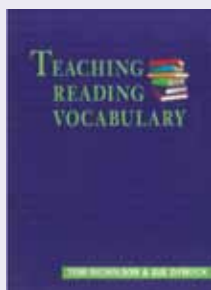
¹ Garnett ST, Lindenmayer DB. Conservation science must engender hope to succeed. *Trends in Ecology & Evolution* 26, 59-60, 2011



How green was my campus

Through the Seasons at Massey University: a botanical pictorial by Dave Bull
Available through the website alumnishop.massey.ac.nz at \$49.90

If you have fond memories of the gardens, parklands and bush remnants of the Manawatu campus – easily the most beautiful in New Zealand – and would like a keepsake, this may be the book for you. Written by Manawatu campus groundskeeper Dave Bull, edited by former Deputy Vice-Chancellor Professor Ian Warrington, and featuring photographs by another former staff member, Tauranga-based Julia Sich, *Through the Seasons at Massey University* is a lavishly illustrated historical and seasonal record of a campus that is home to more than 11,500 plant species, a number of which date back to the plantings made by the McHardy and Russell families in their homestead gardens at the beginning of the 20th century.



Words fail

Teaching Reading Vocabulary

Tom Nicholson and Sue Dymock, NZCER

Reviewed by Jennifer Little

“Yes, but, like, yes, like, but, like, yes, no, like, no, yes...” The vocabulary-deprived character Vicki Pollard in the television show *Little Britain* is a little too close to reality for Professor Tom Nicholson: he worries that a generation of New Zealand teenagers are becoming like her.

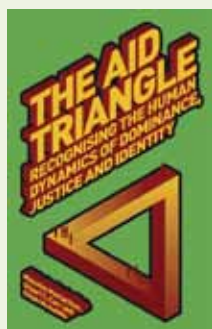
“Young people are reading less and failing to build vocabulary amid a sea of text messaging and cyber chat,” says Nicholson, and this, he says, will have repercussions for them later in life. Their command of language affects their ability to

learn, their confidence, job prospects and relationships, and even their ability to share a joke.

In *Teaching Reading Vocabulary* Nicholson urges teachers and parents to encourage children to read more and to turn to the dictionary and thesaurus. His tips for teachers? Survey the children’s interests and stock the class and school library with books that reflect these; select 30 suitable ‘good books’ and keep them in an easy-access box; and encourage children to see book-based movies then read the books themselves. (JK

Rowling’s Harry Potter series, Roald Dahl’s *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, EB White’s *Charlotte’s Web*, CS Lewis’s *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* and Kate Dicamillo’s *Tales of Despereaux* make his list.)

Teaching Reading Vocabulary also covers scheduling regular reading time at school and at home, reading aloud to children and with them, talking to them about what they are reading, the use of word maps, webs and quizzes and advice on how to choose a good dictionary.



Fair's fair

The Aid Triangle: Recognising the human dynamics of dominance, justice and identity

MacLachlan, M., Carr, S. C., & McAuliffe, E. (2010). London: Zed Books.

Jennifer Little talks to Professor Stuart Carr.

At one desk sits an expat worker from a ‘developed’ country, at the next his local ‘developing country’ counterpart. Both are doing the same job, but the expat is being paid many times more. What effect does this have? Organisational psychologist Professor Stuart Carr describes discrepancies like these as “the elephant in the room, part of the hierarchy in the world we are not supposed to talk about”.

Carr first witnessed the ‘dual salary discrepancy’ during a stint teaching at the University of Malawi in the early ’90s. He had arrived from Scotland’s Stirling University with a PhD in social psychology and the terms of his contract mirrored local rates, but as an indignant and poorly paid local staff member pointed out, this wasn’t the

rule. Most of the overseas academics earned good money; most locals a pittance.

The experience – and his realisation of the effect the injustice was having – triggered a series of research projects and, most recently, a book, *The Aid Triangle: Recognising the human dynamics of dominance, justice and identity*, which he has co-authored with Professors Malcolm MacLachlan and Eilish McAuliffe.

So what needs to happen? “I actually think the solutions aren’t complicated – you raise local salaries, you lower expat salaries, or you meet in the middle. The bit that needs work is figuring out which one works.”

Papua New Guinea, one of the nations with which he has been

closely involved, is now debating whether to scrap dual salaries at its national university, and he and his co-authors have UK Aid funding to evaluate the effectiveness of raising civil service salaries in ‘lower’-income economies.



Native affairs



Brothers playing brothers could be a subtitle for the short film *Warbrick*, which celebrates New Zealand Māori rugby's beginnings.

The 12-minute film, released in 2009, continues to garner accolades, most recently in February when it screened in Clermont Ferrand, France, at the 33rd International Short Film Festival.

It tells the story of Joseph Warbrick and his four sporting siblings who were all part of the 1888 New Zealand Natives rugby team, which played 107 matches on its tour through New Zealand, Australia and the British Isles.

It was written and directed by Massey graduates Meihana and Pere Durie, who also appear before the camera.

Warbrick was honoured with the Teueikan prize at the Montreal First People's Film Festival in Canada last June and screened at the Cinema des Antipodes St Tropez Film Festival in October and the Toulouse Short Film Festival in November. It then went to Clermont Ferrand – described by Meihana as its first “A-List festival”.

“It received significant media coverage over there (French television and newspaper interviews) partly because of the interest in a dynamic and progressive Māori cinema and partly because of the appeal in southern France of the All Blacks legacy,” Meihana says.

The brothers came upon the Warbricks in a 1993 book called

The Warbrick brothers from the 1888 New Zealand Natives rugby team, played by Mitchell Nikora-Baker (Alf), Pere Durie (William), Calvin Tuteao (Joseph), Francis Kora (Fred) and Meihana Durie (Arthur). Image courtesy of Legacy Films Ltd

Forerunners to the All Blacks by researcher Greg Ryan. “Pere found it in a second-hand-book shop and started reading it, then I read it and we started doing more research on the team at the New Zealand Rugby Museum in Palmerston North,” Meihana says.

He has a Bachelor of Education and is completing a PhD in Māori studies while lecturing at Te Wananga o Raukawa in Otaki. Pere, from Tauranga, has a Bachelor of Arts in media studies and communications and teaches at Tauranga Boys' College. Their parents are Deputy Vice-Chancellor Professor Sir Mason Durie and retired Professor Arohia Durie.

2010 Ngā Kupu Ora Māori Book Award winners



At the awards: Petina Winiata, Vice-Chancellor Steve Maharey, Patricia Grace, Kelvin Day, Robyn Bargh (Huia Publishers), Julie Paama-Pengelly, Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Māori and Pasifika) Professor Sir Mason Durie, Spencer Lilley, Christine Thomson (New Holland Publishers) and Brian Bargh (Huia Publishers)

Art, Architecture and Design: *Māori Art and Design: Weaving, painting, carving and architecture* by Julie Paama-Pengelly (New Holland Publishers). **Biography:** *Ned & Katina: A true love story* by Patricia Grace (Penguin). **History:** *Contested Ground: Te Whenua i Tōhea. The Taranaki Wars, 1860-1881* edited by Kelvin Day (Puke Ariki New Plymouth District Council/TSB Community Trust/Huia Publishers). **Te Reo Māori:** *People of the Land: Images and Māori proverbs of Aotearoa New Zealand* by Sir Hirini Moko Mead and June Mead (Huia Publishers).



Poetry and song

Buddhist Rain

Norman Meehan and Bill Manhire

Reviewed by Elizabeth Gray

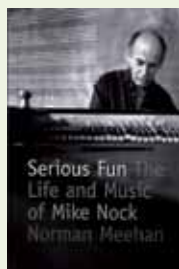
Bill Manhire writes in the liner notes for *Buddhist Rain* that on first hearing Norman Meehan's settings of his poems, he "loved Hannah's voice". Indeed, Hannah Griffin's honeyed rendition of Manhire's lyrics, alternately wistful, desirous and lushly celebratory, offers a seductive pathway into Manhire's compact, intensely present poems.

