



Massey University

Massey News

Auckland • Palmerston North • Wellington • Extramural

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Advanced national study institute launched

The University has launched the New Zealand Institute for Advanced Study, allowing elite scientists to pursue fundamental scholarship aimed at driving New Zealand forward potentially towards the first Nobel Prize for work done in this country.

Research, Science and Technology Minister Steve Maharey congratulated Massey for its foresight at the launch on the Auckland campus last Wednesday, saying it was important to foster pure academic research.

"I have opened and attended the opening of many new research facilities and facilities for the science system this year," Mr Maharey said.

"Many of those have been associated with Massey in one way or another. Today's event celebrates the opening of yet another Massey initiative, one that is unique.

"You are a university that has a reputation for being first, for being innovative and for being different and I think that is shown here today."

He said brilliant people in the right kind of environment exploring fundamental questions could achieve a great deal and the institute provided exactly what was required.

"I think that's a very important part of what we're trying to do in this country at the moment. We know that the next generation of science breakthroughs comes from collaboration, the cross-over of disciplines, and the institute will go a long way to encouraging this outcome."

This had been the case since the creation of the first such

institute, at Princeton in the United States in 1930 – noted for hosting theoretical heavyweights such as John von Neumann and Albert Einstein, he said.

"At the time few could have predicted how their pure theoretical ideas would be applied to computing, electronics, energy, astrophysics and engineering, and end up shaping social theory, economics and the study of human behaviour."

**"You are a university
that has a reputation
for being first, for being
innovative and for
being different."**

– Steve Maharey

Vice-Chancellor, Professor Judith Kinnear, says the institute will secure international prestige for New Zealand as a whole, as well as enhancing the university's drive for focused excellence.

"Each of the professors is a world-leader in his field. This interdisciplinary grouping of pre-eminent scholars provides huge opportunity, both for them to pursue their research and for graduate students and post-doctoral fellows to aspire to study with the professoriate. We also anticipate that we will develop a schedule of visiting researchers, seminars and symposia to ensure that the influence of the NZIAS is promulgated throughout academia. It is certainly within the realms of possibility that the NZIAS could be the means by which New Zealand secures its first Nobel Prize for work done here."

Governing Board chairman Professor Grant Guilford

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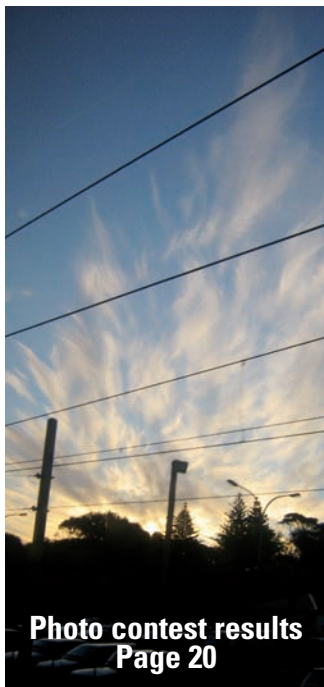


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Advanced national study institute

From page

says the NZIAS will be unlike any other academic institution in New Zealand.

"Most developed nations have such an institute, characterised by interdisciplinary clusters of elite scholars with the ambition and capability to lead mankind's cultivation and generation of knowledge.

For many hundreds of years science has been organised within disciplines – for example ecologists working with ecologists or biologists collaborating with biologists.

In the institutes for advanced study we break this traditional mould and bring together the top people from disparate fields to see what breakthroughs can arise – it's a case of let's put them together and see what happens.

"As well as enjoying the supportive and creative environment offered by the NZIAS to support their research, each will be able to mentor and develop the next generation of scholars so that New Zealand

is best able to advance at a scientific and economic level."

Professor Guilford, head of Massey's Institute of Veterinary Animal and Biomedical Sciences, says the University's history of foreseeing the challenges ahead enabled it to develop programmes recognised as critical to the economy, including agriculture, food and applied biological sciences; veterinary studies; engineering and technology, and finance.

"This culture of innovation makes Massey the natural home for a progressive organisation such as the NZIAS. Developing a world-leading science capability is consistent with Massey's leadership of learning in New Zealand."

The inaugural professoriate and their research teams are all working from the University's Auckland campus. Associate and visiting academics will be selected to support the professoriate.

The NZIAS Professoriate

Distinguished Professor David Lambert FRSNZ

Research Interests: Molecular Biology and Evolution.

Professor Lambert's research is focused on aspects of evolutionary theory and evolutionary genetics, particularly in relation to species theory, the nature of Darwinian biology and ancient DNA.

"Our research has pioneered approaches to the estimation of evolutionary rates, as measured by changes in ancient DNA over time, and has made a special study of Adélie penguins from the Antarctic, representing one of the best sources of ancient DNA yet discovered, as well as ancient DNA from extinct moa," Professor Lambert says.

Distinguished Professor Gaven Martin FRSNZ

Research Interests: Mathematics

Non-linear analysis, elliptic partial differential equations and Beltrami systems are of particular interest to Professor Martin, as is geometric function theory, particularly as it interacts with conformal geometry, quasiconformal mappings and their generalisations. Professor Martin is also working on applications in non-linear elasticity and materials science, low dimensional topology and geometry, particularly hyperbolic geometry, discrete groups and their associated universal constants, such as minimal co-volume, and relations between arithmetic and geometry.

Professor Victor Flambaum FAA

Research interests: Physics

Challenging problems in atomic, nuclear, elementary particle, solid state physics and astrophysics are of interest to Professor Flambaum, in particular violation of the fundamental symmetries (parity, time invariance), test of the theories of Grand Unification of elementary particles and their interactions and the search for spatial and temporal variation of the fundamental constants in the Universe from the Big Bang to the present time. Professor Flambaum is also interested in many-body theory and high-precision atomic calculations, quantum chaos and statistical theory, high-temperature superconductivity and

conductance quantisation.

Professor Paul Rainey

Research Interests: Ecology and Evolution

Evolutionary processes particularly, but not exclusively, evolution by natural selection are of interest to Professor Rainey. The research is both theoretical and empirical and makes use of microbial populations in order to observe and dissect evolution in real time. A growing focus is the evolutionary origins of multicellularity. Other interests include the ecological significance of diversity in natural microbial populations; evolutionary processes determining patterns of diversity in space and time; and the genetics and fitness consequences of traits that enhance ecological performance in populations of plant-colonising bacteria.

Professor Peter Schwerdtfeger FRSNZ

Research Interests: Theoretical Chemistry

Professor Schwerdtfeger addresses aspects of quantum chemistry and physics focused toward fundamental issues. Current research areas include parity-violation in chiral molecules, relativistic effects, the chemistry of heavy and superheavy elements, simulation of metallic clusters, quantum-electrodynamical effects in atoms and molecules, solid state chemistry and physics including high-pressure materials, surface science, chemical evolution theory and the mathematical and philosophical aspects of quantum theory.

Professor Victor Flambaum is scheduled to relocate from the University of New South Wales to NZIAS in 2009, with provision made for a further five professors to be selected.

NZIAS Scientific Board

Professor Rodney Bartlett, Graduate Research Professor: University of Florida; Professor Lennart Carleson, Royal Institute of Technology, Sweden; Professor Vaughan Jones DCNZM DSc FRS FRSNZ University of California, Berkeley; Professor Helmut Schwarz, Director of the Humboldt Foundation

Veterinary programme again wins US accreditation

The University's Bachelor of Veterinary Science degree has again been approved as an accredited programme by the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), confirming the Institute of Veterinary Animal and Biomedical Sciences as one of the top veterinary schools in the world.

Head of Institute Professor Grant Guilford says the programme has been granted full accreditation for seven years.

The accreditation means that vets trained at Massey can work in the United States without additional study, and that the school is acknowledged for its high standard of veterinary education.

"The AVMA once again singled out the commitment of staff to students as a hallmark of the Massey BVSc," Professor Guilford says. "It is a quality which the AVMA finds very refreshing and admirable."

Professor Guilford says it is noteworthy that this is the first such re-accreditation in Australasia.

"Re-accreditation is arguably a more difficult process than the initial accreditation because there is less 'forgiveness' in the minds of the accreditors – and risks of complacency amongst staff and university administration. This is an exacting accreditation process and one which we have passed, I'm told, with 'flying colours'."

The BVSc programme was first accredited by the AVMA in 2002. Massey is one of



only eight veterinary schools outside North America to be accredited.

It joins an elite group of 40 universities worldwide, including Cornell University and universities of California and Pennsylvania, and the University of Edinburgh Royal School of Veterinary Studies.

The BVSc is also accredited by the Canadian Veterinary Medicine Association, the British Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons and the Australian Veterinary Boards Council.

\$2m boost for Massey animal and veterinary research

The University has welcomed news it is to receive \$2 million Government funding for a project to enhance New Zealand's veterinary and animal science research capability.

Nearly \$8 million will be invested over the next two years to boost research capacity in the high-priority areas of nursing, veterinary science, and information and communications technology, Tertiary Education Minister Dr Michael Cullen announced last month.

The funding is being allocated through the latest round of the Building Research Capability in Strategically Relevant Areas Fund. Dr Cullen says veterinary science, like nursing and information communications technology, is an issue of major strategic importance for the nation but has not always attracted enough investment to build a strong research culture.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Judith Kinnear says the investment in research capability enhancement is most welcome. "It would be expected to contribute to national goals given the importance of the livestock and bloodstock industries."

The lead applicant on the University's behalf, Professor Grant Guilford describes the investment by the Government as a wise one.

"Veterinary and animal science research advances animal welfare, protects the nation's biosecurity and biodiversity, improves food safety and underpins the animal production industry, which contributes more than \$11 billion per annum at the farm gate to the economy," Professor Guilford says.

