



**Massey University**

# Massey News

Auckland • Palmerston North • Wellington • Extramural

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Associate Professor Peter Snell.

## Celebrating services to health science

Associate Professor Peter Snell is back in New Zealand this week for the second stage of his involvement in the Massey University Foundation Outstanding Achiever Series and to receive an honorary doctorate in recognition of his achievements in human health science.

Dr Snell, a three-time Olympic Gold medallist, is one of two internationally recognised New Zealanders who will receive honorary doctorates during the nine graduation ceremonies to be held in Palmerston North this week. The other is sculptor Paul Dibble, a former Massey lecturer in the College of Education, who created the Memorial to the relationship between New Zealand and Britain, *Southern Stand*, opened in Hyde Park, London, last year.

They will join more than 1470 graduates, who will cross the stage during graduation week, the traditional highlight of the academic year and the largest of the graduations held at Massey's three campuses during April and May each year.

Dr Snell is based at the University of Texas' Southwestern Medical Centre in Dallas. He was selected as the Foundation's

Outstanding Achiever Series Fellow in Health and Exercise Science because of his international standing and involvement in an area of science of importance to Massey.

He has been author or co-author of 60 published papers and abstracts on exercise-related research and a reviewer of scientific publications, a scientific adviser to the United States track and field team, a representative on the United States Olympic Committee's sports medicine committee and a regular speaker at sports science conferences throughout the world.

In 1999 he was the inaugural inductee into the Rhode Island University's International Scholar-Athlete Hall of Fame.

The first stage of Dr Snell's fellowship involved a three-week visit in October, when he engaged with several Massey scientists from the Institute of Food, Nutrition and Human Health.

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# Honorary doctorate celebrates Snell's services to health science

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He also worked with groups hosted by the University including the Government's Food and Beverage Taskforce and the Ministry of Health, as well as industry leaders of companies with interests in the link between food, lifestyle and health.

His return will see him continue that work including two projects, one on the interface between public health and exercise science and the second on the alleviation of osteo-arthritis in older people.

The first project will be based at the Centre for Public Health Research at the University's Wellington campus. Key collaborators from the University will be Professor Chris Cunningham and Dr Steve Stannard. The second project is a longitudinal (ongoing) study, for which the parameters will be determined during Dr Snell's visit, with key collaborators Professors Elwyn Firth, Marlene Kruger and Dr David Rowlands.

He will give public lectures, along with Professor Cunningham, at the Regent in Palmerston North on Tuesday, 15 May, at the Sir Neil Waters Lecture Theatre on the Auckland campus on Wednesday, 30 May, and on the Wellington campus next month at a date and venue to be confirmed. All three public lectures will coincide with functions held by local chapters of Massey Alumni.



Dr Peter Snell.

## Finale for String Quartet



Quartet on tour, from left, Helene Pohl (first violin), Douglas Beilman (second violin) Gillian Ansell (viola) and Rolf Gjelsten (cello).

The auditorium of the University's old main building will ring to the sound of the New Zealand String Quartet again next Wednesday (23 May), the last in a series of three free concerts.

Associate Professor Robert Hoskin, who co-ordinates the lunchtime concert series on the Palmerston North campus, says the sessions bring together Bach

and Mendelssohn and reveal the bond between them.

The NZSQ, recently returned from playing overseas at venues including London's Wigmore Hall and the prestigious New York Frick Collection, is acclaimed for its powerful communication, dramatic energy, and beauty of sound. It has distinguished itself internationally for its imaginative

and unique programming, including cycles of composers' music from Mozart to Berg, and the championing of works from New Zealand and the Pacific rim. The quartet is touring elsewhere in the North Island, with a similar programme to that presented at Massey over the three sessions.

The final concert will take place from noon on 23 May.



# Massey scoops third-biggest funding share from national research quality assessment

Massey's research staff under the Government's national ratings system have boosted funding and strengthened its position as a national leader in the core areas for which it is internationally recognised – sciences, creative arts, business and social sciences.

## Highlights:

- Ranked top three in 10 subject areas: Agriculture and Applied Biological Sciences, Public Health, Pure and Applied Mathematics, Visual Arts and Craft, Clinical Medicine, Engineering and Technology, other Health Studies, Physics, Sport and Exercise Science, and Statistics.
- A 45 per cent increase in Massey's Quality Evaluation score.
- A 52 per cent increase in the number of A-ranked researchers and 27 per cent overall increase in A, B and C-ranked researchers.
- PBRF funding the third highest of any university at \$34.7 million.
- Ranked first in Design, Nursing, Veterinary Science.



The Performance-Based Research Fund's 2006 Quality Evaluation, released this month by the Tertiary Education Commission, determines the allocation of annual funding (currently \$137 million) based on the performance of academic researchers at each university and tertiary institution. This is the second Quality Evaluation; the first was in 2003.

Massey's share of the PBRF funding pool has increased by \$2 million this year as a result of the evaluation, from \$32.7 million to \$34.7 million, third highest in New Zealand behind Otago and Auckland, both of which have medical schools with access to pools of research funds not available to other research institutions.

It now has 13 subject areas ranked in the top three in New Zealand, compared with seven in 2003. It is ranked first in Design, Nursing and Veterinary Science; second in Agriculture and other Applied Biological Sciences, Public Health, Pure and Applied Mathematics, and Visual Arts and Crafts; and third in Clinical Medicine, Engineering and Technology, other Health Studies, Physics, Sport and Exercise Science, and Statistics. In 19 subject areas Massey achieved quality scores above the sector average.

The overall "quality score" of the University as an institution has improved from 2.11 in 2003 to 3.05, a 45 per cent increase.

That has led to a national ranking of sixth among the universities, one place higher

than in the first evaluation, although Vice-Chancellor Professor Judith Kinnear says such comparisons are less rigorous than comparisons between subject areas because of the huge differences in the types of courses run by different tertiary education organisations.

"It's not about improving our rankings in PBRF, it's about creating a research-active community offering research training and offering research-led undergraduate teaching," Professor Kinnear says. "That gives us credibility in an international environment."

Massey now has the third highest number of active researchers of any university. It has 874 researchers with rankings of A, B or C, compared with 689 in 2003, a 27 per cent increase. The number of A-ranked researchers increased by 52 per cent, B-ranked by 32 per cent; and C-ranked by 22 per cent.

Because it exceeded the targets it set for itself in the number of A and B-ranked researchers it now has slightly fewer C researchers than expected. The percentage of research-active staff has increased from 56 per cent to 78 per cent.

"We've achieved a huge shift of people between categories and, while we've made improvements in the process, ultimately it is the quality of our academic staff that has enabled us to achieve this outstanding result."

Each of the five colleges achieved increases

in their overall quality scores, with the College of Creative Arts and the College of Education making dramatic improvements from 2003.

Within the colleges, there were significant improvements in the rankings for Engineering and Technology, Nursing, Education, Visual Arts, Physics, Statistics, Mathematics, Chemistry and Veterinary Science.

"This is a superb result and a testament to the hard work of staff, particularly the heads of departments and institutes, who led by example and encouraged their colleagues to strive for higher rankings," says Professor Kinnear.

"It is also a direct result of a management strategy put in place after the first PBRF results were released three years ago. Our policy, that all staff will be research-active at a level appropriate to their stage of career and appointment, has been embraced. We've set targets and we've exceeded them."

The PBRF evaluation announcement coincided with a meeting of the University Council. The Council congratulated staff for their achievements in improving their individual and subject area rankings, and it recognised the significant benefit to the University of receiving the third-largest share of the funding pool.

The PBRF Quality Evaluation 2006 Release Summary can be read on the TEC website: [www.tec.govt.nz](http://www.tec.govt.nz)

## Cancer research wins US funding

An international study led by the University's Centre for Public Health Research has been awarded \$140,000 by the United States National Institutes of Health to investigate risk factors of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.

Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma (NHL), diagnosed in about 600 New Zealanders annually, is a group of cancers that may develop in any organ associated with the lymphatic system, such as the spleen, lymph nodes or tonsils.

Study leader Dr Andrea 't Mannetje says both incidence and mortality have been increasing worldwide for 20 years but no one knows why and knowledge about what causes NHL is also poor.

"This study will help us learn more about any links between occupational exposure and NHL, which may provide opportunities for the primary prevention of NHL in the future."

Previous studies focusing on occupational risk factors have suggested some exposure to pesticides and solvents may be a cause, but study findings have not been consistent.

The new study will, over two years, analyse the association between occupational risk factors and NHL in nine separate NHL case-control studies from North America, Europe and Australia.

It will involve collaborations with world-renowned cancer research institutes, such as the World Health Organisation's International Agency for Research on Cancer and the United States' National Cancer Institute.

The Centre for Public Health Research is a multi-disciplinary team of researchers established seven years ago and based at Massey's Wellington campus.

## Award for Social Work supporter

The School of Sociology, Social Policy and Social Work has awarded its Mary Ann Baskerville Field Educator award to Anne Thompson, for her support to the social work programme.

The award is made annually to an outstanding field educator of a student completing placement either in the Bachelor of Social Work or the Masters of Social Work degree.

Acting head of school Professor Paul Spoonley says Ms Thompson has always been willing to assist in providing expert supervision, having followed developments in the programme since soon after it was established.

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## Nursing shortage heads for crisis

The shortage of nurses in New Zealand is heading for crisis levels, due to an ageing workforce, graduates heading overseas, and a global nursing shortage, says a nursing workforce researcher.

Dr Annette Huntington from the School of Health Sciences on the Wellington campus says with the average age of nurses at 45, many are approaching retirement.

Australia is aggressively recruiting from New Zealand, with more than 900 nurses heading there in 2003, the most recent year for which figures are available.

It is not known what that figure is now but anecdotal evidence is that it may have increased. A quarter of nurses from a recent class at Massey University moved to jobs in Australia.

The issue is a global one, says Dr Huntington. "New Zealand nurses are very desirable on the international market.

"New Zealand will continue to lose its qualified nurses to countries with stronger economies and better pay and conditions.

"The issue of whether we can replace them from poorer developing countries is increasingly an ethical debate, when those countries are also facing a shortage and are arguably in greater need.

"Nurses are the backbone of health services. Our 45,000 registered nurses make up approximately 60 per cent of New Zealand's health workforce."

Just over half work in district health boards, with the rest in areas such as aged care, primary care, Māori health providers, the prison services, defence and private hospitals.

"Although pay has improved for nurses working in DHBs, it has lagged behind for other nurses.

## Researchers aim to prevent cases of repeat depression

Researchers at the Auckland-based Centre for Psychology are looking at ways to help prevent people slipping back into depression, months or years after they have had treatment.

For over a decade, senior psychology lecturer Dr Nikolaos Kazantzis has been researching Cognitive Behaviour Therapy and has published internationally his investigations into aspects of applying the therapy.

CBT is the commonly applied, research supported psychological treatment of clinically depressed people focused on changing problem beliefs and behaviours.

CBT has found to be both an effective and enduring treatment. Now Dr Kazantzis and his researchers at the Psychology Centre want to find out how to make the therapy more effective and to prevent depressive relapses.

Depression has been on the increase and the World Health Organisation predicts that it will have the highest total burden of care of



Dr Annette Huntington.

"We have a small window of opportunity to address the issues before the shortage becomes acute."

Researchers from the School of Health Sciences are tracking nurses' health, wellbeing and patterns of workforce participation using on-line questionnaires, in the Nurses' E-Cohort Study. The study is establishing a database to improve workforce policy and planning, with the aim of encouraging the recruitment and retention of New Zealand nurses.

"Accurate data is essential for the planning and management of the nursing workforce if this pressure is not to overwhelm our health services," says Dr Huntington.

The Nurses' E-Cohort Study is a collaborative venture between the University of Queensland and Massey University's School of Health Sciences.

any disorder worldwide.

The researchers are seeking people who are suffering from depression to take part in their study – aged between 18 and 65 who are currently experiencing a major depressive episode for the first time.

Those who are accepted for the study will be eligible for 20 free treatment sessions over an 18 week period.

"This research is important as it will enable psychologists and other mental health professionals to adjust the treatment to better meet the needs of the individual," says Dr Kazantzis.

"The results of the study will also be used to identify individuals at risk for depressive relapse."

Co-investigators at the Centre for Psychology are Associate Professor Paul Merrick and Professor Janet Leatham.

# Renewal of international accreditation for Vet programme

The University's veterinary science programme's international accreditation has been renewed for a further seven years. This enables Massey-trained vets to practice in New Zealand, Australia, Britain and North America.

A recent visit by representatives of American and Australasian veterinary professional bodies to the Institute of Veterinary, Animal and Biomedical Sciences in Palmerston North has resulted in a full pass and a glowing report.

Institute head Professor Grant Guilford says the American accreditation, in particular, is crucial to the University's \$4 million per year full-fee paying veterinary programme.

The combined delegation consisted of 12 leading veterinarians from the American Veterinary Medical Association and the Veterinary Schools Accreditation Advisory Committee of the Australasian Veterinary Boards Council. They checked compliance with a set of international standards relating to organisation, finances, admission policy, curriculum, facilities, faculty, student care, learning resources, clinical resources, research and outcomes assessment.

