MASSEY

The magazine for alumni and friends of Massey University • Issue 9 • November 2000

Getting a webucation

Our men in Phnom Penh
Journalists in Cambodia

The poet who came in from the cold

The Original

Meet Massey's first woman graduate, Paddy Bassett

TAKING IT TO THE TOP
AXA's Ross McEwan

Massey University

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design | fashion | books

From the Vice-Chancellor

Over the past few months many of you will have received letters and phone calls from your university, asking for support in establishing new scholarships for future Massey students. Those calls, made by present students, have also allowed the University to renew contact with you and to say hello again.

Your response has been magnificent. Although the campaign is not yet over, the University's alumni have already pledged $700,000 to scholarship endowment funds. On behalf of the Massey students of today and tomorrow, I thank all of you who have contributed. In doing so, you have acknowledged the importance of the values and priorities that mark out Massey University. They include providing access to higher education for those who may meet barriers; offering relevant qualifications of real use to our graduates and their communities; and, above all, fostering excellence in our teaching and research.

Those qualities have also been recognised by other supporters who have contributed in different ways to enhance the University's services to students and the community. Amongst many others, they include our campaign chair, Sir Pat Goodman, dairy industry leader Earl Rattray, Don Turner from Turner and Growers and those organisations who have helped establish the Institute of Rugby, the planned all-weather athletics track at the Palmerston North campus, and the business incubator centre at the Albany campus.

Many have chosen to target their contribution to the sciences, and to agriculture in particular, recognising the value of the University's achievements in that area. Others have elected to support other Massey initiatives and activities. The Tindall Foundation, for example, has generously allowed us to extend our programme to help bright students from lower decile schools into higher education. Meanwhile Telstra Saturn is sponsoring a national tour by the University's Wellington Conservatorium of Music.

At Palmerston North, our Alumni and Friends Office has been busy in its first year of operation. Updating our database of alumni has been a priority. You now number around 52,000.

This is allowing us to create a formidable and valuable network, for the University and for you. So do make use of the 'Keep Us Posted' form enclosed with *MASSEY.*

The details you provide allow the Alumni and Friends Office to help former classmates connect with each other, and academic staff to connect with former students. We have been particularly pleased to renew contact with former international students and alumni now living overseas. The Office recently helped organise a dinner for Massey and Lincoln alumni in Melbourne and another dinner in August for alumni based in Singapore.

In New Zealand we will now be able to invite our alumni to special events at the University's three campuses and at other venues throughout the country. In particular, I hope to meet some of you early next year as we celebrate the opening of the University's new front door in Wellington, the former Dominion Museum.

Finally, I would like to pay tribute to our first woman graduate, Dr Paddy Basset, whose fascinating story is featured in this issue. She exemplifies another important Massey University value: the commitment to life-long learning.

James A. McWha

Contents

The look: MASSEY magazine was designed by Massey alumni Darren Serci and Grant Bunyan of Design Haus. Massey alumna Angela Lane produced the illustrations on pages 30 and 39.

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For current news from Massey University visit
http://masseynews.massey.ac.nz

Answering the call

The $700,000 raised by Massey's telemail fund-raising campaign is a tribute to our forward-looking alumni.

The curse of being part of the consumer society is that the world knows it. Your mailbox is crammed with offers from banks trying to sell you insurance, and from insurance companies trying to sell you banking. Every other letter describes you as a valued customer. No matter which way you turn you are harassed and importuned. Little wonder many of us take refuge in a blanket, reflexive "No".

Then there's the famously diffident New Zealand national character. "Ask someone for money? I could never do that."

So the success of Massey's recent telephone fund-raising campaign for a scholarship endowment fund may surprise — and delight — you. In 12 weeks of calling, a team of students raised $700,000 in pledges.

The scholarship endowment fund has a target of $2 million. Once established, the fund will endow in perpetuity both undergraduate and postgraduate scholarships: undergraduate scholarships to help students who face financial difficulties to nonetheless complete a university degree; postgraduate scholarships to help Massey build on its status as a leading research university. It is, as campaign chair Sir Patrick Goodman pointed out in the letter sent in advance of the telephone call, a worthy cause.

Most other New Zealand universities have already undertaken telephone fund-raising campaigns.

Help us reach $2,000,000

You can help support the high achievers of today and tomorrow by contributing to the Scholarship Endowment Fund.

Donations can be sent to:

Massey University Scholarship Endowment Fund
Development Office
Old Registry Building
Private Bag 11 222
Palmerston North
New Zealand

You can contact the Appeal Director by calling 0800 MASSEY.

Massey on the line

One evening in September MASSEY dropped by the fund-raising team...

"Be passionate about it," Chris Reddell exhorts his students in the lead-in to another evening at the phones, "Massey is a wonderful place to be. Have fun. Be confident. Be polite and respectful. Above all have fun."

Chris, this evening's impresario (a role he shares with fellow campaign co-ordinator Lauren Maser), is corralled in a semicircle of desks set about with phones and stacks of blank forms. At each phone is a student — 18 of them tonight. At the head of the semicircle is the outline of a fund-raising thermometer on a small white board.

Today — a Monday — the ante is again being upped: "Last week we collected $78,500, this week I want us to go to $85,000." Chris is big on goal setting, whether collective or individual, but the goals must be realistic and achievable.

Then it begins. There's a gentle murmur of competing conversations, and the occasional banter among the students. Ten minutes on, and the first $1,000 is inked onto the whiteboard thermometer, which on this evening will peak at $19,000. "I could have had that first $1,000," mutters one student theatrically.

After a slowish start, the students are bettering the industry-standard response rate of 10 percent and occasionally breaking 14 percent. And they *are* having fun. (When the campaign began, the call-out was done with each student before a computer screen and tapping in the data as they went. The experience was lonely and dispiriting, and the results disappointing.)

Who are the pledge getters? Partly it's the luck of the draw, partly it's the ability to establish a personal connection. Women, on average, do slightly better as fund-raisers than men. "There's no machismo getting in the way," says Lauren Maser.

"Many people are very pleased to be able to talk with a student from their old university," says Lauren.

For the students, too, there are benefits beyond the wage they are paid. Asking for money is no easy thing so mastering this becomes a life skill. "If you can do this, you will be able to ask for anything you want in your life," says Lauren.

From front: Teresa Joe, Peter Fraser, Steven Youngblood, Sheree Green, Nicola Gawler

The road less travelled

TRAVEL CRISIS CONSULTANT

Name: Warren Burton

Qualification: Dip Dairy Tech

Warren Burton has spent the last 24 years out of New Zealand travelling and guiding people to some of the remotest countries on earth. Here he talks to our London correspondent, fellow alumnus Peter Coleman, about a planned two-year adventure that has never really ended.

There is a breed of traveller who travels with guide-book in hand, accommodation booked, and timetable tight, finickily ticking off the must-sees. This kind of micro-managed, risk-free experience is not for the Warren Burtons of this world.

Not that Warren Burton courts risk, but he expects to meet — and overcome — occasional glitches and discomforts. Travel, after all, derives from the word travail. That way you end up with a superior kind of adventure — and certainly a better class of anecdote.

Burton went through Massey University between 1972 and 1975 doing the industry-sponsored Diploma in Dairy Technology. The dairy industry would be where he would make his career (so he thought), but first there had to be the New Zealander's rite of passage: 'the big OE'. Two years would do it, he thought. At which point he should, according to convention, have winged his way to Heathrow.

But he yearned to see India, Pakistan, Afghanistan... Places that had seemed impossibly exotic during the years he spent growing up on a Thames Valley dairy farm. So when he eventually did reach England it was after travelling through Asia at a time when few attempted such a trip and tourism was still virtually unheard of in many of the countries he set foot in.

By the time he arrived in England he had begun to realise that the world was much bigger than he had ever dreamed. Burton began to pour petrol by day and beer by night in Surrey, spending everything he earned on travel.

There was time spent on a kibbutz in Israel (it was meant to last six weeks — he stayed five months). He never really got paid as such, but the more time he worked, the more time he got off, which meant he could hitch around Cyprus, Greece and Italy. Friends he had met convinced him to go to Switzerland, where he experienced central European farming life — with the livestock tucked up neatly indoors below where he slept. He travelled through the US, hitchhiking from New York to San Francisco, and from Miami to Alaska, with his only navigational aid a cheap road map he had picked up somewhere on the way.

"The more I wandered, the more I wanted to. After two years I had realised that in two years you can barely scratch the surface. I desperately wanted to keep travelling and see Africa, South America and return to Asia."

Working for a company called Viking — which operated a Contiki-style coach service — Burton spent time guiding and bus driving. Thus armed, he walked into the Encounter company office and confidently told them he wanted to go to Africa. He would spend the next six years as a driver/expedition leader, taking groups of around 20 in converted ex-army trucks through Africa, Asia and, near the end of this period, South America.

He entered Rhodesia just as it became Zimbabwe. He led one of the first overland groups into Uganda after the end of the era of Idi Amin's atrocities. He saw mountain gorillas, and helped set up the support project around them.

"Africa captivated me. It was a massive continent and everything I saw was new... Everywhere we would go kids would scream with excitement. As long as I live I'll never forget the beaming smile of those Africans.

"You can come face to face with a bull elephant about to charge, and of course that is exciting and there is adrenaline, but it can't be compared to the friendship of those people."

He took an expedition right around Africa through central Sahara, across the Congo into east Africa, attempting to go through war-torn Ethiopia during a lull in the conflict, but ending up having to go directly up through the Sudan instead. It was an overland journey never considered before.

They had to rely on their own resources, even taking their own fuel. There was very little infrastructure, no communication and poor roads. They used what tracks they could find and literally drove along railway lines as they found their way through.

"We linked up with another company's truck and began working together. They were our competitors but we decided we were stronger doing it together than apart."

In 1986 Burton came off the road to become Encounter's operations manager and trouble shooter: "I'd got a huge amount out of the travel I had done as a group leader. Now I wanted to give others the opportunity I first had travelling overland."

In 1995 the company changed ownership and he along with eight other company insiders decided to become part owners. He got into product marketing, developing brochures, and became a driving force in the development of new products. Challenging enough, you would have thought, but for Burton it was getting perilously close to the same old, same old.

So earlier this year Burton became European General Manager of a new company called Docleaf, dedicated to providing crisis management to the travel industry. While airlines and industries like oil and manufacturing have had crisis management services offered to them for a while, this is a first for the travel industry.

"It is a challenge to get people to accept and prepare for something they ultimately hope won't ever happen. But it is like when I was preparing road crews with Encounter. I would tell them that sooner or later they would probably get something wrong. It is then you are judged — at how good you are at putting it right."

Road rules

Warren's rules for a successful trip:

- Go where your first hunch takes you.
- Go with a bit of foresight — but not too much.
- If you can afford the time, money is no barrier.
- Don't plan it too much. Everyday you can change your plan.

"As far as I'm concerned that is the way to travel. If you've got it all mapped out in front of you, you are probably going to miss half of what's there."

Looking for a ticket to ride?

If you're at a loose end, have people skills and a sense of adventure, then maybe, just maybe, you should consider becoming an expedition leader. The travel industry is having trouble finding good people, says Warren Burton. While companies like Encounter once looked no further than Britain to recruit leaders, they are now casting the net wider.

The biggest credential is people skills: "They can teach you to drive, and teach you about mechanics, but they can't teach you people skills," says Burton. And don't be deterred by the difficulty of getting a British work permit. Because so much of an expedition leader's time is spent overseas in the field, you are unlikely to need one.

"I'd say to people out there aged roughly between 24 and 38 who are prepared to commit three years, that it would be the time of their life," says Burton. "If you've driven a tractor across a Hawke's Bay farm, imagine it's a truck across the Sahara Desert."

Massey & The Marsdens

Some of Massey's successful Marsden applicants.

In this year's Marsden funding round, Massey researchers were cumulatively granted an unprecedented $4.775 million over the next three years. This is the largest allocation to any New Zealand university, and is an extraordinay endorsement of Massey's strength in fundamental research. To cap it off, Professor David Penny of the Institute of Molecular Biosciences was awarded the Marsden Medal, the most prestigious of New Zealand's science awards.

★ *$219,000 over three years* **Symmetry Breaking as a Key to Hadron Structure** Principal investigator Dr Tony Signal and associate investigators Dr F G Cao and Professor A W Thomas (Adelaide University) will investigate the complex structure of hadronic particles — the particles that make up most of the matter in the universe. ★ *$375,000 across three years* **Hydroxyproline: Molecular Hinge and Fine-Tuning Device** Dr Carol Taylor will use organic synthesis to look at phenomena involving amino acids called hydroxylated prolines. Hydroxylated prolines are found in two structural proteins: the mussel adhesive proteins and the collagens. Dr Taylor's research may have implications for biomedical adhesives, antifouling technology and treatments for collagen-related diseases. ★ *$484,000 across three years* **Group Nine High Oxidation State Transition Metal Chemistry** Professor Tony Burrell will investigate the high-oxidation state chemistry of the group 9 transition metals. His work may have implications for catalytic processes and the chemical industry. ★ *$148,000 over two years* **Approaches to Intelligent Material Design** Principal Investigator: Associate Professor David Officer. Associate Investigators: Professor Tony Burrell, Dr Simon Hall, Professor L Kane-Maguire (Univ of Wollongong), Professor G Wallace (Univ of Wollongong). Materials will be synthesised with properties that are controlled by light. Among other applications, these materials may be useful for making electrically conductive plastics, nanoactuators, optical storage and switching devices. ★ *$498,000 across three years* **Enzymes: New Tools for Organic Synthesis** Principal Investigator: Dr Emily Parker. Associate Investigators: Associate Professor Geoff Jameson, Dr Gillian Norris, Dr Mark Patchett. This project will investigate how one particular enzyme works. What is learned will then be applied to 'design' novel enzymes that can catalyse other useful processes. ★ *$459,000 over three years* **Gene Clusters as Functionally Discrete Compartments of Eukaryotic Genomes** Principal Investigator: Professor Barry Scott (IMBS). Associate Investigators: Associate Professor Geoff Jameson, Ms Carolyn Young, Dr Emily Parker, Dr Bryan Anderson. Indole diterpenes are natural compounds which, when ingested, affect neurotransmitter release in the brain. This makes them of pharmacological interest. Lolitrem, which causes rye-grass staggers in animals, is one such compound. The Massey group — the first researchers to clone a set of genes involved in the biosynthesis of indole diterpenes — has identified a cluster of 17 genes required for the synthesis of a compound called paxilline, produced by fungi of the genus *Penicillium*. The current Marsden funding will help unravel the biochemical function of this cluster of genes. ★ *$540,000 across three years* **Nuclear Magnetic Resonance of Complex Fluids and Elastomers Under Shear and Extension** Professor P T Callaghan will investigate the links between the structure and organisation of molecules and their mechanical properties. Complex liquid and soft solids — a group that includes liquid crystals, polymers and ordered elastomers — are a particular focus. The work will use magnetic resonance to probe the molecular properties of a material while it is being deformed. ★ *$641,000 over three years* **Bcl-2 Homologues: A Biochemical Study** In collaboration with a number of scientists in Melbourne, Dr Catherine Day will investigate the molecular structures and interactions of the Bcl-2 family of proteins. These proteins have important roles in the process of physiological cell death, or apoptosis. A disruption of apoptosis can cause disease. ★ *$384,000 over three years* **Fungal Infection Structures: Control of the Transcriptional Programme** Professor Pat Sullivan and Dr Peter Farley in collaboration with Dr Templeton and Dr Plummer of Hort Research, Auckland. Plant fungal pathogens often enter plants by means of a specialised infection structure; the same structure used by some of the fungi that infect insects. Little is known of the proteins that regulate gene expression during formation of the infection structure. This research will identify and characterise one of these proteins. ★ *$508,000 over three years* **Stretching the Limits of Molecular Phylogeny** Principal investigators: Professor David Penny and Michael Hendy. Many of today's evolutionary models make a simple assumption that the sites in DNA (or proteins) always evolve at the same rate. But the assumption is over-simplistic, so dating older divergences (those taking place beyond around 500 million years ago) is difficult. Professor David Penny and Michael Hendy's work will combine fundamental biological and biochemical knowledge with mathematical models and computing. By using more biochemical information, especially from 3-D structures, it may be possible to accurately date evolutionary trees back 1000 million years or beyond. ★ *$369,000 over three years* **Understanding Patterns of Local Extinction** Dr Doug Armstrong will look at populations of New Zealand robins, a patchily distributed native bird, to develop a generalised model or how to predict — and prevent — extinctions. The research will combine broad distributional surveys with intensive work on sample populations, followed by simulation modelling to predict future patterns of extinction. ★ *$150,000 over three years* **Mechanisms of Periodic Intercellular Calcium Waves** Associate Professor James Sneyd will study the processes that trigger the cells of the pancreas to produce digestive enzymes, and, in particular, the little-understood calcium waves that travel from cell to cell to control a range of cellular processes. He plans to construct a mathematical model that will mimic these mechanisms.

If you have ever tried to construct your own family tree, you might like to think of Professor David Penny as life's own genealogist.

Marsden Medal winner Professor David Penny

By using DNA sequencing and other sophisticated molecular methods, he and mathematician Professor Michael Hendy (also of Massey) can map a species' or population's ancestoral tree back through twig, limb and stem with almost uncanny accuracy.

Until recent times evolution could be tracked only by making assumptions about the characteristics species shared in common and by referring to the fossil record. Now techniques developed at Massey are allowing many elusive biological questions to be answered.

Was the arrival of Maori in New Zealand the result of purposeful migration, or a chance landing by a lost canoe? Professor Penny's research suggests that Maori migration to New Zealand included 50 to 100 females — a finding consistent with the Maori oral tradition of a planned migration.

What is the relationship between man and other primates? Professor Penny has worked on our evolutionary tree — and in doing so has become a strong advocate for recognition of the intellectual status of the great apes.

By the close of this year Professor Penny expects to have mapped out the mammalian family tree.

However, such matters pall alongside Professor Penny's quest to find the organism close to the rootstock of life itself: the earliest possible eukaryote — an organism with a true nucleus, just like ourselves or plants and fungi. "That will tell us something about 'Luca', the organism that is the last universal complete ancestor," says Professor Penny.

His new Marsden grant, *Stretching the Limits of Molecular Phylogeny,* will help. "After you go back a certain distance, say 100 million years, you start to lose some of the signal. What we are trying to do is to use three-dimensional protein structure as well as just the sequencing to go further back in time with greater accuracy."

Most of Professor Penny's work to date has involved 200 to 1000 million years of evolutionary history. Tracing back to prototypical life forms will mean pushing the clock back 3.5 billion years.

Professor Penny's first papers on evolution appeared in 1974. He is a past President of the Society for Molecular Biology and Evolution and past President of the New Zealand Association of Scientists.

The Marsden Fund

Administered by the Royal Society of New Zealand, the Marsden Fund supports state–of–the–art fundamental research. 73 new research projects won Marsden funding in 2000, worth $9.481 million. The money is this year's share of a $25.8 million commitment of Government funding to the Marsden Fund — a $3 million increase on the previous year. Each successful project receives funding for two or three years.

Directions

Repositioning

A new chair in Maori Education and boosts to business teaching and distance delivery are amongst new initiatives that will flow from the University's recent repositioning project.

The project, which started in March this year, will realign resources from study areas with declining student numbers into programmes in which there is increasing interest. Research capacity and the overall balance of the University's academic offerings have also been important project criteria.

As this issue of *MASSEY* went to press, the University was about to announce specific new initiatives as part of the reinvestment that is possible as a result of the cost savings made during the project.

Very few of the University's more than 3,600 papers will be dropped and students have been promised "a path to completion" where their study plans are affected by the changes. Although the first proposals made during the project could have seen the loss of more than 100 positions, there are now expected to be fewer 30 redundancies. The reduction has been achieved by a mix of employment options, including early retirement, part-time work, voluntary redundancies and natural attrition. The Vice-Chancellor Professor James McWha says the loss of any jobs is sad news. However he has also congratulated the College Pro Vice-Chancellors and their staff on using the consultation period to find creative alternatives for affected staff. "Everybody in the University community will be relieved that the number of compulsory redundancies will be fewer than originally proposed, while still allowing the University to reach its savings and reinvestment targets over the next 12 months."

Country Road winner

School of Design textiles lecturer Therese Hollingsworth has won the 'most outstanding' entry in the textiles category of the Country Road Homewear Design Awards held in Melbourne. Her work 'felted', a hand-stitched design in wool felt, has scored her a trip Europe and $A4000 cash.

Textiles entrants were asked to create something with a hand-made look — catering for the trend towards individual and personal. The two other categories were furniture and tabletop.

The Australian Woolmark organisation has expressed interest in Therese's winning entry, but Therese's fondest hope is that her win will awaken domestic interest in New Zealand's host of talented designers.