"The fund money will be used to establish a series of funds to promote collaborative research programmes in selected areas of national importance, a cell biology unit to enhance access of applied veterinary animal scientists to fundamental research techniques and a training fund to assist academic staff to complete their PhD training.

"Together with the large infrastructural investments made recently by the University and AgResearch in the Hopkirk Research Institute, the fund's investment will lead to a significant and enduring increase in New Zealand's veterinary and animal science research capability."

Approval for new teaching programme

A new degree programme which aims to better equip teachers for modern classrooms and bring higher rates of pay for graduates, has been approved by the Committee on University Academic Programmes and the Teachers' Council of New Zealand.

It enables the College of Education to launch its four-year primary teacher education programme, bringing New Zealand in line with international teacher preparation standards.

The programme addresses the latest curriculum changes and best teaching practices. It also puts teacher preparation on a similar footing to other specialist professions with four-year qualification programmes including social work and engineering.

Teacher Education Professor John O'Neill says that because society makes huge demands on today's primary teachers, the new programme has been designed to develop student teachers' knowledge and confidence in much greater depth.

"The extra year allows students to systematically develop their knowledge and thinking, and it also provides more time to develop their teaching skills.

"It encourages the 'can do' attitude that is necessary to be a successful teacher who makes a real difference to young people's life chances."

Education Pro Vice-Chancellor Professor James Chapman says that the new programme recognises the value of educators, the challenges they face and ensures graduates have a salary advantage when they enter the workforce.

Graduates will be equipped with a dual qualification on completion of the programme, receiving a Bachelor of Education (Teaching) Primary and a Diploma in Education Studies.

Rather than simply merge the two qualifications, the College of Education undertook an extensive consultation process in order to build a new programme from the ground up.

"More than 70 per cent of college staff have been involved in shaping it – which is twice the number of those who will actually teach this particular programme," Professor Chapman says.

"The result draws on a wealth of expertise and represents the true merger of pre-service teacher education in a university environment."

It will be available internally at Palmerston North and Napier, and extramurally.

Lahars and floods increase health protection demands

Lahars and new risks from climate change are accelerating demand for health science professionals, says an environmental health expert.

When Ruapehu blows its top or Northland gets flooded, environmental health officers are there to protect people from environmental hazards.

Climate change exposes people to hazards such as extreme weather events, says environmental health lecturer Dr Beatrice Dias-Wanigasekera.

A new risk is the possibility of vector-borne diseases becoming established in New Zealand, such as malaria or dengue fever carried by mosquitoes.

Establishment of new and emerging pathogens, new epidemics, and recurrence of past epidemics are other hazards due to climate change.

With more floods, droughts and other health hazards, demand is so high for environmental health graduates that most land jobs while in their final year of study.

In response, the University's Institute for Food, Nutrition and Human Health has launched a new programme in human health and the environment on its Wellington campus.

Study can be in a mixed mode, with a combination of extramural and internally taught papers.

Dr Dias-Wanigasekera says every day is different for Environmental Health and Health Protection Officers.

The role is challenging, people oriented and focused on promoting human health and well-being.

"These officers face a huge range of challenges from managing natural hazards, assessing drinking water and food quality and safety, dealing with chemical spills, and harmful microbes.

"People have increasing expectations of their environment being safe, whether the issue is lahars, toxic chemicals, unsafe food or excessive noise," she says.

Laws such as the Resource Management Act, the Building Act, the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act, and the Food Act are evidence that the community demands protection from hazards.

"A Health Protection Officer's job is to keep us safe from harmful environmental effects."

The University also offers a Graduate Diploma in Environmental Health, aimed at people already in the workforce.

Eruption debris may extend snow and ski seasons

Skiers and snowboarders may have the recent eruption to thank for an extended ski season, says University glaciologist Dr Martin Brook.

Dr Brook is a lecturer in physical geography who has specialised in the study of glaciers. On hearing of the eruption last month, he and a team headed up Mt Ruapehu to install monitoring equipment to assess the glaciological response.

"The eruption dumped a lot of volcanic material on the upper snowfields at Ruapehu, which act as source accumulation areas collecting snow," he says.

"This in turn turns into firm snow and then glacier ice for the Whakapapa Glacier in particular.

"As we are now moving into the spring and summer melting season, where the sun is at a higher angle and the days are longer, snow and glacier ice on Ruapehu usually melt rapidly until the following autumn.

"However, this year, there is now debris cover on the ice of varying thickness, so this will protect the snow and ice from melting in the accumulation area, keeping a base of snow and ice in place for a longer than usual. That also gives us the tantalising prospect of enhanced snow at the beginning of the autumn ski season in 2008."

Were the layer of debris thinner – or thicker – it would have a different impact.

"Melting is enhanced under debris up

to about 8mm thick, due to absorption of shortwave radiation from the sun. The debris re-emits this as long-wave radiation into the adjacent snow and ice.

"This is because dark colours have a low reflectivity and do not reflect sunlight like lighter colours do. However, with a debris cover thicker than about eight to 10mm, this actually acts to insulate the ice and snow below, as the debris is too thick for any radiation received at the surface

to be transmitted downwards to the snow."

Dr Brooks says New Zealand is unusual in glaciological terms. "It's doubly intriguing; New Zealand's glaciers are not your average glaciers. Those on the west coast of the South Island [Fox, Franz Josef] respond to snowfall, which appears to overprint the effect of temperature.

"Hence, we have a situation in New Zealand, with global warming heating the oceans, evaporating more sea water into the atmosphere, leading to enhanced precipitation on the West Coast of the South Island, and a short seven-minute volcanic eruption perhaps leading to insulation of parts of the Ruapehu glaciers and snowfields on the North Island."

Dr Brooks and his team have a permit application with the Department of Conservation to install an automatic weather station and an array of ablation stakes in the summit snowfield, and the top of the Whakapapa Glacier.



Fellowship for mathematician

Mathematician Professor Graeme Wake has been awarded a Fulbright Travel Award. Based at the University's Auckland campus, he is Professor of Industrial Mathematics and is widely known for his initiatives with industry in applied mathematics.

In November he will take up the Fulbright award to travel to both the University of Massachusetts and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) to deliver lectures. In Massachusetts he will continue researching problems relating to spontaneous combustion.

As a current MacLaurin Fellow, he will also further enquiries about Richard MacLaurin after whom the fellowship is named. Professor MacLaurin was a founding Professor of Mathematics at Victoria University and was the sixth President of MIT.



Professor Graeme Wake.



Above, Dr Shane Cronin at Ruapehu, and below, an image shows the trace of the eruptions and the passage of three lahars at the University's monitoring station near the Round the Mountain walking track on eastern Mt Ruapehu.

Massey warning system picks eruption

The University's volcanic response group is working with the Department of Conservation to find out why its warning system did not pick up Mt Ruapehu's latest eruption but the University's equipment did.

Dr Shane Cronin, of the Institute of Natural Resources, says the cause may be because the event was eruption-related.

"It looks as if the flows were so short-lived they weren't recorded on the DoC warning system.

"What we're trying to figure out is why they weren't picked up there and make some recommendations to DoC about how they update their system to catch things like this in the future."

Dr Cronin and his students drove to the Central Plateau as soon as he heard about the eruption and spent a night camped by a lahar monitoring station at the base of Mt Ruapehu.

They have since been back to the mountain several times and now analysing samples taken from across the mountain and data from monitoring instruments.

The instruments were purchased in December as part of a \$720,000 Marsden Fund project led by Dr Cronin and Dr Vern Manville from the Institute of Geological and Nuclear Sciences.

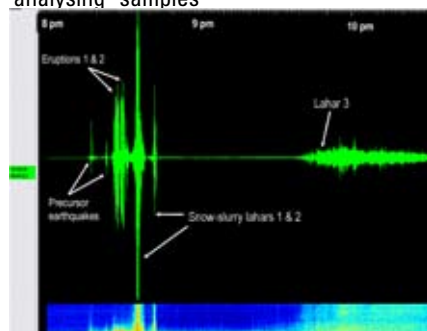
"Our efforts included surveying precisely the levels of the lahars down the Whangaehu channel. The lahar deposits are an unusual mix of snow, mud and rock - like in 1995.

"There were at least three flows down the valley and our instruments installed for

the Marsden Fund research project seem all to have worked in capturing the flows as they passed."

He says the Whangaehu lahars were probably in total only about 15 per cent of the size of the March 18 lahar from the crater lake and were more or less confined to the upper mountain.

Dr Cronin says the technique used to gather information about the internal dynamics of the lahar, using seismometers, will be used to enhance predictive models being developed by the group.





Educators welcome new scholarships

College of Education staff have welcomed the Government's announcement of scholarship changes for prospective teachers.

From next year, existing scholarships and allowances will be replaced with a single flexible and responsive TeachNZ recruitment scholarship. A total of 538 scholarships will be available – 80 of them are enhanced scholarships and the rest for tertiary students and graduates.

Education Minister Steve Maharey says the changes are to make teaching a more accessible and attractive career, and Massey's Director of Teacher Education, Dr Mary Simpson, is pleased with the announcement.

"With a pending teacher shortage, it is vital to promote teaching as an attractive and rewarding career option," she says. "To have this recognised in the form of new scholarships from the Government is very significant."

Dr Simpson says that the announcement also provides an opportunity for institutions that prepare teachers to evaluate their priorities.

"While there is an urgency to enter new teachers into the workforce, it is equally as important to ensure that those teachers are quality and meeting the areas of greatest need identified by the Government," she says.

The TeachNZ recruitment scholarship is targeted at areas of highest need – chemistry, home economics, mathematics, physics, technology, te reo Māori, and Māori medium.

Under the recruitment scholarship for graduates, all full-time secondary student teachers will receive course fees and an allowance and be bonded to teach.

New 'career changer' scholarships will also be available to attract people with established careers to become teachers of technology and/or te reo Māori, or to teach in bilingual or Māori immersion environments.