Meehan's songs, like Griffin's singing, are beguiling, and unpack complex narratives with deceptive simplicity. A number of the melodies are, on the first hearing, instantly internalised, and to be hummed for days afterwards. Clearly the collaboration with Griffin is based on a deep mutual understanding, but also impressive are Meehan's lines for joined voices. 'Across the water' provides an excellent example of a choral line arresting in its simplicity and complete in its impact, and it provides a wonderful opening track, particularly with its combined African-Pacific flavour. Colin Hemmingsen's varying contributions on reed instruments are invariably thoughtfully phrased, and a worthy complement to the piano and vocals.

Ultimately the recording is fundamentally satisfying in that it makes sense – Meehan's settings seem naturally wedded to Manhire's lyrics,

with their bittersweet emotion and their concrete figures. The repetition recruited by the lyrics in varying forms – as in 'My Sunshine', or 'Song' – is translated by Meehan's chains of chords into cumulative emotional impact (perhaps to greatest effect in 'Pacific Raft'). Repeated diurnal activities – waters rising, gates rusting, walking to undetermined assignations – are granted an unshowy resonance by the underpinning melodies; sometimes what we know by heart we can still discover as if for the first time.

For me, the eponymous track is the standout. Meehan suggests the song's construction was far from straightforward, but the beautifully crafted final product seems effortless. Leonard Cohen would surely approve his name check in *Buddhist Rain* – the piano lingers and returns, lingers and returns, underpinning ordinary and extraordinary rhythms of hope and longing.



From Ngaruawahia to New York

Serious Fun: The Life and Music of Mike Nock

Norman Meehan, Victoria University Press

Reviewed by Malcolm Wood

The first piano Mike Nock played belonged to his aunt, who had lent it to his family, and his first teacher was his father. The era was 1950s, the place was small-town, dirt-road Ngaruawahia, and Nock was 11 years old. The boy's first experience of modern jazz was hearing the bebop musicians Charlie Parker and Dizzy Gillespie on the family wireless. It was a revelation. As Nock tells his biographer Norman Meehan: "I said 'Jesus, here is some truth! Here is something that is definitely happening'."

His path was set. When his father died a short while later, Nock took piano lessons from Bert McNamara, the local pharmacist. When the Nock family piano was reclaimed, Nock, as McNamara remembers it, practised on a keyboard he had drawn on a piece of cardboard.

At age 15, with school already well behind him, Nock became the pianist for the Flaming Flamingos, a band based in the Palmerston North motor camp. They pawned his saxophone to buy food. At age 19 he had himself smuggled across to Sydney in a friend's passenger cabin. Two years later he arrived in New York via Britain for a short-lived stint as a jazz student, before fortune of a sort smiled and the "little sandy-haired dude" was invited to play with the renowned saxophonist Yusuf Lateef, working the chitlin' circuit of black clubs.

He was indefatigable, surviving drugs, episodic poverty, crime (a neighbour in the tenement building Nock occupied remembers him being used for "mugging practice"), racial tensions, a chain of relationships, marriages, the ructions of the '60s, and changing musical fashions.

Nock's dedication to jazz, his "serious fun", was unswerving, and while he never became rich and his fame was limited he was able to do what he loved and get by – not a claim many jazz musicians can make.

In the mid-1980s Nock returned to Australasia, eventually settling in Sydney, where he teaches at the Conservatorium. Here, ironically, for someone self-taught and on occasion disdainful of whether jazz in its essentials *can* be taught, he has become a torch carrier, hugely influential in creating the succeeding generations of jazz musicians.

Nock has been lucky in his biographer. Meehan's own jazz chops are considerable – his recent output includes jazz settings of the work of ee cummings and of local poet Bill Manhire – and his dedication to setting out Nock's story is impressive. Between 2004 and 2007 Meehan recorded 30-plus interviews and he brings an educated ear to Nock's output, with which he is thoroughly familiar. No-one can accuse the book of lacking detail. The book even comes with an accompanying DVD of *Mike Nock: A Film* from 1993.

Nock, who turned 70 this year and is still performing, was present in Wellington for the book launch.



Just William

Paul Mulrooney talks to senior lecturer in history Dr James Watson about Prime Minister WF Massey. Dr Watson is the author of a biography of WF Massey written as one of the Makers of the Modern World series of books, covering the world leaders who signed the Treaty of Versailles at the 1919 Paris Peace Conference.

What did Massey hope to achieve at the conference?

Massey approached the Paris Peace Conference with a set of aims that encapsulated what he saw as New Zealand's interests. Some of these were focused on concerns that related directly to New Zealand itself; notably the control of Western Samoa, securing a supply of cheap phosphate from Nauru, receiving a share of any reparations to be extracted from Germany and protecting the graves of its soldiers on Gallipoli. He also wanted to make sure any future German aggression was stopped and, via the Royal Navy, ensure that the British Empire, which was New Zealand's main safeguard, retained its power.

It didn't all go his way then.

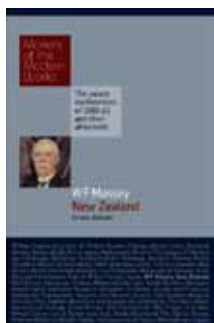
The remark "all political careers end in failure" is attributed to the British right-wing politician Enoch Powell, but would appear to be particularly applicable to the last years of Massey's life. Domestically he struggled to hold on to power with a small, uncertain majority after 1922. Internationally there were strong signs that his dream of an eternally powerful and united British Empire was fading. In 1923 the British electorate rejected giving tariff preference to imports from dominions like New Zealand, an issue on which Massey actually campaigned in Britain, flouting the constitutional convention of non-interference in the elections of another country, and Germany showed little inclination to accept the provisions of the Treaty of Versailles, which he thought already contained too few real safeguards against possible future German aggression.

What were Massey's views on some of the major world figures at the conference? US President Woodrow Wilson, British Prime Minister David Lloyd George and French President Georges Clemenceau?

He considered Wilson to be hopelessly idealistic and as having come into the war [April 1917] rather late in the piece. He got on well with Lloyd George and shared a mutual scepticism of President Wilson with Clemenceau.

At the outbreak of World War I in 1914 what kind of man was Massey?

He was very conscientious and well informed in political debate. He was a man of fairly decided views but by the same token when it came to politics was prepared to compromise and take the middle road.



WF Massey: New Zealand Makers of the Modern World: The peace conferences of 1919-23 and their aftermath
James Watson, Haus Publishing, 2010

He didn't exactly do that when Massey's Cossacks (special constables on horseback recruited from rural areas to keep order) were sent into the streets of Wellington in 1913.

I take the view that it was the Red Federation's leaders who were looking for confrontation and some believed a revolution could be brought about through a general strike. It's the job of the state to enforce the law and that is what the so-called Massey's Cossacks were doing: protecting the strike-breakers and defending the wharves. The police force was small and military forces in New Zealand minute, hence the need for special constables.

Was there much truth to his nickname 'Farmer Bill'?

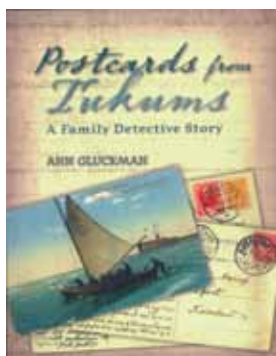
Yes, farming was the profession he chose and it was always close to his heart. However, his whole view was that it was the job of the government to assist the people onto farms, or as homeowners, or give them their chance to make good and make themselves independent of their work.

So where would you rank him among past New Zealand Prime Ministers?

Fairly highly. He kept his party in power for a long period of 13 years. He always did his homework on people and issues and was well briefed and prepared to make compromises – like his lengthy coalition agreement with Liberal leader Sir Joseph Ward – to see something through to the end.

So that's Massey politically, what about as a person?