Division on social issues

New Zealanders are divided about the causes of social inequality and what should be done about it, according to the results of a recent survey. The survey also reveals how we feel about big earners and the unemployed and highlights the gulf between young and old on the issues of taxation and government spending.

The survey is part of the Cologne-based International Social Survey Programme, which involves leading academic institutions in 32 countries in annual surveys of economic and social policy issues. New Zealand is represented by Massey University, and the programme leader is Professor Phil Gendall, head of the University's Department of Marketing.

The New Zealand survey shows ambivalence about the causes and consequences of inequality and how, or even if, they should be mitigated. However, most New Zealanders believe income differences in our country are too large and should be altered by a more progressive tax system that reduces the tax burden on low-income and middle-income earners and increases it on high-income earners.

However, there is also a strong belief that effort, competence, skills and responsibility should be reflected in how much people earn. New Zealanders are divided on whether the government should reduce taxes, even if this means spending less on social services, or spending more on social services, even if this means higher taxes. Nevertheless, there is widespread support for increased government spending on health services, education, job training and assistance for the unemployed, and pensions. Most New Zealanders would prefer a more egalitarian society, but although there is strong support for many elements of the welfare system, there is growing concern about its effects on self-reliance and the willingness of people to help each other.

Other key points:

- Most respondents (75%) agree that income differences in New Zealand are too large. Lower income earners are seen as underpaid and higher earners as overpaid.
- Most New Zealanders favour a progressive tax system; 60% think higher earners should pay more tax and 70% think taxes on lower income earners are too high. However, 50% think tax on middle income earners is about right.
- Respondents believe those in élite occupations deserve about three times as much as ordinary workers, but respondents believe they actually earn more than six times as much.
- Respondents believe unskilled factory and shop workers earn about $20,000 but deserve $25,000, while company chairmen earn about $200,000 but deserve $100,000, and cabinet ministers are seen as earning $120,000, when they only deserve $80,000.
- New Zealanders are divided on whether the government should reduce taxes or spend more on social services; 45% believe it should spend more, 40% believe it should reduce taxes.
- Those most strongly in favour of lower taxes are under 40. Those most in favour of more spending on social services, even with higher taxes, are over 60.
- Areas favoured for more government spending are health services (90% in favour), education (80%), job training and pensions (60%).
- Areas favoured for reduced spending include special assistance for Maori and Pacific Islanders (55%), sporting events like the Commonwealth Games (50%), and defence (45%).
- The nationwide mail survey was conducted among 2,100 people, randomly selected from the Electoral Roll, between June and August 1999. The response rate was 61% and the margin of error is 3%.

Support from ASB Bank Community Trust

The ASB Bank Community Trust has donated $310,000 towards three Albany campus-based projects: $50,000 goes to the Albany Recreation Centre for the purchase of new equipment (once the extension of the Centre has been completed early next year); $50,000 to extend the Early Childhood Centre from a 25-child to a 40-child facility; and $210,000 to the Performing Arts Centre, which will be home to a 250-seat professional standard theatre in the new Atrium complex. The complex, which should be completed in November this year, will house the School of Humanities and Social Sciences.

Directions

Controlling flystrike

A breakthrough by Dr Max Scott of the Institute of Molecular BioSciences and post-doctoral researcher Dr Jörg Heinrich may eventually help solve the New Zealand sheep industry's $40 million flystrike problem. The breakthrough is a reliable method of killing female fruit flies (*Drosophila*) in the laboratory. So what has this to do with blowflies?

One way of controlling fly populations is sterile insect technique (SIT). Huge numbers of sterile males are released into the wild where they mate with female flies. No viable offspring result. SIT has been used to eradicate screwworm fly from North and Central America, melon fly from the Okinawa islands and Queensland fruit fly from Western Australia.

The technique is far more effective if only males are released — the wild females then receive the sterile males' undivided attentions — and this is where the new technique could come in handy.

The technique uses fruit flies that have been genetically modified to allow a normal cell death gene to be turned on by a tetracycline-sensitive protein called tTA. The flies have been engineered so that tTA is made only in female fat tissue. When flies like these are raised on a rich diet, the females die. To have the females survive, just add a small amount of tetracycline to their diet.

Although the well-understood genetics of *Drosophila* make the species easy to work with, there is no reason why th e technique should not be applied to other insects — such as the much-detested "blowie".

An alternative to SIT may be to release fertile males that carry the modified genes. They may reproduce, but their daughters will die. In fact some models suggest that a fertile male release could be more effective than SIT.

The research has been funded by WoolPRO.

Breathing easy

An exclusive licence for a computer program that will help test potential asthma treatment drugs has been sold to an American software development company by Institute of Fundamental Sciences Associate Professor Rod Lambert.

The programme calculates the mechanical and geometrical properties of the bronchial tree during a common test of lung function, the so-called FEV1 test (Forced Expiratory Volume in 1 second). During the test you are asked to breathe in until you are unable to breathe in any more. You must then blow out as hard as you can into a measuring device. How much air you expel in the first second is a measure of the state of your lungs.

A Californian corporation, Entelos Inc, has combined Associate Professor Rod Lambert's software with a number of other computer models to create a tool called Asthma Physiolab. This simulates chronic disease conditions, allowing drug companies to computer-model the response of the bronchial system to new drug treatments rather than testing the drugs on animals.

Lambert began modelling the bronchial system over 20 years ago (partly spurred by the thought of his son, an asthma sufferer until the age of 15). "Up until 1977 I only had printed output, nothing was saved on the computers. Something that took 15 minutes computation back then, today takes me two seconds on my laptop."

He plans refinements. "It would be interesting to be able to tell people something about their airways, such as how narrow their trachea is. That looks as if it's possible but it's a long way away."

New Technology Developments Manager Dr Josephine Serrallach helped negotiate the licensing agreement with Entelos.

$660,000 in research contracts for Institute

The burgeoning economies in Europe and the United States are fuelling a mini-boom in research for the Institute of Food, Nutrition and Human Health. Among the offshore work the Institute has entered into is a $160,000 contract for research into how plant compounds bind essential nutrients, and a $500,000 contract for the mathematical modelling of nutrient metabolism.

Gib sorters

Every year thousands of tonnes of plasterboard is dumped into New Zealand's landfills. Just how much is unknown. What is known is that in 1997 building construction and demolition waste made up 17 percent of the 3.2 million tonnes of rubbish dumped in landfills.

And plasterboard is not as inoffensive a landfill ingredient as you might think. That chalky filler is not chalk, but gypsum — calcium sulphate to give it its chemical name. In your walls, gypsum is inert and harmless, but bury it in a damp landfill and you get the environmental villain hydrogen sulfide gas.

Overseas, plasterboard is recycled. Now New Zealand plasterboard manufacturer Winstones Wallboards is looking at practices to reduce waste and disposal costs to the building industry and the greater community. But before being able to recycle, Winstones needs to know how much waste plasterboard is out there and how much can be recycled. This is where the Institute of Technology and Engineering is helping out.

Kitted out in stout boots and fluoro safety jackets, lecturers Andy Shilton and Volker Schwarz and students Amie Palatchie and Brigitte Kemper have visited transfer stations in Christchurch, Palmerston North and Auckland, separating tonnes of plaster board into categories — new off-cuts, old stuff ripped out of buildings, different sizes, board contaminated with dirt, board coated with paint or wallpaper — and weighing each.

Their findings will provide the baseline data for Winstones' recycling programme.

Communication and Journalism launch

The University's newly formed Department of Communication and Journalism will be led by media commentator Professor Judy McGregor, a former lawyer and newspaper editor. The department, based at the Wellington campus, brings journalism and communications programmes together under one umbrella.

Courses will be offered at Wellington, Palmerston North and extramurally. Students can study within a range of academic programmes, including the BBS and BBI degrees; masterate studies in Management and Business Information; or Business Studies, including the Diploma in Business Studies. The Diploma in Journalism will continue.

Papers range from business communication and writing, through to managing communication technology, interpersonal communication and management communication. Cross-cultural studies and public relations are other key components, and Internet journalism is covered. The department also has has research strengths. Contract research on media issues — such as the legality of cameras in Courts — has already been conducted for government departments.

Just wild about Harry

Adults who have been sneaking their children's copies of the latest Harry Potter will be pleased to learn that the work now has the imprimatur of being the subject of academic study.

Writing for Children, a 200 level English and Media Studies paper, will be on offer next year, covering the works of four authors: two international (J.K. Rowling and Roald Dahl) and two local (Margaret Mahy and Joy Cowley).

Course instigator, senior tutor Deborah Laurs, says the course will explore what it is that makes for a timeless classic, as well helping students to try their hand at writing for children. The course will be limited to an intake of 30 students and will require either 139:106 (Writing Theory and Practice) or 139:123 (Creative Writing) as a prerequisite.

Adventure learning winner

Business studies lecturer Alvin Ng's research paper 'Adventure Learning: Collectivism and Consequent Impact', was awarded the "best paper" in the management development category of the prestigious US Academy of Management's international conference held in Toronto, Canada. The conference is normally attended by about 4,000 business and management academics.

"Adventure learning (AL) is not new, especially for outward bound schools, but bringing it into the business environment as a change process application is new in many organisations," says Dr Ng.

AL employs outdoor physical activities to helps its participants explore how they work with one another. It helps build openness and trust and an ethos that helps achieve organisational goals. Dr Ng studied 350 people who had been through AL learning programmes in Singapore. Dr Ng was "exhilarated and thrilled" at receiving the award.

Personal chair in Chemistry

Professor Joyce Waters, a pioneer in work on molecular structure using X-ray crystallography, has been awarded a personal chair in chemistry at Massey.

Professor Waters graduated with a PhD in chemistry from Auckland University in 1960. In 1983 she began working for Massey's Institute of Fundamental Sciences, and in 1996 she shifted from the Palmerston North to the Albany campus.

Science was an unusual career choice for a woman in late '50s New Zealand, but Professor Waters has never regretted her decision. She urges women to study sciences, judging it "immensely rewarding". Her plea is that the fundamental sciences receive the funding they deserve: "Other countries — the United States and Britain — are beginning to realise how important fundamental sciences are, so governments are increasing funding. I sincerely hope this will happen in New Zealand."

New Health Science degree

Available from 2001, the Bachelor of Health Science brings together a range of existing science, social science and health papers.

Four majors will be offered at first: Maori Health, Rehabilitation, Environmental Health and Environmental Risk Management.

Maori Health and Rehabilitation will be offered out of Palmerston North and extramurally. Environmental Health and Environmental Risk Management will be available on the Wellington campus. Both campuses offer the option of completing the degree without a major .

The Wellington majors are likely to lead to health-related jobs in food safety, quality assurance, waste management, air and water quality, health policy and public health.

Keep that noise down

Many toys on the market could prove damaging to sensitive little ears, says senior lecturer in environmental health Stuart McLaren.

A widely available 'clacker' toy for toddlers produces more than 112dB at distances of less than half a metre. Expose yourself — or your child — to 30 seconds of this noise intensity and you will have breached the limit set for an industrial site over an eight-hour day.

The loudest toys are toy ghetto blasters, toy musical instruments, cap pistols, whistles, clackers, clickers, toy cell phones and some train sets, while the sharp, impact sounds made by some toys are potentially the most hazardous. Babies and toddlers — who lack the instinct or ability to pull away from a painful sound — are most at risk.

Do consumer protection remedies apply? Well, yes, clauses in the Health, Fair Trading and Consumers Guarantees legislation apply if it can be established that toys are causing risk or injury to users. A New Zealand Toy Standard does specify tests and standards, but the standards are not mandatory, and are not intended to cover toys held close to the ear, such as toy telephones.

Environmental Health student Phil Hunter is conducting a study on a range of randomly selected toys to determine the extent of noisy and dangerous toys on the market. His findings should be available by the end of the year.

Massey's Environmental Health programme is one of the few in New Zealand to offer comprehensive training at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels in noise measurement, assessment and resultant health effects.

Directions

Breath-by-breath analysis

A new state-of-the-art $100,000 respiratory gasmass spectrometer is giving Massey researchers immediate breath-by-breath analysis of oxygen consumption and metabolic rates. Dr Rodger Pack from the Institute of Food, Nutrition and Human Health says the machine, with its accompanying $35,000 of exercise equipment, opens up new research possibilities in human physiology for the University.

"The fast processing speed of the machine and the fact it offers breath-by-breath analysis is a big improvement on older methods, where you had to wait for some minutes for results," Dr Pack says.

The mass spectrometer is now housed in a temporary laboratory at the Palmerston North campus. Eventually, it will form the basis of the University's new respiratory gas analysis facility, which will be part of the new Human Physiology Laboratory now under development.

Chair in Maori Education

A chair in Māori Education is to be established — an important step forward for Māori education at the university, says educator Arohia Durie.

The chair, appointed by the College of Education's Te Uru Maraurau (Department of Māori and Multicultural education), will cover all three campuses, starting in 2001.

The Department already offers a full range of programmes, including two foundation-level programmes; a Te Aho Tatai-Rangi degree for teachers in total immersion schools, taught entirely in te reo; three compulsory Māori education papers taught to all mainstream education students at undergraduate level; post-graduate endorsement in Māori education at master's level and a specialisation in Māori Education in the new Professional Doctorate (EdD) degree.

Vet School expansion

If approval is forthcoming from the American Veterinary Medical Association — as seems likely — and with the University Council approving the admission of an additional 24 full-fee paying international (and possibly New Zealand) students, then eventually Massey's veterinary teaching programme could earn the University between $4 million and $5 million annually.

The programme now accepts 72 new students each year. These students' fees are subsidised by the Government. Under the proposal, full-fee paying students would enter the programme from mid-2002.

In August a deputation from the American Veterinary Medical Association's Council of Veterinary Education visited and reviewed the programme; their leader described it as the best-kept secret of the international veterinary profession.

The Veterinary Teaching Hospital facilities were the one area where the AVMA suggested improvements. It is expected that already planned improvements — including a $700,000 upgrade of the small animal hospital and the new wildlife ward — will satisfy the AVMA requirements.

If Massey gains approval, it will join an élite group of 31 veterinary schools worldwide, 28 of which are in North America. Massey would be the only university in the Southern Hemisphere to have AVMA approval. The New Zealand veterinary science degree would then be recognised in America.

Over the BVSc's five-year period, the extra 24 full-fee places in each year of the course would lead to 120 new fee-paying students at the Palmerston North campus, and very likely more pre-vet students.

Professor Grant Guilford, head of the Institute of Veterinary, Animal and Biological Sciences, stresses that there is no intention to relax the academic requirements to enter veterinary science for full-fee paying students.

Professor Guilford says the expansion will be excellent news for everyone involved in the veterinary school — students and staff.

Raise the banners high

Palmerston North is now decked out in Massey regalia. Blue and white banners line Fitzherbert Avenue. The banners come in three forms: one traditional, one festive and the third more casual. The idea of the banners was put forward by Dr Pat Sandbrook, Director of National Student Relations, then picked and partly funded by the City Council's *City Alive!* team.

Massey VC to chair NZVCC

Massey's Vice-Chancellor, Professor James McWha, will chair the New Zealand Vice-Chancellors' Committee for the next two years. This year Professor McWha has been deputy chair, with the Vice–Chancellor of the University of Otago, Professor Graeme Fogelberg, as chair for his second year. The positions are taken in sequence by the various vice-chancellors of New Zealand universities.

Discrimination against older workers

New Zealand's future is grey – or greying. It is estimated that in 2020 there will be 616,000 householders aged 45 to 64 years – a 59% increase on 1996.

How will this affect us? Evidently we will be more reliant on older workers, but this should not be too great a concern. Better health care and continuing access to training will, after all, keep us highly productive until late in life.

Well, maybe. But, if so, attitudes will need to change, when currently around one in ten workers (11.6%) over the age of 55 believes they have been discriminated against on the grounds of age, and the leading form of discrimination is in access to training opportunities.

This is one of the findings of a survey of the employment of older workers carried out by Massey researchers, including Professor Judy McGregor. The survey covered members of the Engineering, Printing and Manufacturing Union aged 55 and over. The report summarises an analysis of the 2137 valid responses.

Discrimination on the grounds of age was followed by discrimination in matters of promotion, and within the workplace culture. Slightly more women than men reported discrimination (13.6% versus 10.7%).

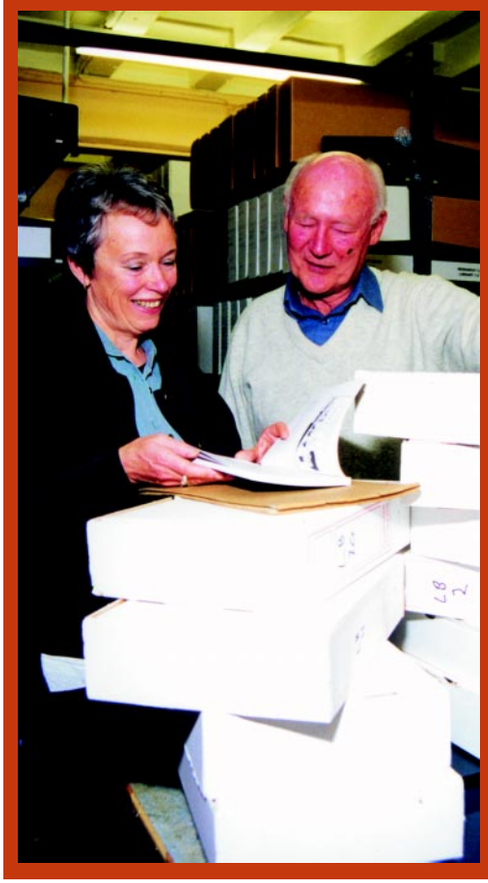
If this is the case, then why are there not more complaints to the Human Rights Commission? The Commission's own analysis of the July to June period between 1998 and 1999 shows just 37 individual complaints on the grounds of age.

The report speculates that this may be because workers are unaware that on-the-job discrimination can be grounds for complaint. Or it may be that the level of disadvantage — such as not being selected or allowed to attend computer training — is seen as too trivial to warrant a formal complaint. Or that workers feel vulnerable to retaliation if they complain. Some workplace cultures may encourage the notion that this is 'just the way things are'.

Older women may face the 'double jeopardy' of age and sex discrimination in the workplace. In the survey 18.6% of respondents felt that the job performance of men in manual jobs declined by the age of 54, while 31.3% of respondents thought that this was the case for women in manual jobs. A similar skew, though much less pronounced, also appears for the perceived age of job performance decline for men and women in professional occupations — though the age at which a performance decline is expected is later.

The study notes that while the survey respondents' views are out of step with scientific studies on age and job performance, they are still capable of undermining strategies for investing in older workers in general. For women, who generally live longer than men and so will have to work longer for financial security, the stereotype view that their job performance deteriorates sooner could have serious consequences.

Lauris Edmond and Len Bayliss collections arrive



Contributions from the late poet Lauris Edmond and economist Len Bayliss have enriched the University's Archives and Library.

Mr Bayliss (seen here presenting the papers to University Archivist Lucy Marsden) has donated 21 cartons of papers to the Archives, providing an insider's perspective of 40 years of economic policy. They cover a long career, working within or advising the Reserve Bank, The Treasury, the Bank of England and the Bank of New Zealand, through the sixties, seventies and eighties. In particular, cartons 3 to 10 cover a controversial period when Mr Bayliss was Chief Economist for the Bank of New Zealand, with a secondment to then Prime Minister Robert Muldoon's Think Tank in 1975. There are also papers prepared for Roger Douglas before he became Minister of Finance in the last Labour government.

Len Bayliss says he chose Massey as guardian of the papers after discussions with Banking Professor Chris Moore, and he appreciates the University's strong research focus. As a resident of Te Horo, near Otaki, he also regards the Palmerston North campus as his "local".

The University Library has received a collection of books as a bequest from the estate of poet Lauris Edmond. Lauris Edmond held an honorary doctorate from Massey, and Chancellor Morva Croxson describes her as a well-respected and loved person among University staff. Librarian Helen Renwick estimates the bequest represents about 50 metres of books.

Professor Stuart McCutcheon becomes Victoria's Vice-Chancellor

Massey Deputy Vice-Chancellor and alumnus Professor Stuart McCutcheon recently took up his new position as Vice-Chancellor of Victoria University. Professor McCutcheon says he has feelings of sadness and regret at leaving Massey, but looks forward to the challenge of the Victoria position. "I've been with Massey University for a very long period of time, as both a student and staff member. I've made some marvellous friendships, with people I hold in very high regard. Not being able to continue to work with those people is obviously the downside of the new appointment." Massey's Vice-Chancellor Professor James McWha says he hopes the appointment will lead to closer cooperation between the two universities.

Tindall Foundation backs scholarships

The Tindall Foundation has donated $90,000 to fund the University's unique Vice-Chancellor's Awards for students who would otherwise not have access to a university education.This matches the $90,000 already committed to the scheme and will double the number of pupils able to be supported.