"The College of Education offers a total-immersion, te reo Māori teaching qualification, Te Aho Tātirangi, and it's an opportunity for us to promote this programme to prospective teachers, or even those fluent in te reo who may be considering a career change," Dr Simpson says.

Under the scholarship incentives, up to \$30,000 is available to support those in this area.



Kay Mathewson and Dr Kerry Gibson.

Tackling teen problems by helping school counsellors

Helping distressed teenagers by providing professional support to the overworked North Shore school guidance counsellors who work with them is one of the ways the School of Psychology is reaching out to the community.

Since the Auckland-based School of Psychology launched its "Bringing psychology to the community" services a year ago through its Centre for Psychology, counsellors have been getting extra help from Massey experts, particularly in Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT) techniques.

Counsellors say the additional training, networking with peers and professional support from the University has helped them significantly in dealing with the quantity, intensity and type of problems that troubled teens approach them for help with daily – from heartbreak over broken romances to the impact of bullying as well as trauma over family break-ups.

"We are run ragged," says Judith Innes, guidance counsellor at Rangitoto College – the country's largest secondary school with more than 3000 students.

"There is never any end to the demands [of students seeking help], so the more skills you have, the more ways you can see to help the clients," she said.

Director of the Centre for Psychology, Dr Kerry Gibson, along with clinical psychologist Kay Mathewson – both with longstanding experience and interest in child and adolescent psychology – are keen to bridge the divide between academic research and knowledge, and frontline counselling in the arena of teen mental health.

Dr Gibson says school counsellors do a great job, despite being pushed to their limits in terms of resources.

But they are increasingly confronted with students whose state requires more specialised and intensive help than can readily be offered by overstretched school counsellors and who are not eligible for specialised adolescent mental health services reserved for more severe problems.

"We see ourselves as working alongside them, providing professional support and training. We don't want to wait till a child attempts suicide before they get the help they need."

Ms Mathewson says more subtle bullying is one of the trends school counsellors are confronting. This occurs through social exclusion, shifting alliances and deception – such as arranging to meet someone in a group then the group not turning up.

These less obvious methods are harmful and can cause low self-esteem, self-doubt, anxiety, depression, self-loathing and academic non-performance, she says.

Donna Ransley, the only full-time school guidance counsellor at Long Bay College, which has 1800 students, says her workload is "chaos – it's unbelievable, we don't stop".

She says the bulk of her clients' troubles stem from adapting to newly-blended families, and coping with a sense of loss from the changed relationship with their primary caregiver.

The extra training from Massey has been "a big help, especially the CBT training for anxiety and depression", she says.

Food pilot plant to offer expertise to industry

Researchers are working on several projects to provide new eating experiences, and industry will soon be able to access their facility and expertise as a new \$6.5 million food pilot plant comes online.

Associate Professor Charles Brennan says the plant is the most comprehensive and advanced in New Zealand and is expected to be complete by early next year. The facility, at the Institute of Food Nutrition and Human Health on the Palmerston North campus will have export accreditation.

"While there are a few plants owned by big businesses, there is nothing available for small to medium-sized enterprises," Dr Brennan says.

"We're breaking the pilot plant down to smaller units so industry groups can come in and confidentially work, even just for small runs. Construction will meet the NZ Food Safety Authority standards, which include red line areas to the main pilot plant and a smaller foods laboratory. This will give the facility the ability to produce small-scale product batches which meet export certification."

The pilot plant also includes several smaller laboratories to allow sensitive or confidential work to be done in tandem with teaching classes, and a whole complex of chillers and freezers ranging from 10 to -30deg. Hot, cold, chilled and soft potable water, steam, vacuum and compressed, will be available.

New product development is catered for by an extensive refurbishment of existing facilities together with a new food quality assessment laboratory, which includes a purpose built sensory suite for consumer trials.

"Not only is the vision to have the biggest and best plant in order to produce food or manipulate raw ingredients, but to be able to test it both in terms of its composition and with consumers," Dr Brennan says.

Post-harvest quality is given a dedicated laboratory area including five specialised walk-in temperature and humidity-controlled rooms. Each of these has a nitrogen generator, which will allow controlled atmospheres to be generated, providing opportunities for any number of storage trial combinations.

Dedicated food engineering and dairy processing equipment will be housed in separate areas as well as a research area devoted to extrusion technology. Massey is the only university in New Zealand with extruded food capabilities.

Associated with the pilot plant complex is a comprehensive suite of laboratories catering for food characterisation (determining aspects of rheology, texture and biochemistry affecting food structures) as well as food chemistry (the chemical composition of foods and how these affect the nutritional quality of foods such as glycaemic index and fat intake).



Associate Professor Charles Brennan.

The 2200m² building also has easy access to the existing food microbiology suite and human studies laboratory, which has its own Dexa (bone composition) laboratory, new Bod Pod (body composition) laboratory, examination room and analytical laboratory.

The existing facility is being maintained while work on the new complex is underway, so pilot plant equipment, food characterisation and consumer analysis services are and will remain available.

"And both the new facility and the current service are very well-served with the best academics in the field, both from the Institute and across campus. We are able to find solutions people would just not find anywhere else."

International health researchers target diabetes

International academics will tackle key health issues facing New Zealand's most vulnerable populations at a one-day research symposium to be hosted by the Research Centre for Māori Health and Development on 30 October.

Centre director Professor Chris Cunningham says the focus will be on identifying the research agenda for combating Metabolic Syndrome in New Zealand, including the benefits of early identification of insulin resistance, and the role of exercise and nutrition.

Participants include Stanford University academic Professor Gerald Reaven, who in 1988 first introduced the idea that abdominal obesity, high blood pressure and diabetes have a common link which is insulin resistance and impaired glucose tolerance.

He called this clustering of symptoms Syndrome X which is more recently known

among other names as the Metabolic Syndrome.

Iconic New Zealand athlete and University of Texas exercise scientist Associate Professor Peter Snell and Australian expert on nutrition and Aboriginal health Professor Kerin O'Dea will also take part.

"It's a coup to be able to bring the best expertise in the world to Wellington to discuss how research can help ease the burden of diabetes in Māori and New Zealand," says Professor Cunningham. "It's an opportunity too good to miss."

Limited to 200 participants, Insulin Resistance, Diabetes and Vulnerable Populations will be held at the Museum Theatre, at the University's Wellington campus.

Registration details can be found at: <http://publichealth.massey.ac.nz/meetings.htm>



Professor Chris Cunningham.

Storytelling scholar brings wonder to his classes

English lecturer Derek Gordon's classes are too spellbound by their teacher's mesmerising eloquence to be bothered writing notes – and that's just the way he wants it to be.

Mr Gordon – alias 'Bringwonder' the tale-telling troubadour for 21 years in schools and festivals throughout the land – was New Zealand's first-ever full-time professional storyteller – a rare species.

Now he's continuing what he can't help doing at university level, to the delight of students who've likely never witnessed such animation in the halls of academia.

He might just introduce a tutorial with a bout of harp music, or recount the ancient Chinese legend of the Monkey King to a rapt audience of mainly Asian students in the increasingly popular *Speaking: Theory and Practice* paper.

Whether re-enacting a famous speech by the likes of Greek leader Pericles during a mass bone burial, orating epic Greek legends of Troy and Oedipus, or Shakespeare's *Hamlet* in the tragedy paper, Mr Gordon blends theatricality and theory in his inimitable teaching style at the Auckland campus.

"Research shows it's far better to engage with the lecturer and not enslave yourself to taking notes," he says. He sends them formal lecture notes later.

Class time is devoted to enlivening course material and texts through his lifelong passion for the spoken word. He likes to involve students in role-playing for added dramatic effect.

Mr Gordon, who has never had formal training in acting or elocution, says storytelling is in his blood. His mother, aged 87 now, was an actress and performer who toured with concert parties during World War II. He vividly recalls her rehearsing, and also telling him stories.

As a child asthma sufferer he turned to reading instead of rugby.

"I was the guy at the edge of the rugby field writing poetry and reading classical literature. In a single sex boys school that was a dangerous thing to do."

But it was at Hamilton Boys High School that his theatrical leanings emerged when he played *Hamlet* at the age of 17, sharing the stage with poet, the late Alan Brunton and film-maker Leon Narbey.

During a stint as a secondary school teacher, Mr Gordon wove his irrepressible love of poetically crafted stories into his teaching. Eventually, he took his students' advice and in 1981 began fulltime storytelling in the guise of Bringwonder.

He earned a living for 21 years as a roaming raconteur in schools and arts festivals throughout New Zealand and Australia with stories and legends from across different cultures, from Rudyard Kipling's animal tales to Asian, Celtic and ancient Greek legends.

In 2000, he enrolled in a Master's in English

at Massey and completed a thesis on why so many 16 and 17-year-olds take Classical Studies in New Zealand.

He discovered that in 1999, more students in this age group were taking classical studies than accountancy.

What's more, his research – which he is shaping into a book – showed that students of classical studies did better at university – the result of the subject's eclectic knowledge base

encompassing philosophy, psychology, religion, art, history and language, he says.

While a student, his university teachers "became aware that they had in their midst an unusual someone with a genetic predilection to loquacity," he quips. Following this recognition, he was invited to join their ranks.

Whatever age or academic level his audience, Mr Gordon is convinced of the primal power of storytelling as a teaching tool, an arousing emotional experience and a means of fulfilling an innate human need for meaning, insight and connection.

"Stories are a doorway, and once you open that doorway and glimpse another world you begin to understand the culture that contains that story."



Derek Gordon.

Finance leaders caution on over-reactive regulation

A group of leading financial academics and researchers from New Zealand and Australia are cautioning their governments against over-reacting in regulating suppliers of riskier investment products.