He was a warm character and no cold fish, but like a lot of warm characters he could get hot under the collar at times!



Under the eaves

Postcards from Tukums: A Family Detective Story

Ann Gluckman, David Ling Publishing

Paperback, RRP: \$45

Reviewed by Jane Tolerton

In 2004 Ann Gluckman's son Philip handed her the genesis of a book: a box of turn-of-the-19th-century letters and postcards that had been found carefully hidden under the eaves of the family's Remuera home. Written variously in German, Russian, Hebrew and Yiddish, and movingly telling the story of her immigrant family, they appear liberally in the pages of *Postcards from Tukums*.

Ann Gluckman's grandparents, Adolph and Yetta Manoy, were part of a German-speaking community in the town of Tukums in Latvia, then part of the Russian Empire. Adolph arrived in Wellington in 1904, and settled in Stratford where he opened a drapery shop. It took him six years to save enough money to bring his wife Yetta and their three daughters over – one being Augusta, Ann Gluckman's mother.

First impressions? As Augusta would relate in a 1987 Jewish oral history: "After the beauty of the Baltic, it was like standing in a desert... because in those days the only beauty you could see in Stratford was Mt Egmont... all you could see was burnt-out trees where

we were and it was very depressing".

Augusta went to medical school in Dunedin in 1917. She worked at Southland Hospital then went to study in Vienna. In Sydney, on the way, she met the man she would marry – Samuel Klippel. They wrote devoted letters, which are quoted from in the book. They married in Stratford in 1926 and lived in Australia and England – where Ann was born – before settling in Auckland.

Augusta's spirit shines out of the book. Her husband-to-be tells her she is "the ideal of Jewish womanhood, the courageous girl with the great heart". Her daughter writes, "She was the undoubted head of the house: my father was the provider; Augusta the decision maker."

This is a book full of regret – "I was profoundly upset by the letters and the tape: why hadn't she talked to us of the past?". And of celebration: "I have found my roots".



Ann Gluckman

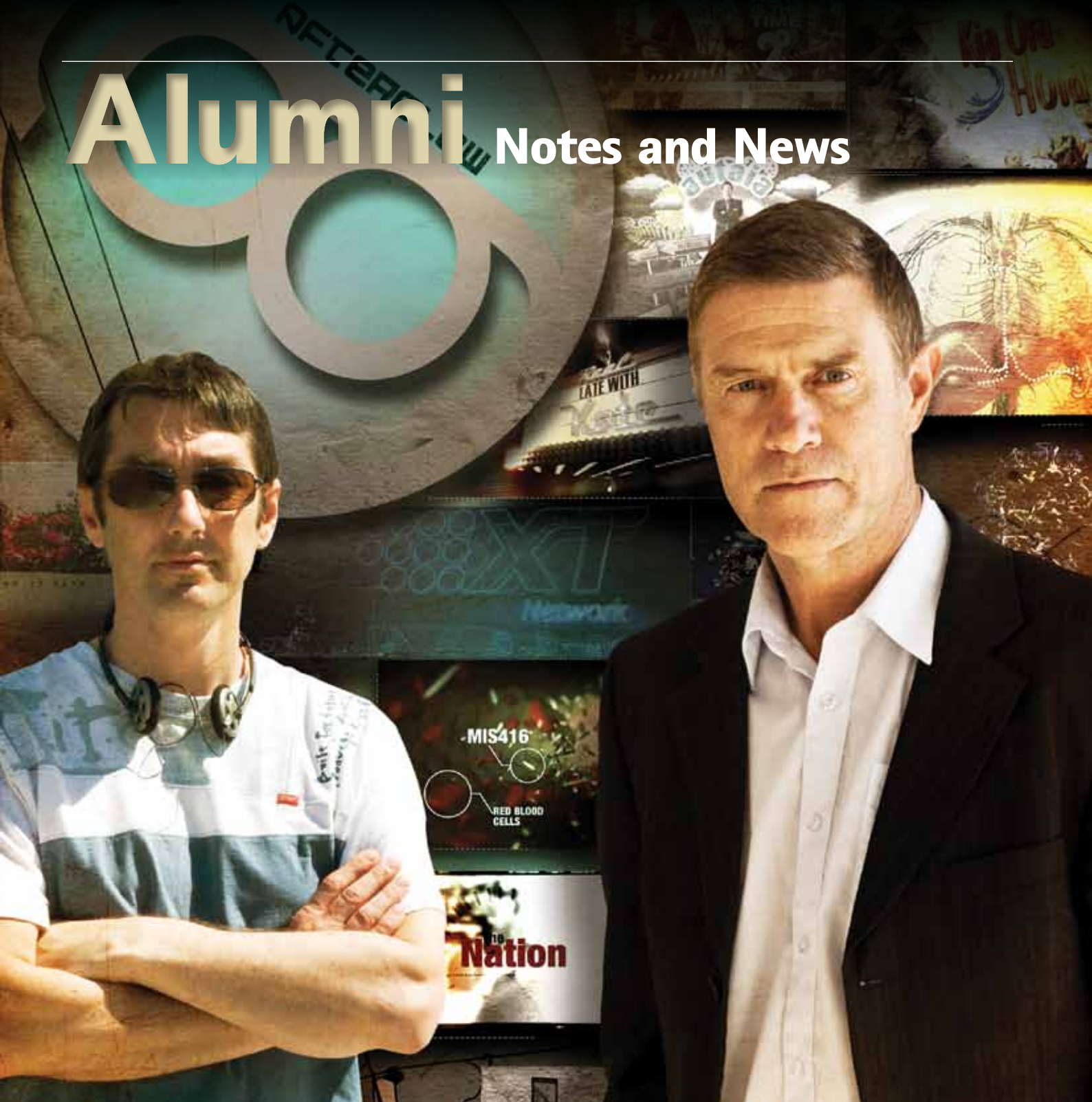
Ann Gluckman, now 83, was the first woman to be appointed principal of a New Zealand state co-ed school – Nga Tapuwae College in Mangere, now part of the Southern Cross campus, in 1975.

Gluckman has a BSc and an MSc from the University of Auckland, and a Diploma in Educational Administration

and a BA in religious studies from Massey University. She served on the Massey University Council from 1987 to 1990, elected by the Court of Convocation. In 1990 she was awarded the OBE for services to education and the community.

Her eldest son, Professor Sir Peter Gluckman, is the Prime Minister's Chief Science Advisor.

Alumni Notes and News



From left: Massey alumni Andy McGrath and Gary Stalker

Our conversation stumbled on cameras and lenses, focal lengths and lighting and before you knew it we were in business together making television commercials...

—Gary Stalker of Afterglow on meeting business partner Andy McGrath (see page 43)



Jasmine Groves
Alumni Relations Manager

Looking ahead Jasmine Groves writes

2011 is well and truly underway, and having been in this role for almost a year now, I feel my feet are planted firmly under my desk. 2010 was a great year and we connected with a lot of our alumni. We have started doing this through events, meetings and publications but are moving also into social networking.

Thanks to all of you who took part in the Colmar Brunton survey we sent out in October.

The timing of it allowed us to take your feedback and that from our current students and put it into the mix for this year's planning.

Some things to help us keep connected seem to be key: *Massey*, e-newsletters, events and networking opportunities. If you're not already receiving the e-newsletter, go online and register or email us at alumni@massey.ac.nz. This will not only keep you in touch with events and news, but be a forum for you to share, so send us your stories.

This year we will hold a number of events, both domestically and


abroad, and if you are in the vicinity of any we would love to have you along. We always welcome ideas for speakers and locations, and keep in mind an event doesn't need to be a huge affair. If there are a number of alumni living in a geographical location who want to connect, we can help them facilitate these smaller gatherings either here or overseas.

If you have logged on to our alumni website lately you will see last year's overhaul is now complete. All the information has now also been revised and I hope you find it informative and helpful. We will continue our work on further developing the Online Community so that it is easy for groups to set up areas in which they would like to network.