The delegation also conducted interviews with senior University management, institute

staff, undergraduate students, postgraduate students, alumni and employers. Their report focuses on the strengths of the programme and makes a small number of recommendations. Points of strength identified include:

- The recent upgrades to the equine/farm services clinic, the large animal teaching unit and the microscopy teaching spaces. The plans for further upgrading of current facilities are commended and encouraged.
- The collaborative research between AgResearch and IVABS in the new Hopkirk Institute, and the opportunity to improve postgraduate recruitment.
- Support for international students and the mentorship programme.
- The range of online and electronic resources available to students and the impact of computer-aided learning.
- The availability of healthy cattle, sheep and horses and the access to large animals to students who need further handling experience.
- The participation of students in the teaching hospitals and their involvement in client communication.
- Strong support by students for their learning experience, particularly the approachability and care by staff.

## Call for ban on tele-marketers

Marketing Professor Janet Hoek says it is time for New Zealand to follow Australia's lead and pass a law enabling people to ban telephone marketers from calling them at home.

Australia has database of "don't-call" numbers, which people can list themselves on and tele-marketing companies must refer to before making up their calling lists.

Half a million Australians signed up in the first three days. In the United States, which has a similar database, 120 million phone users have put their numbers on it.

Professor Hoek says it would be surprising if the levels of concern and feelings of annoyance felt by New Zealanders about tele-marketers differed from those evident in Australia and other countries and consumers should have the right to say they do not want such calls.

The Australian law specifically excludes charities, political parties and educational institutions from having to comply with the "don't call" register. Australian consumer groups argued that charities and political parties ought to be included in the legislation, though felt legitimate research should be exempt.

Although the New Zealand Marketing Association has a name removal register, Professor Hoek notes this is not widely publicised and many consumers would not know of its existence. "Not all telemarketers subscribe to the Marketing Association; this



means the code of practice does not cover all telemarketing activity, thus it cannot afford full protection to consumers."

She argues that government legislation is necessary to ensure consumers can exert more control over who has access to their phone number.

"Government regulation is more visible and the options it creates are better known. In addition, government regulation is pro-active rather than re-active; unlike self-regulation it provides explicit compliance incentives in the form of penalties and, most importantly, it is completely independent, which promotes consumer confidence in the outcomes."

## Technology grant for learning project

College of Education lecturer Dr Madhumita Bhattacharya has received The 2007 HP (Hewlett Packard, Asia Pacific & Japan) Technology for Teaching Grant award for higher education.

Dr Bhattacharya received the \$US75,000 grant to fund the cost of implementing the project and the supply of computer hardware and other accessories for her project *Fostering integrative learning using mobile learning technologies*. The paper aims to introduce mobile learning technologies for creating interactive learning environments for undergraduate courses in Science and Technology.

The goal is that the HP Technology for Teaching Initiative supports the development of mobile technology environments that will:

- Transform teaching and learning in the tertiary education environment
- Create new models of success on campus for integrating technology into learning environments.
- Engage teachers in adopting and implementing these models in their classrooms
- Foster publication, demonstration and presentation opportunities for academic leaders on the application of mobile technology in university learning environments.

Dr Bhattacharya says students will be able to create audio, video and image files as artefacts and include them in their eportfolios as evidence of learning and achievement.

"Self-assessment and peer-review will become much easier. Students will be able to receive feedback from a wider audience on their work. This may increase students' chances of employability and boost motivation to perform well," she says.

## Distance Education director appointed

Associate Professor Mark Brown has been seconded to be Director of Distance Education, making him responsible for the delivery of extramural programmes.

The announcement was made last week by Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic and Research) Professor Nigel Long.

Professor Long says Dr Brown, from the College of Education, has an outstanding record of teaching, research training and research mainly in the area of distance education.

"He has been a member of the Teaching and Learning Committee for a number of years and has extensive experience as a member of numerous university and external committees and advisory bodies."

Massey has the most extensive range of extramural programmes and the largest number of students of any New Zealand tertiary institution.

## New position for extramural focus

The College of Business has created a new position of Associate Pro Vice-Chancellor to spearhead and foster its international activities and its large extramural programme.

The Head of the Department of Finance Banking and Property, Professor Chris Moore, has been appointed to the position, taking effect on 14 May. He will be based at the Auckland campus.

Pro Vice-Chancellor Professor Lawrence Rose says the portfolios of International and Extramural are crucial to the future of the College of Business. "The brief for the International portfolio is to enhance the College's international enrolments and profile by managing existing relationships and initiating appropriate new ones.

"The Extramural portfolio will involve identifying new student bases, reviewing and enhancing the available paper and programme mix, and identifying and deploying improved technologies and operational practices.

"I am pleased to have Professor Moore on board, with his experience and energy, and look forward to working with him to further develop these areas."

Professor Moore says one of his priorities will be to ensure the College is making maximum use of available technology to enhance services to its 2300 extramural students.

He is also clear on where the College is going with its international linkages and partnerships: "We want to continue to build up strong, quality bilateral relationships, such as we have already with Wuhan University and Nanjing University of Technology in China. Such arrangements mean that we ensure a good and continuous flow of quality students into our programmes, at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels."

Associate Professor Martin Young will succeed Professor Moore as Head of the Department of Finance Banking and Property.

Dr Young has been with the University since 1991. He spent four years, from 1999 at the Nanyang Business School, Nanyang Technological University in Singapore.

A paper by Professor Martin Young, Professor Lawrence Rose and Dr Ben Marshall is attracting attention on the Social Science Research Network (SSRN) eLibrary. The paper, titled *Market Timing With Candlestick Technical Analysis*, has had almost 200 downloads since its recent posting.

The paper has been accepted for publication in *The Journal of Financial Transformation*. The College of Business has now risen to 25th place amongst non-United States business schools, in the SSRN rankings, based on the number of research papers downloaded. The College is ranked 71 on a world basis.

## College of Business focuses on indigenous governance research

The College of Business has boosted its capacity to research issues related to indigenous governance and organisation.

Earlier this year the Centre for Indigenous Governance and Development (CIGAD) was transferred from the College of Humanities and Social Sciences to the College of Business.

The move places the centre alongside Te Rau Rangahau, the Māori Business Research Centre, providing opportunities for future collaboration and synergies.

CIGAD was established in 2005 and has attracted a range of funded research projects and partnerships with iwi agencies and New Zealand and Canadian government ministries.

Director Dr Manuhia Barcham describes the centre as "promoting the integration of indigenous world views with sound governance and development principles to build capacity, facilitate involvement in governance at all levels and develop quality outcomes for indigenous peoples."

Dr Barcham joined the University in 2004 as a lecturer in Development Studies. He is also an adjunct research fellow with the Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research at Australian National University and is on the board of Oxfam New Zealand.

He says the centre has already developed a profile in the broader Asia-Pacific region in

the area of governance. "We also have strong links with universities in North America and the Pacific, including the University of Hawaii, the University of Victoria, the University of the South Pacific and the University of Saskatoon."

Current and recently completed research projects include an investigation into the housing circumstances of urban Māori as part of an international comparative study.

Research on Māori perspectives of the impact and effects of emergency events, focusing on the 2004 floods in the Bay of Plenty and Manawatu regions.

Te Rau Rangahau also has a new director with the appointment of Annemarie Gillies as Director. She replaces Dr Farah Palmer who has taken up a new post with Te Puni Kokiri as a national sport and business mentor to Māori youth and women.

Dr Gillies has been a lecturer in the Department of Management since 1999. Her areas of research expertise include developing expertise in kaupapa research methodologies, and Māori community development.

Te Rau Rangahau aims not only to spearhead the development of Māori research capacity in the College but also to provide leadership and frameworks to advance business knowledge that will benefit Māori.

## Showcasing biofuel research

The University took the opportunity to showcase research into biofuels at a recent forum for the biotech industry hosted by the e-centre.

The e-centre at the Auckland campus is the incubator for new and developing companies and one of the latest under the centre's wing is Bio Diesel Oils Ltd. This is New Zealand's only commercial manufacturer of biodiesel.

It has a large research and development facility already running in East Tamaki. It is already in production, making biodiesel oils from beef tallow and plans to scale up soon to meet New Zealand's move towards biofuels.

By next April, legislation will require oil companies to offer 25 million litres of biofuels to consumers.

Lynton Bridger, a food technology graduate, is general manager of the company and he is based at the e-centre.

At a national biofuels conference in Wellington recently, where the many difficulties surrounding the viability of biofuels dominated discussion, Mr Bridger's optimism was noted by energy media.

"The economics are there and the market is there," he reportedly told the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority Conference in Wellington.

The vehicle Mr Bridger is pictured with runs



Lynton Bridger.

on a diesel mix that includes 20 per cent bio diesel produced by his company.

Professor Ian Maddox also addressed the biofuels conference on the history of the butanol production research that had made him and his colleagues at Massey world authorities in this area of the biotech business.

The economic barriers to butanol production has prevailed for some years and there has been little development of innovative technologies, says Professor Maddox.

Now he says environmental concerns and the need to reduce dependence for fuels from unstable countries must drive development in biotechnologies.





Paul Dibble.

## Honorary doctorate for New Zealand sculptor

Internationally renowned New Zealand sculptor Paul Dibble will receive an Honorary Doctorate in Fine Arts at Thursday morning's graduation ceremony in Palmerston North this week.

Mr Dibble has a comprehensive history of making large-scale bronze sculptures and has had his works commissioned nationally and overseas. His most recent is *Southern Stand*, the New Zealand Memorial at Hyde Park, dedicated by the Queen on Armistice Day last year, and attended by Prime Minister Helen

Clark, British Prime Minister Tony Blair, and members of the Royal Family.

The memorial commemorates the long relationship between New Zealand and Britain and is dedicated to the New Zealand people and culture.

From 1977 – 2002 Dibble lectured in art at the College of Education while continuing his artistic practice.

His studio employs art assistants and foundry technicians from a range of backgrounds, many from Massey's Māori Visual Arts degree,

which has courses at masterate level and is the only university art school in Palmerston North.

Mr Dibble received his art training at Auckland University at the Elam School of Fine Arts and has worked with notable artists including the late Colin McCahon, who was his tutor.

His sculpture is seen by many as a voice that expresses an identity uniquely New Zealand. The concerns and concepts he explores in his art are ones that belong to this land.

## Masterate for Ferns manager

Silver Ferns manager Jackie Barron has the very best of reasons for not attending this week's graduation ceremonies to receive her Masters in Management. She is in England with the New Zealand netball team for a series that will match the Ferns against both England and Australia.

Apart from her role in netball, she is also Deputy Principal of Gore High School and for the past decade, she has added postgraduate studies to her commitments. She already has a Postgraduate Diploma in Sport Management and studied extramurally for both the diploma and her Masters, endorsed in sport management.

"Last year I did four papers to finish off the Masters. To do this I took a year's leave from work. I completed the earlier papers by careful juggling around career and children. This involved a finely tuned and highly organised system for the domestic front," she says.

Ms Barron says a further, important element was having "understanding and compassionate lecturers."

The Silver Ferns play England on 12 May in Manchester and Australia on 18 May in London.



Jackie Barron - image courtesy NetballNZ.

## Doctor of Business and Administration

**MARK PETER OBREN** – Dr Obren examined long-term change in industries through so-called increasing returns, caused by products produced with high information value, and by the effect of infrastructure networks on the delivery of products and services to customers. In particular he looked at the increasing separation of information from physical products which increase the impact of information on change. His research has international relevance for business professionals, offers guidance on selecting the most appropriate strategy models to compete and acts as a new basis for competition. It also assists academics to effectively position future research.

## Doctors of Education

**ROSANNE MARY PARSONS** (nee GAVIGAN) – Dr Parsons' research examined how the Education Review Office's approach to external evaluation assists schools to improve, and the effect of external evaluation on two schools over time. Her findings show that the office's approach can assist a school to improve but that the influence varies within different contexts.

**EDNA EILEEN TAIT** – Dr Tait examined the power that the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation has to promote the aim of developing and spreading knowledge throughout the world.

She found that the participants gain power from the organisation's intellectual and ethical purpose but are constrained by its bureaucratic processes. At the frontline however, they are able to make valuable contributions to knowledge development.

## Doctors of Philosophy

**TERRY ALAN MACPHERSON** – Doctor of Philosophy in Marketing

Dr Macpherson examined the use of econometric models of road safety television advertising. Previous evaluations of effectiveness have varied in terms of data and method, making comparisons difficult. After examining various procedures, it was concluded that drawing any robust measure of the effectiveness of road safety advertising using non-experimental data, with other single or multiple-equation models, was unfeasible. Policy makers are advised to adopt an experimental approach constructed around a strictly controlled and measured outcome

that is closely linked to the safety campaign's objectives.

**SONDRA ATHENE MONROE** – Doctor of Philosophy in Management

Dr Monroe investigated whether corporate strategy contributes to firm performance, studying 15 Fortune 1000 firms. Her research showed that the number of resource governance decisions could distinguish the superior performance category from both inferior and average categories. It suggests that successful firms, by using superior corporate level decision making skills, can simplify resource governance decision making, resulting in superior decisions which lower the rate of decision making. Her research provides empirical evidence of the value of corporate level strategy, and the importance of resource governance decisions in achieving superior performance.