The Australia-New Zealand Shadow Financial Regulatory Committee has just met in Melbourne and discussed the financial turmoil affecting markets across the world. In a statement issued in Australia last month the group said: "Failure of financial institutions and the attendant losses must be expected as part of the normal operation of efficient and innovative financial systems.

"Risk taking, risk transformation and risk management are core parts of the business of financial intermediation. By its very nature, risk involves the prospect of loss as well as gain, and losses must occasionally occur. When investors knowingly accept exposure to high-risk financial assets in the expectation of improving their returns, they should bear the consequences of failure."

The group said that if governments were to protect investors from the adverse consequences of their informed decisions, moral hazard can arise to distort the efficient working of the financial system.

The Committee's third statement also:

- Emphasised that the prudential safety net should be limited in extent. This means that regulatory proposals such as those being considered to protect investors in financial products need to take care not to blur the boundary line of the safety net.
- Repeated its December 2006 call to the

Australian and New Zealand authorities to speedily finalise and implement their proposals regarding failure management arrangements, which would help to clearly delineate the safety net boundary.

- Recommends that proposals for new disclosure requirements should be "road tested" with consumers as part of the required regulatory impact assessment.
- Suggested that regulators review whether increasing (or retaining) the role of mandatory trustees for debenture or deposit-like securities is appropriate, given the availability of alternative, possibly superior, approaches to fulfilling their current investor protection role.
- Argued that the authorities should promote the development of secondary markets for such securities as a complement to other measures which have been proposed for improving information (and exit mechanisms) for retail investors.
- Questioned whether the application of an "If Not Why Not" approach to disclosing whether benchmark financial indicators have been met, as proposed by the Australian Securities and Investments Commission, is effectively equivalent to compulsion, and calls for more detailed consideration of the benchmarks proposed.

The Committee meets twice every year in one of the major cities in Australia or New Zealand. The 'shadow' function of the Committee is related to the Committee's purpose of following and analysing critically the existing and evolving regulatory framework for financial institutions and markets.

Asthma may be in decline

The rise in prevalence of asthma symptoms in English-speaking countries such as Britain and New Zealand has peaked and may even be in decline, researchers have found.

Professor Neil Pearce of the Centre for Public Health Research is the lead author of a paper from phase three of the International Study of Asthma and Allergies in Childhood (ISAAC) published in the international medical journal *Thorax* last month.

Key findings include that in most high asthma prevalence countries, particularly English-speaking countries, fewer people are reporting asthma symptoms. Countries in other parts of the world are showing a marked increase in reporting of asthma symptoms, including Latin American countries such as Costa Rica, Panama, Chile, Mexico and Argentina.

The phase one findings, published in 1998 showed that the highest prevalence of symptoms in a 12-month period were reported in English-speaking countries such as Britain, Australia, the United States, Canada, New Zealand and Ireland. By phase three, the

prevalence of asthma symptoms in 13-14 year old children in these countries had dropped by from 30 per cent to 25 per cent.

Phase one found relatively low prevalence in Africa and Asia, with the exception of affluent countries such as Japan and Singapore.

"The phase three findings indicate that the striking increases for Latin American countries may lead to a future where asthma is described as a Spanish and Portuguese speaking disease, rather than as an English-speaking disease as it has been known in the past," says Professor Pearce.

"The modest increases for some Asian countries are of potentially major significance given the size of Asia's population and rapid economic growth. Thus, although asthma symptom prevalence is no longer increasing in English language and Western European countries, its global burden may continue to rise."

The ISAAC study is the most extensive international survey of asthma symptom prevalence ever performed.

More bad news on home affordability

The bad news on home affordability continues and there is little light at the end of the tunnel for first home buyers, according to the latest quarterly report from the University's Property Foundation.

In the past five years home affordability has declined by 70 per cent, with the annual decline in the year to 31 August 13.2 per cent. House prices over the year increased by 12.9 per cent.

In the quarter ending in August, affordability, which takes into account prices, incomes and mortgage interest rates, declined by an average 2.5 per cent, says the report from College of Business property market researchers.

The latest decline was mainly due to rising interest rates.

Journalism student earns post in Jakarta

Journalism student Will Robertson is one of three New Zealanders to have been awarded a work placement in the Indonesian capital, Jakarta.

The Australian Consortium of 'In Country' Indonesian Studies Journalism Professional Practicum aims to give students the background knowledge and theoretical insights required to work in and report on Indonesia.

ACICIS was established to develop and coordinate study programmes in Indonesia. Its programmes were extended to include media placements in 2002 and for the first time this year New Zealand journalists were invited to join the programme.

Head of Journalism at Massey's Wellington campus Dr Grant Hannis says he is delighted at Mr Robertson's success. "He is a capable, hard-working student, and I'm sure he'll get a lot out of this fantastic opportunity.

"As Asia's influence on New Zealand grows it is vital that journalists can write about Asia in an informed, intelligent way.

"It seems to me the best way to gain that knowledge is by the kind of direct experience he is going to have."

Mr Robertson, who graduates this year, says he has always been interested in Indonesia. "I think it is important we get to know such a huge neighbour.

"I also see it as an opportunity to get a job in the region. I would like to be a foreign correspondent one day."

He plans to stay for longer than the six-week practicum, so that he can learn Bahasa (Indonesian language). The practicum starts in January.

Other New Zealand students on the programme are Aroha Treacher and Dylan Quinnell from AUT University.

All three New Zealanders are supported by the Asia:New Zealand Foundation.



Professor Sylvie Chetty.

Keys to successful smaller businesses

Flexibility, innovation, great relationships with customers and a willingness to change direction fast are among the attributes that can keep smaller businesses successful – sometimes, against considerable odds.

They are the strengths that showed up in a study of small to medium-sized companies in New Zealand's software industry by Professor of Marketing, Sylvie Chetty. As the next speaker in the Professorial Lecture Series at the University's Auckland campus she will be talking about how this specialised group of small to medium-sized enterprises overcome obstacles to grow and often to become international operations.

Professor Chetty is widely known for her research on how small New Zealand companies take the leap from the domestic market into the international market. She has found the Kiwi way of going international is unique and doesn't follow the theories found in international marketing and business text books.

The main constraints for New Zealand's software industry are lack of venture capital, limited resources, a small domestic market, isolation from major markets, credibility, currency movements and difficulty penetrating established networks.

As well as having skilled employees and, a passion for what they are doing, using social and business networks to get information, skills and capital play a big part in helping these enterprises grow and go offshore, says Professor Chetty.

They keep up with rapidly changing technology by exploiting the interdependency they have with both suppliers and customers, and working closely together. They work with customers to develop highly specialised new products and services for niche markets. Customers typically see them as a competency centre.

Software companies that have gone international, she says, usually tackle the Australian market as the first step. But it is important for them to have a present in the US market she says to get capital, gain credibility and keep up with technological growth.

Troubled finance companies not expected to effect safe banking

There's no reason for New Zealanders to expect the current troubles of finance companies to flow into the banking sector, says a senior lecturer in the University's Centre for Banking Studies, Claire Matthews.

Her comments followed the run on funds at the UK's fifth largest mortgage lender, Northern Rock, where depositors mobbed branches to withdraw money after hearing the Bank of England had pledged to prop up the liquidity of Northern Rock.

As depositors withdrew more than four per cent of Northern Rock's total deposits in a matter of days, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Alistair Darling, promised the British government would guarantee deposits at the troubled bank.

Ms Matthews says there's no reason for people to start worrying about the safety of their bank deposits in New Zealand, despite

the recent financial turmoil world-wide and the string of local finance company collapses.

"The two sectors operate quite differently. Finance companies are generally much smaller, operating in higher risk types of business and with more concentrated business which is reflected in lower credit ratings for most of the finance companies," says Ms Matthews.

"Most of the banks operating in New Zealand and certainly those with the largest market share, are backed by an overseas parent. They do business over a much broader range of market segments and are substantially bigger.

"Being supervised by the Reserve Bank of New Zealand is also an advantage for the banking sector and the government's moves to give the Reserve Bank a supervisory role over other financial institutions is certainly something to be supported."

New advisory board members



Janine Smith and Maggie Robertson.

Two highly experienced businesswomen are joining the advisory board established last year by the College of Business as a hotline to the commercial world.

The two new members of the advisory board are Auckland-based Janine Smith of Boardroom Practice Ltd and Maggie Robertson, Head of Customer Experience and Human Resources at Telstra Clear in Wellington.

Ms Smith is a Director of the Bank of New Zealand, The Warehouse Group Limited, Kordia Group Limited, Chair of McLaren Young New Zealand Limited and a Trustee of Taranaki's economic development agency, Venture Taranaki.

She specialises in boardroom practice, strategic planning, organisational development and organisational change issues for boards

and management.

Ms Robertson has a successful track record at senior level in large organisations before joining Telstra Clear.

Her experience encompassing marketing, human resources and general management, includes six years with Xerox in Britain, seven years as a consultant with KPMG and Price Waterhouse, six years with Carter Holt Harvey and four years at Wrightson Limited.

The advisory board is headed by Business New Zealand chief executive Phil O'Reilly.

The board has representatives selected from sectors aligned to programmes offered by the College of Business including aviation, finance, leadership development, retail, property development, marketing, accounting and small business.



Dr Simon Sigley.

French view NZ as primitive Utopia, via Campion

The French may be getting a hefty dose of Antipodean brute force watching the All Blacks in the Rugby World Cup, but a Massey lecturer says their view of New Zealand as an antipodal 'Other', rife with primitive forces, is already well-established thanks to their interpretations of Jane Campion's two New Zealand films.

In an essay to be published in an international book, Film, Television and Media studies lecturer Dr Simon Sigley contemplates how Campion's films – *An Angel at My Table* and *The Piano*, which won the Palme d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival in 1993 – have helped shape a French vision of this country.