"This is the kind of contribution from the business community that not only assists individuals, but also builds capacity for the future and fosters a critical, shared agenda for business and the University," says College of Education Pro Vice-Chancellor Professor Luanna Meyer.

The awards have been made in a pilot programme involving Massey University, Aotea College in Porirua, Hasting's Flaxmere College and Lytton High School in Gisborne. Teachers have selected students now in the fifth and sixth forms, who have the academic and personal qualities required for university study, but who, for financial or family reasons, may not get to go. These students are being mentored by Massey.

The Tindall Foundation money will create more scholarships. These will be available at six more schools in South Auckland, Northland and northern Hawke's Bay. Professor Meyer says Massey is working towards closing the gaps and it is particularly pleasing that 40 percent of the first group of fifth form award recipients are Maori.

Māori development signposts

Acclaimed First Nations leader Dr Joseph Gosnell and world-renowned linguist Professor Joshua Fishman were amongst key speakers at a conference on Māori development held at the Palmerston North campus in July. Organised by the School of Māori Studies, the high-level gathering covered issues such as economic development, Māori language revitalisation, self-governance, Treaty settlements, and human capacity development. Head of Māori Studies Professor Mason Durie says the international focus for the conference provided important signposts for future Māori development. More than 300 people took part in the conference, *Toi te Kupu Toi te Mana Toi te Whenua, Māori in a Global Society.*

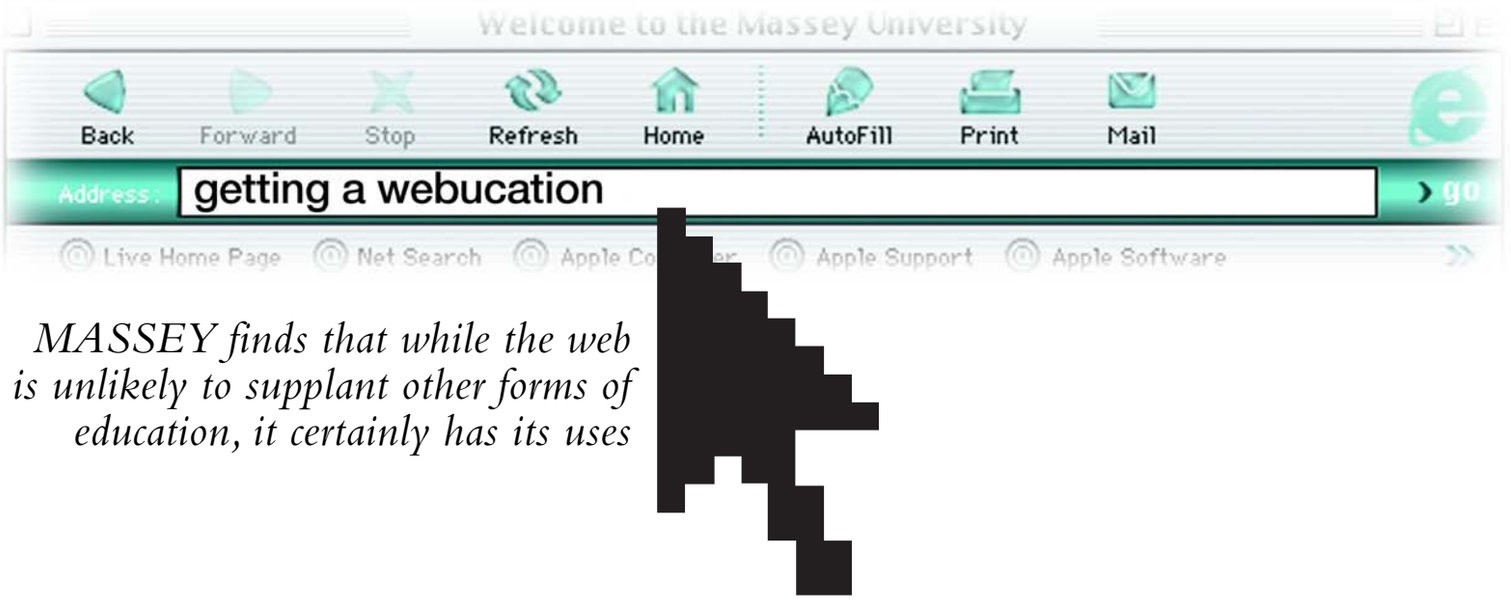
Greater efficiency for gas turbines

Gas turbine power output can be increased by up to 20 percent using a new patentable absorption refrigeration system invented by Dr Stephen White.

The absorption chiller uses waste heat from a gas turbine to cool air going to the turbine inlet. This can increase turbine capacity by up to 20 percent, and is a far cheaper alternative to buying a bigger turbine.

Dr White, of the Institute of Technology and Engineering, is building a 30 kW prototype of the chiller, and may patent the work. The idea has already won a $3000 prize in phase one of the Great New Zealand Business Venture contest.

The chiller will be used in large industrial power plants. "With fewer than 500 industrial gas turbines sold each year, it's a niche market, dominated by large multi-national companies," says Dr White.



MASSEY finds that while the web is unlikely to supplant other forms of education, it certainly has its uses

Senior Lecturer Mark Brown with some tools of the trade

Browsing points

For a wide-ranging examination of the likely effects of the web on tertiary education in Australia, see The Business of Borderless Education Department of Education, Training and Youth Affairs: http://www.deetya.gov.au

For Peter Drucker's views on the future of online learning, see his 15 May cover story in Forbes Magazine at http://www.forbes.com

For the contrarian views of David F. Noble, read his essays at http://www.communication.ucsd.edu/dl/

It's happening again. Deals are being done, new enterprises announced, and breathless pronouncements made. This time the web evangelists and venture capitalists have discovered education.

You can understand their glee. From their vantage point every prospect pleases. The natives are unsuspecting, the air heavy with the scent of money.

In this post-industrial age, in our rapidly changing economies, people must expect to reskill or upskill over their working lives. But life doesn't let up, and education must be fitted in somehow. People need to be able to learn when and where they choose. They need, in other words, *asynchronous distance learning opportunities*, and — praise be — being earner-learners they can afford to pay.

Management guru Peter Drucker estimates that distance learning may account for six percent of GNP in the States.

The 30 June issue of *Asia Week* cites an estimate of the market for online and distance education in Asia of more than US $5 billion, growing at 25 percent annually.

The marketplace contenders for the distance-learning dollar are various. There are for-profit universities (the University of Phoenix in the States has 65,000 students); there are so-called virtual universities; corporate universities (often no more than a corporation's rebadged and 'revisioned' HR or training unit, but sometimes selling services to customers or suppliers); and vast numbers of private training providers. There are web sites that act as brokers for the courses run by others. Not to mention a host of bogus institutions anxious to relieve you of your money on any pretext (rackets known as "dipscams" by the FBI).

But what of the universities we know? What of the first settlers? And what, particularly, of Massey University, New Zealand's premier provider of distance education?

In the last 15 years College of Education Senior Lecturer Mark Brown has watched computer technology drive four major waves of change through the education system. First, as a technology-infatuated primary school teacher, he witnessed the craze for computer-assisted learning. Then came the use of simplified programming languages that allowed children to "teach" the computer — a major shift in mindset, says Brown. The third wave was the wide dissemination and use of productivity software such as word processors and spreadsheets. The fourth wave — of which Brown is a part — is the convergence of multimedia and communications.

2000 was a landmark year for the College of Education. For 34 of the students who donned their mortar boards to receive Bachelor of Education degrees, graduation was a rare chance to meet their classmates in the flesh. In three years of study their acquaintance had been almost solely through the web. One student had studied from Invercargill, another from Kerikeri, and a third had completed her degree while in Australia. These 34 are the first of many.

"Next year, 70 percent of our postgraduate offerings will be either 'web supported' or 'web enhanced'. That equates to about 40 papers. In one or two instances whole programmes have committed to online learning," says Brown.

New Zealand's first extramural teacher graduates Chris Stevenson, left, from Rotorua, Nicola Trolove of Opunake and Susan Joilin of Christchurch get into the swing of things at graduation 2000.

In 1997 the Library answered 43, 449 book requests; in 1998, 64,520; and in 1999, 78,228. Head of the Distance Library Service Daniela Rosenstreich with some of the hundreds of courier parcels sent out daily.

This doesn't mean the web will be the sole means of delivery. Even the course category "web based" — which requires students to make use of the Massey web environment and collaborate using it — still employs a mix of media and methods. "All of these papers have been taught in extramural mode," says Brown. "The vast majority have a face-to-face component."

In short this is not e-learning, but rather distance learning plus. And the plus, as Brown sees it, is overwhelmingly the ability of the web to support commu -nities of learning.

The web can provide this asynchronously via threaded discussions — student x posts a topic in the morning, student y posts a comment on the topic during a lunch break, and in the evening student z takes time out to post a rejoinder once the kids have gone to bed. Or it can do so synchronously via chat (or live audio or video), which like a telephone conference call requires everyone to be hooked up at the same time.

"It's about putting people in touch with other people and embarking on discussions and dialogue in the same way you'd do in a face-to-face encounter," says Brown. "Cognitive conflict — students disagreeing with one another — is the source of metacognition, the origin of learning how to learn. When you have debates, disputes, disagreements, or when you work with someone else, you get to see how they approach the task and you acquire some of the strategies they have for learning."

Debates, disputes, disagreements: Brown admits he sometimes structures project groups of individuals who would never have selected one another. "Distance learners are traditionally lone wolves, so this is a major change."

Longer term, Brown likens joining a community of learning to, say, joining the local squash club. "When you first join you might be a bit apprehensive; you don't know the rules or the protocol. Many rules might not be explicitly stated. You learn them over time: membership takes time." Belong long enough, and you will become one of the wise old heads from whom others learn.

So the web is best thought of as one more in the complement of distance learning tools; not as the nemesis of other forms of distance learning.

The web, for example, has hardly challenged the central place of the book. On a typical working day Daniela Rosenstreich, Head of the University's Distance Library Service, and her team send out between 700 and 800 items in answer to student requests. In 1997 the Library answered 43,449 book requests; in 1998, 64,520; and in 1999, 78,228. More than 40,000 printed journal articles go out each year.

On the other hand, the number of search requests made of the library has actually dropped — perhaps because the Library's sophisticated web site allows people to perform searches themselves.

Daniela's quest of the moment is to persuade users to explore the increasingly extensive database of full-text articles available online. If you want to find an article from any of INL's stable of publications, for example, the Library web site will let you find what you want within moments.

"When people phone or visit they are often surprised to find many of the resources we use are the same as those they have access to from home," says Daniela.

This vast repository of carefully sorted information may be closest to how many educationalists first saw the web. Mark Brown remembers pictur -ing the web as "a huge database, an encyclopaedia, or the great CD ROM in the sky."

Education, it seemed to him then, would be served by using the web to "pump large volumes of material down a wide-diameter pipe into students' flip-top heads," as he now phrases it dismissively.

Brown's current view of the web as a facilitator of communities of learning, rather than instructional tool, may have something to do with the subjects he teaches; education being more often a matter of contested views than of right and wrong answers.

In the 'hard' sciences the web is finding other uses: it remains the cheapest and most flexible way of publishing information, and if pushed that bit further, the technology will even allow reality to be simulated — or improved on.

Associate Professor Alex Davies sits at one end of a line of computer screens making the final touches to editing the image of a cross-section of a sheep's eyelid. "Look," he says delightedly, zooming the computer in on the detail, "you can see the mucous lining." On the table is the original slide from which the image has been taken.

The image, its salient features labelled, is destined for an online database. Begun in 1999, the database now holds hundreds of images and will eventually hold 2,000 or more. It's an eclectic collection: the skeleton of a rail, the circulatory system of a rabbit, a chicken's nicatating membrane — the translucent third eyelid — caught in the fraction of a second it covers the eye.

While Davies is a strong believer in the virtues of dealing with the real, rather than the virtual, he's sure the images in his database have their place. Isn't it better to have a single perfect image of a sheep's eyelid and have it available to all, rather than to spend large sums on class sets of slides? Doesn't it sometimes make sense to use an image of the perfectly performed disection, rather than kill and prepare large numbers of animals — a procedure at once ethically questionable, highly skilled and tedious.

Davies' anatomy database is complemented by multichoice tests based around the images it contains. (Computers, being infinitely patient and non-judgemental, make good drill masters.) His site statistics allow him to see who visits and when, and to track student performance — though for the purposes of the mastery tests the students are known only by pseudonyms. He can also track his own performance. Are the questions he sets too easy or too hard?. The students'

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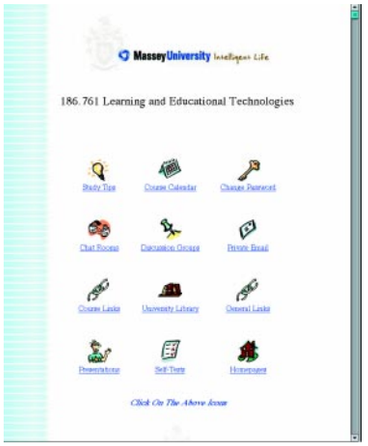
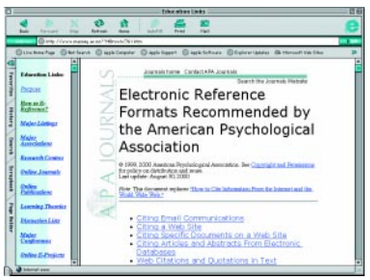




Discussion Groups: At the core of the ELT web site are the threaded discussion groups. These allow students to post and respond to topics. The alternative to discussion groups is to use the chat facility, which allows students to talk (or rather type) to one another in real time. However, to use chat students have to be logged on at an agreed time. Given the demands of people's lifestyles, and that collaborating students may well inhabit different time zones, finding a time that suits everyone can be difficult.

Calendar: The calendar sets out important course dates, such as the due dates for assignments and exams.

Links: Want to know to properly reference your painstakingly written essay? This is the sort of information with which the web abounds. The Learning and Educational Technologies course site has hundreds of relevant links.

performance will let him know.

In Chemistry 1(a) and 1(b) (the first and second semester courses that are the core of first-year chemistry) computer wizardry allows students to 'handle' — rotate and zoom in on — three-dimensional representations of molecules on screen. The web-based software used is called Chime, and the web-alchemist who constructs the online molecules — mapping out the coordinates — is Development Technician Judy Edwards. "If you want to visualise molecules in 3D, then Chime is absolutely magic," says Judy. "Once students start to understand how a substance is shaped, they start to understand why it reacts."

In another exercise, by clicking-and-dragging, students can put together virtual components to construct a still.

For the last 18 months Judy has been working with team leader Dr Tony Wright and Associate Professor Paul Buckley, to put both courses onto the web. In 2001 most of the material will be there. Even now the web site has reams of instructional material — if reams is the right word — and the course study guides, which will continue to be published on paper, are laced with references back to the web site.

Chemistry is a challenging course, and students are grateful for whatever help is on offer (one reason why Judy cannot foresee the web ever taking over entirely from face-to-face teaching).

Hence, perhaps the popularity of the short-answer mastery tests. "The students absolutely love the mastery tests," says Judy. Admittedly there is an immediate incentive: once a student has scored 12 or more points in the 15 point, test two marks are credited towards their final assessment. But students can sit the tests as many times as they wish, and many persist in returning even after breaking 12 points. "We don't care how they do the tests — whether they do them with friends or seek help," says Judy. "The important thing is that they are thinking chemistry."

The College of Business has more than 120 web teaching sites associated with its papers; one first-year paper, Fundamentals of Finance and Property, has over 1300 students registered to its site. Here internal and extramural students — some from as far away as London — take part in discussions, use spreadsheet models, and assess their progress using online quizzes.

In National Student Administration and Teaching Support, Andrew Skrynnyk-Chambers can look back with bemusement to 1995 when the web was in its infancy and he sold students modems so they could conduct discussions via email.

Today his staple workload — and that of his three colleagues in the Instructional Design Team — is helping academics develop web-based teaching. By his estimate there are 270 plus papers in development, though like Mark Brown he hastens to add that most are add-ons to existing courses. "What we are really talking about is not the web alone, but *flexible learning and teaching*."

Most of the development is done using Web CT, a customisable package containing all the requisite parts of an online campus: password protection (campus security); chat rooms and discussion boards (lecture rooms and cafeterias); and administration tools (registry, office support and much else besides).

Originally devised by the University of British Columbia, WebCT proclaims that the basic structure for an online course can be put together in as little as 15 minutes. With more than 48,500 faculty using WebCT to teach courses with over 6.9 million student accounts at 1,528 institutions in 57 countries, WebCT is easily the leading product in its class — and is the product common to all the sites mentioned in this article.

Overseeing the University's online learning development, and led by Professor Tom Prebble, is a policy and strategy body called the Online Learning Development Group. A group working party — representing a collaboration between the University's Training and Development Unit, NSATS and Computer Services — will address the training, support and infrastructural needs of staff students and staff embarking on online learning.

According to Skrynnyk-Chambers, in 2001 the University will have in place a system allowing students to create their own individualised portals, containing information and links for each of the courses they have enrolled in. "A single user-name and password will be all you'll need."

Is there a dark side to the web? There are those who baulk. Will faculty lose control of their intel lectual property as courses become courseware? Will the web erode other forms of teaching? If this is to be any time, anywhere learning why shouldn't it be any time, anywhere teaching and a staff member work for several universities? Are there equity issues to do with access to technology? These are some of the debates that have been spawned.

The most pressing concern is that the demands of the web — using it to publish and deal with the work it generates — will cut into the time available for other forms of teaching and for research.

Mark Brown's experience is that the web is actually a timesaver. "I am using online teaching in such a way that it adds very little to my workload. The short-cuts that online teaching allows me to take actually reduce my workload without compromising the quality or integrity of the course. My undergrad course just had an assignment due yesterday. In the course of preparing them for that assignment I have been posting titbits onto the web along the way — for example, a sample essay, just to 'scaffold' them. In the past I would get numerous phone calls — students wanting hints and clarifications and so forth — to the point that I would sometimes feel like taking a couple of days off as the assignment came closer to deadline."

Now Brown posts the answers to common queries on the web. It is more equitable that way, he says. "I can tell everyone the same thing, instead of just telling the dozen or half-dozen students who have the gumption to ring."

But they can still ring if they want to. This is, after all, not the web as a stand-alone, but distance education *plus*.

And this is why the new for-profit institutions angling for your education dollar do not pose too much of a threat to universities — yet. As Brown asserts — brandishing a study guide as he does — it takes years to build the expertise and resources to become good at distance education.

Education is not a commodity. Price is an element, but more crucial to the purchase decision are

The Computer Aided Learning in Veterinary Education (CALVE) site is destined to have over 2,000 images in its anatomy database.

assurances of quality and prestige. Universities differ from other providers in their commitment to research, in maintaining a comprehensive curriculum, in providing a community service, and in their collective role as critic and conscience of society . Given the choice, consumers will go for the brand they trust.

There will be a boom in the training market, that much seems certain: indeed it is already happening. Inevitably there will also be a shakedown. But the most profitable segment of the market — selling short, expensive courses to corporates — may not be one in which New Zealand universities want to compete. This is not what they are about.

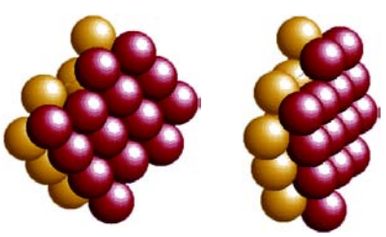
For universities the competitors will be other universities. In some Asian countries there is likely to be open slather among distance learning providers. In New Zealand, with its well established and regarded university system, the competition will be more circumscribed. Still, next year the competition will inevitably ratchet up a notch as the subsidies for internal and extramural students — long weighted in favour of the former — are levelled, providing a greater incentive for providers to get into distance education.

Not so long back, when the rule of the market was undisputed, greater competition would have been welcomed. Today the rhetoric is that unfettered competition may lead to duplication and waste, and some central direction is only sensible.

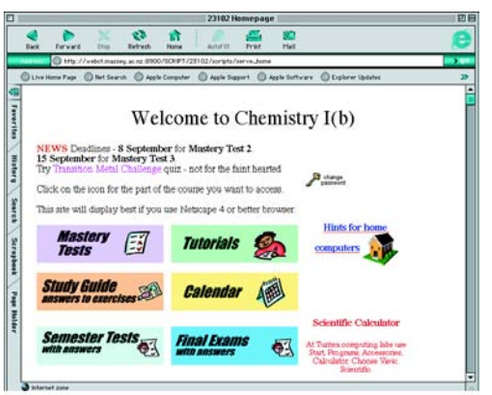
And if there is to be central direction? Senior Lecturer Mark Brown: "We would expect to see Government asking us how they can help universities — and particularly Massey as New Zealand's premier distance education provider — enter the online environment in a manner that adds value to the country as a whole."