**MICHAEL JOHN NAYLOR** – Doctor of Philosophy in Finance

Dr Naylor's thesis focused on price instability and crises in currency markets. His research demonstrated that price influences in currency markets exhibit characteristics of a complex network. An alternative approach to currency cascades, using sparsely clustered networks, was offered. Price influences in currency markets were mapped and examined in relation to currency crises. Analysis was carried out on interesting aspects surrounding currency crisis and what policy makers can do to hinder such events. His findings increase understanding of price dynamics in financial markets.

**MARY ROSE BREHENY** – PhD in Psychology

Dr Breheny's research focused on medical and nursing journals about adolescent mothers and interviews with health professionals about the health needs of adolescent mothers. Analysis of journal articles showed that adolescent mothers were discussed as part of a cycle of disadvantage, while in interviews with health professionals adolescent mothers were described primarily as adolescents and their mothering was determined by these adolescent characteristics. Dr Breheny found that this associating adolescent mothering with disadvantage and inability is likely to impact negatively on adolescent mothers' experience of healthcare.

**MICHAEL PHILIP DALE** – PhD in Social Work

Dr Dale explored the contribution of leadership to the achievement of effective service delivery in the New Zealand Probation Service from the perspectives of probation officers and service managers. Several key findings emerged,

including that effective service delivery was not perceived to reduce recidivism alone. Secondly, Dr Dale found that leaders must be seen to be credible if they are to create willing followers, with credibility resting upon the leaders' possession of relevant practical knowledge and skills, and demonstrated commitment to professional practice.

The research also identified how the leader's experience and competence has a bearing upon confidence in the leader; participants noticed a connection between positive leadership and probation officer work performance and service delivery.

**GRETCHEN ANN GOOD** – PhD in Rehabilitation Studies

Dr Good examined activity, independence and life satisfaction of older adults living in the Manawatu, with participants both registered members of the Royal New Zealand Foundation for the Blind and a random selection of registered voters. Dr Good found that social comparisons of activity and satisfaction with social support contributed more to life satisfaction than activity and independence levels. Unexpectedly, it was found that the oldest cohort of those with impaired vision reported a higher level of overall life satisfaction than either their sighted peers or the younger cohorts with impaired vision. Older people and rehabilitation service providers can use the information developed by Dr Good to set more realistic and appropriate goals for rehabilitation.

**GRAHAM JOHN HUCKER** – PhD in History

Dr Hucker's research focused on the rural home front in Taranaki during and immediately after WWI to assess the impact and effects of the war on the lives of civilians.

Dr Hucker's thesis argued that though New Zealand was distant from the battlefields, civilians in the towns and countryside experienced the war too, albeit differently from the soldiers. Using primary sources including official documents, diaries, letters and newspapers, this study examined topics including war enthusiasm, Gallipoli, conscription, marriage, labour supply, popular culture and memorials.

The results showed that diversity characterised civilian experiences, that amidst abnormal circumstances, rural society attempted to maintain normality and that the impacts and effects are evident in the cultural landscape of remembrance.

**ROBERT HANS GEORGE JAHNKE** – PhD in Māori Studies

Dr Jahnke's research investigated Māori art within historical and contemporary tribal



contexts in order to identify its distinguishing characteristics. Form, content and genealogy were triangulated into a series of interwoven strands that formed a paradigm for Māori cultural relativity and relevance. This paradigm, Te Tataitanga Kaupapa Toi, led to evolution of a trans-cultural framework that incorporated six key indices: Genealogy, knowledge, appearance, process, site and protocol. The research showed that in the absence of visual correspondence and empathy, content must be made explicit. However, the research findings concluded that because form and content are not necessarily conditioned by ethnicity, the genealogy of an artist is a further critical determinant for resonance.

**BERNARD JERVIS** – PhD Social Anthropology  
Dr Jervis examined a community initiative for re-building peace in Tuzla, Bosnia, following ethnic conflict from 1992 to 1995. The research was based on an incident involving the killing of 71 young people when a shell exploded in the town square. Families of those killed, community leaders and others were interviewed. Families chose to bury those killed together, irrespective of ethnic background and in the face of political and religious opposition. Dr Jervis found that decision denied the perpetrators' objective of dividing the community, and reinforced a long-established tradition of inter-ethnic tolerance. This research makes a contribution to the anthropology of peace and conflict, restorative justice and Balkan history.

**RASEM N. F. KAYED** – PhD in Development Studies  
Dr Kayed explored entrepreneurship from an Islamic perspective within the Saudi Arabia context. Despite the prophecy of modernisation theories of development and the prevalent orthodox view that Islam is intrinsically anti-modernisation and anti-development, findings suggest no evidence of incompatibility between Islamic values and entrepreneurship. Dr Kayed's research emphasises a rethink of the current official approach to entrepreneurship and highlights the need to devise an entrepreneurship policy that draws from local experiences and cultural values.

**ALLISON CONSTANCE LAMONT** – PhD in Psychology  
Dr Lamont investigated multiple memory systems across the lifespan, with emphasis on the oldest citizens. A sample of 126 healthy community-dwelling young, middle-aged and old (85 years and older) people completed two comprehensive memory tests. Results were analysed cross-sectionally at each test wave,

and longitudinally over the two-year inter-test interval. Results showed a sharp, nonlinear drop in memory after the age of 85 even for adults without dementia or illness. This has implications for continued independence of adults of very advanced age and long-term planning for this fast-growing sector of the population.

**JANE NICOLE LE MARQUAND** – PhD in English  
Dr Le Marquand's research examined New Zealand women's short fiction published over two decades from 1975 to 1995, focusing on gender issues and charting these women writers' response to the changing climate of feminism and their rejection of the woman writer. While many writers refused to be identified in terms of their gender, Dr Le Marquand found its influence on their work was indisputable. While it may no longer be politically necessary to promote women's work on the grounds of gender, on a personal level the difference of view of the woman writer remains visible and vital.

**RANGI-ANEHO LESLIE MATAMUA** – PhD in Māori Studies  
Dr Matamua investigated the perspective that Māori radio, in a historical and contemporary sense, has contributed to Māori language transmission, revitalisation and advancement for Māori and Pākehā audiences. Through extensive analysis of qualitative and quantitative research data over five years of Māori radio, Dr Matamua demonstrated the perspective of Māori inter-generation audience participation and language preference, knowledge, historical relationships, political ambitions and tribal aspirations. This research confirmed that Māori radio had made a contribution to the position of Māori language revitalisation.

**CHARLOTTE ANNA MARY PADDISON** – PhD in Psychology  
Dr Paddison investigated type-two diabetes using a psychological approach grounded in self-regulatory theory. Diabetes mellitus is usually described as a long-term physical illness and biomedical perspectives predominate in published research. Dr Paddison's study adds to accumulating knowledge about diabetes by addressing the psychological processes involved in managing type-two diabetes, an identifiable gap in the literature. Psychological variables were shown to explain differences in metabolic control, quality of life and diabetes-related distress. Individual perceptions of diabetes and relationships with family and health professionals were

linked to differences in self-care behaviour. Dr Paddison's research demonstrates that psychological and social factors are important in helping people with diabetes stay well.

**SUSAN JANET STIRLING** – PhD in Geography  
Dr Stirling's research offers a humanistic study of the practice of geography field trips. Lecturers and teachers were interviewed to understand why field trips are a part of geography courses, how they relate to theoretical understandings and that they hope to achieve by running field-trips. The work suggests that the meaning of field-trips relates to the geographers' own approach to the subject, their philosophy of geography. Four main approaches were identified: classifying, applying general theories, using structures

**JEREMY RALPH BRYANT** – PhD in Animal Science  
Dr Bryant developed a simulation model to predict the performance of grazing dairy cattle using production and environmental information from dairy herds and weather stations over a 13-year period. Results were used to construct a simulation model called MOOSIM, which incorporates the effect of age, genotype, body fatness and feeding level on mammary gland cellular dynamics. MOOSIM then predicts feed intake, live weight change and milk solids production, taking into account the effects of nutritional and thermal environment, genotype and interaction between the genotype and environment.

**MICHELLE KAY BRYANT** (nee McGILL) – PhD in Genetics  
Dr Bryant studied the role of enzymes produced by a fungal endophyte that forms a symbiotic association with perennial ryegrass. The endophyte enzymes are similar to enzymes from related plant pathogenic fungi. Two of these genes were expressed at higher levels during growth within the plant, suggesting these particular enzymes may be important for providing nutrients to the endophyte while it is growing in its host. Her research enhances understanding of the endophyte-grass symbiosis and provides insights into relationships between symbiotic and pathogenic fungi.

**GREGORY THOMAS CLARK** – PhD Plant Biology  
Dr Clark studied the leaf adaptations of the *Festuca novae-zelandiae*, an endemic New Zealand perennial tussock grass dominant in the South Island. His work included biochemical investigations indicating tissue-specific responses to drought tolerance and water-deficit stress.

# Graduation '07

## **ROBIN DYKSTRA** – PhD Physics

Dr Dykstra's research focused on developing a portable nuclear magnetic resonance spectrometer, which could measure the moisture content of timber, concrete or stone or the physical bonding related properties of rubber and polymers. The resulting lightweight, compact scientific instrument can be easily carried and operated by a single user. Dr Dykstra's research also forms the basis for a new range of products, some of which are already in production and being sold internationally.

## **THURID FREITAG** – PhD in Veterinary Clinical Science

Dr Freitag examined canine and feline urinary *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*) to gain insights into urinary tract infections in dogs and cats. She also investigated whether naturally occurring viruses able to reduce the severity of bacteria could be used to control these infections. Dr Freitag found that urinary *E. coli* can vary from region to region, and that cats in particular were suffering relapsing or persistent infections caused by the same bacteria.

## **KATHRYN ANNE GOODWIN-RAY** – PhD in Animal Science

Dr Goodwin-Ray investigated prevalence of lamb pneumonia, farm-level risk factors for pneumonia and efficacy of a commercially available vaccine. Dr Goodwin-Ray found that sub-clinical pneumonia is widespread in the New Zealand lamb population, with the cost to farmers estimated at \$53.2 million. While the farm-level risk analysis indicated management factors that farmers might see as opportunities to control lamb pneumonia, the role of stress and crowding of lambs for long periods posed an outstanding risk and warranted further investigation.

## **PAUL RICHARD JOHNSTONE** – PhD Plant Science

Soil fertility and water management issues in processing tomatoes grown in new Zealand and California was the subject of Dr Johnstone's thesis. Greenhouse and field work emphasised the role of adequate fertility during early phases of growth, with results showing that fertiliser application should be concentrated during periods of maximum plant nutrient demand. Dr Johnstone also developed improved techniques for late-season water management, including controlled water cutbacks during fruit ripening which was found to increase fruit quality without yield loss.

## **JAMES PETER MILLNER** – PhD Forestry

Dr Millner compared 12 species of eucalypts on Manawatu hill country, finding that growth was highly seasonal in all species and least

during winter. Height and diameter were found to be higher on the sunny rather than shady face in all species, with large species' differences in growth and wood density. No species rated highly for both traits. Implications for tree growers are that harvest age may vary with slope aspect and that production of high-quality wood requires the selection of less productive species.

## **SHABESHE PARAMALINGAM** – PhD Production Technology

Dr Paramalingam's research focused on improving understanding of concentrated whey products in evaporators, so that, despite differences in whey feedstock, better quality whey products can be achieved. Dr Paramalingam created a dynamic mathematical model of whey evaporation in falling-film evaporators at the Fonterra plant in Hamilton. For the first time, a number of whey physical properties were measured, with regression models created from the experimental data. Dr Paramalingam used his mathematical model and a series of plant trials to show that changes in processing of whey protein isolate led to increase evaporator capacity by 15 per cent, which has implications for the New Zealand dairy industry.

## **CLAIRE VANESSA COOPER PHYN** – PhD Animal Science

Dr Phyn's research examined regulation of gene expression in mammary glands in response to milk accumulation, as might occur in weaning, using bovine and rodent models. Her results showed that physical expansion, during engorgement of the mammary glands with milk, is a primary trigger initiating removal of mammary cells. The work contributes to the understanding of changes in mammary gene expression and function in response to milk accumulation, and may ultimately provide insights that improve lactation traits such as persistency and once-daily milking.

## **ANDREA HILARY PICKERING** – PhD Plant Science

Dr Pickering investigated factors which predispose grape bunches to a disorder known as bunch stem necrosis (BSN), which is detrimental to fruit development and therefore to wine production. She found a strong positive correlation between vine vigour and BSN, with treatments that reduce vine vigour decreasing BSN. Dr Pickering suggested that competitiveness between vine vigour growth and the developing bunch for nutrients is the main mechanism involved. Dr Pickering found that future research can focus on more detailed investigation of the physiological mechanisms of BSN.

## **GABE PETER REDDING** – PhD Bioprocess Engineering

Dr Redding investigated the use of oxygen in in-vitro fertilisation (IVF), with his research providing insight into how structures within the ovary adapt in response to nutrient limitations. Contrary to previous beliefs, Dr Redding found that oxygen may be of key importance to early ovarian development. Mathematical models developed during his research allowed potential measures of egg quality to be identified, which may lead to an increase in success rates of IVF. As well as improving understanding of ovarian development in mammals, Dr Redding has identified avenues for future research.