Another exciting project for us in 2010 was the refurbishment of the Alumni shop on the Manawatu campus. This year our focus for the shop will be investigating new lines. If you are ever in the vicinity, pop in and have a look or come into Tiritea House (formerly the Vice-Chancellor's residence) – my team and I are always happy to catch up and show you through the house.

Keep in touch and I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Kind regards

Jasmine Groves *Alumni Relations Manager* 

How the alumni relations office can help you!

Networks

Network face to face with other alumni or join one of our virtual networks: Online Community, LinkedIn, Facebook.

Events

The 2011 calendar is now available. There will be additions throughout the year but this will give you some 'save the dates' to put into your calendar

E-newsletter

The alumni relations office invites you to subscribe to our bimonthly e-newsletter. This is the best way to keep in touch with news from the university and find out about events that are planned in your region. To subscribe, visit <https://alumnionline.massey.ac.nz> and follow the links or email alumni@massey.ac.nz.

Alumni portal

The alumni portal <https://alumnionline.massey.ac.nz> is where you will find everything you need to know about Massey's alumni and what the alumni relations office has planned. Here you will find the alumni Online Community. Register as a member to keep in touch with other alumni, find out

about joining chapters and networks, view the latest news and events, and discover the benefits and services available to you. When you visit, don't forget to update your details so we can stay in touch.

Online shop – memorabilia, apparel, souvenirs

Our expanding range of memorabilia and apparel now includes casual clothing with a contemporary campus feel, and heritage-inspired Heartland apparel – a tribute to Massey's spirit and unique place in the world. As the range grows, we're sure you'll find the perfect souvenir. Visit our online store at <http://alumnishop.massey.ac.nz>.

Benefits and services

We are always on the lookout for benefits and services that can be offered. If you want to find out what benefits and services are currently available, visit the alumni portal. If you are associated with a business or service that would like to provide a benefit to Massey alumni and friends, staff and/or students, contact alumni@massey.ac.nz.

NZUniCareerHub

If you are an employer, NZUniCareerHub will allow you to distribute easily

information about your organisation and vacancies to job searching students and recent graduates throughout New Zealand. To connect with employers and find out about their job vacancies, graduate programmes and employer events, visit <http://careerhub.massey.ac.nz>.

Join the Massey library

Massey University library offers alumni and friends a 50 percent discount on membership. For only \$100 per year you can have the same borrowing privileges as an undergraduate distance student. Borrow books in person or have them delivered to you anywhere in New Zealand. Contact the alumni relations office for more information.

Find a classmate

With a database of more than 100,000 names, there is a good chance that we can help you to get in touch with your former classmates. Contact us with information about who it is you would like to catch up with and, if it is possible, we will help you to get in touch. To protect the privacy of alumni, this process is carried out in accordance with the Privacy Act (1993).



share a story

HAVE YOU CLIMBED EVEREST? STARTED A COMPANY? WORKED IN A FAR-OFF PLACE? UNDERTAKEN GROUNDBREAKING RESEARCH? RUN A MARATHON?

Whatever the journey, we would love to know what you have been doing since Massey!

It's easy: jot down 200 to 250 words about any success, event or news and we will try to share it in our upcoming publications and e-newsletters. Got photos to go with the story? We are happy to have those too. You can email stories and images to alumni@massey.ac.nz.

Or you can log in to Online Community and post it as part of Notes and News: <https://alumnionline.massey.ac.nz/NetCommunity>.

All updates received by 30 June 2011 will go in the draw to win one of three 'Massey Packs' valued at over \$100. Each pack will include a Massey hoodie, T-shirt, key fob, pencil case, frisbee and sports drink bottle and we will send it to you wherever you are in the world.

looking for lost alumni?

ARE YOU IN NEW ZEALAND OR OVERSEAS AND RECEIVE MASSEY, BUT KNOW YOUR FRIENDS WHO ARE ALSO ALUMNI DON'T?

Does *Massey* get delivered to your parents, friends or flatmates?

Do you get *Massey* but not the bi-monthly e-newsletter or invitations to events?

If any of these scenarios fits you or your friends, colleagues or family who are alumni let us know your latest contact information. It's easy to keep us updated – email your latest details to alumni@massey.ac.nz or visit Online Community and update your profile.

All updates received by 30 June 2011 will go in the draw to win one of three 'Massey Packs' valued at over \$100. Each pack will include a Massey hoodie, T-shirt, key fob, pencil case, frisbee and sports drink bottle and we will send it to you wherever you are in the world.



MASSEY UNIVERSITY ALUMNI RELATIONS

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Palmerston North 4442

Phone +64 (0) 6 350 5865

Fax +64 (0) 6 350 5790

Email alumni@massey.ac.nz
<https://alumnionline.massey.ac.nz>

Have you joined the alumni Online Community?

Here's why you should

Connect with more than 100,000 Massey Alumni in 127 countries. Membership is free.



My Page

A quick view of your details in the system. Anything marked as {private} indicates details that cannot be viewed by other online members.

Directory

Search for fellow classmates and message them in privacy. If 'Send Message' is not displayed next to a person's name, this means we do not currently have an email address for them. Please contact us at alumni@massey.ac.nz as we may have other contact details and we can pass on your information for you.

Messages

From this tab you can compose and send messages to and from other online members in your friends list. If you would like to send a message to someone who is not in your friends list, use the directory tab.

Friends

A place to add your friends for a quick and convenient place from which to send messages. Only people who have registered for the Online Community will be searchable to add as friends. If they are not found using the search box, send them messages from the directory tab.

Message Board

Post messages about your time at Massey, local get-togethers or anything else you would like to discuss with the Online Community.

Personal Details

Update your personal and employment details.

Contact Details

Keep your contact details up to date to ensure you receive our communications including invites to events, e-newsletters and *Massey*.

Frequently asked questions

What are the online alumni community and the online alumni directory?

The online alumni community is a new set of services that has been launched on the Massey University website. The online community area includes discussion groups and an online alumni directory. The directory contains name, degree and contact information for all alumni of Massey University.

Is the directory secure? Who has access?

All of the information and services in the online alumni community are password protected and available only to registered users. Each alumnus or alumna also has the option of suppressing any information that they do not wish to appear on the system. That is, users may turn off particular information fields in their listings to prevent them being viewed by other users.

What information from My Profile can be viewed by other registered alumni members?

Information on the 'My Profile' page can only be viewed by you. You may adjust your individual profile by going to the 'Update your

profile' page and unticking the 'Make private' check box next to the information that you would like to make public. You have control of your profile and can choose which information you wish to make public on your profile or suppress any information that you do not wish others to see.

Will I have access to the entire website once registered?

Initially you will have limited access to the online alumni community website once you have registered online and logged in. An Office of Alumni Relations staff member will need to process your request manually and verify your details. Once processed, you will have access to all parts of the website. This may take up to three working days. We will send you an email once your registration has been processed; please try logging in again.

How do I update my address?

You can now keep your alumni record up to date by using our online update facility, accessed through the online alumni community. This way, you can view the information we hold on you and make any changes. Simply log in to the

online alumni community website and follow the link 'My Profile' then 'Update Profile'.

Can I change my name as it appears in the online alumni directory?

To change your name as it appears in the alumni directory, contact us with your name, requesting a change and providing the reason (spelling error, marriage, legal name change, or other reason). We will contact you to verify the request.

What if I don't want my information listed?

Simply complete the registration process and proceed to the online alumni directory. Follow the link 'My Profile' then 'Update Profile' and follow the instructions for modifying your directory listing preferences. This page will allow you specify what items you would like to be displayed in the directory. The preferences are granular, so you can be as specific as you wish in deciding how much and what kind of information other alumni can view.

How can the directory be used?

The online alumni directory is intended for use by alumni for the purposes of improving communications among alumni and between

Social media for alumni

LinkedIn

facebook

There are now so many options available when it comes to social networking that Alumni Relations has decided to complement our Online Community with the social media sites LinkedIn and Facebook.