Admired and upheld as examples of sophisticated cinematic art that echoed French aesthetic ideals, Campion's films succeeded in captivating French film reviewers and audiences alike with their raw, striking images – from the mute Victorian-era heroine Ada washed up on a wild West Coast beach with a piano, to the harshly primeval bush-clad setting drenched in rain and mud.

Such imagery depicted New Zealand as a primeval space in which new ways of being might be possible, says Dr Sigley.

As a fresh-faced New World cinematic auteur (film-maker with a distinctive vision and style), Campion was credited with injecting new energy into a lack-lustre Old World film culture weighed down by its traditions and a post-modern skepticism about narrative.

Much of her imagery taps into and reinforces an historical French predilection to imagine South Seas islands as relatively unscathed by civilization, and characterised by a blend of

primitivism and Utopian romance, he says.

"The islands are symbolic spaces that allow Europeans to contrast their societies with those believed to exist in the South Pacific. Such a practice began with Denis Diderot's musings on Tahitian society in 1773 after the navigator Louis de Bougainville published an account of his explorations in the South Pacific," he says.

Through detailed study of film reviews of *An Angel at My Table* and *The Piano* taken from the following dailies and weeklies: *l'Humanité*, *Libération*, *le Monde*, *le Nouvel Observateur*, *le Quotidien de Paris*, *les Echos*, *le Journal du dimanche*, *la Croix*, *l'Express*, *France-soir*, *le Figaro*, *Globe Hebdo*, and *Télérama*, Dr Sigley analyses the impact of Campion's cinema on French film culture.

As a woman with a strong, female-oriented creative vision (through the roles of Janet Frame in *An Angel at My Table* and Ada in *The Piano*), Campion's vision of women, the feminine, and heterosexual female desire was sufficiently novel to attract much favorable critical attention, he observes.

"In the late 1980s and early 1990s, Campion's gender in a creative role dominated by men was unusual and merited comment, as a review in *France-soir* noted: 'Jane Campion is the first female director to awaken the sexist world of the cinema.'"

Mesmerised by what they saw as a boundary-breaking style combining naturalism and naivety with sophisticated surrealism, some French film critics saw her as an heir to the poet Rimbaud's vision, and on a par with French film legends Bresson and Resnais.

"Campion was adopted by the French critical establishment as 'one of us', and located within a widely understood and solidly established cultural hierarchy that included some of the great pillars of French film and literature, both past and present," Dr Sigley says.

The essay examines how New Zealand came to be "simultaneously an actual location and a screen for emotional projection", for French film critics. Referring to the 18th century French explorers and voyagers who set out to find the vast southern continent of Terra Australis, he argues that remnants of a mythologised version of Oceania and its peoples as a primitive Utopia persist in modern French perceptions.

"For the French symbolic order, the name 'Jane Campion' was associated with the aural imagination; invoking it meant invoking the Other – a European fiction whose narrative resolved opposites: the baroque and modernity, violence and tenderness, darkness and optimism."

Dr Sigley first presented his research at a colloquium on Jane Campion entitled *Cinema, Nation, Identity*, jointly organised by the University of Otago and the Paris-based La Maison des sciences de l'homme at Otago University last December.

The essay, titled ... *comme une invitation au voyage*: *French reception of Jane Campion, An Angel at My Table, and The Piano*, will appear in a book called *Jane Campion: Cinema, Nation, Identity*, to be published by Wayne State University in 2008. There may also be a French-language version.

Fashion Week pulses with fresh Massey talent

From newly-minted graduates to veteran designers, Air New Zealand Fashion Week pulsed with creative talent, with Massey School of Design graduates figuring prominently.

Since graduating last year, Renee Stewart is now an assistant designer at Auckland label State of Grace, where she works with Sherilyn Catchpole. Ms Stewart says their show, *Birds of Bodega Bay*, went smoothly and the response has been really good.

Her tasks included preparing their collection, packing goodie bags and making the models look their best for the runway.

Designer Michael Pattison, whose clothing is pictured, says his show was everything he could have hoped for. "I decided to use Asian models, and buyers and media responded really well."

Since completing a Bachelor of Fashion

Design in 2002, Mr Pattison began designing his self-titled fashion label. Initially focusing on individual tailoring, he launched his label at Fashion Week in 2005.

Others from the School of Design include Juliette Hogan, Deborah Sweeney, Adrian Hailwood, Petrena Miller, Kate Sylvester, Dane Johnson, and 2006 World of Wearable Arts supreme winner Rodney Leong.

Fashion design lecturer Mary-Ellen Imlach says the standard of presentation this year is higher than ever.

"The atmosphere is fabulous. It's a full-on week, and a great chance to catch up with former students and engage with the industry."

She tipped newcomers OYL as a label to look out for.



MBA grad wins Hospitality Association Award

Auckland's Iguazu restaurant collected top awards at the New Zealand Hospitality Association Awards, held last month in Wellington.

Co-owner Julie-Ann Bell (Massey MBA, 2005) says she and partner Phil are "pretty chuffed" with the awards.

The competition included both restaurants and hotels. Judging was undertaken by an independent panel who visited premises unannounced on three separate occasions.

Iguazu won the association's awards for Best New Zealand Restaurant, Excellence in Customer Service, Best Lamb dish and to top it off, the Supreme Overall Winner.

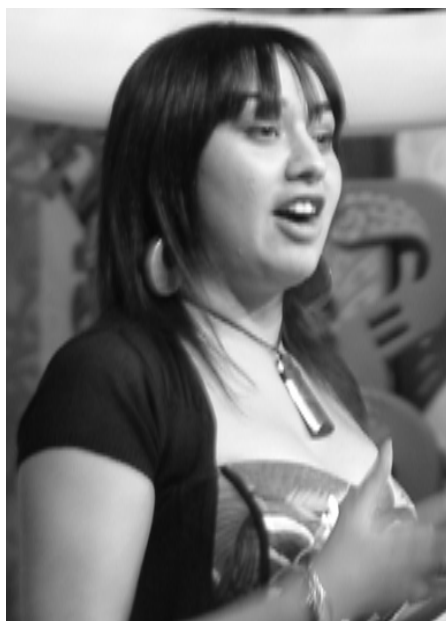
Ms Bell says one of her first moves after buying Iguazu in 2005 was to create a staff training programme, bringing in expert tutors and preparing a blueprint based on advice from the Hospitality Standards Institute.

"It was all about customer service and communication. That means looking after people from the moment they walk in until they leave the restaurant. It means taking a constructive approach to any complaints: if someone isn't happy with their food, our staff replace it immediately. It also means understanding that all customers are different in their expectations and needs."



Julie-Ann Bell.

Last minute entry clinches short story award



Royna Ngahia Fifi field.

Royna Ngahia Fifi field entered her prize-winning short story into the Pikihiua Awards for Māori writers five minutes before the closing deadline.

She'd glimpsed a brochure on the Pikihiua Awards for Māori writers the day before then forgot about it until 30 minutes before entries were due to close, managing to send it in with five minutes to spare.

Her efforts were rewarded when she won the Best Short Story out of 130 entries in the English language category, with her story of ambiguous love titled *Secrets of the Heart*.

She won \$2000 in prize money, and publication of her story in Huia Publishing's latest collection *Huia Short Stories 7*.

Her prize-winning story was originally written as a fiction writing assignment.

Fifi field, who says she has been passionate about writing since penning regular diary entries as a youngster, plans to work on a novel next.

The Palmerston North third year Bachelor of Arts student is majoring in English, and says the writing lectures and tuition in particular from two American lecturers, Dr Thom Conroy and Dr Bryan Walpert, have helped her immensely in approaching her own writing critically and analytically.

"They've really helped with understanding techniques and thinking about language and how you use it."

In her writing, she aims to make a connection with the reader through careful rendering of emotion, she says.

Ms Fifi field says her story was not specifically Māori in flavour or theme, but she feels at equally at home in both Māori and Pākehā cultures.

Her favourite fiction writers include North American short story writers Raymond Carver, Alice Munro and Grace Paley, as well as Britain's Zadie Smith and New Zealand writer Keri Hulme.

Māori Visual Arts student wins Te Waka Toi scholarship

Master of Māori Visual Arts student Ngaahina Hohaia is one of two Nga Karahipi a Te Waka Toi scholarship winners this year.

The scholarship is significant both in the sense that many recipients including recent School of Māori Studies graduate Kelcy Taratoa have gone on to considerable success – and in that the scholarship “almost covers the fees”.

“The reality of being a visual artist is that the cost of materials is pretty high, Ms Hohaia says. “It would be easy to spend \$8000 a year on course materials, then there’s exhibition costs and the printing of catalogues.”

The 31-year-old has exhibited prolifically, with works ranging from sculpture to jewellery and adornment pieces. Historical narratives and imagery from her childhood home Parihaka have influenced the work.

The installation *Roimata Toroa* was created using 600 blanket poi for a wall at Palmerston North’s Te Manawa art gallery. Each poi is made from pure wool blanket, and embroidered with one of 60 symbols related to the tiny Taranaki settlement known for its role as a centre of passive resistance during the New Zealand wars.

“What I wanted to do for Te Manawa was create something so that anyone could walk into the space and find a connection with the work,” Ms Hohaia says.

So successful was the exhibit, an electronic sensor had to be used to keep viewers from touching the poi, which Ms Hohaia labels



Ngaahina Hohaia.

“fibre sculpture”.

“This type of work links directly back to the weaving – I have been weaving since I was about eight and that has been one of the foundations of my work. This is still a type of weaving together.”

Now the elder of Ms Hohaia’s two sons is ready to start weaving. “He’s asking ... it could be a good time to start teaching him.”

Other plans for the future include a return to Taranaki later this year for an exhibition at the prestigious Govett-Brewster Gallery in New Plymouth. Then, next year Ms Hohaia plans to hold her end-of-year exhibition in the meeting hall at Parihaka.