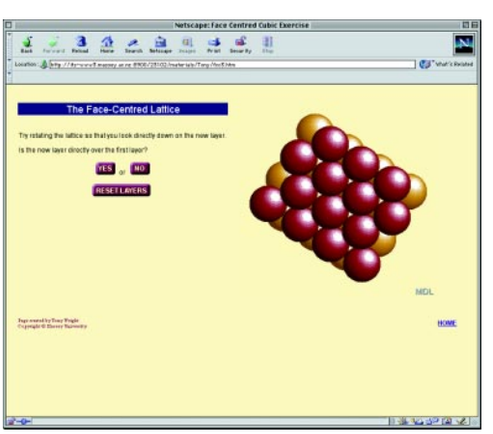
Chemistry 1 (b)

Michelle Lucke pits her wits against a chemistry mastery test in the Institute of Fundamental Sciences

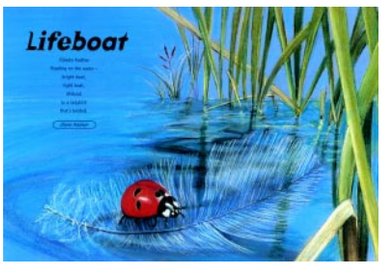


Mastery tests: Theses allow students to test their knowledge by answering a series of multichoice questions within a set period of time. At the end of the test the computer marks the results. One of the features of the chemistry site — and of the mastery tests — is the extensive use of Chime, a browser accessory that allows molecules to be manipulated in three dimensions





Illustration



Richard Rowe
Bachelor of Design Programme

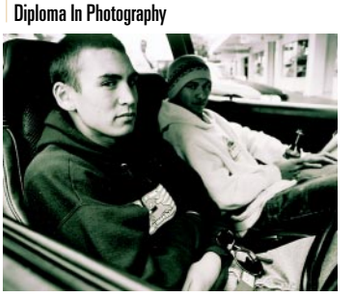
Peter Ash
Bachelor of Design Programme

Kerry Ann Lee
Bachelor of Design Programme

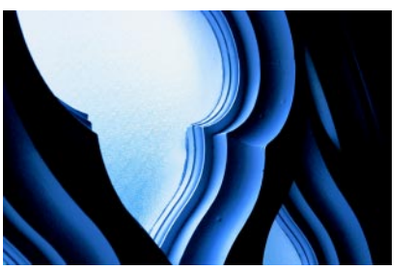
Vivian Atkinson
Bachelor of Design Programme

Irene Chiew
Bachelor of Design Programme

Photography



Fritha Burgin
Diploma In Photography



Lisa Smith
Bachelor of Design Programme

Liz Jensen
Diploma In Photography

Cliff Threadgold
Diploma In Photography

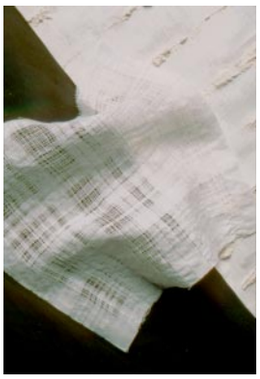
Industrial Design

Simon W.W. Becker
Bachelor of Design Programme

Jamie Booth
Bachelor of Design Programme

Nerio Byung Hyun Son
Bachelor of Design Programme

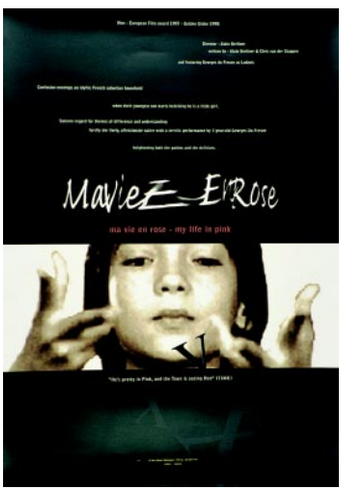
Textile Design



Ruth Oldfield
Bachelor of Design Programme

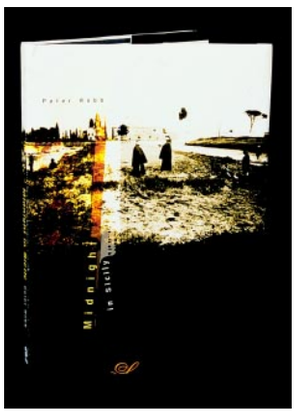
Lisa Munnelly
Bachelor of Design Programme

Graphic Design



Heather Brown
Bachelor of Design Programme

Juliet Rama
Bachelor of Design Programme



Harriet Heade
Bachelor of Design Programme

M'Lady's Chamber

Toni Mitchell

Christina Perriam

Wellington's cool Brasserie Flipp was the venue for the showing of *In M'Lady's Chamber,* a collection of work by Bachelor of Design (Fashion) students.

The collection's name evokes the days when maids and servants wore — and adapted — their mistresses' cast-offs. The third-year students were asked to pick a 50-year period between 1200 and 1800 and then use sponsored fabrics to produce a contemporary interpretation of the shape, drape and detailing of the fashion of the day. New Zealand designer Marilyn Sainty was project mentor and scrutineer.

For the students, the candle-lit parade of models on the catwalk was the culmination of a project that had seen them do everything from arriving at a concept, to exploring potential markets, to choosing a venue. They also set up marketing, media coverage and sponsorships. Even supervising the hairdressers and models, and arranging the lighting, fell to them.

The students were "on their mettle" says senior lecturer in fashion design Sue Thomas. Writing for *Lucire* online fashion magazine, Jack Yan described the show as boding well for New Zealand fashion. "We can only be excited when thinking of the possibilities these students will have when their current fabric and budgetary limitations disappear."

Photos by David Hamilton

Sonja Dudfield

Teresa Jordan

Not just fun. It's also good for you, says Professor Kerr Inkson.

Talented young New Zealanders are fleeing our shores in droves seeking brighter employment opportunities overseas. So runs the received wisdom. But are we really witnessing the workings of a brain-drain or are we noticing that traditional Kiwi rite of passage, OE (overseas experience)?

If it is the latter, perhaps we should not be so worried. OE is good for us, says Professor of Management Kerr Inkson. Indeed, he believes it to be one of the best forms of preparation for the twenty-first century world of work. This is not a belief he has come to lightly; he bases it on the recent extensive research he has carried out in conjunction with Barbara Myers from the Auckland University of Technology and other collaborators,

"The OE has immense social and economic value for New Zealand. We want young New Zealanders to go overseas and pick up skills and expertise while they're there."

OE travellers create their own luck, try different things, improvise, and develop confidence. The skills developed on an OE are the same sort of risk-taking skills essential to survival and success in today's ever-changing world of employment.

Again, Professor Inkson has good foundation for his belief. Last year he, Dr Judith Pringle of the University of Auckland and Professor Michael Arthur of Suffolk University, Boston, published *The New Careers: Individual Action and Economic Change*. The book summarises their research findings. In it, Professor Inkson concludes that the traditional predictable and stable career is rare in the emerging world of employment.

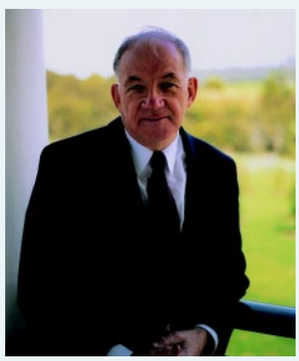
"Mobile and fragmented careers, the 'fickle' sort of careers previously frowned upon, have become increasingly common. People need to manage their own careers, be flexible and mobile, and protect themselves by upskilling."

His research has shown that the old assumptions — that careers in organisations are secure and that good qualifications guarantee a worthwhile career — may not hold in the new deregulated, restructured, *de*structured economy.

Experimentation and flexibility — the qualities called on during OE — are good attributes for career success.

OE is also seen by many as vital to personal development. In his recent study, Professor Inkson observed a sort of 'OE anxiety': young New Zealanders felt socially pressured to do an OE. "The OE is so much part of our national psyche, that young people feel they're not complete unless they do one," Professor Inkson says.

Professor Kerr Inkson.



He notes, however, that in his sample, OE was confined to those in managerial, professional, service and administrative work. "People from trade and manual backgrounds don't seem to do it."

Most OEs are fairly unstructured. Generally Kiwis go overseas without a job to go to, but with the intention of returning in an average of two years. However, the travellers Professor Inkson studied stayed on average for four years — twice as long as they had first intended — and the study only included those who came back. Many are eventually drawn back to New Zealand for personal reasons, perhaps a recognition that New Zealand is 'home', or a change in family circumstances.

"People are freed up by travelling, but just because they are overseas doesn't stop them from living their personal lives," he says.

"We need to study personal factors to find out why they're there and what makes them come back," Professor Inkson says.

Professor Inkson's endorsement of career management is apparent in his own decision to depart his position of 20 years as a tenured professor at the University of Auckland, to take up a contract position at Massey University, Albany.

While at Massey he hopes to examine the effects of OE on New Zealanders' careers and the economy, as well as looking into the so-called brain drain phenomenon. He is also concerned that New Zealand is failing to make good use of qualified people — both New Zealand-born and 'new' New Zealanders.

Is New Zealand currently suffering a brain drain and can it be fixed? Perhaps we are asking the wrong questions. "To me a brain drain is not an issue of people leaving. It only becomes a problem if people are not coming back, and are not being replaced by qualified immigrants," says Professor Inkson.

"We say we are concerned about the brain drain because we want to harness brain-power, yet graduates in science and technology often find it difficult to find employment utilising their skills. If they do, they are much less well paid than accountants. Also, we are unable to employ constructively many of the highly qualified immigrants, particularly Asians, who choose to come and live in New Zealand," Professor Inkson says.

"If we are so concerned about brain-power, shouldn't we focus our concerns on the other parts of the equation — staff utilisation, and immigration?"

MEDICAL RESEARCHER

Name: Paddy Bassett

Qualification: BAgSc

The Original

If Massey University's first woman graduate seems impossibly spry, please do not give her any credit. Whatever credit there is rests with her genes, she says. Her eldest brother didn't really appear to be old until he was about 92. So what if she's still an active researcher? It's really no big deal.

"I like to keep myself busy, occupied, doing all sorts of interesting things, and I consider that age is irrelevant," she says. Just this year she was appointed an honorary staff member at the Wellington School of Medicine. "And I don't tell people how old I am, because then they expect me to behave like a little old lady."

But then Dr Bassett has been confounding expectations for a long time.

Born between the wars, Paddy Bassett remembers her 1930s childhood as an idyllic mix of family, farming and horses. Her father, Francis Thorpe, farmed until his middle years, then became an Anglican clergyman. His parishes included South Westland, Banks Peninsula and South Canterbury. Her mother, Constance Menzies, came from a long-established farming family on Banks Peninsula, and it was on a farm at remote Menzies Bay that Dr Bassett spent some of her earliest years.

"The great treat was taking the team of horses to the back of the farm with my lunch and their feed bags, then being able to harrow a paddock by myself," Dr Bassett recalls of her childhood.

"My father would only take on country parishes — so he could always keep a couple of horses — and I suppose it is from him I inherited this natural empathy I have for animals. I recall how it was enormous fun, learning how to ride, roaming alone, all over the countryside. As the youngest of a close-knit family of five, these were halcyon days."

At Menzies Bay Dr Bassett's education was at the hands of a governess. Then came Okain's Bay Primary School, and six years as a boarder at Timaru's Craighead Diocesan School.

Throughout her school years the strong farming connection remained. Dr Bassett often stayed on her brother Bob's dairy farm, or on a sheep and cropping farm with her sister Frances. Here she could enjoy farming life without the attendant drudgery. She would become a dab hand with a .22 rifle, well able to supply the chief ingredient for rabbit pie.

Although Craighead provided a sound classical education — Dr Bassett excelled in Latin and French — science subjects such as chemistry and physics were largely absent.

"We had home science, which provided a mixed bag of information. I can remember learning how to take a stain out of a tray cloth — and then suddenly, one day, we were supposed to be collecting oxygen. It seemed totally irrelevant. Why on earth were we collecting oxygen? I had absolutely no idea."

Many Craighead girls came from wealthy farming families. "Marrying well was the thing. It was never imagined we would do anything else," says Dr Bassett. The high point of the social calendar was the Hunt Club Ball, with the prospect of finding a potential husband. Failing marriage, the interim option was to become a nursery governess.

"So I was always a bit of an oddity at school, because I was keen on academic success, and was rather punished by my peers because of it," says Dr Bassett, who had no intention of becoming a governess nor any immediate wish to marry.

If it was not to be 'marrying well', then teaching or nursing or perhaps office work were conventional career alternatives. The headstrong young woman refused them all. Instead, recognising her love of animals, she decided she would like to become a vet. Her family was supportive. "My father was the silent type, a liberal man, a great believer in the value of higher education… I guess he saw me as a bright child, was supportive of whatever I wanted to do."

On her father's advice she enrolled in intermediate studies at Canterbury University College (1936–37), courses that were common to agriculture, medicine and veterinary science. They would help her catch up with the science education she had missed.

"It took me two years, and to begin with it was all completely foreign. I had never heard of physics or zoology. I only had a vague idea about chemistry. And at the time, I'd only just been liberated from six years of boarding school, so everything was very strange."

But at the close came the hard recognition that a vet course would be impracticable. The nearest course was in Sydney. (Massey wouldn't establish a vet school until 1962.) Her second choice was agriculture: Lincoln Agricultural College wouldn't accept women; Massey Agricultural College, on the other hand, would.

"I didn't know I was the only woman enrolling, it just happened that way. All that was there (on the Palmerston North campus) was the old Main Building, and the Refectory down the hill. The male students were housed in those public works buildings on the perimeter."

The four women students — including three taking the Diploma in Agriculture — were

boarded with the dairy farm manager's wife, Mrs Jean Clifford, in the Bachelor homestead.

Being one of only four women brought with it a certain amount of special attention from other students. Dr Bassett recalls how a couple of young men took it upon themselves to sit on either side of her in class, to make sure she was okay, that she had all the notes.

"To me it was not a problem, being the only woman. The men were always nice to me, but they were very much into their own thing."

In the late 1930s, with New Zealand still recovering from the Depression, Massey's students generally made their own fun. The Massey Debating Club was popular, as was the Kareti Club, formed to investigate "the velocity at which beer can flow over mucous membranes." The Massey Tramping Club (a precursor of the Massey University Alpine Club) had a Model T Ford for trips to the Tararuas, Ruahines and Tongariro National Park. Records show a "Miss Thorpe" to have been an active member. Swimming — a new pool had been built with funds raised by the students — was a popular activity, as were tennis, rugby and hockey.

"We used to cycle into town, to shop or to go to the pictures," recalls Dr Bassett. "The Capping Ball was the big event. It was held in the Main Building, and afterwards we would go to the Melody Lane Café in the Regent Arcade for breakfast."

The campus community was quite formal, especially the relationship between lecturers and their students. Everybody was addressed as Mister or Miss. "Certainly, there was none of this first name business, and the boys were all expected to wear ties. Fortunately for us, trousers were just coming in. We had grey flannel slacks, which were very useful for practical assignments, like learning how to shear sheep. I could shear 12 in a day."

Once she had mastered the elements of physics, Dr Bassett found her Bachelor of Agricultural Science course absorbing. It would provoke her interest in fundamental research, and stimulate a lifelong interest in farming. "Even today, when I visit a farm, I can enjoy asking intelligent questions about things like animal husbandry… recently I went on a group tour to Turkey, and while many of the party were interested in the ruins, the most interesting aspect for me was how the locals used the land. So I guess what I learnt at Massey has remained with me."

During her vacations Dr Bassett assisted sheep husbandry lecturer Ted Clark, who was looking at the anatomical characteristics of the 'N-type' Drysdale.

The Drysdale — one of two famous breeds of sheep to come from Massey — had been developed by its namesake Dr F.W. Dry (Dr Dry is pictured above. Incidentally, the other breed was the Perendale, developed by Professor Geoffrey Peren.)

"We had a name for Dr Dry, we used to call him 'Daddy'," recalls Dr Bassett. "He was a very good geneticist, working with what were called the 'N-Type' sheep… they were mutations from the Romney flock. They were hairy, the rams had horns. But he was only allowed to carry on this research on the far corner of the sheep farm, because the visiting farmers were not allowed to see these strange beasts. Of course, when it was discovered that the wool was great for making carpets, the sheep were brought to the front of the farm, and Daddy got an OBE."

Dr Bassett graduated with a BAgrSc in 1941 asMassey's first woman graduate. "It was quite an occasion. The local newspaper wrote it up. My father came up from Nelson, and I went to the ball afterwards. It was a time of celebration." Next came a break in university studies, first to help out at home, then as an assistant research officer in the Animal Research Division of the Department of Agriculture.

"So I had my BAgrSc degree and I was seconded to this peculiar job at Lincoln, investigating ill-thrift in hoggets. By then the war was on, so I was replacing a chap who had gone off to fight with the RNZAF…

"But I didn't really know what I was doing. I was supposed to be analysing feeds and faeces, so the technician had to show me what to do. The outlook was pretty hopeless. That's when I decided I must go further, and do my masters' degree."

She was now joined by Massey's second woman BAgrSc, Daintry Walker. "Since I had taken time out after my first degree, Daintry caught up with me, we became contemporaries. We both wanted to do animal husbandry, and of course, the late Campbell McMeekan (formerly of Massey, and now regarded as the outstanding animal researcher of his time) was the professor of animal husbandry at Lincoln by then, so he was the obvious first choice as supervisor."

McMeekan had just come back from Cambridge, where he had completed a PhD under Sir John Hammond, a world-famous animal research scientist. He was willing to accept the young women for their masters' studies, and persuaded the Lincoln Agricultural College Council to approve this first-ever enrolment of women at Lincoln. They boarded with Kitty Stevens, the wife of an animal husbandry lecturer.

McMeekan was researching the quality of meat exports to Britain, but was also interested in cattle pituitary glands. Dr Bassett was assigned the task of investigating the relationship of these glands to ovarian dysfunction as her thesis topic. Daintry, meanwhile, worked on McMeekan's meat research project. (Daintry and McMeekan would later marry.)

"McMeekan was a good supervisor, very inspirational, but I had to develop the research techniques myself, really, especially histology."

Lincoln wasn't all smooth sailing, Dr Bassett recalls. Principal Eric Hudson had no time for academic women — or for research, for that matter. "We had only been there for a year when this incredible tension built up. McMeekan was away, and Hudson took the opportunity to have all his experimental pigs killed...

"Then there were the dances, which were like being at high school. You weren't allowed off the floor, and if anyone did go out in the grounds, Hudson would go after them with a torch, and bring them back. This was all quite curious to me, having just come from Massey. There, it had been taken for granted that we were responsible adults."

Ironically, this was when at which Dr Bassett met her future husband, Colin Bassett, who had just returned from active service in the Middle East. He was taking a rehabilitation course on valuation and farm management.

"He was about 33, and if he went to one of these dances with me, he was also expected to follow those rules. It was all quite hilarious."

Colin had been farming on his father's farm before the war, and decided to retrain in valuation on his return. "Colin had once been engaged to someone else and he stole me off another chap — not before time — so we decided to get married almost immediately, rather than be engaged. I soon went off to Ruakura, and he had to stay to finish his course. So for a year we were living in different places and meeting in other locations."

Dr Bassett's move to the newly formed Ruakura Animal Research Station, as assistant research officer, came just after Campbell McMeekan was appointed first superintendent. She was quick to make the most of Ruakura's progressive environment; completing her thesis on pituitaries, then expanding her interests to include wider endocrinological problems in farm animals, especially ewes.

Gisborne vet David McFarlane had discovered that 25 percent of lamb loss at birth was due to dystocia (difficult birth). Dr Bassett set to work dissecting ewes, measuring the changes in pelvic joints and ligaments at sequential stages of pregnancy and after parturition. Her results showed that the loosening of these connective tissues governed the size and shape of the birth canal. This, in turn, had a direct impact on successful lambing rates.

Her findings were of sufficient important to have her sent to the Anatomy School, University of Cambridge, to study the microscopial features in bone and connective tissue underlying such changes.

"The idea was to further investigate this pelvic changes phenomenon, and in the course of those studies I wrote a thesis, then got a PhD. At that time there must have been quite a lot of money about, because staff members could go off for a period overseas, to other research institutions. It was quite the norm."

This was in 1954, a time when no doctorates were awarded in New Zealand. It was a good time to be in Britain, she recalls; food rationing was just over, and the British class hierarchy had relaxed little. Her supervisor was the inspiring and scholarly Professor John Dixon Boyd. She was attached to Newnham College, where students were expected to dine formally once a week, dressed in academic gowns.