Facebook is an interaction happening in real time. It allows us to post events and news as soon as they come to hand, and it allows our network to like, share and discuss them to get the word out.

LinkedIn started in 2002 and operates the world's largest professional network on the Internet, with more than 90 million members in over 200 countries and territories. It's a good fit for alumni as Alumni Relations is all about making connections, mentoring and networking. This site allows you to join groups and post discussions; it also allows an in-depth look into people's professional profiles so you can see whom you may want to connect with.

We have an ever-growing Massey University Alumni Group on LinkedIn and are setting up subgroups around geographical locations so people can network that way or across the group as a whole.

alumni and the University. As such, it is for official university use and individual alumni use for communication of a personal nature between members. Use of this directory for any other purpose (including, but not limited to, reproducing and storing in a retrieval system by any means, electronic or mechanical; creating mailing lists or otherwise using the addresses or other information contained in this directory for any commercial or political mailing) is a violation of copyright and prohibited.

How much do these services cost?

There is no charge to alumni for use of the online community, access to the online alumni directory and access to message boards.

Can I control whether I receive unsolicited mail or email as a result of my listing?

First, it is important to understand that only registered users will have access to the online directory. The most important privacy control, however, is in your hands – you may adjust your individual record to suppress any contact information that you do not wish others to see or to use.

Event coverage 2010

Lincoln wins ag rugby fixture



Lincoln University won back the LA Brooks Trophy after beating the Massey Agriculture XV 19-6 in atrocious conditions at the Manawatu campus on Saturday 18 September 2010.

The Lincoln team took home the LA Brooks Trophy and MOG Shield, which it last held in 2008. The LA Brooks Trophy was first contested in 1952 then reinstated six years ago after a 39-year hiatus.

Around 250 spectators turned up to watch the match.

Massey staff, visitors enjoy Lake Taupo Cycle Challenge

On Saturday 27 November more than 50 Massey staff battled their way around Lake Taupo, with road temperatures in excess of 30 degrees. It was like a battlefield but they all made it to the Massey University marquee after their show of endurance.

The marquee was busy all day with sausages and patties cooking, Powerade being consumed and spot prizes being given away by our fantastic sponsors.

More than 300 visitors enjoyed Massey's hospitality, including staff, students, alumni and Bike Manawatu. The feedback has been tremendous.

At the evening's alumni function guests indulged in a cold drink and nibbles while watching the prize giving. Grant Wiggins, an alumnus, won the overall spot prize, which as well as some cool Massey gear included a \$300 MacPac and a skydive.

Thanks to everyone who made it such a fun day. Alumni Relations plans on being there again this year, so if you or any alumni, staff or students you know cycle, get them to get in touch: alumni@massey.ac.nz.

San Francisco and Times Square



In September Alumni Relations had our first outing to the United States – in San Francisco at an Irish pub owned by a Kiwi. Guests thoroughly enjoyed themselves, as you can see from this photo of our prize winner Eric Tedmus, who came to Massey as a

study-abroad student from the US, with Doug Yen, who studied on the Manawatu campus in its beginnings. They both had many stories to share – and next time more Marmite will be brought along.

In New York alumni gathered at a bar located close to Times Square. Thank you to all those people who commuted so far to be with us.

Chapter highlights 2010

At an Auckland Chapter event, celebrity chef to the stars Peter Chaplain demonstrated some Japanese cooking techniques, which the group then got to eat. There was also a fabulous evening at TechBooks in Newmarket, with a medley of speakers on topics ranging from robotics to industrial design.

Sustainability and agriculture continue to be popular topics and in October Chapter events in Manawatu and Napier centred on these themes. The Manawatu chapter also held Massey's massive picnic, which was an afternoon of fun and games for families and an opportunity to soak up some jazz.

The Sleep Wake Research Centre kept audiences wide awake in Hawke's Bay with an informative presentation on the research it is undertaking and the kinds of disorders with which it deals.

Don't miss this year's events

Events are being added to our calendar all the time, so for the most up-to-date list and full details visit <https://alumnionline.massey.ac.nz>. You can also register to attend events online

May 2011

Tuesday 10 May – Graduation cocktail function, Manawatu

Thursday 26 May – Graduation cocktail function, Wellington

June 2011

Thursday 16 June – National Fielddays alumni function, Hamilton

September 2011

September – San Francisco and New York

September – London, United Kingdom

Saturday 3 September – LA Brooks Trophy rugby match, Lincoln University

November 2011

November – Singapore

Sunday 6 November – Massey's massive picnic, Manawatu campus

Saturday 26 November – Lake Taupo Cycle Challenge, Taupo

Court of Convocation Representatives

Lesley Whyte and Bruce Ulrich have been elected to the Massey University Council by the Court of Convocation



Lesley Whyte

As a past student and class representative of the Albany campus Graduate School of Business (MBA – A19), I strongly believe that the journey of learning is equally as important as the ‘qualification’ at the end.

I am currently working at Auckland Council in the area of Governance – Local Board Services, setting up the Business Process Department. As the former New Zealand Head of Business Services for UGL Infrastructure, which included Learning and Development, I understand the needs of learning through the eyes of the business and the impact of and requirement for quality education to sustain the future growth of New Zealand’s businesses.

I am a Justice of the Peace qualified to perform judicial duties, a Member of the New Zealand Society of Risk Management, a Member of the Institute of Directors and a Member of Business Mentors NZ – Auckland South Mentor.



Bruce Ulrich, OBE, MBA, BCom (Cant), ACA, FInstD

Bruce, who has previously been involved in the performance review and audit and risk committees, returns to Council for another term. Bruce graduated with an MBA in 1992 and was National MBA Alumni President for three years.

Bruce was a partner in KPMG for 12 years. He then established the FCS Consulting Group with offices in New Zealand and China, where projects include international education and clinics for the treatment of diabetes. He has been honoured with professorships by two Chinese universities.

He has been a director of companies in many industry sectors in four countries, and for more than 10 years he actively mentored the inventors of the cross-slot drill, a Massey-linked innovation. He is active in several international business councils.

Bruce has a passion for sport and education.

Awards for bravery

Two Massey University alumni are recipients of this year’s New Zealand Bravery Awards, one of them posthumously.

Austin Hemmings of Auckland, who died on 26 September 2008, after being stabbed by Pauesi Leofa Brown when he went to the assistance of Diane Nonu. Nonu called for help when Brown attacked her in an Auckland street. Hemmings graduated in 1999 with a Diploma in Business with an endorsement in insurance management.

The other recipient is retired Royal New Zealand Air Force Wing Commander Anthony Millsom, now living in Grantham, England. On 26 April 2008, Millsom heard a plane crash near his home in Whenuapai. He ran to the burning wreckage and attempted to drag a person out, but was beaten back by the flames. He tried again, reaching the occupant’s belt and pulling him from the aircraft. The fire intensified and went closer to a liquid oxygen store, forcing Millsom to retire to safety. He suffered burns and blisters to his hands and face.

Millsom graduated in 2002 with a Master of Philosophy in defence and strategic studies.



In April 2010 Christine Lindsay married James Christensen. The couple met through Massey Agriculture in 2004. They were married in true agricultural fashion in the woolshed at Christine’s parents farm in Southland – reportedly a fantastic day – although very wet. Twenty six Massey alumni were among those present, including the bride and groom, and the groom’s parents.

The digital magicians

They are the unsung creative geniuses of New Zealand television, the men and women who assemble the title sequences to the television programmes we love and the promos and television commercials that are part of the price we pay to watch them. Here, compressed into a matter of tens of seconds, are cinema-quality wit, style and production values. Sometimes even the commercials win us over.

But commercials and titles do not come with credits; they are the domain of the unknown cinematographer, the anonymous sound engineer. So let us out the Auckland firm Afterglow. The blurred night-drive neon-lit vision that takes viewers into *Reel Late with Kate* on TV3? Theirs. The jaunty titling of *Go Girls* on TV2? Theirs again. Caroline and Georgina Evers-Swindells animatedly plugging the virtues of beef and lamb. Again, Afterglow.