## **ALIEU MORTUWAH SARTIE** – PhD Pastoral Science

Dr Sartie focused on development of marker-assisted selection technology in forage improvement. This technology enhances genetic gain from selection and improves traits that are not amenable to improvement by conventional breeding alone. Dr Sartie's work has commercial implications through the identification of markers for use in marker-selection breeding. Importantly, the research also provides original information in plant science for understanding the genetics of herbage and seed production in perennial ryegrass.

## **SARAH ELIZABETH TODD** – PhD in Physiology

Dr Todd addressed the need to establish adequate dietary selenium requirements for cats and dogs, and to increase knowledge of the metabolism of selenium. Concentrations of selenium in commercially available foods were determined and apparent absorption in cats and dogs when they were supplemented with various levels of organic and inorganic selenium were assessed. The research provides fundamental data on aspects of selenium metabolism, and indicates possible differences in the way cats metabolise selenium compared to dogs, with further work recommended to clarify and further define selenium metabolism in cats and dogs.

## **MICHAELA CHRISTINE WALTON** – PhD Nutritional Science

Dr Walton studied the bioavailability and antioxidant effect of berry fruit anthocyanins in human nutrition, showing that absorption of anthocyanins mainly occurs in the jejunum and involves a transport mechanism which is strongly inhibited by other flavanoids. The outcomes of Dr Walton's thesis aid formulation of future recommendations regarding anthocyanin intake as part of a healthy diet.



## Work life enhances study, says Māori education grad

Teaching high-school drop-outs and unemployment beneficiaries whilst studying extramurally for a BA in Adult Education was a perfect combination, says Mat Kingi.

The North Shore ex-Navy able seaman gunner graduated with a Bachelor of Adult Education at ceremonies in Auckland last month after studying "every weekend and for two hours each night for three years".

During that time, he also worked as a full-time tutor at the Auckland Trade Training Academy – a private training establishment aligned with Work and Income New Zealand (WINZ) to train job seekers with no formal qualifications.

Mr Kingi says despite his heavy workload, his university study constantly reinforced his work, giving him added motivation and insights into educational theories and practice. He's discovered, both through study and

experience, that there are different learning styles to suit different people.

And he's learnt on the job that effective communication and mentoring are the keys to getting through to his students. Having left school with just one School Certificate subject, he also understands where many of his trainees are coming from.

"I was just like a lot of Māori boys – 100 per cent into sport. I didn't have the motivation or the focus to study," he reflects.

Attending the Māori Graduation Ceremony in Takapuna with his partner, Addie (herself a pioneering success as the first woman to qualify as Petty Officer – Electronic Warfare in the New Zealand Navy), and 10-day-old baby girl, Teariki, he also collected a posthumous Certificate of Arts (Māori Studies and Psychology) for his mother, Kathleen Hendry, who passed away last July.

## Graduate combines holistic approach with western methods

Mate Webb decided in 2005 that he'd be better equipped to help treat imprisoned sex offenders if his holistic Māori approach was underpinned with a knowledge of Western psychiatric methods.

Mr Webb (Te Whanau a Apanui, Ngāti Porou, Te Whakatohea, Te Arawa, Ngāti Awa, Ngāpuhi), graduated at Auckland ceremonies last month with a Postgraduate Diploma in Cognitive Behaviour Therapy (CBT).

The Omaio man is the only Māori working in the Corrections Department to hold a diploma in Cognitive Behaviour Therapy.

The former prison officer now working at Auckland Prison, Paremōmo, as a Māori cultural consultant and co-therapist at the Te Piriti special treatment unit for child sex

offenders, says his newfound knowledge is essential in changing criminal behaviour.

Although Māori karakia (prayer), songs, and spiritual beliefs are of value in treating prisoners, Mr Webb felt this wasn't sufficient in addressing deep psychological problems of chronic sex offenders he's been working with for 10 years.

"A lot of Māori come in here with core beliefs like 'I'm dumb', 'I'm worthless.' With CBT [cognitive behavioural therapy] you can test those beliefs to change attitudes and behaviour," he says.

He is adamant that treatment programmes for Māori need spiritual and cultural components as well as clinical methods in order to be effective.



Valerie Williams.

## Improving Māori mental health

For five years Valerie Williams combined working as a full-time mental health nurse in Hawke's Bay and then Auckland, and studying extramurally for a Masters in Nursing at the Auckland campus.

Despite the high-risk, stressful nature of her work – especially with an adult crisis team in Auckland last year – she was strongly motivated to furthering her clinical skills because she wants to see improvements in mental health services for Māori.

The hard work has paid off. As a result of graduating this year with a Masters in Nursing (mental health), she has been appointed as educator for the Waitemata District Health Board's mental health nursing internship programme. Having a supportive family and being tenacious helped her through the pressures of combining study and work, she says.

Ms Williams who completed her nursing training in 1998 at the then Auckland Institute of Technology, says she is committed to ensuring Māori have better access to mental health services.

Originally from the Mahia peninsular in Hawke's Bay, Ms Williams (Rongomaiwahine) says mental health nursing is rewarding work with many exciting career opportunities. She says she learned a great deal working as a Hastings-based mental health nurse from 2003 to 2006, with teams for Māori and adolescents in the area.





Dr Con Scott Reed.

## PhD for Extramural student at 79

His advanced years set Dr Con Scott Reed apart from the others in the procession to the University's ceremony for graduates from the College of Humanities and Social Sciences in Auckland.

Seventy-nine year old Dr Reed flew in from Sydney to collect his MPhil in History, completed after eight years of extramural study with Massey University. The graduation and ceremony was a high point in his own personal history and the very busy life he still leads in Sydney.

Dr Reed is a consultant physician, a former president of the state branch of the Australian Medical Association, a long serving member of the New South Wales cancer council, an official visitor and consultant to the Mental Health Centres of New South Wales. And although he's lived most of his life in Australia, he is a Kiwi by birth and only son of one of this country's most celebrated jockeys, Roy Reed.

His thesis is entitled *Military Medicine in the Army of Elizabeth the First in Flanders*. During the course of his study he had regular contact with Associate Professor of History, Dr Peter Lineham who says: "It's great to see him finish. Con is just one of those people who always knew he had a thesis in him."

## Improving dairy farm efficiency

Opportunities to improve efficiency on dairy farms will be missed if essential components of production are not assessed, Professor Colin Holmes told the Dairy3 event in Rotorua last week. In his keynote address, Professor Holmes said pasture harvested per hectare, milksolids produced and the herd itself should be quantitatively assessed to provide a constructive analysis of key factors, to enable improvements in efficiency and outputs.

Other University speakers at the event, which is a joint initiative of the University, Dexel and North Island dairy farmers, included Jennifer Burke, Daniel Conforte and Mark Laurence.

# Preparing the health services for emergency management

Health services deal with routine crises every day, but little is known about how they would perform in a major emergency such as an influenza pandemic.

PhD student Debra Ellis studied how staff at the Auckland District Health Board coped during a national influenza pandemic exercise held earlier this month.

Exercise Cruickshank was led by the Ministry of Health and involved 30 government agencies. It was designed to test the New Zealand Influenza Pandemic Action Plan.

Ms Ellis says health services play a significant role in the response and recovery phases of disasters, but little was known about how well they would perform in a major emergency.

"In contrast to the health problems they deal with every day, major hazard events pose considerable demands on health care staff and organisations.

"Research in this area is normally constrained by the lack of an event that can be used to assess readiness. Exercise Cruickshank will be a real time, long duration pandemic influenza simulation that will provide the right context to assess readiness in the health services."

The Ministry of Health report on Exercise Cruickshank will identify any gaps in the planning systems and process of health sector preparedness as a whole, while Ms Ellis' research will focus on readiness at the individual, team and organisational level.

She will identify staff training and organisational needs.

"I want to know the best ways to sustain staff well-being and performance during prolonged health or natural hazard crises," she says.

Ms Ellis is a student at the Centre for Disaster Research, part of the School of Psychology on the Wellington campus.

## New head for Graduate Research

History Professor Margaret Tennant has been appointed Dean of the Graduate Research School. She will replace Professor Ken Milne, who retired in February.

The School was established in February 2004 and is responsible for doctoral degrees in philosophy, business and administration, clinical psychology and education; undergraduate and postgraduate scholarships; and research masters degrees. It provides information and administrative services for doctoral degrees and scholarships.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) Professor Nigel Long, who announced the appointment, says Professor Tennant has an outstanding record of teaching, research training and research mainly in the area of New Zealand history.

She has been a member of the Doctoral Research Committee for eight years and has acted as Chairperson on many occasions.



Professor Margaret Tennant.

## Top prize for PhD student

Using maths to learn more about chemical spray drift has earned PhD student Sharlene Harper a prize that is coveted by senior mathematics students at universities across Australasia.

Based at the Institute of Information and Mathematical Sciences in Auckland, Ms Harper has been working on a mathematical model to show how droplets from chemical and pesticide sprays are intercepted in the field by shelter belt plantings.

Her presentation on the subject to the recent Applied Maths Conference in Perth won the prize for the best student presentation.

Ms Harper is the first ever woman student to win the T.M. Cherry Award since it was introduced nearly 40 years ago and the second

New Zealander to bring it home.

The award is presented by the Australian and New Zealand Applied Mathematical Society.

She is supervised by Professor Graeme Wake and says the application of maths to spray drift understanding arose through Professor Wake's now well established Mathematics in Industry sessions.

Ms Harper says that in the ongoing investigation of pesticides and chemicals in the environment, maths had been applied to calculating how spray travels from the spraying unit but the roles of shelter belts had not been a focus. Studies have already shown that shelter drifts can reduce spray drift by up to eight times.

# Trainees take to course like ducks out of water

Ducks affected by an oil-spill in a Palmerston North stream were released recently after regional council staff participating in an oiled wildlife response training course assisted in cleaning them.

The course was hosted by the University's Wildlife Health Centre, and wildlife veterinarian Kerri Morgan says the call from Horizons Regional Council to the Centre's Oiled Wildlife Response team came the day before the course attendees were due to arrive.

She made a call to the capture team – John Andrew (Department of Conservation) and Jim Lilley (Maritime New Zealand) – who assisted the council in capturing 13 oiled mallard ducks the next day for treatment.

At Massey, the 25 representatives from regional councils, the Department of Conservation and veterinary hospitals on the course learnt how to handle and stabilise the oiled birds before cleaning them with a mild detergent.

Ms Morgan says that although the Wildlife Health Centre's focus is on native wildlife, the introduced ducks' treatment was a valuable learning experience in preparation for more serious spills involving native and threatened species.

She says it takes at least an hour to clean an oiled bird once they have been stabilised with fluid electrolytes and their body temperature brought back to normal by a heating pad.

"The oil upsets the ultra-structure of the feathers and water can get to their skin. This loss of waterproofing means birds can become hypothermic. The oil also causes irritation to their mouths, nostrils and eyes. And they usually ingest a fair amount of oil when they preen, and in severe cases, birds



Students observe the cleaning of a duck's wing feathers.

develop gastrointestinal, kidney and liver disease which often kills them."

The Oiled Wildlife Response team is able to mobilise its equipment and travel to spills with

funding from Maritime NZ. In January 2006 the unit responded to a major spill in Queensland, when a carrier lost more than 25 tonnes of heavy fuel oil after a collision.

## Bacteria responsible for death of Maui's dolphins

Evidence of a bacterial agent in a dead Maui's dolphin found at the mouth of the Waikato River in November has prompted concerns for the future of the species.

A postmortem conducted by pathologist Dr Wendi Roe at revealed that the dolphin was born alive but never made it to the surface to take its first breath.

The bacterium *Brucella* was identified by DNA methods at the Biosecurity New Zealand Investigation and Diagnostic Centre. This laboratory has previously found evidence of marine strains of *Brucella* in Hector's dolphin.

"The test results cannot confirm if the dolphin died as a result of brucellosis, the disease caused by the bacterium. However *Brucella* does cause this type of problem in animals, and this finding in the Maui's dolphin population is of real concern for the future of the species," Dr Roe says.

Two other Maui's dolphins found dead this summer had been screened without detecting *Brucella* bacteria.

Further screening would be required to determine the prevalence of the bacteria in the

Maui's dolphin population and its associated impacts.

Nicola Vallance, spokesperson for the Department of Conservation, says the death in itself is bad news for the Maui's dolphin population.

"These dolphins are considered to be the rarest marine dolphin in the world, with only around 100 animals left - meaning that all individuals are crucial for the survival of the population. The possibility that *Brucellosis* was involved in the death of the baby dolphin is a cause for concern and requires further investigation.

"The effect of this disease in marine mammals is unknown. We do know that *Brucellosis* causes abortions and reproductive failure in livestock, and while we know very little about how the disease manifests in marine mammals there is some evidence from international examples that this too may be the case for dolphins."

DOC, Massey University and the Biosecurity New Zealand Investigation and Diagnostic Centre are working together on this issue



and will continue to research the incidence of *Brucella* in Maui's dolphin and their southern cousins, the Hector's dolphins.

DOC is appealing to the public to report any dead dolphins to their hotline 0800 DOC HOT (0800 362 468) and stresses that marine mammals should not be handled.

*Brucella* can be transferred from animal populations to humans in bodily fluids, although the incidence is rare. *Brucellosis* in humans causes fever, headache, arthritis and neurological symptoms and is treated intensively with antibiotics.



Tim Upperton.

## Literary award for writing tutor

*Abomination*, a story by creative writing tutor Tim Upperton, has won the recent *Manawatu Standard* short story competition.