"I really enjoyed that… it wasn't many years before that women at both Cambridge and Oxford could not be awarded degrees, so I would go to Newnham for dinner, and sometimes there would be some extremely old ladies there who had been through it all, who had amazing stories to tell. They really had to fight to get formal acknowledgement of their academic achievements."

Colin followed his wife to Britain after a year. He found a job gathering information for the East Anglia Farm Survey. They bought a car and were able to explore a little of Britain. Things had started coming together.

"I had begun to imagine I was odd to be doing these things, but then I went to Cambridge, and found I wasn't odd at all. It did me a lot of good. I could have walked down Kings Parade on my hands, and nobody would notice…"

Her return to New Zealand was sobering. "It seemed to be terribly old fashioned, particularly in the way the value of higher education for women was still not generally approved of, and the way women still just stayed at home, even when they didn't have small children."

Back at Ruakura the focus had shifted. There was little interest in Dr Bassett's work on connective tissue, and to compound matters there was a falling out with Professor McMeekan — a not uncommon occurrence according to McMeekan's biographer, Gordon McLaughlan.

So Dr Bassett was pleased to accept a position as a senior research officer in the Medical Research Council (MRC) Endocrinology Unit with the Otago Medical School. Here she continued her studies on connective tissue modifications, and later transferred to the medical school's Anatomy Department on an MRC grant.

Then came endocrine problems of her own. For six years Dr Bassett suffered from an undetected hypothyroid condition. "You become so stupid that you don't know how bad you've got, but in the end, it was diagnosed…

"So I was prescribed thyroxine, and I managed to get out of this deplorable state. I didn't publish much over that period, but I did get into lecturing on connective tissue and other subjects to second-year medical students in the Anatomy Department. I was fortunate in finding a way forward again."

In 1980 Colin, now well retired, felt the need to shift to Nelson, to build a house on property purchased years before. Dr Bassett was not ready to retire, and was reluctant to leave her work. Fortunately she was able to continue her research by becoming an honorary research fellow to the Nelson Hospital Board. The board had a substantial fund specifically bequeathed for research, which she was able to draw on. She was free to develop any theme she chose, co-opting valuable collaboration from researchers at the University of Otago's Wellington School of Medicine, in particular, senior research fellow and electron microscope specialist Dr St John Wakefield. That collaboration has now led to a position as an honorary staff member in the Pathology Department at the School of Medicine.

"Colin died four years ago, so I felt the urge to take up a new challenge. It was rather nice moving to Wellington, because I had been a little out on a limb in Nelson. I had pretty well used up the trust fund, and they were going to knock down the building I was in, so my move was fortuitous."

Dr Bassett and Dr Wakefield continue to collaborate in experiments on connective tissue change; further research papers are planned. Over a lifetime of research most of her 21 research papers have been printed in full. Another 18 are abstracts of contributions to scientific meetings.

Dr Bassett continues to find stimulation in her work, in helping unlock the mysteries of connective tissue changes, and she keeps in contact with her many old friends from Ruakura, Cambridge, Dunedin and Nelson. There's an old Wellington cottage she's bought and is restoring; the neglected garden is taking a lot of energy. She also enjoys playing the violin. And her thoughts about Massey University today? "Well, I find it quite strange, comparing the Massey I see today with what it was like when I was there..

"A while ago I attended a wedding on the North Shore, and for the reception I found myself on a Massey campus… Then back in Wellington, driving to work along Wallace Street one morning, I found myself driving past this thing called Massey. I thought goodness gracious! Talk about an octopus!"

The Massey University Archives contain over 3,000 photographs, some official, others taken by students. They are an invaluable part of the University's historical record. If you are a former student and have material you would like to contribute to the collection, or material that could be copied and returned, please contact Lucy Marsden, University Archivist, Massey University, Private Bag 11-222, Palmerston North, phone (06) 350 4591, or email L.E.Marsden@massey.ac.nz

Independence Day

Will alternative power sources allow farmers to free themselves from depending on the national grid?

Wind-whipped ridges. Slopes green with early spring growth, and dotted with gravid ewes. Snow on the hilltops. In the gullies, native bush flecked with white clematis. Larks exulting. And wind: an unrelenting, eye-watering, bone-chilling wind, penetrating even Phil Murray's layers of Goretex and polarfleece as he checks the anemometer records. This saddle above Geoff Smith's rugged Manawatu sheep farm is a natural wind funnel, capturing every last breeze that comes over the tops and down the valley. Phil, a Master of Applied Sciences (natural resource engineering) student, battles on resignedly. Although he wouldn't mind a moment's respite, he reckons Geoff Smith may one day bless that bloody wind.

Phil Murray

If the weather were better, Phil would be able to see the wind turbines of the Tararua Wind Farm turning in the far distance. Maybe, he thinks, some day a smaller cousin of one of those wind turbines will stand where the anemometer now does. Maybe the farm's gravity-fed watering system will power a small hydro-electric generator.

The 'maybes' matter. From 2013, electricity line companies will no longer be obliged to mend or maintain lines to uneconomic areas, and it will fall to the landowner to pay for maintenance or reconnection costs. When that happens, the trade-offs between buying in power and generating it yourself will have financial consequences.

Farmers like Geoff Smith need to know exactly what those trade-offs are before they make their choices. How much power do their farms use and when? Can other sources of power be found? What are the relative costs?

For almost a year Institute of Technology and Engineering students Phil Murray and Glenn Irving have been working with farmers to gather data about electricity consumption on three farms in the remote Totara Valley. "Without absolutely accurate data about present electricity consumption and the seasonal variations in the profile of consumption, you don't know what generation capacity you need," Phil says.

It turns out that except during the shearing season the power consumption is meagre. In fact, farmers pay more to maintain the power supply (line charges) than they do for the electricity. "You're looking at a situation where they might pay line supply charges three to four times the value of the electricity used," says Phil.

Could on-the-farm generation meet the need? On Geoff Smith's farm, the wind run figures collected by Phil from several promising sites are one of the measures that will help supply the answer. "You need wind run figures all year round, the high wind months as well as the still months," says Phil.

Down in paddocks on the Skerman farm, blissfully out of the wind, is Rachael Boisen. Rachael is working towards a Bachelor of Applied Science (honours) degree in natural resource management; her final year project will examine the legal requirments imposed by the Resource Management Act on farmers wanting to set up alternative power sources. Today, though, is a day for getting the hands dirty and the feet wet hunting for possible hydro-power sites on the meandering Totara Stream.

Rachael Boisen

There are several options: diverting some water flow directly through a small hydro turbine, building a weir to increase potential head and capacity, or using an existing gravity-fed domestic and farm water supply system system."

One site in particular beckons: a wide oxbow where the stream bed loops back on itself. Between the upstream end of the loop and the downstream end is a three-metre drop. This is a perfect place to run a pipe and install a small turbine. And the site is close to the house and the woolshed.

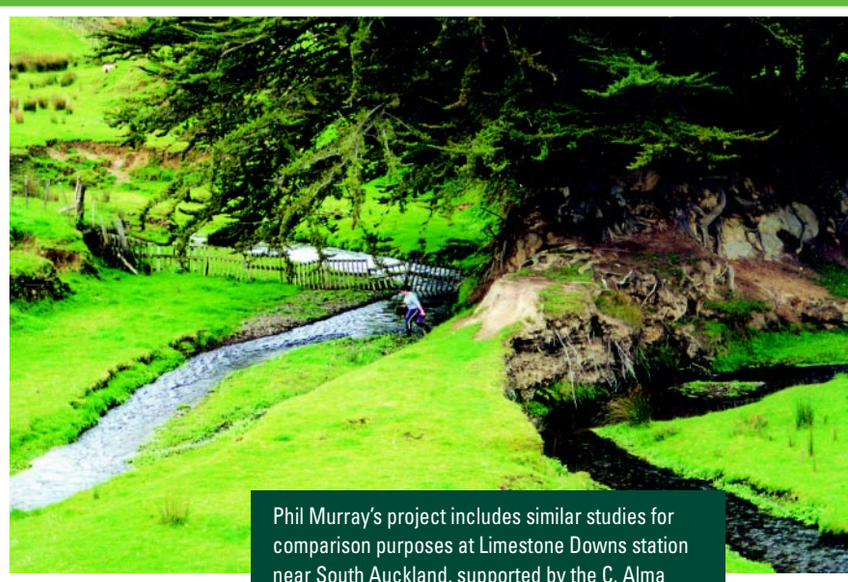
Again, records will need to be kept to find out the site's potential. "You need stream water level figures during the winter and spring peaks, as well as the summer dry spells. You need to factor in what would happen in a drought, or during prolonged calm periods," says Phil Murray.

Farmer Geoff Smith welcomes the University's interest. "It may seem some time before 2013, but people in remote areas need to start planning now. A lot of farming is based on reliable electricity supply — shearing, fencing, freezing — and the loss of it is a worry always in the back of your mind."

Associate Professor Ralph Sims, who is supervising the projects, says that regardless of changes to the electricity industry, or likely advances in technology — such as more affordable fuel cells — small-scale, renewable resource energy generation is the way of the future.

"I doubt we'll ever see large monoliths like the South Island's hydro-electric power stations built again. The future lies in mixes of small-scale power production units making enough electricity to serve their communities, with any excess being fed back to other consumers in cities or towns."

Phil Murray predicts some fortunate farmers, like Geoff Smith, will one day find that windy ridge line up the way or the stream by the woolshed has a monetary value. "Not every farm has windy ridges, or a stream with enough fall. In future these resources will add value to farms."



Phil Murray's project includes similar studies for comparison purposes at Limestone Downs station near South Auckland, supported by the C. Alma Baker Trust. Industrial Research Ltd has supplied electricity profiling meters and technical backup on power quality control at Kumeroa, Limestone Downs and D'Urville Island. The Central Power Trust had the foresight to support the work in the first instance, and Powerflow Technologies worked closely with Glenn Irving to develop a decision-making model for use by communities. Phil Murray's work is supported by Meritec Consultants' Jim Fletcher Scholarship.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Name: Ross McEwan

Qualification: BBS

At 43 Ross McEwan is one of New Zealand's youngest chief executives. Di Billing talks to him about organisational change and hiring the right people.

Taking it to the Top

It's a 'casual Friday' at AXA's head office high above the Terrace in Wellington on the day I arrive to interview Ross McEwan. But before I talk to the graduate of choice, Ross insists that I meet some others. In jeans, boots and a branded dark blue vest, Ross strides around the elegant open-plan rooms, introducing one Massey graduate after another. They are a diverse lot. "Major in religious studies," says one. "Right!" says Ross.

As befits someone who has made his way to the top via HR, Ross McEwan is particular about the people he hires. Many are Massey graduates. They are, he says, well equipped and productive. And they also fit AXA values: honesty, integrity, and ambition.

He likes to take on university graduates at the end of every year. "We look at generalists as well as people with specific skills, obviously in areas such as finance, technology or the

A business and technology merger

Massey and sport run in the McEwan family. Ross and his wife, Stephanie Duncan, met while they were both studying at the University. He was business. She was technology. They were a concourse apart. But she was on the University women's basketball team and he was on the men's team. The teams travelled together. The teams played together. Then Stephanie graduated and travelled overseas. Back home in 1983, she returned to Palmerston North and the University gymnasium. There was Ross.

Stephanie graduated with honours in Food Technology in 1978 and worked in the industry in Australia and New Zealand, including time at the Gilbert Chandler Institute in Geelong and with the Dairy Research Institute. She has also lectured part time at Massey. These days she is adding new skill sets to her portfolio, including web page design. Ross and Stephanie have two daughters, aged 11 and 14, both active in sport, including basketball.

An abbreviated C.V.

1976-79	Massey University. Bachelor of Business Studies, majors in industrial relations and personnel management.
1980	Personnel Manager , Foods Division, Unilever, Hastings
1984	Personnel Manager, Tyre Division, Dunlop New Zealand, Upper Hutt
1985	Travel to USA, UK, Europe
1986	Human Resource Manager, National Mutual
1989	Melbourne University Business School Executive Management Programme
1990	General Manager, Agency Operations, National Mutual
1993	Life Insurance Manager, National Mutual
1994	Distribution Manager, Life Insurance, National Mutual Australia
1996	Change Manager, reporting to Chief Executive
1996	General Manager Financial Services, National Mutual
1996	Stanford University – National University of Singapore Executive Programme
1996	Chief Executive AXA New Zealand

like. A large number of people working in our Call Centre have university degrees. It's a stepping stone for many of them. They learn a lot about our business in a very short period of time — the products, the systems and the people who use our services. They're talking to clients all day.

"I would be happy to employ a graduate on the reception desk for a while. If they can deal with clients successfully, then we'll move them on through. At the moment, a couple of graduates are dealing very successfully with process re-engineering. Another is part of a transformation team, which looks at where our business should be going. You have to start somewhere. Then you move on and start specialising or managing a team of people."

Ross looks back on his own Massey University days with a mix of fondness and regret. "Since attending Massey in the late 70s many things have changed. Gone are the days of cramming study into the last eight weeks of the varsity year, long hours in the cafeteria and not the library, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings at the Fitz… weekdays spent at the Massey gym – and a degree made up of C passes. I got there in the end though and was part of the first group of students in New Zealand to graduate with a business studies degree majoring in human resources. At that time this major was unique for a New Zealand university. Massey was an innovator."

He now says he might have run those years a little differently. "I'm more comfortable with people than with figures. No regrets there. But if you check my academic records you'll see I failed Accounting Level 2 twice before getting it on the third attempt. It wasn't a priority for me then. Now I'm in this role, it would have been nice, very nice, to have put more time into it."

Ross McEwan talks transformation

Call it change or business transformation, Ross McEwan lives and breathes it. He sees change as a necessity, an imperative, a constant. That may be why he is one of New Zealand's youngest chief executives. How do you move that fast? Ross puts it down to drive, ambition, commitment to communication and strong people skills. Above all, there is the king-sized appetite for change.

To what extent should universities, like businesses, shift resources to meet patterns of demand.
Well, first of all, if you are not delivering what the consumer wants — and in this case I count students as consumers because they pay money and expect results — then you have to restructure accordingly. If not enough consumers want to buy what you are offering, you will go out of existence.

A university is in the business of delivering up education, increasingly on a global basis. New Zealanders can now get an international education from here or take themselves offshore to get it. Most people go to university thinking about the future. It's a step to where they want to be. In Massey's case a significant number of students are saying, 'This is what I want you to give me, so that I can get there'.

And yet any moves by universities to change traditional study areas have been criticised?
Several questions need to be asked. Is the subject viable for the university to continue, remembering that students finally pay the cost of that? Does it add something very significant to society? If the answers are no, and nobody is prepared to subsidise, then the subject should be taken out or phased back and the resource put into the wider student community. That is the only way the larger group will get educational value for their money — and move forward.

I really don't see it as any different from our own business. At AXA, some parts have growth potential — specifically, funds management and risk insurance. In others, interest is falling so we have to stop investing in them. We also have to make sure the people displaced in that process, who often have great skills and knowledge, are helped to find opportunities in the company or elsewhere.

Obviously, change can be painful, but business is in transformation and I think universities are in transformation. The world has not stood still. For example, a university that did not go into information technology 10 or even 20 years ago would be a university without a solid base today. We all have to keep changing in this world environment. Manufacturing, telecommunications, finance, education: we all have to keep up. Every day we live with some form of change, large or small. If people want to work for an organisation that is static — be warned. There are very few left.

What is the best way to manage change?
You have to start with yourself. Deep down, as an individual, I am actually not that comfortable with change. So I have to manage myself before I can begin to bring others along. Communication is important. If the reasons for change are made clear to people, if the directions are explained and people understand what the organisation is trying to achieve, then they are happier about moving forward. To communicate in an organisation the size of Massey, you need to chunk the change down into smaller work groups. We do a lot of transformation and planning work in teams, as projects. At any given point, we probably have about 10 major projects running. To run, you need good people who can work together, communicate and bring their individual skills to the group.

National Mutual became AXA. Wellington Polytechnic merged with Massey University. What happens when team members come from different cultures with different rules and values?
First establish the common bonds and values and agree on those. Then agree on the differences, identify potential compromises and common positions and work on them together. You do it that way; we do it this way. Which is best, for us all to go forward? Sometimes, someone has to let go. At other times, you actually decide that neither way is best and you find a different model.

Where organisations have not gone through a lot of change, they will try to hang on to what they have had for 30 or 40 years. But once through the second and third and fourth change process, it becomes easier. They understand how to make the best use of the consultation process. At the end of the day, however, someone has to make a decision. That is what leadership is about. You can have all the consultation in the world, but someone has to say, 'This is what we will do.' You will have a number of people who disagree. They can agree to disagree and move forward. Or if it is violent disagreement, they should leave the organisation. It is important to allow people to do this with dignity and self respect. But you cannot keep litigating options and not move forward.

What's an AXA?
AXA stands for nothing. It's not an acronym. It was created as a company name when the French-based insurance and fund manager decided to move globally. It looks the same spelled forwards and backwards, through a glass door, for example. What's important is that people look at it, hear it or read it and make an immediate association with insurance and investments, a brand they can trust.

Our men in Phnom Penh

ASIA 2000 FOUNDATION | OF NEW ZEALAND

In Phnom Penh the ceiling fans slowly stir the air. On the television are local soaps and Thai fight movies, and the Women's Affairs Minister Mu Sochua and Prime Minister Hun Sen inveighing against risque pop songs and rising hemlines. Down at the Foreign Correspondents' Club and Happy Herb's Pizza Place the expats gather to have a Tiger beer, a plate of spiced prawns and watch the sun set over the mountains beyond the Tonle Sap river.

But travel away from the broad boulevards (a legacy of French colonialism) and the roads quickly turn to dirt and potholes. This is land where children can be bought, where the forests are being indiscriminately felled, where you, the unworldly tourist, run the risk of kidnap — perhaps by bandits, perhaps by police, or perhaps, as in the case of a tourist boat heading north towards Angkor Wat, by soldiers.

Welcome to the dissonance that is Cambodia. Welcome to the home turf of the *Phnom Penh Post*, a student placement for the Massey's Wellington School of Journalism.

The Kiwi connection began in 1991 when Jason Barber, Matt Grainger and Peter Sainsbury, all formerly of the *Dominion* (and also alumni), took up employment with the *Post*. Matt would become the paper's editor, succeeded by Jason, then Peter — who remains the current editor.


Phnom Penh Post

Govt unloads both barrels at Rainsy

1994 Train attacker arrested

The compliant boys in Pailin

If you dream it... we can make it come true.

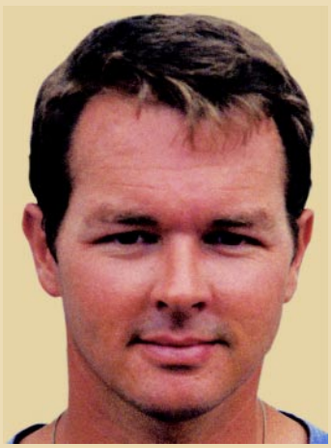
Now the connection is being fostered by Asia 2000, which has chosen to sponsor an annual six-week work placement for a Massey School of Journalism student. Which student will get to go is being keenly contested.

The placement was brokered by journalism lecturer David Venables (pictured above), who had been a fellow journalism student with Peter Sainsbury. But before consigning a student, Venables determined to field test the placement himself. In January, 2000 Venables took himself off to become the *Post*'s occasional copy editor and helper.

Beneath one of those slowly turning fans, Venables helped copy edit several issues of the 20-or-so page fortnightly *Post*. The tools of trade: several PCs and Macs using desktop publishing software powered from the mains (when the power works) or a generator (when it frequently doesn't). "You start the old generator up, and you have to shut all the computers down to make sure they don't get hurt. It's not the best technology," says Venables.

During his five-week stint, the *Post*'s staff numbered two translators, three local reporters, and a mixed bag of foreigners. "There was a girl from Denmark, a guy from Kenya who'd spent ten years in Taiwan, and Steve, one of our former students," says Venables. The *Post* is not short on issues for investigative journalists. Cambodia is a nation still living in the aftermath of the Vietnam War and the subsequent

Steve's story



JOURNALIST

Name: Stephen O'Connell

Qualification: Dip Journalism

To complete the Diploma in Journalism course at Massey Wellington last year, I arranged to do my three-week internship in Cambodia with the English-language biweekly, the *Phnom Penh Post*.

Several months after finishing the internship, I was passing through Cambodia, on my way to Vietnam, when a reporting job opened up at the paper. Within seconds of being hired I had my first assignment — accompanying a group of British biologists on a survey of the remote forests of the Cardamom Mountains in southwest Cambodia. My new boss left his office briefly and returned with a machete, mosquito net and a pile of canned sardines. "You'll need these," he said.