So who are Afterglow? Massey alumnus Andy McGrath, BA media studies and communication 1997, began his career as a radio technician for Telecom, shifted across into television, began freelance editing, and eventually decided to form a business just down the road from his main client, TVNZ.



"I took out a frightening loan and bought a Digibeta machine," he says. "Then I continued editing their shows, only now I could charge for the edit suite as well." Afterglow, the solo act, was born.

But it was after McGrath visited a friend's place and met another Massey alumnus, Gary Stalker, BSc 1981, that Afterglow truly came into its own. Stalker had recently returned to New Zealand after 17 years' living abroad working in film and television. The two ended up discussing cameras and lenses, focal lengths and lighting, and soon

realised they had complementary skills. "He could sing into the night and play guitar like Eric Clapton and I couldn't," says Stalker wistfully. They formed a business partnership.

These days McGrath styles himself director and sound designer, while Stalker is senior producer and business manager. They form the nucleus of a six-strong team.

When McGrath splashed out on his Digibeta machine in 2003, the great transition from analogue to digital was in full swing. The years since have brought a flow of new technologies, ever-tighter timelines, and the opportunities presented by an increasingly borderless world.

Afterglow now has clients in China, the United Kingdom and Australia and its work portfolio extends far beyond ads and intros.

On any one day the company can be working on projects as wide ranging as TV channel branding, 3D visualisation of wave turbine prototypes, animation of drugs targeting cancer cells, sales DVDs for engineering and agricultural firms, and commercials for educational institutions and company logo designs.

"We are never bored," says Stalker.

www.afterglow.co.nz

New Year Honours

There were eight Massey recipients of the 2011 New Year Honours, including two former staff members Professor Ian Warrington and Robert Neale, both from Palmerston North, and six graduates.

Professor Warrington was Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Manawatu Regional Chief Executive. He has been made a Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit for services to science.

Robert Neale was an English lecturer for 30 years until his retirement in 1999, and served as the University's Public Orator for 20 years. He has been made a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit.

Brian Evans, of Sandringham, who has a Bachelor of Arts (1987), was made an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit for services to women's rugby.

Maurice Gianotti, of Taupo, who graduated with a Bachelor of Arts (1972) and a Diploma of Education (1979), was made a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit for services to education and the community.

Thomas Johnson, of Napier, who has an Executive MBA (2001), a Graduate Diploma of Business Studies (2001) and a Master of Management (2005), was made a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit for services to rugby.

Hon Winnie Luamanuvao Laban, of Lower Hutt, who graduated with a Postgraduate Diploma in Development Studies (1999), was made a Companion of the Queen's Service Order for services as a Member of Parliament.

Betty Sio, of Auckland, who graduated with a Bachelor of Social Work (1999), was made a Companion of the Queen's Service Order for services to the Pacific Island community.

Peter Tennent, of New Plymouth, who graduated with a Bachelor of Business Studies (1981), was made a Companion of the Queen's Service Order for services to local body affairs.

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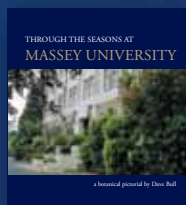
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THROUGH THE SEASONS AT MASSEY UNIVERSITY

A new pictorial book by former groundskeeper Dave Bull, chronicling four seasons of the Manawatu campus

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Please note that prices are in NZD. Prices are subject to change.
Do not include P&H.



MASSEY UNIVERSITY
ALUMNI RELATIONS

NOTES

1962

Clive Palmer, Master of Agriculture Science 1962; Diploma in Education 1972, writes: "I was delighted to read that the Main Building has recently been named to commemorate Sir Geoffrey Peren. I was president of the Students' Association in 1957 and officiated at a formal student farewell to 'Prof', held in what was then the auditorium of the building. Indeed the building brings back many memories as an ag science undergraduate where many of our lectures were held. Later I shared space up in the top floor attic completing my master's, and later still, when I joined the staff, my office was on the ground floor."

1979



Nick Thomson, Master of Philosophy 1979, has written and published *THE SHAWL – Its Warp and Weft from 1746 to 1945*, which comprises four books, *Frances*, *Samuel*, *Jane* and *Peter*.

Diana Macdonald of Feilding writes:

"These four are significant members of his extended family. One probably never left the west coast of Scotland. Another was born within five years of her mother reaching Otago in the 1860s, and the other two arrived in New Zealand in the mid 1870s after leaving their homeland, Scotland, for a variety of reasons. The limited known facts of their histories have been recreated into lives resonating with carefully researched social, political and religious beliefs and practices of their times."

The books are available for purchase at \$80.00 for the set of four. Nick may be contacted at janick@clear.net.nz.

1983

Angela Caughey, Bachelor of Education, retired from the field of education and began writing New Zealand history. Four books and 12 years later, after caring for her husband with Parkinson's disease and Lewy body dementia, she began a book on practical hints for people caring for people with dementia, illustrated by dozens of stories. "It should be useful, as the numbers of aged in the world's population soars, producing corresponding numbers with dementia. My years with Massey certainly guided me into constructive habits of work!"

Aggrey Kawonga, Bachelor of Resource and Environmental Planning, returned to Malawi soon after graduating and back to a job as a physical planner in the Government. He writes: "Seven years later I moved to local government service establishing a planning department at Lilongwe City Council, then in 2001 I joined a quasi government - National Construction Industry Council as a Director of Technical Services until 2007, when I went into a full planning consultancy business up to present. So I have fond memories of Massey for grooming me professionally. I would love to hear from some of my fellow BRP students through the newsletter."

1988

Lyndal Sheat, Bachelor of Horticulture Science (Honours) 1988 won a Commonwealth Scholarship to work towards a PhD at Sheffield University, United Kingdom.

From 1988 to 1995 she was based at the Department of Landscape, Sheffield, where she not only worked on her PhD research, but tutored research students, lectured in design theory and undertook contract research for the department. This included a Department for Education contract exploring the links between bullying and school grounds design, and a Countryside Commission contract looking at children's perceptions of the countryside.

"After having my two fantastic kids in the UK (now 14 and 12), I returned to NZ and started a business. This led to working with children in schools on design-based projects, which I loved. So, after a lot of agonising, this year I've decided to return to university (Victoria this time) to train as a teacher. »



Ann Appleton, anthropologist, Sarawak

I am one of three anthropologists working at Universiti Malaysia Sarawak's Institute of East Asian Studies in Sarawak in Borneo. I have been here since I graduated with my PhD in 2006.

The institute is a stopping-off point for many overseas academics engaged in Borneo-related research, from PhD students through to old hands who have been coming to Sarawak for decades. It is a fascinating working environment.

Mukah, where I began my Massey doctoral research back in 2000, is barely recognisable these days. The old river ferry has been replaced by a four-lane bridge; the jungle has given way to highways and housing estates, a new secondary school and a polytechnic, shops, restaurants and department stores. A 10-storey administration building dominates the skyline.

In the Melanau villages on the outskirts, change has been slower. Even so, much of the old culture, especially the rituals associated with the old animistic religion, is fast disappearing. Three of the a-bayohs (shamans) with whom I worked closely in 2000-2001 have since passed away and I only know of one still working actively in the Mukah area.

What is it like getting around in Sarawak? Getting to some places by road can still be hazardous. These days to get to Mukah I either try for a seat on a little Twin Otter plane or take the overnight bus, borrowing a car once there. Then there are the joys of river travel: sitting at the bottom of an open boat travelling downriver in torrential rain, trying to keep your camera, voice recorder and GPS dry, and knowing there will be no shelter until you get to your destination.

Recently I've been exploring the early history of Melanau settlements on the Oya and Balingian Rivers and how this has contributed to the identity of the various Melanau settlements in the present day. I've also just completed some in-depth research on former secondary burial practices and published a Melanau Mukah-English word list and phrase book – the sort of thing I longed for when I first arrived.