Judge Barbara Else says the 3000-word winning story is "an unforgettable piece of New Zealand gothic".

"It's a story that might shock and dismay for many reasons. It breaks the rules with a taboo subject, and by stretching the so-called rules of writing," she says.

Shaped around the Greek myth of the minotaur (a beast with the body of a man and the head of a bull) and the Labyrinth, *Abomination* touches upon the "taboo" subject of bestiality and is set on a New Zealand dairy farm where a strange calf is born with human features.

Mr Upperton says that bestiality is incidental rather than integral to the story's theme.

More than 70 writers entered the competition, run in conjunction with the Central Districts branch of the Society of Authors. The first short-list of 20 was selected by authors Sue McCauley and Joan Rosier-Jones, and Mrs Else judged this selection blind, not knowing who the writers were until after the winners had been selected.

Mr Upperton publishes poetry and fiction in literary journals and magazines such as *North & South*, *NZ Listener*, *Bravado*, *Dreamcatcher* (Britain) and *Agni* (US). In 2004 he won the Listener National Poetry Day competition, and he has taken the first prize twice in the Northland Short Story Competition.

He tutors poetry, fiction and travel writing in the School of English and Media Studies at the Palmerston North campus, and regularly writes book reviews for New Zealand newspapers.

## Māori fare better than aborigines

Māori are dying too young, but doing better than Aboriginal people in Australia, a study co-authored by the School of Māori Studies John Waldon has found. Mr Waldon, who is in Melbourne completing his PhD, co-authored the World Health Organization report with Lisa Jackson Pulver of the University of New South Wales. The group was set up in 2005 to report on the social determinants of health, and is due to report to WHO in Vancouver in June.

# Vietnam War story for children

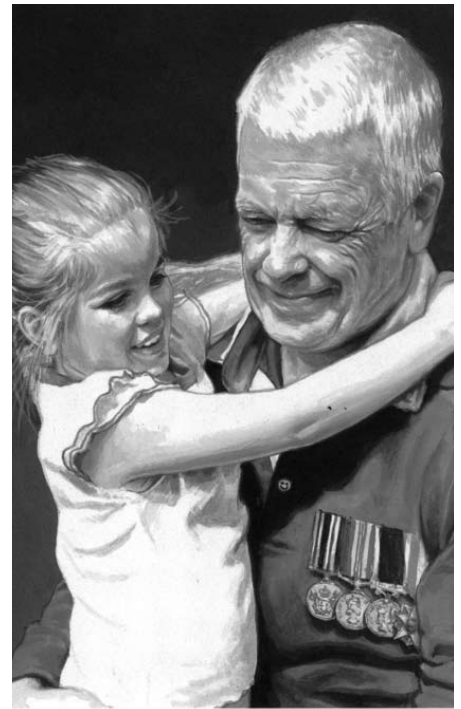
The latest children's book by Associate Professor Glyn Harper introduces children to the topic of the Vietnam War and the historical experiences of war more generally.

*My Grandfather's War* is illustrated by Bruce Potter and tells the story of eight-year old Jade and her grandfather.

Most of the story takes place out on the water in a dinghy when Jade asks her grandfather about the war in Vietnam and why it makes him sad. Her grandfather then tells her for the first time about his experiences in the war and actions in combat.

Dr Harper is a military historian and director of the Centre for Defence Studies at the Palmerston North campus. A former teacher, he joined the Australian Army in 1988 and after eight years transferred to the New Zealand Army, where he rose to the rank of lieutenant-colonel.

He was the Army's official historian of the deployment to East Timor, and is the author of several books, including *Kippenberger: An inspired New Zealand Commander*, *Letters from the Battlefield: New Zealand soldiers write home 1914-18* and the best-selling *Massacre at Passchendaele: The New Zealand story*.



*My Grandfather's War* is published by Reed, and details of price and distribution can be found at: [www.reed.co.nz](http://www.reed.co.nz)

## Hurricane Katrina's lexical storm

A recent article published by Dr Peter Petrucci and Michael Head of the School of Language Studies examines the media's use of the term "refugee" in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

Published in the *Australasian Journal of American Studies*, the article examines how even though the word refugee had historical precedence and was appropriate in a literal sense, it was rejected by the majority of Americans during the media's coverage of the hurricane because of its strong connotations.

Dr Petrucci and Mr Head, linguistics researchers at the Palmerston North campus, say this illustrates a dilemma for the media when a word may be appropriate to describe a situation or group but has specific connotations which may be unacceptable to various groups within society.

Referring to articles from the *New York Times*, they demonstrate that, contrary to popular belief, the label has been used to represent Americans at home for some time. They examine how "refugee" appeared in the Times' coverage of the Atlantic hurricane that devastated New Orleans in 2005, how it positioned those that it designated and argue that it was the media's perception of a lack of control, both at the individual and governmental level, that prompted its use.

They also discuss the dilemma the media face when a particular lexical term that they consider appropriate is considered inappropriate by the public. They outline

the use of the word in the first few days of media coverage and how it was replaced by "evacuee" and "survivor" within a week as a result of strong civic and political opposition to the use of the term to represent the region's newly homeless.

The authors say that identifying American citizens as refugees was controversial because of the negative connotation of a large-scale displacement of people in desperate need of aid and protection. They also show that the use of the word is not new, drawing from electronic newspaper archives to show its use at the turn of the 19th century to represent Americans fleeing the US.

They say the label has also been used to describe people in the US who, because of fears of violence or persecution, have had to flee from one area to another within the country.

After the close of WWII however, the term underwent a significant change when the United Nations High Commissioner on Refugees re-wrote policy defining who could be labelled a refugee.

It acquired a legalistic definition, which, for many Americans, came to be associated with foreigners seeking refuge in countries like the US.

The authors say the article is also a good example of how contemporary research in linguistics has applications to and implications for a number of other disciplines in the social sciences.





Palmerston North staff are accustomed to stepping out, rain or... rain.



Turakina Māori Girls' College working on site

## Stepping towards better health

New insights on the health effects of walking are being gained thanks to the efforts of nearly 300 Massey staff participating in the 10,000 Steps@Massey: Hikoi-a-Hauora physical activity programme.

Most of the staff have also signed up for a parallel study designed to test the programme's impact on health. Now into its tenth week, the programme challenges staff to walk 10,000 steps a day for 12 weeks.

Exercise science researcher Dr Steve Stannard says previous research on pedometer-based physical activity programmes has shown that although participation rates are high, simple markers of health such as blood pressure and waist/hip ratio indicate only a modest benefit.

"More sensitive markers of health such as fasting blood lipids, glucose, and insulin have not previously been assessed and it is possible that these will reveal greater benefits," he says.

Nearly 90 per cent of the 305 Massey staffers have volunteered to allow their health screening data, including blood samples taken before and after participation, to be collated and compared. The 10,000 Steps programme

is still underway, and participants have until 23 May before the 12 weeks of walking is up.

Once the final steps are counted, health assessments will take place and the data will be analysed, says Dr Stannard.

"The results will indicate whether this type of workplace-based physical activity initiative can succeed in significantly improving health of employees."

After the ninth week, the Perambulators from Wellington were heading the pack, with a total of 7,657,045 steps. The first team from Palmerston North are the Steam Rollers on 5,500,671 steps, while the leading Auckland team is SHORE Shot on 4,099,957.

The chief investigators of the research are Professor Chris Cunningham from the Research Centre for Māori Health and Development and Dr Stannard from the Institute of Food, Nutrition and Human Health. They expect that the results of the study will be available by September.

At the 10,000 Steps Celebrity Walk on the Palmerston North campus last week, 17 infantry officers from Linton Military Camp accompanied staff on a lunchtime walk around the ring road.

## Pink Ladies ripe for the picking

Apple lovers with a taste for the traditional should act quickly to secure the final trees available for rent from the Palmerston North campus' Fruit Crops Unit.

Most pacific rose and braeburn trees are rented, but there are still about 20 pink ladies available.

Plant Growth unit manager Steven Ray said renters were guaranteed a 60kg haul of fruit, though most could expect closer to 90kg. The Pink ladies were paired up for renting as they had a lower yield, with two trees costing \$50 this season.

"Pink ladies are an older style apple, a

little tart with a sweet background – good for keeping and for cooking," Mr Ray said. "Picking sessions will be held each Friday afternoon from noon to 5pm, and Saturday morning from 8.30am to 12.30pm for the next week. Ladders are supplied, but pickers need to bring their own bags or baskets."

For information on the rent-a-tree programme or to rent a tree, contact Denise Stewart on 06-350-9099 ext 5996 or email [d.m.stewart@massey.ac.nz](mailto:d.m.stewart@massey.ac.nz)

Any apple trees not rented or used to top-up yields will be picked by staff and sold on campus.

## Taewa elusive this year

Volunteers digging their fingers through the dirt in search of taewa were not well-rewarded with crops, but working in the late summer sun under a clear blue sky was more than enough for the 50 or so who assembled to harvest the Māori potatoes.

Researcher in indigenous horticulture Nick Roskrug knew already that the harvest would not be huge, with wet weather prior to Christmas and a cool early summer contributing to the low yield from the 0.4ha of planting at the Palmerston North campus.

"It's not a good year ... a lot of the seed just didn't come to anything."

Kelly Potatau-Giddens is among year-10 students from Turakina Māori Girls' College working on site, after the college became involved in the harvest last year. Searching for the taewa, which are smaller than introduced varieties of potato, is "a bit like looking for hidden treasure", she says.

"We're having a bit of a competition to see who can get the most. So far we're on our sixth basket. It's really fun when you come across big groups of them."

Mr Roskrug's project has been running for several years, with the intention of building a seed-bank of taewa and supplying seed to enable community cropping.

After a hangi tonight and selecting which taewa would be kept for seed stock, the rest were to be distributed to marae and community groups.

The taewa grow at about 17 tonnes/ha compared to a yield of 70 tonnes/ha for non-native potatoes.



Wellington Mayor Kerry Prendergast, Lucy Cant and Melissa Dodds.

## Zonta awards for design graduates

Industrial design graduate Lucy Cant has been awarded this year's Zonta Design Award of \$5000.

Ms Cant, now working at Wellington's Weta Workshop, beat four other finalists for the supreme award. The runners-up, Nina Wells, who won the visual communication design section was sponsored by Saatchi and Saatchi, Rachel Higham (fashion and textile design, Rembrandt), Rosemary Horn (photographic design, Image Lab), and Hannah Ferens (interior design, Limited Editions Interior Design), each received \$1000 cash.

Zonta is an international club of businesswomen. The awards honour the top women graduates from the University's School of Design.

Wellington Mayor Kerry Prendergast and Melissa Dodds from Weta Workshop presented the supreme award to Ms Cant, who described it as a huge honour.

Last year she won a Wellington City Council scholarship for creativity and innovation.

"These awards celebrate the unique perspective women bring to design," she said. "We invent, create and pour ourselves into our work."

She is working on film projects with Weta director and co-owner Richard Taylor, himself a graduate of the School of Design.



Palmerston North recipients at Wharerata.

## High achiever awards presented

The latest recipients of the University's scholarships and awards have been hosted at presentation lunches across the campuses.

This year the awards were opened up to include mature students and the inaugural Arts and Academic High Achievers Awards were presented.

In Palmerston North four arts scholarships were awarded and 13 academic scholarships with six of the 17 scholarships awarded to students at the Institute of Veterinary, Animal and Biomedical Science. Fifteen scholarships have also been awarded to sports high achievers at Palmerston North campus.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Palmerston North) Professor Ian Warrington, who hosted a welcome lunch for scholarship winners from the Palmerston North campus at Wharerata, says he was particularly pleased to see that three of the four recipients of the arts top achiever scholarships were studying in the sciences.

This indicates that they are able to excel both academically and in interests dear to

them, he says, making for a very well rounded group of students.

In Auckland, Deputy Vice-Chancellor Professor John Raine hosted 11 recipients from schools across the region and their parents for a lunch time presentation.

At Auckland campus the four scholarships for High Achievers (sport) were awarded to: Ashleigh Grant, Julia Hart, Genevieve Helliwell, Jenna Murie.

High Achiever (academic) scholarships were awarded to: Richard Halkyard and Alwyn Husselmann. Ryan Cattin was a recipient High Achiever (arts). Professor Raine presented the Deputy Vice-Chancellor Scholarships to: Clare Seabrook-Davison, Alissa Richardson, Amanda Milligan, Nicola Dey.

In March, Wellington Deputy Vice-Chancellor Professor Andrea McIlroy hosted 41 scholarship recipients to lunch. These included five Academic Scholarships, 22 Arts High Achievers, five Sports High Achievers, four Bachelor of Engineering bursars and four Vice-Chancellor's bursars.

## May Council report

The May meeting of the University Council was preceded by a report on the College of Education by Pro Vice-Chancellor Professor James Chapman and, for the first time, a presentation by the Council representatives of the combined students' associations – Paul Falloon, Liz Hawes and Veronica Tawhai.

The Council meeting coincided with the release of the 2007 Performance-Based Research Fund results and the Vice-Chancellor Professor Judith Kinnear provided Council with updates throughout the meeting of how the University had performed. In particular she noted the 45 per cent increase in the University's overall quality score, from 2.11 in 2003 to 3.05, and also the improved performance of individual departments and units. She recognised the achievements of academic leaders and individual staff in

achieving the significant increase in the number of A, B and C-ranked staff and the contribution staff had made to increasing the number of subject areas where the University was ranked in the top three nationally, from seven in 2003 to 13 in 2006.