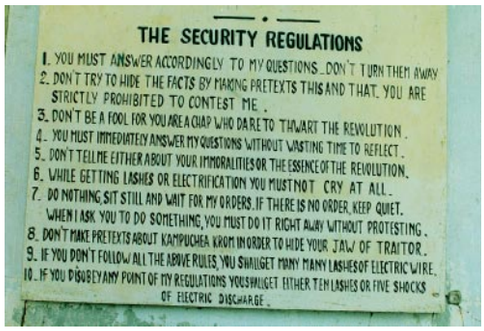
So off I went into an area where the last of the Khmer Rouge guerrillas had laid down their arms only the year before. For a week I roamed around the forest with the survey team. In the end I went my separate way, hiring a motor scooter driver to take me across the range and to the coast on newly built logging roads.

On the way I stayed in a village, arriving on the eve of its annual ancestor worshipping celebration. I was invited to follow villagers to forest shrines where they consumed great quantities of rice wine, danced about with cow horns strapped to their heads, and became possessed by spirits of dead hunters and warrior chiefs. It was an exciting way to begin my reporting career.

After emerging from the jungle and returning

Pictures by Ann Bailey

Disabled musicians.



Regulations at Tuol Sleng prison in Phnom Pehn, which once held 20,000 people, most of would be slaughtered in a nearby death camp.

A child selling bells outside the Bayon temple near Angkor Wat.

genocide instigated by Pol Pot, during which the cities were emptied and people were forced to return to the land. Around 1.7 million people, including most of Cambodia's intelligentsia, were either worked to death or executed.

Today, though Pol Pot is dead and the Khmer Rouge disbanded, half the budget is still spent on defence and security. Cambodia is impoverished; its forests are being stripped; what health and education systems there are, are largely run by foreign aid agencies.

The *Post*'s three Khmer reporters were teenagers during 'the Pol Pot time', says Venables. One lunch time — following a casual conversation about pork — one told Venables of his family's encounter with the Khmer in the 1970s. They had been preparing to cook a pig for a wedding feast when a Khmer Rouge unit emerged from the jungle and ordered them to leave. "They never saw their home again," says Venables. Another reporter, Cheat (pronounced chee-at), had been taken by the Khmer Rouge to plant rice near the Vietnamese border. "He remembered waking up and finding workers dead of hypothermia alongside him," says Venables. "Yet the day before our conversation I watched him interview two former Khmer Rouge with absolute professional detachment."

Alongside Cheat, Venables helped cover a story about Vietnamese virgin girls being sold to foreigners worried about catching HIV/Aids from older prostitutes. "He wanted to find out what the girls would cost, and, if possible to interview one or two. So he pretended to be my interpreter and I pretended to be a Westerner who hadn't got a clue — which was quite true," says Venables. The lurk worked, and Cheat and Venables managed to interview two girls. "One was a part-Chinese girl who had been sold by a relative," says Venables. "They'd got into debt. I think she'd only been there a few days and she was from the country and was very uncertain about what was going on. And we interviewed another girl who had been there a little while and was working. The first girl was obviously afraid, but she was also envious of the other girl who had gold bangles her clients had given her." Venables was badly shaken up.

"I found it a very difficult thing to be part of. In the next few days I found myself asking how I felt doing that as a journalist. It was deeply upsetting." He wonders how Cheat, as the father of a 12-year-old daughter, felt.

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

to the less exotic realities of Phnom Penh, I began learning the intricacies of Cambodian politics.

When I first arrived in Cambodia, a cynical expat with long experience in the country told me there were three types of people here: "Bad guys, bad guys, and victims... but sometimes they change roles." There are plenty of 'bad guys' and certainly no shortage of victims, but I was pleased to find that there are indeed many good people working against tremendous odds to build a decent and more equitable society for Cambodia.

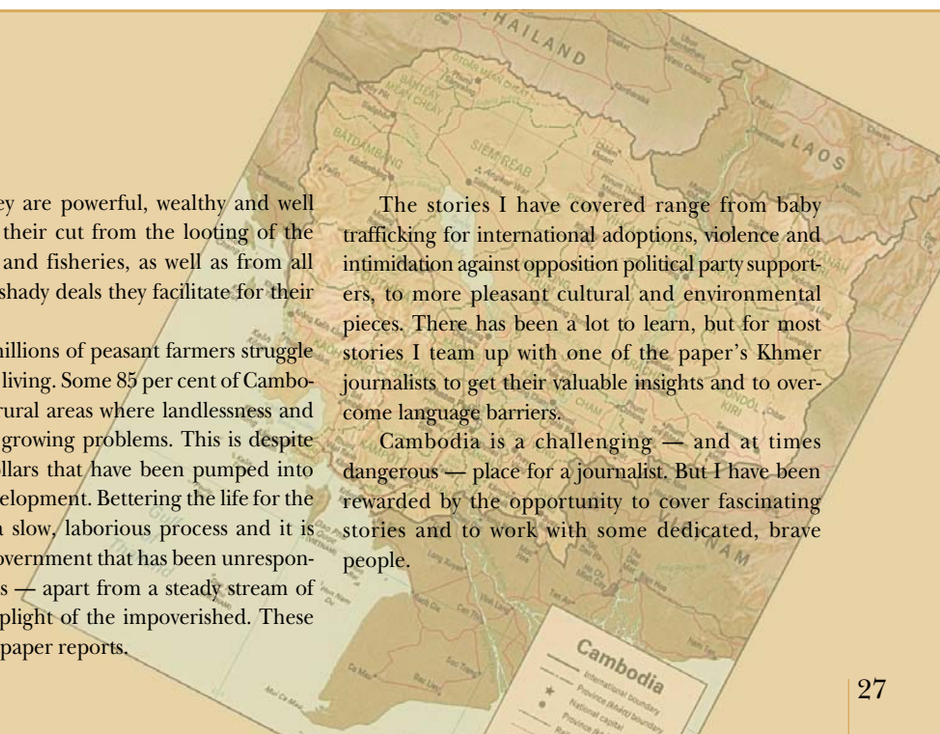
But, being a journalist, I spend a lot of time contemplating and reporting on the deeds of the 'bad guys' — and the depths of their inhumanity and depravity can be breathtaking.

Many are high officials in the government, police and military. They are powerful, wealthy and well armed. They get their cut from the looting of the country's forests and fisheries, as well as from all manner of other shady deals they facilitate for their cronies.

Meanwhile, millions of peasant farmers struggle to make a meagre living. Some 85 per cent of Cambodians live in the rural areas where landlessness and food security are growing problems. This is despite the billions of dollars that have been pumped into Cambodia for development. Bettering the life for the poor is proving a slow, laborious process and it is not helped by a government that has been unresponsive to their needs — apart from a steady stream of lip-service to the plight of the impoverished. These are the issues the paper reports.

The stories I have covered range from baby trafficking for international adoptions, violence and intimidation against opposition political party supporters, to more pleasant cultural and environmental pieces. There has been a lot to learn, but for most stories I team up with one of the paper's Khmer journalists to get their valuable insights and to overcome language barriers.

Cambodia is a challenging — and at times dangerous — place for a journalist. But I have been rewarded by the opportunity to cover fascinating stories and to work with some dedicated, brave people.



Moving with the Financial Times

New Zealand Press Association business reporter Anna Fifield is on a three-month secondment to the *Financial Times* of London, a secondment she won when she was was declared the top business reporting student on the National Advanced Diploma in Journalism, a postgraduate diploma for journalists within the industry.

The diploma, taught extramurally by Massey's School of Journalism in Wellington for the past seven years, offers the country's most valuable journalism prize in the form of an annual $18,000 sponsorship for the top business journalist. Sponsorship is from The Hong Kong & Shanghai Banking Corporation, with UK support from the British Council's Link Foundation.

"Training in this area also gives you the confidence you need for investigative work," says Fifield. Those entering competition for placement, at either the *Financial Times* or the BBC, had to stipulate what they would do if they won.

Fifield promised an investigation into how Britain solved its pension problem, as well as a fresh take on how Scotland and the Republic of Ireland developed their knowledge economies, and how those lessons might be applied here.

Anna Fifield will return to NZPA in Wellington, but one day hopes to work for a wire agency overseas. "I'm sure I'd like the immediacy of working for a company like Reuters — the adrenalin of getting your stories out straight away, of writing four versions of an international breaking news story…"

The Advanced Diploma is delivered in collaboration with The Open Polytechnic of New Zealand.

The Mild Woman of Borneo part II
The adventure continues...

When we last heard of Massey alumna, anthropologist Ann Appleton, she was newly settled in a village longhouse outside the coastal backwater of Mukah in Sarawak on the island of Borneo. No longer. Though still a Mukah resident, Ann now has her own digs: an open-windowed house set on stilts, which she shares happily enough with an assortment of geckos and reluctantly with a number of roosting bats (an eviction is planned). Now very much part of the local community, Ann is clocking up an impressive number of funerals, weddings and cockfights in the name of phenomenological research. Then there's also the odd healing, as Ann relates:

An American travel writer spent a night here in May. I had been told there was to be a healing arranged for his benefit. I didn't realise until I got there that the writer was also the subject. His wife had left him two years ago, and for some time he had been unable to write, and had generally felt down. Pretty normal I suspected. I rather felt the shaman shared the same view — these healers are very psychologically astute.

We all sat in a circle on the floor of the shaman's house. The American related his problems/symptoms at length in English, the travel guide then translated and related them in Bahasa to Vera, Vera in turn translated and related them in Melanau, and Aunty Nancy then shouted them into the ear of the shaman, who was old and very deaf. Answers were then conveyed in reverse fashion.

The 'problem' aired, the healing ritual began. The shaman first drank some oil from a little bottle. Then a bowl with burning coals — frankincense — was put before him and, placing a sarong over his head, he went into a trance. After playing his drum for a few minutes, he instructed his patient to sit in front of him and light a candle. The shaman then used the candle to illuminate the bottom of his drum, which he looked into to divine the problem. Next, he blew out the candle and used it like a straw to suck the 'illness' out of the patient's body: his head, arms, back, and legs. Every so often he would move to a small silver tray on the floor, spitting out a red sticky liquid that looked like blood — the 'bad blood'. (Later, the shaman consumes this liquid

Dudley Lane

The Pro Vice-Chancellor of the College of Sciences Robert Anderson writes in tribute

When welcoming students to Massey University, I have often remarked that they are about to become members of the Massey University 'family' for the remainder of their lives. I suspect this is a remark that passes unnoticed. However, a compelling example to underline the point is most surely the case of Dudley Lane.

Dudley's direct link with the University started in 1939 when he enrolled in the second year of a Bachelor of Agricultural Science degree, having successfully completed a first year at the University of Auckland. Following a period in the Navy and the subsequent purchase of a farm at Tokeroa, Dudley progressed through the ranks of the dairy industry. In doing so he retained very strong links with Massey University through his direct involvement with what might be termed the 'livestock improvement movement' within that industry. The section of the New Zealand Dairy Board responsible for herd improvement for many years took regular advice from a group known as the Standing Committee. The membership of the Committee at varying times included Dr Alan Stewart (Vice-Chancellor), Professor Al Rae and Professor Don Flux, all from Massey University.

It was through that committee that I first met Dudley in 1979, he being the Chairperson at the time. I suspect — but do not know — that linkages of that kind led, in part, to Dudley's appointment to the University Council from 1981-1986.

His tenure on the Council coincided with a very important time for Massey University, namely the changeover of the Sir Alan Stewart 'reign' as Vice-Chancellor to that of (the now) Sir Neil Waters. There is probably no more important task for a univ ersity council than to appoint a Vice-Chancellor. Dudley Lane played a full part in that activity.

His connections with the University Council went even further because, by the time he was a member of the Council, he had married Sue Ward, the daughter of former Chancellor Sir Arthur Ward.

During his time on the Council, Dudley enrolled for a BA as an extramural student , majoring in English, and graduated in 1994, some 53 years after completing his first degree at Massey University. This was an incredible feat. Most people struggle to complete one degree in a lifetime and the thought of completing a second 53 years later is, for many, a daunting prospect! Having caught the extramural bug — so to speak — he then enrolled in a postgraduate Diploma in Classics, which was awarded in 1998. At the time of his death, Dudley was enrolled in an MA degree.

This is not the place to philosophise about the power of education and the opportunities to be had from access to it through alternative delivery systems such as the extramural mode. But there are lessons to be learned from the remarkable example of the son of a Northland dairy farmer, born in 1920, making a journey through studies in Agricultural Science to Greek and Roman Art. His learning pathway is a wonderful role model for all that Massey University stands for, as enunciated in its current mission statement.

Dudley Lane was a member of the Massey University 'family' to the last.

Left: The shaman prepares for a healing;

Above: the winner of a cockfight.

From top right: tibou, the giant swing at Kaul;
mending the fishing nets;
women gambling at Piup — a funeral ritual.

ANTHROPOLOGIST

Name: Ann Appleton

Qualification: PhD (in progress)

along with bananas in a further ritual.) Finally he got his drum and used it to create a vacuum on the patient's back and pulled it off — another kind of 'sucking out' of the illness.

At the end he asked the patient to relight the candle, looked through the drum, then showed and explained what he 'saw'.

Quite apart from some of the details involved, which I saw but cannot logically explain, I was impressed by the ability of the shaman to 'read' and manipulate the patient with so much empathy and patience, despite the language barriers. We finally had to almost prise the patient away — he wondered about the possibility of having the shaman make an effigy of his wife and throw it in the river, but the shaman said it was not necessary and in fact would not help. Very wise of him I felt. I didn't have a chance for follow-up — the travel writer left early the next morning.

Ann's doctoral thesis will examine how traditional societies deal with so-called mental illness, there being good evidence that conditions such as schizophrenia have a better outcome in the developing world.

Under the Root of the Thistle

Language now dwells
Under the root of the thistle
In stony ground,
But it has not abandoned us yet.
It held back the fire,
Always.

Put your hand
On this rock.
The fixed branches of ore
Are tremulous.
But summer
Has been emptied out,
Time is up.

The shadows in the underwood
Are setting
Their snares.

Peter Huchel

Unter der Wurzel der Distel

Unter der Wurzel der Distel
Wohnt nun die Sprache,
Nicht abgewandt,
Im steinigen Grund.
Ein Riegel fürs Feuer
War sie immer.

Leg deine Hand
Auf diesen Felsen.
Es zittert das starre
Geäst der Metalle.
Ausgeräumt ist aber
Der Sommer,
Verstrichen die Frist.

Es stellen
Die Schatten im Unterholz
Ihr Fangnetz auf.

The leading international authority on the German poet Peter Huchel is Palmerston North-based Associate Professor Axel Vieregg. How so?

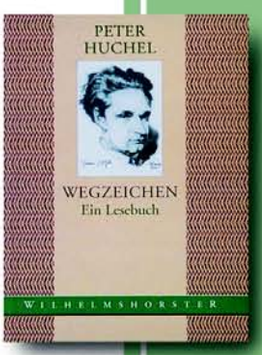
The poet who came in from the cold

The sense of place first drew Associate Professor Axel Vieregg to the poetry of Peter Huchel. It was the early 1970s, and both men were, in different ways, far from home: Vieregg was lecturing in German in Palmerston North; Huchel was living in the Black Forest in a house lent to him by a wealthy German patron.

A decade earlier the two would have lived within walking distance of each other, though the walk — with its barbed wire, dogs and minefields — would not have been an easy one. Vieregg lived in West Berlin, and Huchel, scarcely 10 kilometres distant, on the other side of the wall. Here, among the pine forest and sandy-shored lakes of Brandenburg, is where Huchel spent his formative years. This is where the soul of his poetry is rooted. Here, given the choice, he would have lived always. But Huchel did the unforgivable: he criticised the communist bloc regime he lived under and so he had to go.

After World War II Huchel — then a believer in the transforming power of socialism — chose to settle in the East. With his background as a contributor to literary magazines and his reputation as an anti-Nazi, he was invited to edit East Germany's literary periodical *Sinn und Form* (Sense and Structure). He would do so for 13 years. Under Huchel, *Sinn und Form* became the most prestigious German-language literary journal of its day, its contributors a roll call of German and international literary luminaries.

They were years of gradual disillusionment for Huchel. The promise of the bright dawn of socialism was palling, and as it did *Sinn and Form* became a forum for ever more open expression — finally unacceptably so. In 1961, with the renewal of nuclear testing by the Soviet Union and the Berlin Wall sketched out in barbed wire, Huchel, now openly an apostate, published a last defiant issue — and was dismissed.



From then on he would be subject to petty humiliation and persecution. Invitations from abroad were withheld, he was forbidden to travel, his son missed out on educational opportunities, and the archives of *Sinn und Form* were uplifted from safekeeping and deposited on the dank floor of a garden shed. (In a Kafkaesque episode, Huchel was taken to court to pay for the cost of transport and storage.) However Huchel continued to write and to be published — his poems smuggled to the West in coat linings after clandestine meetings.

At any one time the Huchel-shadowing industry employed up to 100 people to monitor his mail, tap his phone, dog his footsteps, and even analyse his poetry. Huchel's children by his first marriage were among those offered 'work'. In 1971, after an

PETER HUCHEL
Wegzeichen Ein Lesebuch

Printed in Poland, and published in Germany (in German), *Wegzeichen Ein Lesebuch* (Waymarkers, a book of readings) is a handsome publication. Its contents include a selection of Huchel's poetry, prose, and radio works, as well as critical essays, recollections and dedications by prominent authors. There are also photos and extracts from East German secret police files.

Though Huchel is best known for his years as editor of *Sinn und Form*, his fall from grace and his subsequent departure for the West, Huchel's life is also of interest as a mirror of Germany's fortunes. Born in 1903, Huchel lost a brother to WWI, experienced the years of the Weimar republic, witnessed (and deplored) Hitler's rise to power, and was drafted into the army in WWII. (At the close of WWII Huchel was guarding a flak tower and reputedly enjoying the consolations of a young female flak assistant.)

Throughout his life Huchel's reference was his childhood and its landscape. Vieregg describes Huchel's poetry as showing the landscape as seen if through tinted glass: the landscape is there, but there is also something more beyond. This aspect of Huchel's poetry led some critics as early as the 1950s to apply the description magic realism.

Axel Vieregg has edited Huchel's collected works (1984), a task he undertook at the request of Huchel's widow, and *Peter Huchel: Materialien* (1986).

appeal by figures such as Graham Greene and Heinrich Böll, Huchel was finally allowed to leave.

Meanwhile, in Palmerston North Vieregg was enjoying the challenge of being Massey's second-ever lecturer in German, of setting things up from scratch, but still he hankered for home — and he needed a thesis topic for his PhD. He chose Huchel's work.

"I felt that in some ways his situation and mine were similar. He had the feeling of isolation and estrangement; of moving in an environment that he felt was alien," says Vieregg, hastening to add, "though my own experience was a positive one."

Letters to Huchel went unanswered, but a copy of Vieregg's completed thesis brought a handwritten poem of dedication. A personal friendship — including two visits — followed. "He asked me how it was that I had seen what other people had not seen in his work. And I said I felt this affinity for the landscape and I also share your political views and your views on the disappearance of God — which is a central theme. He jokingly said: 'It takes someone like you all the way from New Zealand to unravel my poetry.'"

Why did East Germany regard Huchel's poetry as such a threat? After all, its political content is heavily coded in rural imagery and classical allusions. And how great was the threat of poetry readers taking to the barricades?

According to Vieregg, whatever its other merits, Communism took literature seriously. Poetry was a threat to the State because the State thought it was. "Many East German authors regretted the fall of the wall because it had assigned to them a position which in a market-oriented society an author does not have. Even if they were suppressed, they felt that they were taken seriously."

In the West, the way Huchel was viewed kept changing says Vieregg: "In the 1960s, after the erection of the wall, he was the darling of the Western press as a symbol of opposition to the East German regime. Then in the seventies and eighties with detente he became suspect. The intellectual left saw him as a symbol of the Cold War. That changed after the wall came down and he was seen to have been right all along."

Not that the political right should take too much comfort in Huchel, who condemned the West for its superficiality and materialism.

Huchel died in 1981. His poetry is widely anthologised and is translated into some 20 languages. He has a literary prize named after him, and his house in Wilhelmhorst has been declared a literary sanctuary. The Stasi files have been opened (revealing that some of Huchel's closest friends were spying on him). His widow refuses to set foot in what was East Germany.

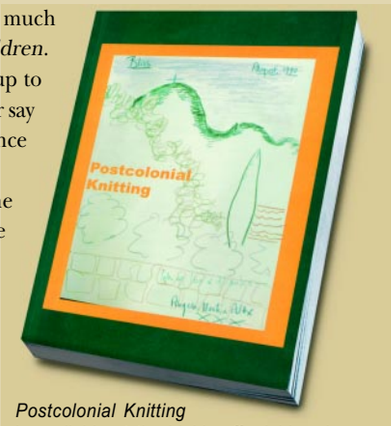
He is buried in Staufen. After rain, water collects in the hollow of the stone that marks his grave. In the summer, birds use it as a bath.