Gershwin a highlight of NZSM spectacular

Gershwin’s *Rhapsody in Blue* will be the centrepiece of a New Zealand School of Music concert this month.

In his only Wellington performance, Grammy-nominated jazz pianist, composer and arranger Bill Cunliffe will perform his arrangement of the piece that established Gershwin’s reputation as a composer.

Using the original orchestration, Cunliffe pays homage to the 1924 debut of *Rhapsody* and recaptures its improvisatory nature.

Rhapsody in Blue has often been interpreted as a musical portrait of New York City, and is used to this effect in Woody Allen’s film *Manhattan*.

Featuring Mr Cunliffe as soloist, supported by bassist Paul Dyne, drummer Steve Houghton and the NZSM Orchestra, it promises to be a showstopper.

Americans Mr Cunliffe and Mr Houghton will also perform at the Queenstown international jazz festival. Houghton is an internationally recognised drummer, percussionist, author and educator.

Also in the NZSM concert, Wellington City Organist and keyboard specialist Douglas Mews will join the orchestra to perform Camille Saint-Saëns’s *Symphony No 3*, popularly known as the ‘organ symphony’.

Student soloists from the NZSM classical performance voice department will sing with the orchestra in Vaughan Williams’s *Serenade to Music*.

NZSM Director Professor Elizabeth Hudson said the concert showcases the best of both classical and jazz – exactly what the NZSM is all about. “It’s our biggest event of the year, and our students, staff and guests will be giving a vividly entertaining view of the collaborations that define us.”

NZSM Spectacular concert – Wednesday 17 October at 8pm, Wellington Town Hall. Tickets at \$35 / 20 / 10 can be purchased from Ticketek.

From masterpiece to massacre

Images of World War I never seen in public before and a new presentation on the New Zealand Division in 1917 were previewed at the Palmerston North campus last month.

Associate Professor Glyn Harper, Director of the Centre for Defence Studies, previewed the paper that he will formally present at Ypres on 10 October as the David Gallagher memorial lecture.

Dr Harper outlined the three crucial battles in which the New Zealanders fought and offer some explanation for their radically different outcomes. The presentation also examines the enduring legacy of 1917 on New Zealand.

Papatuanuku inspires exhibition

Iwi Creativity, an exhibition of artwork from nine Māori students inspired by Papatuanuku (the earth mother) goes on display at the Great Hall in the Museum Building on 8 October.

Director of Māori Development, Ross Hemera (Ngai Tahu) says the work is a celebration of creativity from Māori students in design and fine arts, from Toi Rauwharangi—the College of Creative Arts.

“The work celebrates Māori student achievement and highlights the students’ academic endeavour,” Mr Hemera says.

“We have chosen the concept of Papatuanuku to describe the work in this exhibition. Papatuanuku is the symbol of sustenance for Māori. Papatuanuku sustains all life including these tender new shoots of iwi creativity as they strive for excellence.”

Contemporary Māori design and the work of Irish furniture designer Eileen Gray are the inspirations for third-year industrial design student Jamaine Fraser (Te Arawa). He has designed *Haupapa* (pictured), a space divider which is laser cut from resin or perspex.

Building on his love of drawing since he was at kindergarten, Mr Fraser says he always knew his future lay in design.

The exhibition will also feature in *Blow: Nga hau e wha*, the College’s creative arts festival next month.



Haupapa by Jamaine Fraser.

Academic text contributions

Averil Coxhead of the School of Language Studies has contributed to a second textbook for students of English as a second language.

Ms Coxhead, a lecturer in English for academic purposes and applied linguistics, contributed to the *Longman Exams Dictionary* which was published last year and to the *Oxford Students Dictionary* which has just been published.

Both books are targeted to learners of English for tertiary study or professional purposes. Ms Coxhead contributed to both books based on her research of an academic word list.

Rave review for student big band album

A new album of jazz classics from the New Zealand School of Music's Big Band has attracted an enthusiastic review in the United States.

Rodger Fox Presents Ray Woolf has been acclaimed by leading reviewer Jack Bowers.

"Talented singer, terrific band, tasteful songs—totally recommended," he wrote in the *All About Jazz* website.

"And what a band this is—so tight and perceptive that it's hard to believe the members are actually students."

It is rare for New Zealand jazz albums to even get reviewed internationally, says bandleader Rodger Fox, who also tutors jazz at the school.

"People are taking notice. Audiences love the power of the big band sound, and the diversity of styles—they can play the standard jazz repertoire, like Count Basie or Frank Sinatra, or blues, funk and swing."

The album was recorded at the School of Music's concert hall in Wellington. It includes vocalist Ray Woolf performing songs from the Great American Songbook such as *You Make Me Feel So Young*, *South of the Border*, and *I've Got You Under My Skin*, and pop/rock standards like *Smoke on the Water*, *Kansas City* and *Can't Buy Me Love*.

Big bands, also known as jazz orchestras, emerged in the 1920s and include five saxophones, four trumpets, four trombones, and a rhythm section of drums, bass and piano.

The New Zealand School of Music's Big Band is made up of senior music students and is Wellington's only regularly rehearsed big band.

They play at the Bristol Hotel in Cuba St, Wellington, on 11 October.

Rodger Fox Presents Ray Woolf is released by Ode Music.

Massey switches Pasifika high school students on to learning

Pacific Island high school students on Auckland's North Shore attending after-school homework sessions run by Massey's Pasifika students say they no longer wag classes and feel much more motivated to study, thanks to the scheme.

The new programme, launched in August, is aimed at encouraging more Pasifika students to aspire to higher education, as well as to forge stronger links between the University and Pacific Island communities.

The scheme, currently being piloted at Birkenhead, Glenfield and Northcote Colleges, is part the Pasifika @ Massey's community learning initiative.

Martha Paewai, a Samoan part-time communications student and mother of three school-aged children, has been mentoring a group of six girls at Birkenhead College every Wednesday from 7pm to 9pm since the initiative was launched.

She says the Year-13 girls are all keen students who attend the sessions regularly for help with time management, essay writing, calculus homework and study plans.

One of her students, Gloria Faaee, said she no longer waggled classes and was doing much better at school since joining the group.

"It really motivates you because the mentors are giving up their time to help us. It means a lot to us," she says.

Having a Pacific Island homework mentor

was a crucial factor, she says; "because they understand our background".

And having a designated study place away from home can make it easier for the students to get their homework done, as there are often pressures at home to do other tasks.

Gloria and fellow student Tato Taukolu, aged 18, both said that they found it difficult to complete homework at home because they had dishes, laundry, vacuuming and other household chores to attend to after school.

Lack of a quiet, private space to study amid a large family can also make it difficult for students to get on with homework, Professor Sitaleki Finau, Director Pasifika, has said.

Plans are afoot to open at least three more homework learning centres in West Auckland schools as well as more North Shore schools next year, says Pasifika Development Adviser Sione Tu'itahi.

Principals at two of the schools involved in the scheme have told Mr Tu'itahi that they've noticed a marked improvement in attitude and performance among the students who attend the sessions.

He wants parents and families also to attend the homework centres so that they have a better idea of their children's learning needs, and so that they can discuss their own educational aims if necessary. Students with a minimum B grade average have been selected as volunteer mentors for the scheme.

Massey Blues honour New Zealand athletes

Forty-seven athletes of national and international ranking, from a wide variety of sports, will receive Massey University Blues awards this week at functions in Auckland and Palmerston North.

A sportswoman and sportsman of the year will also be announced at each campus.

Dr Sarah Leberman, who chairs the Blues awards committee, says all of the 47 recipients of this year's awards have reached exceptional standards in their chosen codes, are succeeding in their studies and, in many cases, are national and international representatives.

"To receive a Blues award is a double achievement for these students because not only do they need to represent the University and the region, they must also be passing their studies as well," Dr Leberman says.

"We have some of the top sportspeople in the country studying at Massey and it's great to be able to honour their achievements."

Former All Black lock and Sky TV rugby

commentator Ian Jones will be the guest speaker at the Auckland campus awards dinner on Monday evening, while sports psychologist Dr Gary Hermansson will speak at the Palmerston North Convention Centre on Tuesday, where the recipients from the Wellington and Palmerston North campuses will be acknowledged.

Jones, with 79 tests from 1990-99, is the second most capped All Black and the most-capped lock in the history of the game.

Dr Hermansson, a former Counselling and Sport Psychology lecturer at Massey's College of Education, is the National Adviser for Sport Psychology to the New Zealand Academy of Sport, NZ Golf and NZ Equestrian.

He was the New Zealand teams' sport psychologist at the Commonwealth Games in 1998 and 2002 and at the Olympic Games in 2000 and 2004. Joshua McCormack.

Full results will be available on the *Massey News* website from next week: <http://news.massey.ac.nz>



Services Delivery Optimisation Project update

A finance planning workshop was held on 28 September for finance staff from across the University.

The workshop enabled gathering of further information to determine how to take the review of Financial Services forward.

A draft Terms of Reference has been developed and distributed to managers and administrators for consultation with their staff. Responses are to be forwarded to the Project Manager by 19 October. A copy of the draft Terms of Reference has been posted on the project web-site.

Coming up:

A further workshop is planned for 15 October for the Provision of Student Administration workstream, again with relevant staff from across the University.

The workshop will develop a way forward for this review. Work undertaken previously on enrolment will also be included. (This was a separate project, which has since been integrated into the wider review of Student Administration.)

The workshops have taken or will take the reviews into the 'Understand' part of the process, where review teams will seek to understand and map current processes.

It should be noted that the reviews cannot analyse and improve all areas and processes. Constraints, particularly those around systems development initiatives, will influence what can be achieved, both from a time and cost perspective.

For information about the project go to: <http://ourfuture.massey.ac.nz>

Latin Jazz wows the crowd in Devonport

Second and third-year students from the New Zealand School of Music Jazz School in Auckland showcased their musical talents in low-lit jazzy ambience during a gig in Devonport last week.