In her written report to Council, the Vice-Chancellor highlighted the success of the University in securing external funding bids recently, including \$3.75 million over three years in partnership with the Family Centre for a longitudinal study of aging, and a \$2.64 million grant from the Foundation for Research Science and Technology for study into the Integration of Immigrants. She noted two accreditation achievements: a visit by the American Veterinary Medical Association Veterinary Schools Accreditation Advisory Committee and the approval of the Bachelor

of Nursing programme for re-accreditation for five years by the Nursing Council of New Zealand.

Professor Kinnear also brought to Council's attention the achievements of staff over recent weeks, that of students, and noted those staff who had received Vice-Chancellor's Teaching Excellence Awards for 2007. As part of her report on significant international relationship building opportunities, the Vice-Chancellor noted that she would be travelling to China in late May for a number of education-related events and visits.

In this report to the Council, the Director – Finance Operations Trevor Sew Hoy reported that the University had recorded a loss of \$1.9 million for the three months to 31 March 2007, similar to the \$1.8 million loss recorded at the same time in 2006.

## 17 April

*The Dominion Post, The Press:* Dr **David Tripe**, says Cameron Clyne's first job as managing director of BNZ, will be to decide how to best deal with the great gap they have in terms of penetration in the personal market.

*Manawatu Standard:* Dr **Fiona Alpass**, from the School of Psychology, will lead a study into the positive effects of ageing in New Zealand, the study which is the first of its kind, will focus on improving living standards and work opportunities for the ageing population.

## 24 April

*The New Zealand Herald, PhysOrg.com, tvnz.co.nz, Waitomo News:* Dr **Wendi Roe**, from the Institute of Veterinary Animal and Biomedical Sciences, says the endangered Maui dolphin is facing extinction from a bacterium disease which has the ability to kill unborn dolphins and effect the mammals ability to reproduce.

*RNZ Nine to Noon:* Professor **Jenny Carryer**, from the School of Health Sciences, says the nursing shortage in New Zealand may already be compromising the safety of patients.

## 25 April

*New Zealand Herald:* Professor **Bob Hargreaves**, from the Department of Finance, Banking and Property, says average rents for housing in New Zealand has risen faster than wages in the last five years, with rents rising 86 per cent since 1993 but wages only rising 50 per cent.

*New Zealand Herald, The Dominion Post, The Press, RNZ, RLI, tvnz.co.nz, Ashburton Guardian, Taranaki Daily News, Southland Times, Otago Daily Times, Daily Chronicle, Nelson Mail, Westport News, Greymouth Star, Bay of Plenty Times, Gisborne Herald:* Dr **Annette Huntington**, from the School of Health Sciences says, with the ageing nursing workforce becoming a major problem, we have a short window of opportunity to address the issue before a nursing shortage becomes a crisis

## 26 April

*The Press, Waikato Times, Manawatu Standard, RNZ, Northland Independent Community, Same Same (Aus), Marlborough Express, Nelson Mail:* Dr **Mark Henrickson**, from the School of Social and Cultural Studies, author of a study that has revealed, students who admit to being lesbian or gay in their teenage years, are more likely to be bullied at school and under-achieve in education.

*The Dominion Post, Manawatu Standard, RNZ:* Dr **Kimberley Powell**, from the School of Arts, Development and Health Education, says the launch of Infant Mental Health Association of Aotearoa New Zealand, will support professionals working with families, where if psychotherapy work can be done on an infant, this might prevent psychiatric disorders later in life.

## 28 April

*The Dominion Post, TV1 Documentary Decoding Dyslexia, RNZ Nine to Noon, newswire.co.nz, Education Weekly:* Professor **Tom Nicholson**, from the School of Education, and Professor **James Chapman**, PVC Education, looks at dyslexia and the reasons for the disability, which occurs when an otherwise bright and verbal child has extreme difficulty in learning to decode words, both believe the disability can be identified, yet there is a lack of government support.

*The New Zealand Herald:* Professor **Bob Hargreaves**, says the immediate answer for creating more affordable housing in NZ, is increasing the available housing stock, which is predominantly a responsibility for the government.

## 29 April

*Herald on Sunday:* Professor **Bob Hargreaves**, says two industry reports have revealed that as the rate of home ownership drops, and as Auckland grows, there will be a lot more renters in the market.

## 1 May

*Manawatu Standard:* Vice-Chancellor Professor **Judith Kinnear**, says she is delighted with Massey's success in all areas of the performance-based research fund's 2006 quality evaluation, from the Tertiary Education Commission.

*Manawatu Standard:* Dr **Alan Palmer**, from the Institute of Natural Resources, says organic soils can be substantially better compared to conventional soils, and there is a strong demand for organic crops as people are willing to pay more.

*RNZ:* Professor **Mason Durie**, Deputy Vice Chancellor (Māori) participates in a debate on the mental health sector, and says Māori are over represented in mental health statistics.

## 2 May

*The Dominion Post, Marlborough Express, Greymouth Star:* **Shane Rutherford**, from the Institute of Food Nutrition and Human Health, conducts a study into 20 commercial cat foods, which has revealed these products might not give cats the amino acids they essentially require for good health.

*The Dominion Post, Manawatu Standard, stuff.co.nz, Westport News, Gisborne Herald, Oamaru Mail:* **John Waldon**, from the Research Centre for Maori Health and Development, a co writer of a report that has revealed, Maori in New Zealand are enduring poorer health due to the arrival of the European settles in the late 18th century, but New Zealand has made improvements to reconcile the differences.

## 3 May

*Manawatu Standard:* **Paul Falloon**, from the Students Association, says that a local bar owner who is choosing to restrict entry to his bar to those only over the age of 20, is both appalling and outrageous considering the student culture in the city.

*Manawatu Standard:* Professor **Chris Cunningham**, from the Research Centre for Māori Health and Development, says Massey's 10,000 steps programme will not only have a focus on fitness and enjoyment, but will enable research into the impacts of participation and ways to encourage physical activity.

## 5 May

*New Zealand Herald:* Professor **John Birkbeck**, from the Institute of Food Nutrition and Human Health, comments on the sentencing of a drink driver in America who was told to have a hamburger first next time he thought about drinking, Professor Birkbeck says the presence of fatty food does slow the absorption of alcohol within the stomach.

*RNZ Country Life, ABC Online:* Professor Jacqueline Rowarth, from the Institute of Natural Resources, says enrolments in agriculture, environment and natural science courses are dropping.

## 7 May

*RNZ Morning Report:* Professor **Ralph Sims**, from the Institute of Technology and Engineering, participates in a discussion on whether nuclear power could be an option for New Zealand, Sims believes nuclear is not yet right for NZ.

## 8 May

*New Zealand Herald, Radio Live:* **Mark Seabrook-Davidson**, from the Institute of Natural Resources, is carrying out genetic tests on the quail bird on Auckland's Tiritiri Matangi Island, to confirm they are survivors of the New Zealand quail believed to be extinct since around 1875.

*The New Zealand Herald:* **Taisia Huckle**, from the SHORE centre, led a study into Alcohol related crashes, which has revealed crashes involving teenagers aged 18 and 19 have increased since the legal drinking aged was lowered.

*The New Zealand Herald:* Dr **Ibrahim Al-Bahadly**, Xiang Gui, and Professor Janina Mazierska from the Institute of Information Sciences and Technology, says a European space project launched next year that will rely on data collected from students; has never been done at Massey before, will act as a test bed for advanced technology, and will enable students to work on projects across international boundaries in the future.

# People in the news

Communications and marketing staff monitor news and media outlets, but appreciate notification from staff of their media contributions/achievements.

Please email [editor@massey.ac.nz](mailto:editor@massey.ac.nz) with your contribution so that it may be included in Massey News.



## Research Funding Opportunities

<http://www.massey.ac.nz/research/rms/fops/fo.cfm>

### INTERNAL FUNDING ROUND NOW OPEN

All Guidelines and application forms contain significant changes from previous years. Please ensure the correct forms are used.

Visit our Internal Funding web page at <http://www.massey.ac.nz/research/rms/fops/internal.cfm> for access to forms.

### International Visitor's Research Fund (IVRF)

The International Visitor Research Fund has been established to promote high quality research outputs through international collaboration. It does this through supporting the international travel costs of reputable researchers to come to Massey University. Visitors must come for at least a month. Grants will cover the travel costs of up to a return around the world economy air ticket plus a contribution towards expenses of up to a maximum of \$500.00

DEADLINES - 1 February, 1 May, 1 August & 1 November 2007

### Grant Development Fund (GDF)

The Grant Development Fund has been established to provide seed funding to help establish or develop teams (normally a minimum of three or more people) that will then be competitive in applying for external funding.

This fund is not intended to fund research as such but specifically those activities associated with the development of a grant application. The resulting external funding application should be for \$1 million. The maximum funding that will be granted from the GDF in any one year is \$25,000. It is anticipated that the funding will be used to release key research staff from teaching or administrative duties, for travel, administrative support for the research team and grant writing.

DEADLINES - 1 February, 1 May, 1 August & 1 November 2007

### Massey University Māori Award (UMA)

Available to Māori Lecturers or Senior Lecturers, who are PBRF-eligible. Up to \$10,000 in casual assistance is made to the Department/Institute/School to enable relief from some normal teaching and administrative duties to complete a current research programme, write up a completed research programme or undertake a new one. Potential of research for Māori advancement and development must be indicated.

Please note: All interviews are at the discretion of the relevant interview panel and if required to attend the interviews are held 13 June 2007.

DEADLINE - 1 June 2007

### Massey University Women's Award (UWA)

Available to women Lecturers or Senior Lecturers, who are PBRF-eligible. Up to \$10,000 in casual assistance is made to the Department/Institute/School to enable relief from some normal teaching and administrative duties to complete a current research programme, write up a completed research programme or undertake a new one.

DEADLINE - 1 June 2007

### Massey University Research Fund (MURF)

Available to all academic staff of the status of Assistant Lecturer and above, who are PBRF-eligible, to support casual/temporary assistance, consumables and domestic travel to a total value of \$15,000.

DEADLINE - 2 July 2007

### Post Doctoral Fellowship (PDF)

Provides two years' funding for an appointment that will enhance a specific research programme. Researchers, who are PBRF-eligible, from all academic departments are eligible to apply.

DEADLINE - 2 July 2007

### University Technicians Award (UTA)

The Technicians Award provides a salary of up to a maximum of \$35,000 p.a. for two years to employ a technician for a specific research project.

DEADLINE - 2 July 2007

### University Research Fellowship (URF)

Provides support for senior academics, who are PBRF-eligible, to complete a particular research project. Up to \$20,000 is made to the Department/Institute/School to enable relief from some normal teaching and administrative duties.

DEADLINE - 2 July 2007

### University Research Awards (URA)

Available to Lecturers or Senior Lecturers, who are PBRF-eligible, in all Colleges except Sciences. Up to \$10,000 in casual assistance is made to the Department/Institute/School to enable relief from some normal teaching and administrative duties to complete current research.

DEADLINE - 2 July 2007

Please note: All interviews are at the discretion of the relevant interview panel and if required to attend the interviews are held 25, 26 and 27 July 2007.

### College Research Awards and Massey University Research Medal

Applications are now open for the annual College Research Awards and Massey University Research Medal.

DEADLINE - 2 July 2007

Guidelines and application forms are available from the Research Medals web page: [http://www.massey.ac.nz/research/university-medals/university-medals\\_home.cfm](http://www.massey.ac.nz/research/university-medals/university-medals_home.cfm)

The following categories are available:

### College Research Award - Individual

This Research Award has been established in order to recognize outstanding research contributions in each of the Colleges. One award may be granted annually in each College and will be presented at an appropriate ceremony. The winner of this award in each College will automatically be nominated for the University Research Medal, which is the highest award for research bestowed by the University (Honorary Degrees excluded). The University Medal may be awarded annually and a research grant of \$20,000 will be made.





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### College Research Award - Supervisor

This Research Award has been established to recognize and promote research excellence within each of the Colleges. One award may be granted annually with the objective of the award being to recognize staff who have an outstanding record of research supervision at the Masters or Doctoral level. It will be presented at an appropriate ceremony. The winner of this award in each College will automatically be nominated for the Massey University Research Medal - Supervisor. The University Medal may be awarded annually and a research grant of \$10,000 made.

### College Research Award - Early Career

This Research Award has been established to recognize and promote research excellence within each of the Colleges. One award may be granted annually with the objective of the award being to recognize staff who have completed their PhDs, or equivalent, within the past seven years and who are showing research potential and leadership of the highest calibre. It will be presented at an appropriate ceremony. The winner of this award in each College will automatically be nominated for the Massey University Research Medal - Early Career. The University Medal may be awarded annually and a research grant of \$10,000.00 made.

### Massey University Research Medal - Team

The Research Medal has been established in order to recognize outstanding research contributions by a team. One medal may be awarded annually to each full-time academic or research member of the team and a research grant of \$25,000 will be awarded to the team.