Postcolonial Knitting

Richard Corballis

This unusual book is, in several senses, a labour of love. It began with a conference dinner in Gothenburg in Sweden in 1982. There, the book's editor, Professor Richard Corballis, was seated between Salman Rushdie and a professor from the University of Nice. Professor Corballis continues the story:

"Rushdie had just won the Booker Prize for his novel *Midnight's Children*. As I hadn't read it, I was somewhat self-conscious about getting too deep into conversation with him, so I favoured the Nice professor. Her name was Jacqueline Bardolph, and she had come to the conference to talk about the novels of Albert Wendt, which was a much easier topic for me than *Midnight's Children*. When the conference ended and I came up to bid her goodbye, I was surprised to hear her say that she had a house in the South of France that I could use anytime.



Postcolonial Knitting is available at the highly affordable price of $12 from the School of English and Media Studies.

"Six years later, on the trail of Katherine Mansfield, I found myself heading for the South of France, so I reminded her of her offer, and — to my amazement and delight — she was as good as her word. My wife and I stayed for six weeks in her country house near Bandol, the seaside town where Mansfield lived and worked (at the Villa Pauline) in the winters of 1915–16 and 1918.

"Once our six weeks were up, we swapped houses; Jacqueline moved to Bandol and we took over her Nice apartment for a couple of weeks. Our first two nights there were shared with New Zealand poet Louis Johnson, his wife Cecilia and their two children. Louis was at the end of his tenure as the Katherine Mansfield Fellow in Menton, and I learned from him how generous Jacqueline had been, not just to him but to all the Mansfield fellows — and, I soon discovered, to writers and scholars of all nationalities. From that discovery came — gradually — the idea to put together an anthology of writing by the beneficiaries of Jacqueline's hospitality. In fact, when she came out to the centennial Katherine Mansfield conference in Wellington in 1988, we talked about a co-edited collection of works by the Katherine Mansfield scholars, but decided that there was no point in reinventing Michael Gifkins's earlier collection, *A Rook of their Own*.

"When Jacqueline retired from the University of Nice in 1998 I finally swung into action. I wish that I had started earlier. One of the most celebrated writers to have used the Bandol house — Angela Carter — was dead. As I understand it, she went almost straight from there to the hospital where she died in 1992. So the only new work of hers that I could publish was a sketch from the visitors' book that I have used for my cover. Louis Johnson had also died, but Cecilia graciously allowed me to reprint one of his poems in my book. Others, like Ngugi wa Thiong'o, who had also been at the 1982 Gothenburg conference and on whose work Jacqueline was an acknowledged expert, were by then engrossed in other things. And one of Jacqueline's favourite protégés, Francis Bebey — the poet and musician from Cameroon — was very ill in 1999, when I collected most of my contributions. Still I ended up with 35 entries (most in English, a few in French) from 13 different countries.

"One absence almost proved fatal to the project, however. In July 1999, just a few days after I had visited her in Nice (to check a few details without revealing what I was up to) Jacqueline herself died, very suddenly. I was tempted to abandon the project, but my contributors cajoled me, and the University of Nice confirmed an earlier commitment to provide funding. So I went ahead, and what was to have been a Festschrift became a memorial volume."

Postcolonial Knitting is available from Massey's School of English and Media Studies. Professor Corballis honed up his computer skills and typeset the book, which was printed by the University's Printery. Its title reflects a further aspect of Jacqueline Bardolph: She would knit "superb, artistically designed jerseys for those fortunate enough to be close to her heart."

The Dream of Nikau Jam

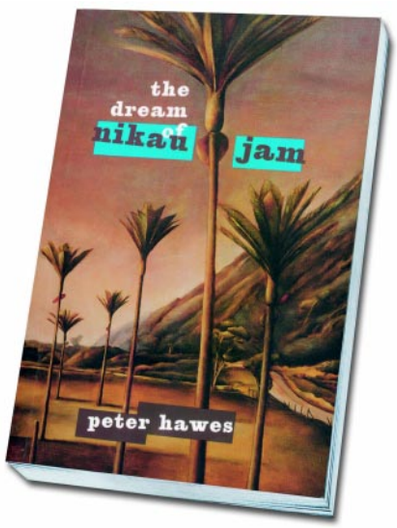
Peter Hawes

This is an engaging tale about love, life and the illicit trafficking of a prohibited substance: nikau jam. All is well in Westport until conservationists from the big smoke hit town and charge our unassuming — and innocent — hero with a heinous crime: killing protected nikau palms by harvesting their fruit. Peter Hawes pits traditional folk against self-righteous urban eco-moralists. You can guess who wins.

Peter Hawes' descriptive gifts will make you feel you know the characters personally; that you too are a Coaster. The moist, mossy beauty of the Buller steams from the pages.

The Dream of Nikau Jam has been widely and very well reviewed in the national media.

Peter Hawes is a former writer-in-residence at Massey University. His other works include *Tasman's Lay* (1995), *Leapfrog With Unicorns* (1996) and *Playing Waterloo* (1998).



The Knowing of Oceania

Kerry Howe

After a bit of intellectual cred when you next holiday in the South Pacific? If so, as your neighbours sprawl on their beach towels with the latest airport blockbuster, reach insouciantly for your copy of Professor Kerry Howe's book *Nature, Culture and History: The 'Knowing' of Oceania.*

"Oceania, or world of the Pacific Islands, is as much a rhetorical device, an intellectual artifact, as it is a physical or cultural location," says Professor Howe. "Knowledge about the natural world of the Pacific Islands and their cultures and histories largely derives from a complex range of Western ideas and assumptions."

Professor Howe sees Pacific history, old and new, as an ongoing morality tale, in which the idea of Western civilisation — its perceived rise and fall, its fears and triumphs — is pitted against the idea of a Pacific 'other'.

"Pacific history is about the meeting of two perceived entities — the West and Pacific peoples. These entities are personified, variously, into forces of good and evil that engage in a prolonged contest."

Nature, Culture and History: The 'Knowing' of Oceania is based on work that Professor Howe presented at New Zealand's prestigious Macmillan Brown Lecture Series at the Palmerston North and Albany campuses in 1997. Professor Howe holds a Personal Chair in History at the Albany campus. This is his seventh book.

The Enemy Within

Richard Buchanan

BUSINESES ARE GOING OUT OF BUSINESS — AND THEIR OWN EMPLOYEES ARE DOING IT!

Bold and CAPITALISED assertions are frequent in Dr Richard Buchanan's energetic book, *The Enemy Within.* They are among the many reasons — originality of approach among them — why the book has become a text for business students, a bible for informed corporates, and is now in its third English-language print run. (Yes, the book is also published in other languages.)

Dr Buchanan argues that organisations do not perish at the hands of competitors, regulators or other outsiders. "Organisations self-destruct because their own 'enemy within' actions drive customers away."

A simple example: a shopper goes into a large department store and can't find what she wants. She sees two salespeople talking behind a counter and stands in front of them… Finally she works up the courage to ask one of them a question. The other snaps for everyone to hear: Excuse me, can't you see we're talking!

The embarrassed customer scurries out of the store, vowing never to return. The store eventually closes for good. The employees blame 'bad management'.

The Enemy Within is entertaining, accessible, informative and authoritative. It has an ACTION SUMMARY at the end of each chapter, and a final ACTION EXERCISE in a workshop format. A complementary video is also available. All reflect the extensive academic and corporate experience of American-born Buchanan: he has worked with more than 100 firms, including multi-national giants, government departments and charities, and is now with the Marketing Department in the University's College of Business.

The Essence of Art

Craig Harrison

Irony, so goes one argument, is the symbol of a nation in decline — which is why these days the British employ irony so readily, and the Americans generally do not. But Britain was not always in decline, so do not look for irony in the pages of *The Essence of Art: Victorian Advice on the Practice of Painting*.

These were the days when Britain was unashamedly Great, art was noble (a favourite word) and morally (and patriotically) improving, and advice on the practice of art was seriously dispensed and seriously taken. *The Essence of Art* presents a selection of this advice — essential reading for anyone who has ever wondered at the mind-set that created the lithographs ranked along the walls of their antique shops, or the art out back in the local gallery.

Perhaps the most revealing passages in *The Essence of Art* are the introduction and epilogue by editor Craig Harrison, a senior lecturer in the School of English and Media Studies. Here, Harrison explains the difference between the condition of art in 18th and 19th century Britain. In pre-industrial Britain, art was the province of the educated aristocracy. In Victorian Britain, art became at once a mass commodity, a hugely popular pastime and a comfortable profession. Prints and engravings found a ready market among the newly prosperous middle class — folk wanting sentimental or moral tales suitable for hanging in the drawing room. (The grim world of the industrial revolution outside the door was certainly not to intrude.)

What finally freed art from its Victorian strictures was its growing irrelevance: its place in the popular imagination being taken not by photography but by the cinema.

Stuffy and sententious the Victorian painters certainly were. But, give them their due, at least you can understand what they are on about — not something you can say of all latter-day art criticism. And, as for cheap tricks, such as Damien Hurst's dead sheep pickled in formaldahyde being deemed works of art, why I do believe I feel a touch of the Victorians coming on myself.

Kura Te Waru Rewiri

Camilla Highfield

Artist Kura Te Waru Rewiri expresses her experience of the world as a Maori woman through her painting. Now Camilla Highfield explores Kura's life and work, in *Kura Te Waru Rewiri: A Maori Woman Artist*.

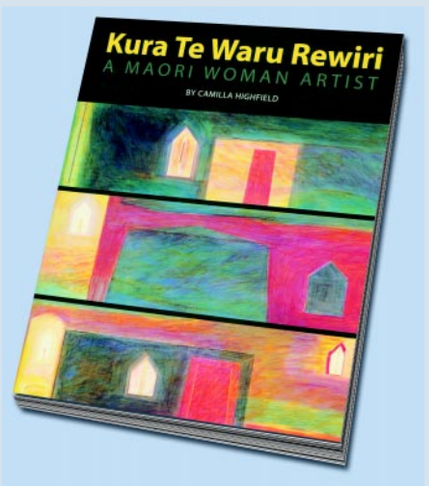
The book traces Kura's personal history; from her childhood in Waitangi, her student days at Ilam in Christchurch, her marriage and its subsequent break up, right up to the present day, with Kura lecturing in art at Massey's School of Maori Studies.

It is intended mainly as a teaching tool and takes a broad-brush approach, looking at Kura's development as an artist from 1985 to 1998.

As well as explaining the motivation behind Kura's work, Camilla details her methodology and use of symbolism. For example, Kura often uses masks in her paintings. But in doing so she honours the Maori belief that the head is sacred and avoids transgression by painting self-portraits, rather than the image of any one else. Kura says she is particularly interested in the subtleties that make a culture unique. She has looked closely at the cross as a symbolic feature of the Treaty of Waitangi. Many of the chiefs who signed the Treaty did so with a cross, not a signature as such.

Kura also says, from the 'other' perspective, the cross is an intriguing image because of its multiplicity of meaning. It can be used as a negative scrawl telling some one they are wrong, or it can be used as a sign of affection.

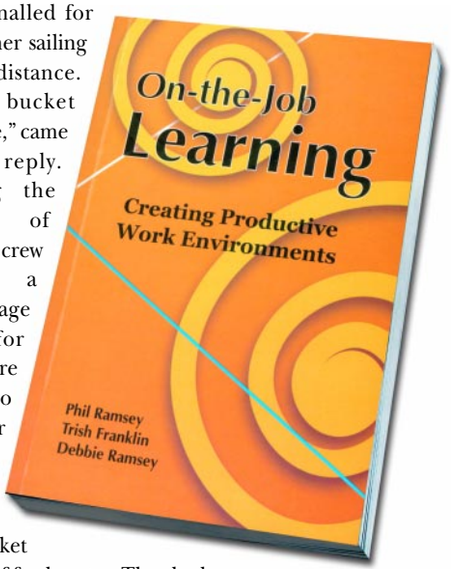
The text is written in a conversational flow and makes for an accessible read, giving something of the thought processes behind Kura's work and life.



On-the-Job Learning

Phil Ramsey, Trish Franklin, Debbie Ramsey

How do you teach others to teach effectively? Use metaphors — effectively. A new book by three Massey College of Business staff, *On-the-Job Learning*, uses metaphors freely to illustrate points. The authors were inspired in part by a workshop given by Bahamian architect and artist Jackson Burnside. He told the story of a ship caught in a storm off the coast of Brazil in the 10th century. Parched from lack of drinking water, the crew signalled for help to another sailing ship in the distance. "Drop your bucket where you are," came the reply. Recognising the uselessness of seawater, the crew sent back a second message begging for water and were again told to drop their bucket. Eventually they did, and pulled up bucket after bucket of fresh water. They had drifted into the mouth of the Amazon, which forces fresh water miles out to sea.



So: "Organisations today are in danger of dying for lack of the knowledge that, in fact, surrounds them." Similar comparisons, including a useful swamp metaphor, make the store of knowledge in *On-the-Job Learning* remarkably accessible and apt. Subtitled, *Creating Productive Work Environments*, the book is divided into four sections: Guiding Ideas; Principles of Human Resource Development; On the Job Training; Surfacing What is Known.

Phil Ramsey has taught training and development at Massey for more than 12 years and has several other books to his name, including the popular *Successful On-the-Job Training*. Trish Franklin teaches human resource development and Debbie Ramsey has a decade's worth of experience teaching communication skills to business managers and students. The book is published by Dunmore Press.

Eye Openers: A Little Something To Think About

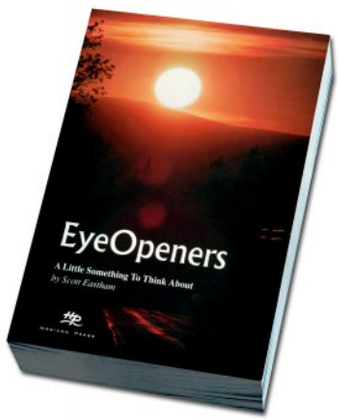
Scott Eastham

"Society is going to hell in a hand basket" says English and Media Studies lecturer Scott Eastham in his collection of opinion pieces.

The pieces, most of which first appeared in the pages of the *Manawatu Evening Standard*, explore a myriad of topics. They range from the anomaly that is the antipodean Christmas, to the 'global village' (which he describes as 'global pillage'), to Greenwich mean time, "the Mean Green Witch that hijacked our holidays".

One column appraises religious holidays in modern times. He writes of the modern-day Xmas "in which 'X' marks the spot where 'Christ' has been removed from Christ-mass, and its 'mass' transmuted from a shared ritual meal to the mass consumption of mass-produced commodities hyped to death by the mass media."

As the blurb on the back cover suggests, "open anywhere, read any page… you may be by turns surprised, delighted, challenged, disturbed, or inspired, but you will never again be bored."



A Rolling Stone

Geoffrey Moss

Geoffrey Moss graduated from Massey Agricultural College in 1957; at one class reunion the chairman challenged those present to write their life histories. This book is one, and the life it records in vivid detail is one of excitement and achievement.

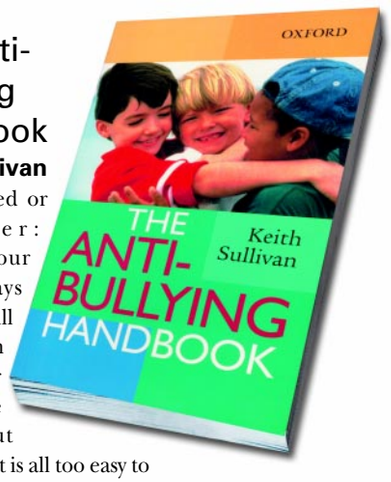
Moss was employed by the Department of Agriculture, first as a farm advisory officer, then from 1965 in an extension position, running training programmes for farm advisory officers. Following a study trip to the US as an Eisenhower Fellow, he was a Director of MAF. Headhunted by the UN Development Programme in 1985, he carried out missions to 20 Asian and Pacific countries, running courses on agricultural extension and training methods. Conditions were often primitive and sometimes dangerous — as when a coup disrupted Bangkok in 1985.

Moss shares anecdotes from his travels, interspersing them with snippets of his personal and professional philosophy and photos from the family album. The book is arranged by region rather than chronologically, and because some countries are visited several times the sequence of events is sometimes unclear. Some judicious editing could have produced a tighter, more coherent narrative, and the interesting chapter on the years at Massey is tantalisingly brief! Perhaps he could write another book just about his college years.

Moss has already published 14 books on communication and practical management techniques.

The Anti-Bullying Handbook

Keith Sullivan



Bully, bullied or bystander: during our school days each of us will have tried on one or other of these roles. But growing up it is all too easy to forget what bullying is like or how serious its consequences can be; that is until something serves to remind us.

The 'something' with which Keith Sullivan begins *The Anti-bullying Handbook* is the 1997 suicide of Dunedin schoolboy Matt Ruddenklau, a case in which the coroner's report found bullying and victimisation were a significant factor.

So can bullying be said to be "character forming" or dismissed as the necessary product of "boys will be boys"? Sullivan certainly doesn't think so. He is also keen to dispense with other popular notions. No, bullying is not just a matter of large rough boys beating up smaller cleverer boys: Girls can be accomplished bullies. Physical violence as a form or bullying has its psychological counterparts, such as isolation and humiliation.

Having established what we know about bullying in part one, Sullivan follows this with a section on planning, philosophy and policy. Here he offers up his own six-step antibullying plan and discusses a number of approaches to dealing with the problem. Sullivan's preference is constructivist: an approach based on "providing positive alternatives for those taking part in or subjected to antisocial behaviour."

Part three examines various preventative strategies, and part four, a variety of interventions including New Zealand's own Kia Kaha programme.

The Antibullying Handbook is perhaps aimed more at an audience of educators and teachers than at parents, but it does provide an assurance that if your child is being bullied you should expect support in dealing with the problem. A whole-school approach to bullying — involving students, teaching and administrative staff, parents, social and community agencies — is the one most likely to succeed.

Now teaching at Victoria University, Keith Sullivan taught Communications in Business Studies at Massey in 1981 and graduated from Massey with a Diploma in Business Studies (first-class honours) in 1997.

The Disability Revolution in New Zealand

Peter Beatson

A cartographic approach to disability is the key feature of *The Disability Revolution in New Zealand,* by Peter Beatson. Subtitled *A Social Map,* the book depends on an analytical framework in the form of a social map, comprising seven spheres: nature, population, economy, politics, welfare, community and culture. "Each circle represents a major aspect of society; jointly they constitute the eternal social environment with which disabled people must come to terms." At the centre of the circles stands a little, impaired kiwi. "Readers may think of it possessing whatever disability they choose," writes Peter Beatson. "It may be several or partially disabled. It could be Maori or Pakeha, male or female, young or old. Our scheme is equally applicable to all forms of disability…"

Beatson's new book is an extended and updated version of an earlier teaching text, *The Sociology of Disability,* but merits a wider audience. Beatson writes with particular authority. An associate professor at Massey University, he has been blind since the mid-1970s. He has written doctoral theses on the blind community in Marseilles, was founding editor of the *New Zealand Journal of Disability* and is compiling an oral history of the disability movement in New Zealand. He is also an experienced writer, whose published work includes *The Eye in the Mandela,* on Australian novelist Patrick White.

Sport in New Zealand Society

Edited by Chris Collins and Dr Linda Trenberth

Cometh the hour, cometh the books. Chris Collins and Linda Trenberth of the College of Business grew frustrated with the lack of resource material to help students study sport in New Zealand, particularly in the rapidly growing area of sport management. They set out to correct the situation. Their jointly edited book, *Sport Management in New Zealand*, was published in 1994. With rapid changes in the structures of New Zealand sport, the book quickly needed updating. "At this point," says Chris Collins, "we decided to split the book in two and create companion texts." The first, *Sport Business Management in New Zealand*, was published by Dunmore Press last February. The second, *Sport in New Zealand Society*, is now available. Contributors to the second volume have wide experience in New Zealand and overseas universities, as teachers and researchers. Topics range from the theoretical to the more topical and populist, including the issues of women in sport and the influence of media coverage.

Fa'asamoa and Social Work Within the New Zealand Context

Pau Tafaogalupe Mao'o Tilive'a Mulitalo-Lauta

A new book launched at the Albany campus breaks new ground on Samoan culture and values. The book, *Fa'asamoa and Social Work Within the New Zealand Context*, covers controversial issues such as child abuse and case studies involving crime, gender and parental control issues.

The author, Pau Tafaogalupe Mao'o Tilive'a Mulitalo-Lauta, is a lecturer in the School of Social Policy and Social Work at Albany. Tafa Mulitalo says he wrote the book in the light of "disturbing incidents involving Pacific Island people and statistics showing increasing numbers of Pacific people involved in crime, child abuse, unemployment and ill health in New Zealand."