This 14-strong Advanced Latin ensemble was one the four Massey jazz groups to play at popular jazz venue, The Masonic Hotel.

The Latin ensemble wowed the audience with a rich array of sounds including keyboards, guitar, saxophone, trumpet, flute, drums, percussion, and vocals with Chinese jazz vocalist Yuli Quay singing Latin songs in Spanish.

Fact and fiction blurred over Christ's tomb

In his 16 October public lecture titled *Bones of Contention: The Lost Tomb of Jesus*, senior lecturer in history Dr Adam Claasen examines the controversial claims made by a 2007 Discovery Channel documentary suggesting that archaeology, statistical computations and DNA analysis have uncovered not only the family tomb of the Jesus in the Bible but also

his burial box.

Many New Zealanders will have seen the documentary *The Lost Tomb of Jesus* by Titanic director James Cameron, on Sky cable television earlier this year.

Dr Claasen looks closely at how fact and fiction can become blurred in compelling visual presentations of historical stories.

Fees set for 2008

The University Council voted on Thursday to increase undergraduate domestic tuition fees by 5 per cent for next year. Postgraduate taught and research fees will increase by \$500 (incl. gst).

University Chancellor Nigel Gould says even with the increase the University's fees remain well below the maximum allowable and generally below those charged by other universities.

Assuming other universities increased their fees by 5 per cent for 2008, 94 per cent of Massey domestic undergraduate students will pay between 4 and 10 per cent less than the average of the rest of the sector for equivalent full-time programmes.

Small increases were also approved for non-tuition fees such as student services levies, and the Auckland and Palmerston North Students Associations also raised their levies.

Endorsing concerns raised by the students associations, the Council also approved a recommendation to note the inadequate levels of government funding of the university sector, when benchmarked internationally, and to continue to work with all stakeholders in the university sector to seek further improvements in the level of investment by the Government.

Investment Plan update

Vice-Chancellor Professor Judith Kinnear says the University's Draft Investment Plan, the first profile to be negotiated under the tertiary education reforms was submitted to the University Council for final amendments and approval at the October Council meeting on Thursday.

Prior to this a revised document, incorporating feedback from the previous consultation round with staff and students associations, had been distributed to Academic Board and senior management for their final comments, which were incorporated into the document given to Council. The final version of the Investment Plan/Profile is to be submitted to the Tertiary Education Commission by 19 October. Included in the plan are a number of strategic initiatives for the University, many directly aligned with the Government's priorities and goals for the tertiary sector.

Some are expected to be funded from existing baseline funding; others, if Government chooses to invest in them will allow us to respond to their stated priorities more effectively or enable us to achieve our goals in a more timely manner. While baseline funding is agreed based on 2006 EFTs, our ability to advance our strategies to a certain extent will depend on our success in gaining a significant share of the contestable sector funds.

In the news

18 September

Newstalk ZB: **Annette Huntington**, from the School of Health Sciences, says a new multi-million dollar pay offer to New Zealand nurses will make a difference to the chronic nursing shortage

Agribrief, Rangitikei Mail, Feilding Herald, Wairarapa News, The Press, Manawatu Standard, Rural News, Ashburton Guardian, Timaru Herald, Westport News, Southland Times: Professor **Steve Morriss**, from the Institute of Veterinary Animal and Biomedical Sciences, says an accelerated lambing trial to determine if ewes can produce five offspring in three years, would benefit those farmers who are interested in shoulder season, or out of season lamb production.

RLI, Newstalk ZB: Associate Professor **Peter Lineham**, discusses the future of the Destiny's Church political wing, and the suggestion made to consolidate the Christian vote into one party.

Manawatu Standard, The Dominion Post, NZ Education Review: Professor **Kerry Howe**, from the School of Social and Cultural Studies, has been appointed a distinguished professor, for his scholarly work on Pacific history.

Gisborne Herald, Westport News, Greymouth Star: Dr **David Tripe**, from the Centre for Banking Studies, and Professor **Bob Hargreaves**, from the Department of Finance Banking and Property, say an interest rate war is unlikely after Kiwibank lowered its interest rates, as it would be reasonable to expect a decrease from other lenders.

20 September

Newstalk ZB: Dr Ruth Mortimer has been awarded funding in order to study professional women's experience in their transition to retirement.

22 September

The Press, Waikato Times, Newstalk ZB, www.tvnz.co.nz, www.nzherald.co.nz, Daily Chronicle, Westport News, Wairarapa Times Age, Hawkes Bay Today, Taranaki Daily Times: Associate Professor **Dennis Viehland**, says the IT community will face time related problems from the daylight saving change as some computers, mobile phones and business software are not adapted to automatically make the time change when needed.

24 September

The New Zealand Herald: Associate Professor **Mike O'Brien**, from the School of Social and Cultural Studies, calls for the government to give more financial support to caregivers, so they do not have to struggle to pay bills, and are not forced to join the workforce when they would rather be at home.

24 September

The Dominion Post, The Press, Manawatu Standard, Waikato Times, Newstalk ZB, www.stuff.co.nz:

Professor **Paul Spoonley**, Pro Vice Chancellor (Humanities and Social Sciences) dismisses the accusation that New Zealand Universities are anti-Semitic, and says New Zealand should be regarded as anti-Semitic especially when compared with Canada or Europe.

25 September

Manawatu Standard: **Nick Roskrige**, from the Institute of Natural Resources, has conducted research into the varieties of Māori Potatoes to see which have a commercial application, the research has involved 35 New Zealand schools in a bid to get young people interested in horticulture.

Manawatu Standard, The Press, RNZ: Dr **Dave Horne**, and a team from the Fertiliser and Lime Research Centre, are conducting research into a more efficient use of the dairy farm effluent, involving cell phone technology which alerts the farmer to any irrigation problems.

Manawatu Standard, Marlborough Express: Dr **Mike Nichols**, from the Institute of Natural Resources, discusses the concept of aquaponics, where the nutrients left over from fish feeding are then filtered through a pump and used to grow a crop hydroponically, putting the concept forward to the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organisation. *Radio Live:* Dr **Nigel Parsons**, from the School of People Environment and Planning, discusses the Iranian President Mahmud Ahmadi-Nejad's trip to New York and his controversial engagement at Columbia University.

26 September:

The Dominion Post: Associate Professor **Charles Brennan**, from the Institute of Food Nutrition and Human Health, says a new food facility currently being built at Massey will enable staff to produce food and manipulate raw ingredients, while at the same time testing it for its composition with consumers.

27 September

The Dominion Post, Manawatu Standard, www.stuff.co.nz, Taranaki Daily News: Dr **Shane Cronin**, from the Institute of Natural Resources, describes the aftermath of the recent Mt Ruapehu eruption as being very similar to the eruption of 1995.

29 September

Newstalk ZB: Professor **Lawrence Rose**, conducts research into the awareness New Zealanders have into financial matters, suggesting our basic understanding is okay, but beyond that angst and panic is felt.

1 October

Manawatu Standard: Dr **Mary Simpson**, from the School of Teacher Education and Undergraduate Studies, believes recalling ex teachers back into the classrooms will aid in addressing teacher shortages.

Research Funding News

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

Contact Information:

For advice and assistance regarding funding applications, please contact your College Research Development Advisor:

College of Business

College of Humanities & Social Sciences

College of Creative Arts

Dr. Victoria Bradley, v.j.bradley@massey.ac.nz
ext. 81327 or 027 538 5338

College of Sciences

College of Education

Dr. Kate Arentsen, k.arentsen@massey.ac.nz
ext. 81326 or 027 544 7354

Auckland Advisor

Jo Stone, j.d.stone@massey.ac.nz
ext. 9533 or 027 233 6333

TEC – Encouraging and Supporting Innovation Fund

Eustie Kamath, e.kamath@massey.ac.nz
ext. 81344 or 021 387 843

For assistance in accessing funding opportunities or to receive Funding Opportunities Database training, please contact:

Research Funding Co-ordinator

Diana Young, d.m.young@massey.ac.nz
ext. 81341

Funding Opportunities:

Native Flora Impact Assessment

Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
Closes: 12 October
Amount: RFP

Sector/Industrial Segment Innovation Systems Studies

Ministry of Economic Development
Closes: 12 October
Amount: RFP

Individual Grants Competition

Society of Actuaries
Closes: 15 October
Amount Up to \$60,000 US

Whanau Ora Research Partnership

Health Research Council
Closes: 18 October
Amount: Up to \$5,000

Contestable Funding Round 2007

Accident Compensation Corporation
Closes: 26 October
Amount: Up to \$600,000

Research Grants & Grants in Aid

Child Cancer Foundation
Closes: 1 November
Amount: Unspecified

Senior Specialist Programme

Fulbright New Zealand
Closes: 1 November
Amount: Airfares & \$2,000 US honorarium per day

Travel Awards

Fulbright New Zealand
Closes: 1 November
Amount: Up to \$5,000

Toi Sgwigwialtxw Residency

Creative New Zealand
Closes: 2 November
Amount: Unspecified

Fellowships in Māori Health

Health Research Council
Closes: 9 November
Amount: Various

Grants

Nasdaq Educational Foundation
Closes: 1 February
Amount: No min or max amount
Various RFPs in Education

Spencer Foundation

Continuous
Amount: Varies up to \$500,000

FRST Technology Expertise Access Programme

RMS is inviting applications for the TechNet Expertise Access Programme.

TechNet is a fund to assist companies to access technical expertise at Massey University for the investigation of particular technologies or technical issues related to the business's overall development goals. Massey is funded directly from FRST for a limited number of consultancies and will call for applications on a monthly basis. Successful applications will demonstrate a clear pathway for

ongoing collaboration between Massey University and the company.