It's going to be hard to leave here, as I will one day, but Sarawak will always be a second home.

Burial pole (kelideng) at Pelajau, about 64 kilometres upriver from the mouth of the Oya River and only accessible by boat. This burial pole, about 300 years old, marks the site of a once-significant but now abandoned Melanau settlement and longhouse. Pelajau is a place of importance in Melanau history on the Oya River and considered a sacred spot.



Michelle Hutton, Bachelor of Technology 2004, feels a secret thrill when she passes the canned soup aisle at the supermarket.

"I'll go to the supermarket and see a product and think 'I made that!' – it gives you a real buzz," says the Hastings-based Heinz Wattie's product development manager responsible for spicing up traditional baked beans and innovating winter soups with ethnic ingredients.

"I really enjoy my job because the industry in which I work is constantly changing. As consumers' preferences change, so do we; and there are constant technological advances that we can take advantage of to improve our products," she says. "I get to work with a variety of fantastic people to produce food products that help feed the nation – to me, that is exciting!"

Her husband, Andrew Hutton, whom she met while working at Heinz Wattie's, is another Massey alumnus.

"I hope to work as a technology teacher specialising in design, but with my BHortSci base, I would be happy to also teach horticulture and science."

1990

Melda Townsley, Graduate Diploma in Business Studies, became director of a management consultancy firm and continues to conduct corporate training in communication skills in Fiji. As a trustee and examiner for Speech NZ (the New Zealand Speech Board) she develops syllabuses, conducts examinations throughout New Zealand and is managing marketing for the board.

1992

Karl Signal Bachelor of Arts 1992, Postgraduate Diploma in Arts 2002, Master of Educational Administration 2010 (First Class Honours), has been Deputy Principal at Inglewood High School since the beginning of 2007, and is continuing his association with Massey University by being on the National Aspiring Principals' Programme, of which Massey is the provider for Taranaki principal aspirants. He writes that he has a lovely wife and two great children: Blake, born in 2001 and Accalia born in 2004. He lives in the greatest small city, New Plymouth.

2000



Justin Flitter Bachelor of Business Information graduated with majors in marketing and communications management and soon after founded the NRG Trust Business Incubator. With the help of six trustees he raised \$100,000 to provide office space, networks and mentoring to young businesses.

In 2002 he started his own business but by 2006 he had closed down and landed a role at Student Job Search as a team leader managing the National Contact Centre. Then in early 2008 he moved to Auckland and became the head of customer service at Fishpond.co.nz. That did not last long. After six months Justin was made redundant; that was the beginning of the financial recession.

After four weeks' lying in the sun he searched through LinkedIn for

a number of companies he was interested in working for. Zendesk.com was one. Justin had trialled its helpdesk software at Fishpond. He reached out to Michael in Hong Kong and within minutes had a reply with an invitation to call him on Skype. A week later he was starting work.

Zendesk is based in San Francisco, but Justin currently works from home in Auckland. Zendesk received its third round of venture capital funding (\$19 million) in December 2010 the company was three years old and growing fast.

Justin joined Zendesk when it had just a handful of staff; now it has more than 50. While he doesn't have a work visa for the States yet, moving to the US or Canada is now a high priority to take advantage of the social media wave.

He spent 18 months on the customer advocates team providing support and was responsible for business development in Asia Pacific. Then in November 2010 he created the social media manager's position and launched into a new role with the global marketing team.

www.linkedin.com/in/justinflitter
twitter.com/justinflitter
<http://flitter.co.nz>

Peter James Brumby, class of '49, a tribute

The late 1940s and early 1950s were a special time at Massey, when ideals, contribution and purpose were focused in the minds of the student body. Dr. Peter James Brumby was one of the class of '49, of whom many went on to make outstanding contributions in agricultural science both in New Zealand and overseas. Mentored by Ian Campbell at Massey, Brumby was captivated by animal physiology and genetics, and these interests led him to Ruakura where C P McMeekan (Mac) had begun something of a revolution to establish rigorous scientific principles for improving farming practices. Mac inspired Brumby and together they published in *Nature*. Brumby's direction was set, as was his purpose. Although he grumbled to fellow students at the time about the need for undergraduate classes in economics, this early training became invaluable. After graduating with a PhD from Edinburgh University in animal genetics and reproductive physiology, Brumby spent much of his

life working for the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and the World Bank, overseeing livestock projects and development programmes in South America, Africa and Asia. His last official post was as the Director General for the International Agriculture Centre for Africa (ILCA) in Ethiopia, where he did for ILCA what McMeekan had done for Ruakura – transforming it into an international organisation respected for its leadership and research. Brumby died this year on 31 January.

In his 1949 editorial in the student magazine *BLEAT*, classmate Kevin O'Connor wrote of ideals and questioned how well Massey trained its students for their destiny. Writing recently to family, O'Connor remembered Brumby for qualities and values that we might wish for our Massey students today. These include the belief that science must be good science or it isn't worth a cent; that good science can be moved across boundaries, between disciplines, between cultures and between countries; that it is



important to respect, admire and emulate the minds of our great mentors; that we should show appreciation for the skills and abilities of those working close to us; that we must have concern for the poor and needy and work hard to bring about an effective means to feed and clothe them, and give them mana and self-worth; that we must draw friendship and inspiration from all sorts of people; and that we must express love for our families and those who support us.

Professor Peter Lockhart, April 2011



A pair of cheetahs in the woodlands of the Czech Republic

Image by P Johnson

Katherine Whitehouse-Tedd (Bell), cheetah researcher



The first cheetah I ever met was an elderly gentleman-like cat called 'Inca'. It was after a few days of volunteering at Cheetah Outreach (www.cheetah.co.za) in South Africa that I was allowed to go in and meet this magnificent ambassador cheetah. Our first meeting was a very one-sided affair, with Inca being his usual polite but nonplussed self when in the presence of yet another dumbstruck tourist, while my mind raced to compute that I was actually meeting a cheetah for the very first time; there were simply no words to match how I felt. So I just squatted down beside him, rested my hand on his chest, felt the deep reverberations, and watched his spotted fur vibrate, as he lay in the shade purring away to his heart's content. He instantly made a huge and indelible impression in my mind and heart. The following few months saw me earn Inca's trust, and eventually I was trained to become one of Inca's handlers. The day that Inca sat up from his resting area, stretched and then strolled over to where I was sitting on the other side of his enclosure, before nonchalantly draping his long, sleek body across my lap, is a day that I will never forget, and was probably the day that my career with cheetahs truly began.

That was 11 years ago.

In 2004, during my PhD studies at Massey, I was appointed Project Leader of the cub-rearing programme at Cheetah Outreach and travelled back and forth between South Africa and New Zealand, juggling my studies with the raising of 26 cubs over the course of four years. Following that, my husband and I moved to the Czech Republic where I wrote my first book (*Spot the Difference*, Nottingham University Press) while we lived with two young cheetahs that my husband was training for a client. The old adage of your dog eating your homework took on new meaning when I had to hide my laptop and papers from playful cheetahs who would've liked nothing more than to use my PhD thesis as a latrine or my computer cables as chew sticks. After surviving a very cold winter in the Czech Republic (I never thought I'd see cheetahs cavorting in the snow!), I'm now living in the United Kingdom with my husband and daughter, where my time is spent juggling my roles (in no particular order!) as an advisor on various international cheetah research projects, being a mother and a wife, publishing my own work, and fulfilling my roles as Cheetah Outreach's Research Officer and trustee to the Cheetah Outreach Trust. It makes for a busy day, but I wouldn't change it for the world.

2007

Tuluta Fisihihoi, Master of Applied Science 2007, is working as a principal in an agricultural college. He writes: "My knowledge and skills gained from Massey gave me this job. I am proud of Massey and encourage my students to come to Massey."