### TRAVEL FUNDING AVAILABLE

For more information about the opportunities below, visit [www.cos.com/nz](http://www.cos.com/nz) and click "Funding Worldwide". Enter the COS Unique ID into the "All Fields" section and click "Do the Search".

### Paykel Trust

#### Travel Grants

The Trust Board provides grants-in-aid to eligible applicants for assistance with the costs of travel relevant to their research in a health-related field. This may include (i) travel to scientific meetings; (ii) visits to research centres in other countries; (iii) short travel periods to work in overseas laboratories or undertake research training. The grants are not available for personal career advancement.

Grants-in-aid for personal travel are usually in the range of \$1,000 - \$3,000 and have a current limit of \$3,000 unless exceptional circumstances apply.

COS Unique ID: 91440

DEADLINES: 1 June & 1 October 2007

### Paykel Trust

#### Conference Support Grants

The Trust Board provides grants-in-aid for the support of scientific conferences in health-related fields organised by academic institutions or professional organisations within New Zealand. Priority will be given to conferences with an emphasis on research and research training.

Conference support grants are not intended to support personal travel to attend overseas conferences. Applicants seeking such support should apply for a Paykel Trust Travel Grant.

COS Unique ID: 91442

DEADLINES: 1 June & 1 October 2007

### National Heart Foundation (New Zealand)

#### Limited Budget Grants

The foundation awards Travel Grants to enable medical or non-medical workers to travel in New Zealand or overseas for short-term study or to attend conferences.

Applications must fit within the aims of the National Heart Foundation which are "to promote good health and to reduce suffering and premature death from diseases of the heart and circulation."

The scientific committee particularly encourages applications in the designated priority research areas of

- modification of lifestyle risk factors for cardiovascular disease,
- Māori heart health,
- Pacific Island heart health,
- socio-economic determinants of heart health, and
- diagnosis and management of patients with cardiovascular disease.

COS Unique ID: 30916

DEADLINES: 1 June & 1 October 2007

### HRC – Japan Society for the Promotion of Science

#### Exchange of Scientists and Postdoctoral Fellows

The objective of these awards is to support the exchange of visits of New Zealand scientists to Japan and for Japanese scientists to New Zealand. The duration of the visits will depend upon the program category. There are two program categories: Scientists and Postdoctoral Fellows.

It is intended that collaborations among health and health science researchers under this program will lay the foundations for establishing cooperative research networks between Japan and New Zealand.

COS Unique ID: 102941 and 102942

DEADLINE: 15 June 2007

### Winston Churchill Memorial Trust

#### Churchill Fellowships

Churchill Fellowships are intended for travel, typically of between three weeks and three months duration, for intensive investigative research.

The Trust helps all kinds of New Zealanders - including community workers, engineers, business people, actors, teachers, nuns, artists - to travel overseas and bring back with them new insights and understanding that will enrich their community and, ultimately, New Zealand as a whole.

COS Unique ID: 1638

DEADLINE: 31 July 2007

### Royal Society of New Zealand

#### IGAC Young Scientist Travel Award

The Society established these awards to assist

# Wharewata

venue • cuisine • events



**Winter Brunch Series – every Sunday 10am – 1pm from Sunday June 10th until Sunday September 30th**  
**Local entertainment, reservations advised. Contact Helen Poole 350 5088**

students undertaking PhD degrees at New Zealand universities to attend their first overseas scientific conference (this includes summer schools or workshops).

COS Unique ID: 97854

DEADLINE: 1 September 2007

#### Royal Society of New Zealand

KAREN (Kiwi Advanced Research and Education Network): Event Support and Travel Fund

The Research and Education Advanced Network New Zealand is building a next-generation telecommunications link for New Zealand educators, researchers and innovators, called KAREN (Kiwi Advanced Research and Education Network). REANNZ has established a Capability Development Fund for KAREN. The fund contains over \$4m to be invested in capability development over the three years to June 2009.

COS Unique ID: 102845

DEADLINE: 27 October 2007

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Research Development Advisor - General Contact

##### Diana Young

d.m.young@massey.ac.nz x. 81341 - Research Funding Co-ordinator

## Scholarships and Bursaries

<http://awards.massey.ac.nz>

A Snap-Shot of Scholarships Closing April/May 2007: full information about these scholarships and all others scholarships can be found on <http://awards.massey.ac.nz/>

## Undergraduate

**St John's Pauline Crimmins' Scholarship for Students with Epilepsy** – closing 15 May 2007

**Landcorp Farming "First Step" Bursary** – closing 30 May 2007

**Wanganui Federation of University Women Trust Wynne Costley Study Award** – closing 30 May 2007

## Postgraduate

**NZ Plant Protection Society Conference Travel Grant for Students** – closing 15 May 2007

**St John's Pauline Crimmins' Scholarship for Students with Epilepsy** – closing 15 May 2007

**Golden Plover Award** – closing 30 May 2007

**Landcorp Farming "First Step" Bursary** – closing 30 May 2007

NOTICEBOARDS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:

SOCIAL SCIENCES LECTURE BLOCK FOYER, TURITEA SITE AND IN EACH ACADEMIC UNIT

## Events

<http://events.massey.ac.nz>

#### PN – Tues 15 May

5.30pm to 6.30pm

*The Science of Exercise: Performance to Public Health*

Dr Peter Snell DCNZM

Physical activity and exercise are under-utilised tools in the effort to improve the health & wellbeing of all New Zealanders. For many Kiwis the physical activity of daily living has seriously reduced to levels which could see life expectancy retreating for the first time. Obesity-related deaths each year are more than twice the annual road toll, yet effective interventions can take a few minutes a day. Knowledge is the new 'currency' of wellness.

Dr Peter Snell, champion New Zealand health scientist and sporting icon, joined by respected Massey University Professor in Maori health and development, Chris Cunningham, will discuss how the disciplines of exercise science and public health/Maori health can be combined successfully to support the maintenance of wellness and the treatment of disease in an "ageing, browning" New Zealand.

Dr Snell is a Massey University Foundation Visiting Fellow in Health & Exercise Science and recent recipient of an Honorary Doctorate from Massey University. He is also Associate Professor in the Department of Internal Medicine at the University of Texas Southwestern and Director of the University of Texas Southwestern Human Performance Centre in Dallas. He is currently engaged with Massey University researchers in the development of a research programme in Public Health & Exercise Science.

The public lecture is a non-ticketed, free public event as part of the annual Massey University Graduation week celebrations. No RSVPs necessary. Seats are limited.

Venue: Regent on Broadway Palmerston North

Contact: Tracey Wilson

Ph: 06 350 5799 extn 2010

#### WN – Tues 15 May

5.30pm to 7.30pm

*Free Film: The Princess Bride*

Come watch *The Princess Bride* on the big screen on Tuesday 15 May at 5.30pm. It's classic film - worth watching again if you've already seen it and if you haven't seen it yet what are you waiting for?! Feel free to bring your dinner or get some from Feed.

Free Films are run by the Chaplaincy to provide students with a safe place on campus to chill out, relax and be entertained.

<http://www.massey.ac.nz/massey/students/student-services/chaplains/wellington/contact.cfm>

Venue: Student Common Room Level 1 Student Centre

Contact: Sarah

Ph: 62075

#### WN – Wed 16 May

12.30pm to 2.00pm

*Fulbright New Zealand Outreach Tour*

Fulbright New Zealand's educational advising team are visiting Massey University's Wellington campus as part of their annual Outreach Tour to inform students and staff about options for studying, researching and teaching in the United States of America.

Come along to hear unbiased, current and comprehensive information on educational opportunities in the US and an introduction to the Fulbright programme's range of awards to help you get there.

<http://www.fulbright.org.nz>

Venue: Room 5C17, Block 5, Entrance A, Wallace Street

Contact: Andy Mitchell

Ph: 494 1502

#### PN, AK – Wed 16 May

12.00pm to 1.00pm

*Department of Commerce 2007 Research Seminar Series*

Dr Neil Campbell, Department of Applied and International Economics, Turitea, Albany

"Corruption, Extortion, Reputation, and Asymmetric Information"

[http://econ.massey.ac.nz/staff/staff\\_campbell.htm](http://econ.massey.ac.nz/staff/staff_campbell.htm)

Venue: QB7

Contact: Dr Oz Dincer

Ph: 9335

#### WN – Fri 18 May

1.00pm to 2.00pm

*Schubertiade*

Classical Music Concert by NZSM voice and piano students to celebrate Schubert's 210th birthday. FREE ADMISSION, bring your lunch if you wish.

<http://www.nzsm.ac.nz>

Venue: Conservatorium of Music Concert Hall, Conservatorium of Music, Block 1, Wallace Street

Contact: Debbie Rawnsley

Ph: 04 463 6050



**PN – Sat 19 May**

7.00pm to 12.00pm

*Lady Massey's Other Ball Reunion Bash*

A reunion for anyone and their partner who has ever attended Massey or taken part in Massey student extracurricular activities before 1977. Everyone from Ag, Arts, Dairy, Food Tech, Intermediates, Science, Sheep, Teaching and Vet to Zoology, degree, diploma, hangers on and staff. Those with a Massey connection since then will also be welcome.

For further enquiries about the event please contact Tony Lane (Lady Massey 1969), 2 Marlborough Street, Mount Eden, Auckland, New Zealand, email [apblane@fsmail.net](mailto:apblane@fsmail.net). Phone 09 623 0030.

Venue: Palmerston North RSA 200 Broadway Avenue Palmerston North

Contact: Leanne Fecser, Alumni Relations Manager  
Ph: 06 350 5875

**PN – Mon 21 May**

1.30pm to 3.00pm

*Fulbright New Zealand Outreach Tour*

Fulbright New Zealand's educational advising team are visiting Massey University's Palmerston North campus as part of their annual Outreach Tour to inform students and staff about options for studying, researching and teaching in the United States of America.

Come along to hear unbiased, current and comprehensive information on educational opportunities in the US and an introduction to the Fulbright programme's range of awards to help you get there.

<http://www.fulbright.org.nz>

Venue: Russell Room, Whararata, University Avenue, Turitea Campus

Contact Details: Andy Mitchell

Ph: 04 494 1502

**WN – Mon 21 May**

5.30pm to 6.30pm

*Good Corporate Governance: Transparency, Secrecy, and the Ethics of Earnings Management*

Professor James C Gaa, University of Alberta

Professor Gaa argues that corporations must balance two legitimate but competing principles: transparency and secrecy. Earnings management can thus be seen either as a form of deception or as an appropriate way for corporations to balance these competing principles. His presentation provides a basis for evaluating the ethical acceptability of different forms of earning management.

Professor Gaa is a Distinguished Visitor at the School of Accountancy in Wellington. He holds doctoral degrees in philosophy from Washington University and in accounting from the University of Illinois. He has been Professor of Accounting at the University of Alberta since 1995, and before that at McMaster University in Ontario. He is a Life Member of the Certified General Accountants Association, and was Canadian Board member of the International Accounting Standards Committee from 1997 to 2000. He has published extensively on ethics in accounting, and has had a book on accounting standard-setting translated into Japanese.

(Note: The lecture is free, but space is limited; email registration is required.)

<http://www-accountancy.massey.ac.nz/>

[campusActivities/gaa/gaa.html](http://campusActivities/gaa/gaa.html)

Venue: Theatre, 10A10

Contact Details: Nikki Batten

Tel: 801 5799 ext 6877

**WN – Tues 22 May**

5.30pm to 7.30pm

*Free Film: The Queen*

Come watch 'The Queen' on the big screen on Tuesday 22 May at 5.30pm and prepared to be moved. Feel free to bring your dinner or get some from Feed.

Free Films are run by the Chaplaincy to provide students with a safe place on campus to chill out, relax and be entertained.

<http://www.massey.ac.nz/massey/students/student-services/chaplains/wellington/contact.cfm>

Venue: Student Common Room Level 1 Student Centre

Contact: Sarah

Ph: x62075

**WN – Wed 23 May**

12.00pm to 12.30pm

*Student Health: Women's Health Promotion Seminar*

Nurses Mary Khalil and Carole Parr from Student Health

Cervical cancer is one of the most preventable forms of cancer, yet each year around 70 New Zealand women die from it.

Clinical Nurse Manager Mary Khalil and Health Promotion Nurse Carole Parr invite students to an informal discussion to raise awareness of cervical screening.

The nurses will provide information about who needs to have a test and when, as well as explain the benefits of the national screening programme. Mary and Carole are looking forward to meeting more Massey students and will happily answer questions over morning tea.

Information booklets and goodie bags are will also be provided.

<http://health-counselling.massey.ac.nz/massey/students/student-services/health/wellington/services.cfm>

Venue: Student Common Room, Level 2 Student Services Building (above Tussock)

Contact: Aimee Serfontein

Ph: (04) 977 0392 or 021 105 4518

**AK – Wed 23 May**

4.30pm to 5.30pm

*Good Corporate Governance: Transparency, Secrecy, and the Ethics of Earnings Management*

Professor James C Gaa, University of Alberta

Professor Gaa argues that corporations must balance two legitimate but competing principles: transparency and secrecy. Earnings management can thus be seen either as a form of deception or as an appropriate way for corporations to balance these competing principles. His presentation provides a basis for evaluating the ethical acceptability of different forms of earning management.

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(Note: The lecture is free, but space is limited; email registration is required.)