The book, published by Dunmore Press, will be of use to social workers, students, educators, churches, government agencies and non-Samoans who want to learn more about Pacific Island culture. It is the first book to focus on Samoan culture, social values and social work involving Samoans in New Zealand.

A Massey alumnus and a former probation officer, Tafa Mulitalo has wide experience of the effects of what he calls "the collision between Samoan and New Zealand culture".

Coastal Dunes – Form and Function

Patrick Hesp

We take them for granted. But few of us understand the dynamics of coastal sand dunes, the wind and wave forces that can shift huge quantities of sand into the sea or on to the land, creating "the most sensual of land forms". The words are those of Associate Professor Patrick Hesp from the University's Geography Programme. His mission is protect and preserve what he describes as one of our most accessible natural assets, the New Zealand coastline.

His new publication *Coastal Dunes – Form and Function* provides a range of information on the importance and development of coastal dunes, as well as a stunning sequence of photographs. The booklet has been written for the Coastal Dune Vegetation network and is the first of its kind in this country — and one of the few available in the world. Copies are available for $11 plus postage from Forest Research in Rotorua.

Dispatches what's happening in the lives of our alumni

Brian Piper Dip HortSci (1947)

Brian Piper lives in retirement in Tauranga after a career as a fruitgrower and nurseryman. He is actively involved in lapidary work, particularly pounamu (greenstone) carving and faceting gemstones.

Raymond Sommerville BAgrSc (1949) MAgrSc (1951)

Not content with just an undergraduate degree, Raymond completed a Masters Degree in 1951. This landed him a job at the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Institute in Sydney, concentrating on animal health and research into animal parasites. After 12 years with the C.S.I.R.I. Raymond became first a Reader and then a Professor in Zoology at the University of Adelaide (where he completed his PhD). He remained in Adelaide until his retirement in 1990.

He has fond memories of Massey. Raymond's first year was in 1946, where he lived in what is now known as the Pink Building. "Massey was so small then, you knew everybody's name. That's something that would be impossible today." While over the years Raymond has lost contact with most of his fellow alumni there is one he has never lost sight of: his wife, Beatrice Moore. She was a University librarian when they met at a dance in the Refectory. They were married in 1951 and have three adult children and four grandchildren. Raymond and Beatrice received an award from the Massey University Alumni Association in recognition of their contribution to the Sir Geoffrey Peren Award Fund. These days they enjoy their retirement at their home in Walkersville, South Australia.

John McDougall BAgrSc (1952)

Principal of Wesley College from 1974 to 1988, John McDougall has come a long way since completing his degree in Agricultural Science. He and several others from his graduating class took advantage of a recruitment drive by the Ministry of Education and trained to become teachers. Initially at Tauranga Boys' High, John completed his country service before becoming Head of Science at Takapuna Grammar. From there John moved to Queen Victoria College in Fiji, where he helped to implement syllabus and examinations based on New Zealand standards.

When he returned from Fiji in 1974, John took up the position at Wesley Boys' College, where he stayed until his retirement in 1988. He has seen a change in emphasis from agriculture to horticulture, something he thinks reflects the new opportunities available in horticulture. John has some great memories of Massey, especially of the support that students received from the lecturers, and the family atmosphere within the University — an experience that enhanced his teaching career. Over the years John has influenced the academic careers of many students, including his wife and daughter, who are both Massey graduates. He remains a staunch Massey Man to this day and keeps regular contact with many of his old graduation buddies.

Jawahar Lal Vegad PhD in Veterinary Pathology (1968)

Jawahar spent 28 years as a Professor of Veterinary Pathology in India before retiring in 1998. He now works as a consultant scientist for the Phoenix Group.

Jane Markotsis (nee Henderson) BTech (1969)

The kiwi story in April's issue of *MASSEY* had a personal resonance for Jane Markotsis. Like Huiarau the kiwi, Jane was born and grew up in the Urewera. "I recall the delight of sighting kiwi burrows in the Ureweras during the many summers we camped in that area. I also have sketches my mother made of the effort it took to dig worms to satisfy a kiwi we nursed back to health after it had been savaged by dogs," writes Jane.

Family legend has it that Jane's mother and father first met on a bush track — and that neither one would give way.

Jane is now Regional Co-ordinator of the North Coast Assistance Scheme with the Government of New South Wales

Allan White BHortSci (1975)

"Full bodied, with a high sweet aroma, rich crisp flavours, a unique rose pink colour, and outstanding storage ability". No, not a winemaker's blurb , but ENZA's description of its hottest new apple, Pacific Rose™. And consumer reaction? "You know you've got it right when people say they don't eat apples, but they eat Pacific Rose," says Allan White, Massey graduate and Director of Development at HortResearch New Zealand.

Though a relatively recent arrival on supermarket shelves, Pacific Rose's consumer appeal and the returns it brings growers have made it the fifth most planted variety in New Zealand.

Pacific Rose originated from a Gala and Splendour cross as part of a large trial in 1981. "We could see the potential, but had no idea Pacific Rose would be such a hit," says Allan, who took over as director of development at HortResearch from Dr Don Mckenzie in 1981.

Indeed, for a while the commercial future of Pacific Rose seemed in doubt. When first planted in traditional apple-growing regions Pacific Rose proved prone to rotting and bruising, and crop yields were often irregular. After testing crops in locations as far afield as Washington State, Italy and France it was found that Pacific Rose does best in a dry, sunny environment. In turn advances in packaging and storage now allow the apples to go to market in top condition.

Allan White and his team are working on forestry, kiwifruit and viticulture, as well as on groundbreaking gene mapping research that will allow ENZA to enforce copyright on new varieties, so protecting growers from pirate producers.

Franco Bawang Dip Hort Sci (1977)

Armed with a Massey University post-graduate diploma specialising in vegetable production, Franco Bawang returned to the Philippines. But his academic days were not over. He is now the Vice-President of Benguet State University and holds a PhD from Araneta University. Two of Professor Bawang's research papers — one examining vegetable cropping patterns and the other potato storage methods — have substantially influenced practices in the Philippines' Cordillera region. Professor Bawang has five sons — all doing well — and has received a number of awards, most recently the Outstanding Educator Award for the Province of Benguet (1997).

Pamela Blackman BSW Hons (1979)

Pamela Blackman is Director of Continuing Professional Development at the University of Lincolnshire and Humberside, working with the Social and Life Sciences Faculty in Lincoln and Hull. She has worked for the National Training Association for Social Care, and is a member of the Ministerial Working Group charged with developing England's mental health workforce.

James Coleman BSW Hons (1979)

Psychology Graduate James Coleman works for Auckland's Channel Z on the drivetime shift. A self-diagnosed obsessive perfectionist, he has won awards as the best non-breakfast radio personality and the best individual on-air personality. In doing so he has trumped the likes of Paul Holmes and John Banks.

Michael John Voerman BTech (Hons) (1983)

For the last two years Michael has lived in Frankfurt working for the German agrochemical giant Zeneca. After the merger of Zeneca and Novartis earlier this year, Michael was appointed the Marketing Support and Planning Manager for Europe. This promotion meant a move to the United Kingdom. He now lives in Hampshire.

Keith Wedlock BBS Accounting and Finance (1984)

Keith was admitted to the New Zealand Institute of Chartered Accountants in 1984 and became a partner in Glendinning & Glendinning in 1989. He is, he writes, " father of three lovely girls and an avid cricketer and golfer."

John Conrad Dip Ed (1975) BA Religious Studies (1983) BA Economics (1986)

Ordained as Roman Catholic priest in 1956, Conrad has been the R.C. and Ecumenical Hospital Chaplain at Green Lane/National Women's in Auckland since August 1990. Conrad, we should graciously admit, also holds a BSc in Geography (Victoria University, 1969).

Catherine Sullivan BBS (1989)

Catherine believes that her first year at Massey was life-changing. She changed her major from Accountancy to Personnel Management and never looked back. Today, Catherine works for publisher ACP (NZ) Ltd as Human Resource Manager, and firmly believes that life should be lived to the fullest. "We're here for a good time not a long time."

Bungy jumping at Victoria Falls and mountain trekking in southern Africa are just some of the adventures Catherine has had since graduating. Catherine's next goal will continue to keep her on the move: running a half marathon.

Jo Matheson BA Media Studies and Communication (1994)

Jo's last year as a Massey student was spent on exchange in San Francisco. Then followed a year in Africa and a further year in Britain before she returned to do a teaching diploma. Jo now teaches English, film and television at Wellington College. Friends should watch out for her in the forthcoming movie *Lord of the Rings*. Jo plays an Orc.

Aaron Wills BAgrEcon (1994)

From Dublin, Aaron writes: "Well after spending four years working for Shell in New Zealand, a six-month stint travelling, and 11 months contracting in London, I find myself in Dublin working for a recruitment consultancy firm. It seems strange, the opportunities that arise... One thing I have found has been the value of the experiences I had at Massey and the skills I learned; whether the formal skills learned during study or the ability to make yourself at home in a new city.

"Ireland is certainly going through a great change at the moment, yet there are plenty of similarities with New Zealand. Like Kiwis, the Irish have a great sense of humour. However it is strange what you crave when you are miles from home. What I would give for a good New Zealand steak pie and a cold bottle of Waikato. Luckily the Guinness tastes great.

"Some things in life remain constant. It is amazing how the friendships made during university days continue to grow. The 'Battery Pigs' (1992–94 Senior IV) have managed to spread themselves around the globe, which makes finding accommodation great. So if you are after 'good craic', Dublin is the place to be."

John Battersby PhD History (1995)

John Battersby has been advising the Crown Law Office on historical aspects of Treaty of Waitangi settlement claims, a responsibility drawing on his broad knowledge of the National Archives and historical records. His work with the Crown Law Office, and his personal interest in the New Zealand wars, has inspired John's first book *The One Day War: The Battle of Omarunui, 1866* . *The One Day War* is centred around the events at the Omarunui Pa on October 12 1866, and is based on personal accounts uncovered by John during his research.

The One Day War is described as "a vivid portrayal of the conflict, relying heavily on personal accounts. It reveals a battle that encapsulates the complex relationships between Maori and Pakeha, and Maori and Maori, amid the anxiety of the New Zealand Wars."

The One Day War is published in paperback by Reed at $24.95.

Han and Judy Hyunh

A profile in *MASSEY* helped bring three former classmates together. Han and Judy Hyunh were in New Zealand courtesy of their son, Eric, who had given them the three-week trip as a Christmas present. "Three years ago, he took a trip himself to New Zealand to retrace his parents' footsteps and [he] felt we should revisit the country and our Alma Mater (at his expense!)," writes Han.

Peter Hubscher, who featured in the November 1999 issue of *MASSEY*, was someone they remembered well, and with the help of the Alumni and Friends Office they were able to get in touch.

"Judy and I were able to renew our contact with friends such as Peter and Pam Hubscher, Nigel Yockney, the Whittas in Dannevirke, and Hazel Riseborough, to name a few. We had a great time at Massey, visiting Professor and Doctor Earle and Professor Campbell. We were really pleased that they vividly remembered us as though it was just yesterday that we were at school."

Han (Food Tech, '67), a Vietnamese Colombo Plan student and Judy (Agriculture, '67) an American international student, met while both were studying at Massey and later married. To this day they share fond memories of their 'bicycle dates'.

The couple now live in Michigan, USA, where Han works in the Quality Assurance Department of Sunny Fresh Foods Company (a Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award recipient for 1999). Judy is a teacher at Palo Community School.

Dispatches

Marnie Leybourne Dip Bus Admin with distinction (1995)

Since leaving Massey, Marnie has completed a PhD in geography at the University of Lyon, France. Curently she works for the state government of Western Australia in natural resource management.

Ben Wilde BTech Hons (1996)

InfoTech Weekly reports that Ben is in the San Francisco Bay area in well-compensated employment: the Californian database software house Informix. If working in the dot.com economy in the States sounds like your dream job, be somewhat reassured that Ben still covets the New Zealand lifestyle. His dream? A house in the Titirangi bush.

Duane Austin MBA (1996)

Duane is Chief Engineer for Marubeni Network Systems in Amsterdam. He lists as cultural achievements surviving Johannesburg jungles and Amsterdam coffee shops.

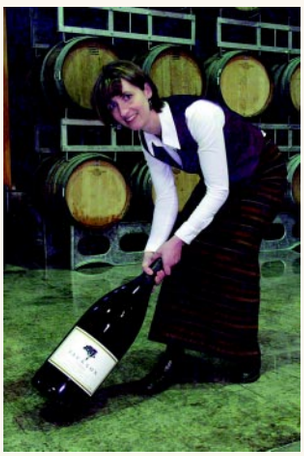
Jane Bowden BBS Tourism (1996)

Resident Ranger at Auckland region's Long Bay Regional Park, Jane has been seconded for 12 months as a countryside ranger in Lomond Hills Regional Park in Fife, Scotland.

Ben Poulton BSc Plant Health (1997)

Ben Poulton writes: "I spent 5 weeks in Kosovo in October 1999 doing a voluntary Christian outreach with YWAM. We built 50 prefabricated houses, 2.75 by 4.75 metres. We were gratefully received by the Kosovar Albanians — anything is better than a tent. Some lamented the loss of their houses, some were full of hate wanting revenge, others just wanted to get on with their lives and to have hope for the future. Once after building a house, praying for the occupants and singing to bless them, an old man, said 'Now I know that there are good people in the world again'."

Ben is currently doing a Ministry Internship diploma at the Bible College of New Zealand and working with TSCF in Auckland.



Sigrun Steinhagen BApSc BBS Hons (1997)

Winter sports and wine-tasting are two of life's passions for German emigre Sigrun Steinhagen, the organiser of Malborough Wine Festivals and the Executive Officer of Ice Sports New Zealand.

Once a competitive skier (representing Massey), Sigrun is now working with ice sports — such as curling, luging, the bobsleigh and skeleton, and speed skating — to secure funding and raise their profile.

Sigrun is the founder/operator of Sigrun Business Solutions, a public relations, media and event-organising firm based in Blenheim, serving national and international businesses.

David Cheng MBA International Business (1998)

David is a Beijing-based strategy consultant with Anderson Consulting. He describes the Chinese business market as huge, and notes that many Massey graduates are a part of it, particularly in eCommerce. Everywhere there are internet advertisements and people talking about start-ups. David describes his own role as varied, challenging and exciting.

Angela Boa DipBS (2000)

Angela Boa has found herself. Spending 17 years as a wife and mother was all very well. But she's enjoying the challenge of her new position as a branch manager with ground-breaking real estate company REAL Ltd. The company, which offers the services of both lawyers and real estate agents, was launched earlier this year, opening 26 branches on the same day.

Angela graduated from Massey this year with a Diploma in Business Studies, majoring in real estate. In what she calls "a classic example of the value of networking", she connected with REAL when she returned to the Albany campus, where she had studied, to attend a real estate seminar. "I was looking for a managerial position. One of the other participants was recruiting managers for the new company. And there we were."

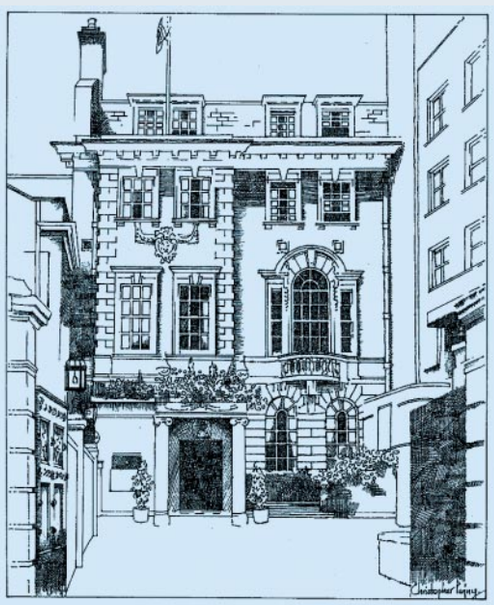
Angela's children are aged 15 and 19. She is based in Takapuna and feels she has come a long way from her days as "a high school dropout in the UK. I think I was destined to find my true vocation later in life."

An invitation to join the Royal Over-Seas League

Massey alumni are offered a special membership of the Royal Over-Seas League (ROSL), a non-profit making Commonwealth organisation established in 1910 to encourage understanding between nations.

ROSL offers members centrally located club facilities in London and Edinburgh, including accommodation, restaurants and drawing rooms in gracious historic buildings. New Zealanders travelling to London can join for only $40 a year and enjoy the comfort and friendliness of a Commonwealth Club. Membership of the ROSL also gives members the use of over 50 other clubs world-wide.

To enquire further, please phone ROSL's New Zealand Director, Lyn Milne, on 0800 668 244 (toll free).



ROSL's historic house in the St James District, a few steps from Piccadilly

Professor Barrie Macdonald, Pro Vice-Chancellor of the College of Humanites and Social Sciences, writes...

Extramural students are something special. They are more worldly-wise and more varied than their campus-based counterparts and their powers of persistence are extraordinary. Family circumstances, illness, the cost, a new job, the start of a new relationship or the end of an old one: those who make it through to graduation have resisted many 'outs'.

Silver spoons and standing ovations

In recent years, there has been one former student who, in a sense, will always be with me. Carl McCann was in many ways a typical extramural student. He started his university studies — not at Massey and not very successfully — in the 1950s; but came back to them in the 1980s when he was in his 60s, and he took the opportunity with both hands. He was never a top student. Indeed, in many ways, he was a marginal student (he signed off one letter as "Your plodding student") — but he loved what he studied as he explored worlds that had previously been beyond his reach. Late in 1994, Carl enrolled for what he believed would be the last paper for his degree. He then asked if he could be exempted from the March on-campus course. He had cancer. He was desperately disappointed — he could taste failure when he passionately wanted to graduate.

That year we had adjusted the points value of papers, as we do from time to time and, on looking through Carl's record, I found that over 45 years he had actually accumulated enough credits for his degree and he did not need that last paper; he could graduate in May. He got that advice on Christmas Eve and it was, he said, the best present he had ever received. He knew he was dying, but he was determined to be here for graduation.

It then became clear that he was very seriously ill and would not be able to realise his dream of walking across the stage. So the Vice-Chancellor approved the degree on behalf of Council, the certificate was signed by the Chancellor on a fleeting visit to town, and it was sent to the family — all within a couple of days. They had the scroll framed, presented it to Carl and, in the few days remaining to him, that scroll was a major focus for Carl and those at his bedside.

I mention this as background because Carl was a character in many ways. At the end of each on-campus course (and he attended many over a decade), Carl would stand, taking the unwary lecturer by surprise, and embark on a speech of thanks on behalf of the class. We soon realised that this was no set piece — it was always there and always polite, but it varied in length and enthusiasm. Sometimes it was a short speech, followed by shuffling and an embarrassed silence. On other occasions he would make his speech and then lead the class in a round of applause for the lecturer. On a few rare occasions, the speech would be long and enthusiastic; he would ask the class to join in the applause and, as they started to clap, he would wave his arms and urge them to their feet in tribute to the brilliant tuition they had received.

Among a small, and may I say select, group, this soon became known as a 'Carl McCann Standing Ovation' — jested about, perhaps, but gently, and only a little because the recipients were usually quite pleased themselves and became more so over the years, as they listened in the corridors or inquired how their colleagues had fared in the McCann appreciation stakes.

But there was another informal rating system issued by a student — a woman of a certain age, as the French would say. Some of those who taught her would receive a small parcel in the mail, usually after the exam results were out so there could be no suggestion of impropriety. In the parcel would be a silk-lined box and a silver spoon, which might vary in size and style, but always came with a brief, polite handwritten note of appreciation.

Silver spoons, too, were always discussed in hushed tones among friends, so it was never quite clear who had received spoons and who had not. But one young colleague, unaware of the background or conventions, arrived at the Common Room one day to find a group that included Colin Davis, then Professor of History, who was a Yorkshireman with a Yorkshireman's sense of humour. Our new colleague was bemused, perplexed even, but also rather pleased with himself. "I have just received a silver spoon from a student who liked my course," he proudly announced. He was rather taken aback when Colin appeared from behind his paper and said: "Very impressive, but have you ever had a Carl McCann Standing Ovation? That's the real test."

In the 2000 calendar year, about 48 per cent of Humanities and Social Sciences enrolments on the Palmerston North Campus are extramural students, and a number of the enrolments counted as 'internal' are in fact postgraduate distance students enrolled for block courses. Next year, extramural students will account for more than half of all enrolments.

For Carl, as it so happens, working towards an arts degree could only be its own reward. Others will find what they learn invaluable in their working lives. Studying towards an arts degree endows students with interpersonal and generic skills of research, analysis, critical thought and coherent writing that transcend discipline, translate across time and place, and give flexibility in employment. You might also argue — as I do — that the value of higher education rests as much in having an educated society as it does in the employment and enjoyment that accrues to individuals.

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