"We do a two-year Diploma in Agriculture here and run a dairy and piggery, poultry, crops and vegetables. I often use Massey material and still remember my lecturers, including Colin Holmes, Peter Sam, Sanifer Burke, Ian Brookes and Patrick Morel."

Fiona Whyte, Graduate Diploma in Business Studies, has been spending time volunteering in Cambodia. "I've visited there three times since I finished my graduate diploma. My first trip was in Nov 08. Then I volunteered in Nov 09 – Feb 10 teaching conversational English at a Khmer NGO called Conversations with Foreigners (CWF). (There was an article in the alumni news before I left.) The experience was amazing and incredibly rewarding. I really do love the people; they are so hungry to learn and grateful for any help."

I returned in November 2010 for three weeks. I spent time at CWF with the management staff, helping them with report writing. This involved scoping out what the operations manager needed in the report, then formulating a template or guideline for the staff to follow and finally sitting down with each staff member to walk them through it. I've written more about this on my blog: <http://fionawhyte.semisite.com/>.



I also spent time with a group of children living at the centre. The organisation is called A New Day Cambodia. I speak to the older kids about banking and budgeting and we have set up a savings bank for them to get some practical experience of saving. I took a couple of classes with them in Nov / Dec 2010 to follow up after eight months of savings experience. I also spent time with the operations staff who administer the bank for me and did an audit. Next trip? May 2011 for four weeks."

2009

Shireen Tresslor, Master of Arts 2009, has completed a postgraduate diploma in counselling, registered as a Provisional Member of the New Zealand Association of Counsellors and started her own service, 'Health Relationships Counselling Services'.

She provides counselling services for people dealing with issues around chronic and terminal illness, lifestyle change, grief and loss, anxiety and stress and relationships.

The service also offers an eight-week group programme called 'Remember – Reframing Grief'.

2011

Mariam Arif, Bachelor of Communication, writes:

"I thought it would be good to let you know about my recent achievement – I have finally published my first novel titled *Night is Falling*."

When I turned 15, I began writing a novel out of passion for human rights. This hobby soon became serious when my agent Graeme Lay (also a well known New Zealand writer) saw potential in what I was writing. Together, we worked on polishing the novel and sent it out to the major publishing companies in New Zealand. As you may know, it is very difficult and competitive to publish a book. We were rejected by the major companies in New Zealand due to the high level of competition, and my young age. That didn't put me off though.

At 17, I was accepted into the Bachelor of Communication programme at Massey straight after sixth form (discretionary entrance). During this time, I refined the novel to make it even better.

Then around a year ago, I got some interest from the United Arab Emirates about my book, from the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Education. While they processed my book, I juggled university and yet another re-write. It was extremely important to get it to the perfect standard of publishing.



And now, after a year, the book is finally published, and is to be marketed in the UAE and NZ.

It is quite amazing to finish university and get my novel published all at once. It seems that hard work really does pay off."



It is a rare thing for fashion designer Kate Sylvester to wear an off-the-peg garment, but at the April 2011 graduation ceremony held in Takapuna she did just that, donning a traditional academic gown over her chic attire to receive an honorary doctorate in fine art.

Dr Sylvester was a design student in the mid-1980s at the then Wellington Polytechnic (now Massey's College of Creative Arts), and

she was inducted into its Hall of Fame in 2008. The latest accolade is in recognition of her contribution to New Zealand's economy and to enhancing the country's creative fashion industry internationally, according to a citation read at the ceremony by Zambesi fashion designer Neville Findlay (ONZM).

In her acceptance speech, Sylvester recounted how her declaration at a high school careers evening that she wanted to be a fashion designer was greeted with the comment, "no such jobs exist in New Zealand".

But she stuck with her "ridiculous dream" of making "beautiful, unique garments" that would one day be sold all over the world, appear in *Vogue* magazines and be shown by international models. "None of these things were a reality when I started. Now, they are part of my daily life," she said.

She urged graduates to "dream preposterous dreams, be brave, be ambitious – and remember you have to work really hard". She thanked her parents for their support, as well as her

business partner and husband Wayne Conway, a graphic designer she met when they were both students.

Findlay said the journey to her global brand began when she was a teenager making most of her own garments, "adapting patterns and turning op-shop garments into something quite different from their intended use".

She learned the technical skills of pattern making and machining during a fashion design diploma in Wellington in 1985, before moving to London then Paris for three years. It was there that her creative flair flourished.

She has since grown a globally successful business – following sustainable practices – that today boasts three internationally distributed lines stocked in Europe, Britain, Australia, South East Asia and the United States. Her design team recently won the Emerging Small and Medium Business Award at the Sustainable Business Network Awards.

Kate Sylvester is one of the faces of Massey's newly launched awareness campaign.



Richard Sidey, expedition photographer and filmmaker

RICHARD SIDEY

A range of Richard's extraordinary work can be viewed at www.richardsidey.com.

Right now I'm lucky to have an internet connection to send this. I'm in the midst of the Arctic summer, spending my days and nights in eternal daylight on the archipelago of Svalbard, which lies above Norway at around 80 degrees north. I'm working on board a 6000-tonne tourist expedition vessel, the *Prince Albert II*, as official photographer. I document the voyage, landscapes, nature and wildlife we encounter on our seven- to-10 day expeditions using photographs and video, which I then edit into DVD compilations, which are sold to guests at the end of the voyages. The highlight of the Svalbard trips is sighting the 'king of the arctic', the polar bear. In the past two weeks I have been fortunate to photograph 24 of them, with a number of close encounters. Some of the bears have been with first-year cubs; others with fresh kills on the ice.



Richard Sidey graduated with a Bachelor in Visual Communication and Design in 2005. His student project, the time-lapse short film Aeon, has won several awards internationally, including 'best short film' at the Documentary New Zealand Film Festival in 2005, and his latest work, Landscapes at the World's Ends, which he describes as "a non-verbal visual journey to the polar regions of our planet portrayed through a triptych montage of photography and video", gained Special Mention at the 2011 New Zealand Documentary Edge Festival. A DVD of Landscapes at the World's Ends can be ordered from his website at NZD \$30 plus shipping.



1970s
// JOHN DRAWBRIDGE
// ARTIST



2010 // LUCY McINTOSH
// FASHION DESIGN

125 YEARS OF DEFINING ART & DESIGN

1886 – 2011

The College of Creative Arts is celebrating 125 years of art and design education, tracing its origins back to the School of Design set up by Arthur Riley in 1886.

Since then the school has been known as the Wellington Technical College and the Wellington Polytechnic. In celebration of this long tradition of defining excellence, the college is curating an exhibition that will showcase design objects and their associated narratives. These will be drawn from the vast pool of talented creatives who have either taught or studied at the School of Design over many decades. The 125th Anniversary will be celebrated with key events as below:

13 APRIL:
The Official Birthday

The birthday will launch a year of celebrations for our art and design staff, students and alumni.

5 – 19 NOVEMBER:
BLOW 2011 Creative Arts Festival

BLOW 2011 includes the Exposure Exhibition for graduating students, the Massey Fashion Show and the Hall of Fame Alumni gala dinner. Three more of our illustrious alumni will be welcomed at this prestigious event.

16 SEPTEMBER – 23 OCTOBER:
An Exhibition: 125 Years of New Zealand Design

The Great Hall Museum Building, Buckle Street, Wellington (*part of the REAL New Zealand Festival and with funding assistance from the New Zealand Lottery Grants Board*).



For further information about these events, see:
creative.massey.ac.nz

This is a very special year for us and we want to share it with all our art and design alumni, so if you were a student of art or design or a staff member at any of the institutions named below, please contact us:
creativearts.events@massey.ac.nz

Wellington Technical College: 1905 – 1961, Wellington Polytechnic School of Design: 1962 – 1998 or Massey College of Creative Arts: 1999 – today.



MASSEY UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF CREATIVE ARTS
TOI RAUWHARANGI