<http://www-accountancy.massey.ac.nz/campusActivities/gaa/gaa.html>

Venue: New Zealand Institute of Chartered Accountants 27-33 Ohinerau Street, Remuera

Contact: Nikki Batten

Ph: 801 5799 ext 6877

**PN – Fri 25 to Sun 27 May**

5.00pm to 3.00pm

*Vet class of 1996 reunion*

For details contact [krpk@woosh.co.nz](mailto:krpk@woosh.co.nz)

Venue: Palmerston North

Contact: Kim Kelly

Ph: 021 275 6667

**WN – Mon 28 May**

2.30pm to 5.00pm

*Ceremony for Maori Graduands*

The Ceremony for Maori Graduands will take place at the Te Kuratini Marae, Massey University, Wellington Campus. This will take place at 2.30pm on Monday 28th May 2007. Friends and whanau of graduands are welcome.

For further enquiries, please contact the Te Kaiwawao on (04) 801 5799 ext 6904.

<http://graduation.massey.ac.nz/massey/students/graduation/wellington/events/maori.cfm>

Venue: Te Kuratini Marae, Massey University, Wellington Campus

Contact: Te Kaiwawao

Ph: 04 801 5799 ext 62190

**WN – Tues 29 May**

9.30am to 4.30pm

*Wellington Campus Graduation Ceremony*

Ceremony One - 9:30 - 11:00am

-New Zealand School of Music

-College of Creative Arts

-College of Education

-College of Sciences

Street Procession - Departs 1pm

The street procession through central Wellington is an integral part of the celebration. All graduands to assemble at the forecourt of Parliament grounds no later than 12.50pm.

Graduates of the first ceremony who wish to take part in the procession will be able to take a chartered bus from the Michael Fowler Centre at 12.30.

Ceremony Two - 2:30 - 4:30pm

-College of Business

-College of Humanities and Social Sciences

<http://graduation.massey.ac.nz>

Venue: Michael Fowler Centre

Contact: Nathalie Hinds

Ph: 04 801 5799

## WN – Tues 29 May

5.30pm to 7.30pm

*Free Film: Night at the Museum*

Come watch 'Night at the Museum' on the big screen on Tuesday 29 May at 5.30pm. Be prepared to laugh and enjoy this new release from Ben Stiller. Feel free to bring your dinner or get some from Feed.

Free Films are run by the Chaplaincy to provide students with a safe place on campus to chill out, relax and be entertained.

<http://www.massey.ac.nz/massey/students/student-services/chaplains/wellington/contact.cfm>

Venue: Student Common Room Level 1 Student Centre map

Contact: Sarah

Ph: x62075

**If you wish to register an event please use the online events submission form at <http://events.massey.ac.nz>. For other event enquiries please contact a campus events coordinator or email [events-admin@massey.ac.nz](mailto:events-admin@massey.ac.nz).**

## General Notices

[editor@massey.ac.nz](mailto:editor@massey.ac.nz)

### Qualification Reviews

This notice is to invite submissions as part of the 2007 College of Education qualification reviews. The qualifications to be reviewed and closing dates for submissions are:

Graduate Diploma in Education/Postgraduate Certificate in Education/Postgraduate Diploma in Education, July 31

Graduate Diploma of Teaching (Primary), June 06  
Te Aho Tatairangi, August 28

Certificate in Human Development September 18

These reviews aim to provide an opportunity for the University to continually enhance and improve its qualifications. A panel of experts, internal and external, national and international will be brought together to conduct each review and consider relevant documentation provided by the university as well as oral and written submissions.

Should you have any queries on any matter relating to these qualification reviews, including making a submission please contact: Pat Hickson, Project Administrator, College of Education, Email [p.hickson@massey.ac.nz](mailto:p.hickson@massey.ac.nz)

## Massey University at Auckland College of Business Annual Prize-Giving Ceremony

Held on Monday 23 April 2007  
For prizes awarded in 2006

THE COLLEGE OF BUSINESS CONGRATULATES  
ALL PRIZE WINNERS AT TONIGHT'S  
CEREMONY AND THANKS ALL SPONSORS OF  
PRIZES FOR THEIR GENEROUS SUPPORT

### Promotion to Professor 2007

Eligible academic staff intending to apply for Promotion to Professor this year should note that documentation regarding Pathways to Professor has been distributed to Heads of Departments/Institutes/Schools. The 'Pathways to Professor' booklet is also available on the <http://hrs.massey.ac.nz/homepage>.

Staff included in this round of promotions are academic staff who have achieved senior academic rank, normally at the Associate Professor level.

Staff intending to apply for promotion should consult with their Head of Department/Institute/School. Closing date for applications is Friday, 29 June 2007. Please note that late applications cannot be accepted. Applications should be photocopied, using both sides of the paper, wherever possible.

## Massey News Online

If you want to read the latest in news from Massey University, complete with colour pictures and video clips, or if you want to sign up for one of an expanding range of e-mail newsletters, visit us online.

### @Massey National

A fortnightly newsletter with the latest in news and research from the University's three campuses in Auckland, Wellington and Palmerston North.

### @Massey Manawatu

A fortnightly newsletter providing news of interest to the Manawatu community, including cover of events and activities at the Palmerston North campus, as well as wider University news.

### @Massey Business

A quarterly newsletter providing a snapshot of business news of value to the business community, from across the University.

### @Massey Arts

A quarterly newsletter providing news of events and activities in design, fine arts and music, of particular interest to the Wellington arts community.

See for yourself what makes *Massey News* one of New Zealand's most popular news sites.

<http://news.massey.ac.nz>

## Submission of notices and events:

Submission of event notices should be made through the events website: <http://events.massey.ac.nz> by 12 noon Monday prior to publication.

All general notices should be sent to the editor [editor@massey.ac.nz](mailto:editor@massey.ac.nz)

Next deadline: Monday 21 May 2007

## People in the news

Communications and marketing staff monitor news and media outlets, but appreciate notification from staff of their media contributions/achievements.

Please email [editor@massey.ac.nz](mailto:editor@massey.ac.nz) with your contribution so that it may be included in Massey News.

## 14 Haratua 2007 - Issue 5

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Event notices should be submitted to the web - <http://events.massey.ac.nz> and classifieds to <http://ads.massey.ac.nz> (please note that classified advertisements are a service for University staff. These are not published in the print edition of Massey News).

**Advertising:** All classified advertisements, including accommodation, are now available online at <http://ads.massey.ac.nz>. For paid advertisement enquiries, contact the editor.

**Circulation:** Please advise David Wiltshire of your circulation and delivery changes.  
email: d.wiltshire@massey.ac.nz

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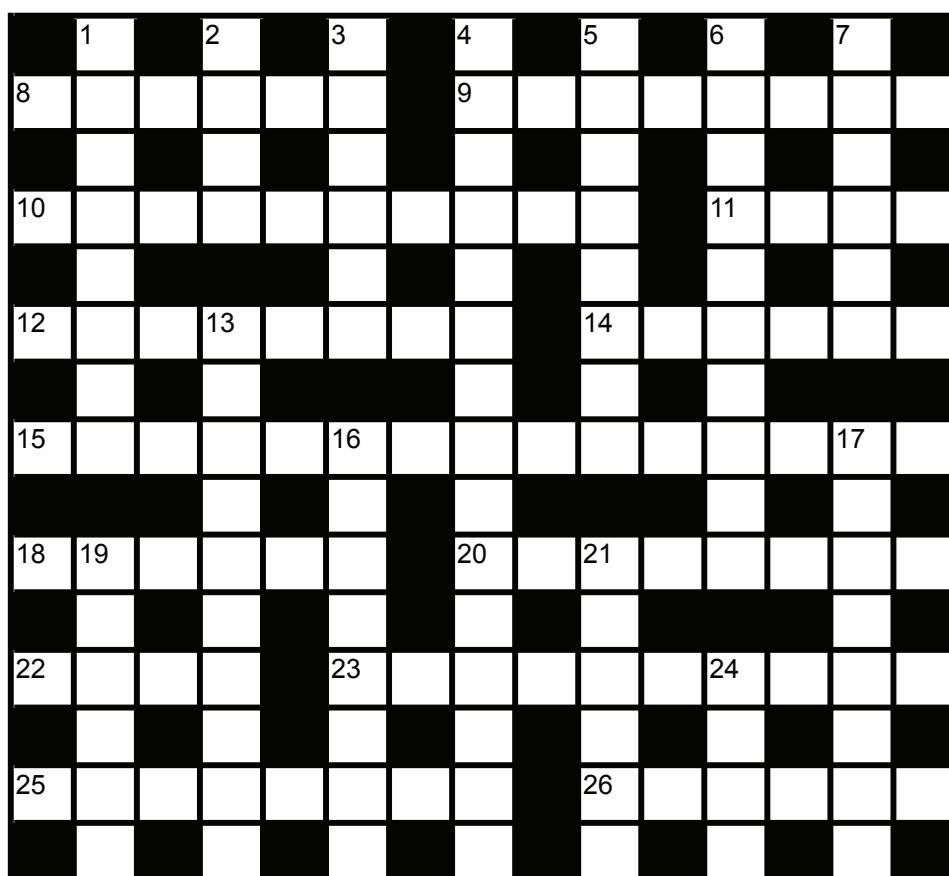
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**E-newsletters:**

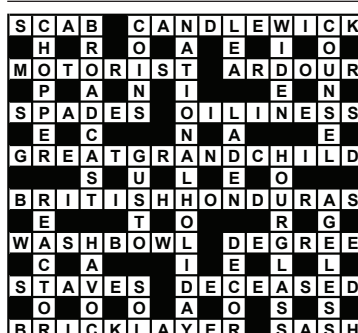
To subscribe to these, and to view the latest news from Massey, visit:  
<http://news.massey.ac.nz>

**Across**

- 8 Supported a retreat? (6)  
9 Get a neat loan for the baby. (8)  
10 Stays out with the means to sit down. (10)  
11 Be in power - that's heavy stuff! (4)  
12 When the airhostess removes her clothes, the pilot heads here. (8)  
14 Oriental bits get excited. (6)  
15 Valuable asset, the sun, self-explanatory, really, if you know how. (15)  
18 Like, about to finish up. (6)  
20 Goes out to the east on a job. (8)  
22 Sailer in the sky, getting fleeced? (4)  
23 Paying off the village. (10)  
25 Finished! Understand? Or so I hear. (8)  
26 Old kind of hose, now rare. (6)

**Down**

- 1 This is a hanger-on to a paragraph at a designated spot. (8)  
2 A caper one could easily miss. (4)  
3 He needs me to compile crosswords on time. (6)  
4 Does not match well with, and is not free. (15)  
5 Use as our original creator of the Social Contract. (8)  
6 Dancing directions used to be written down. (10)  
7 The cost of mother getting older. (6)  
13 Mark the wood and look here to see how the cricketers fare. (10)  
16 Men with guns need plates of vegetables. (8)  
17 In Victorian times, getting the vapours. (8)  
19 A person of great virtue will break, or try to. (6)  
21 Going, but stopped - identification with fish. (6)  
24 Wen found underground? (4)

**No. 4 Solution**



# Merv back to the wild

The father of many of the nation's kiwi was released from the University's Wildlife Health Centre last week – minus one toe but still able to do his duty. The kiwi, Merv, is part of Operation Nest Egg, which sees kiwi eggs lifted, incubated and hatched in captivity.

Male kiwi sit on the eggs, so the males are monitored via radio transmitter to identify nest sites. Kiwi worker Jo Thorne found Merv's injury by chance when checking his transmitter.

"He didn't look good at all and had a really swollen toe," she says. "He'd also lost weight from about 2.4kg to 2kg. So we took photos and sent them through to Massey to see if there was anything they could do."

Veterinarians Kerri Morgan and Brett Gartrell identified a nail-bed infection, so Merv was brought in two weeks ago. Postgraduate wildlife vet resident Jodi Salinsky says Merv's condition was serious because the infection had spread into the bone.

"If the infection had spread through his bones and into his blood, he may have got very sick or even died... but we were able to amputate part of his toe and he is still walking well."

"He is one of the best patients we have ever had, he has made the speediest recovery and has eaten from the second day after he came in."

Merv is being returned to his mate, in the Waimarino Forest between Raetahi and Pipiriki. Although no-one knows Merv's age for sure, a cataract in one eye indicates he is likely to be an older adult. Kiwis live until about 50 or 60 years of age, and tend to be monogamous. Ms Thorne said Merv and his mate had produced some of the biggest eggs in the Operation Nest Egg initiative, a good indicator for successful hatching, "so it's really important he goes back".

Last season, three of Merv's eggs were incubated and hatched successfully at Rainbow Springs, then cared for in the kiwi "crèche" at Bushy Park and released into the wild, improving their chances of survival from about 5 per cent to 50 per cent. Merv's offspring from recent seasons have been returned to the wild at Karioi Rahui Forest on the slopes of Mt Ruapehu, in a joint programme between the Department of Conservation and local iwi Ngati Rangī.



Merv will be monitored for a few weeks but the outlook is excellent, Ms Thorne says. "Many kiwi in the wild are missing toes or feet, mainly due to accidental trapping injuries. But they still seem to do quite well so we're not expecting any more problems."

Postgraduate wildlife vet resident Jodi Salinsky (left) assesses Merv's condition with Kiwi worker Jo Thorne before his release from the wildlife centre.