The deadline for the first round of applications is 5:00 pm Monday 22nd October. Applicants will be notified of the outcome by 5:00 pm Tuesday 30th October. Electronic application guidelines and forms may be obtained from Jo Stone, j.d.stone@massey.ac.nz on x. 9355 or 027 233 6333.

Community of Science Funding Opportunities Database

The funding opportunities listed in this Newsletter are only a small extract of available funding for New Zealand researchers. For the largest, most comprehensive database of available funding in all disciplines visit the Community of Science Funding Opportunities Database: www.cos.com/nz

To organise training sessions contact Diana Young, d.m.young@massey.ac.nz or x. 81341.

Events

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

AK – Tuesday 9 October

7.00pm to 8.00pm

Free Lecture Series

Associate Professor Peter Lineham:

Understanding Religious Trends in New Zealand

Following on from last years lecture find out why New Zealand's religion and spirituality trends have changed based in the 2006 Census results.

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

Venue: Sir Neil Waters Lecture Theatres Gate One Entrance Albany Expressway.

Contact: Leanne Menzies

Ph: 09 441 8163

AK – Tuesday 16 October

7.00pm to 8.00pm

Free Lecture Series

Dr Adam Claassen

Bones of Contention: The Last Tomb of Jesus

This presentation will examine the controversial claims made by a March 2007 Discovery Channel documentary that suggests archaeology, statistical computations and DNA analysis have uncovered

not only the family tomb of the Jesus of the Bible but also his burial box. Are these explosive assertions supported by the evidence.

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

Venue: Sir Neil Waters Lecture Theatres Gate One Entrance Albany Expressway.

Contact: Leanne Menzies

Ph: 09 441 8163

PN – Tuesday 16 October

5.30pm to 7.15pm

What's Hot in Nutritional Science

several Massey University's Institute of Food Nutrition & Human Health (IFNHH) invites you to the final 2007 community evening designed to discuss current topics in Nutritional Science

Topics and speakers:

"Moving to Manawatu: dietary acculturation in the Chinese population"

Speaker: Ms Ying Jin

"Filling Foods: appetite and satiety"

Ms Sylvia Chung Chun Lam

"The Low-down on Irritable Bowel Disease"

Dr Karen Munday

Venue: Fernwood Room, Bernard Chambers A.

Contact: Graham Pearson

Ph: ext 5382

WN – Wednesday 17 October

8.00pm to 10.30pm

NZSM Spectacular!

The NZSM Orchestra's final concert of the year promises to be a sparkling occasion. The concert's centrepiece is an arrangement of Gershwin's 'Rhapsody in Blue' for jazz trio and orchestra. The orchestra will be joined by special guest, Grammy-nominated jazz pianist, composer and arranger Bill Cunliffe (USA). Cunliffe's arrangement – a delicious fusion of classical and jazz elements – is bound to delight!

Venue: Wellington Town Hall.

Contact: Debbie Rawnsley

Ph: 04 463 6050





Massey University

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Massey University



Te Kūmanga
ki Pūrehuroa

AK – Thursday 18 October

7.00pm to 9.30pm

Professorial Lecture Series: Professor Sylvie Chetty
Innovation and Internationalisation in the Software Industry in New Zealand

This presentation is based on a study which is part of the FORST-funded Competitive Advantage New Zealand (CANZ) project that also links into the GrowthNet Project which is based in Finland.

This study has been conducted in Finland, Denmark and New Zealand. The presentation will cover the New Zealand findings, which focuses on an in-depth study of ten small to medium sized software firms. Such firms are renowned for their lack of resources and this creates obstacles for growth. One way of overcoming this is for them to use social and business networks to acquire information, skills and capital.

This study explores how and why these networks are used by these ten firms to make innovations, and to internationalise, as well as the critical events they experience during this process.

Sylvie Chetty is Professor of Marketing in the Albany Campus and a visiting Professor at Uppsala University in Sweden. Before joining Massey University she lectured at Victoria University of Wellington and Canterbury University.

Her research interests are in networks, internationalisation, social capital and industry clusters. She has published numerous articles in international journals on the internationalisation of New Zealand firms.

<http://auckland.massey.ac.nz/massey/campuses/auckland/campus-events/prof-lectures.cfm>

Venue: Sir Neil Waters Lecture Theatres Building Foyer and NW200.

Contact: Holly Fang

Ph: (09) 4140800 extn 9228

WN – Thursday 18 October

3.00pm to 4.00pm

The Department of Communication and Journalism
Postgraduate Research Seminar Series 2007

Kane Hopkins

Methodological considerations in content analysis

of blogs: an examination of political blogs during the 2005 New Zealand election

Tea, coffee and biscuits provided.

Other Seminar sessions held on Aug 16th & 23rd, Sept 6th, Oct 4th & 25th and Nov 1.

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

Venue: Room 6C01 (Block 6, Level C) Massey University, Wallace St.

Contact: Nicky McInnes

Ph: 801 5799 x 62280

AK – Tuesday 23 October

7.00pm to 8.00pm

Free Lecture Series

Associate Professor Mike O'Brien: *Reforming the Welfare*

New Zealand's social security/income support system is undergoing significant changes on a number of fronts. What are the changes? Why are these changes happening? What effects will they have? What do the changes mean for those who rely on a benefit for their regular income?

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

Venue: Sir Neil Waters Lecture Theatres Gate One Entrance Albany Expressway Albany.

Contact: Leanne Menzies

Ph: 09 441 8163

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.

Scholarships and Bursaries

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

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

Undergraduate

Microsoft Scholarships – closing 15 October 2007

Te Rau Puawai Workforce Development Scholarships – closing 19 October 2007

Mr M & Mrs T Olechnowicz Scholarship – closing 31 October 2007

Alex C P Chu Trade for Training Scholarship – closing 1 November 2007

Don Linklater Memorial University Bursary – closing 1 November 2007

New Zealand Undergraduate Study Abroad Awards – closing 1 November 2007

Palmerston North Campus Elite Sports Bursaries – closing 1 November 2007

Sir James Fletcher 1st Memorial Trust Education Awards – closing 2 November 2007

Postgraduate

Te Rau Puawai Workforce Development Scholarships – closing 19 October 2007

Sarah Beanland Memorial Scholarship – closing 22 October 2007

Agmardt Scholarship – closing 31 October 2007

Mr M & Mrs T Olechnowicz Scholarship – closing 31 October 2007

NZ Biosecurity Institute Study Awards – closing 31 October 2007

Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholarship - District 9910 – closing 31 October 2007

Whareverata

venue • cuisine • events



Local entertainment, reservations advised. Contact Helen Poole 350 5088

Waste Minimisation: Postgraduate Scholarship – closing 31 October 2007

Alex C P Chu Trade for Training Scholarship – closing 1 November 2007

Don Linklater Memorial University Bursary – closing 1 November 2007

Fulbright Travel awards – closing 1 November 2007

Lord Rutherford Memorial Research Fellowship – closing 1 November 2007

New Zealand Postgraduate Study Abroad Awards – closing 1 November 2007

Sir James Fletcher 1st Memorial Trust Education Awards – closing 2 November 2007

NOTICEBOARDS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:
SOCIAL SCIENCES LECTURE BLOCK FOYER,
TURITEA SITE AND
IN EACH ACADEMIC UNIT

General Notices

editor@massey.ac.nz

Academic Dress Hire, November Graduation

The closing date for student orders is past, but late applications are still being considered subject to stock availability.

A comprehensive website is available for all information on Academic Dress Hire: www.masseygowns.org.nz

Staff wishing to hire robes for the ceremony at Palmerston North should go to www.masseygowns.org.nz/hirestaff.html to complete an application form.

Staff orders are due by Thursday Nov 01st. The gown room is unable to accept bookings in the 2 weeks prior to graduation.

Promotion To Professor 2007

Review Of Decision

Decisions on Promotion to Professor applications will be advised approximately 17 October 2007.

Senior academic staff who wish to seek a review of the decision may only do so on procedural grounds. Such requests must be detailed in writing and must clearly identify any matters of procedure that the applicant wants the Committee to review.

Written requests are to be forwarded to the Director - Human Resources by 4.00 pm Monday, 5 November 2007. Please note that requests received after this date cannot be accepted.

Senior academic staff who wish to apply for a review are advised to consult with their Head of Department/Institute/School and Pro Vice-Chancellor in the first instance.

2007 Merit Process for General Staff

The General Staff Merit Process for this year has commenced. The aim of this process is to provide the University with an opportunity to recognise and

reward outstanding performers.

The system is available to General staff who are paid at, within or above the merit range for their position grade as at 1 October 2007. Staff who are paid above the merit range can be considered for a merit bonus.

Requests for a merit increase/bonus can be made by the staff member's manager or by the staff member through their manager.

The process and timeline is as follows:

October:

Information relating to the merit process will be sent to Managers and Heads of Department (and equivalent)

November:

Requests and recommendations to be sent to the Pro Vice-Chancellors (and equivalent)

December:

Staff are advised of the outcome

Guidelines and copies of the request form are available on the Human Resources Section web site <http://hrs.massey.ac.nz> under the HR Policies & Procedures menu option. Staff with questions about the process or their own circumstance should talk in the first instance with their Head of Department. Human Resources staff can also give general advice and information relating to the process.

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.

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Notices: All notices should be sent to editor@massey.ac.nz by Monday prior to publication. 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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Tel 06-350-5370

Correction: Professor Neil Pearce is from the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, not the College of Sciences, and was incorrectly identified as a Distinguished Professor in issue 14 of *Massey News*. Our apologies.



Coloured Energy – Desert Rd, by Peter Jeffery.

Photographers snap energy

Following an overwhelming response to last year's Photography contest, *Massey News* readers have again participated in our search for outstanding photographs.

A large number entries were received in this year's energy-themed contest, with a year's subscription to *New Zealand Geographic* awarded to the winner Peter Jeffery from the Institute of Food, Nutrition and Human Health.

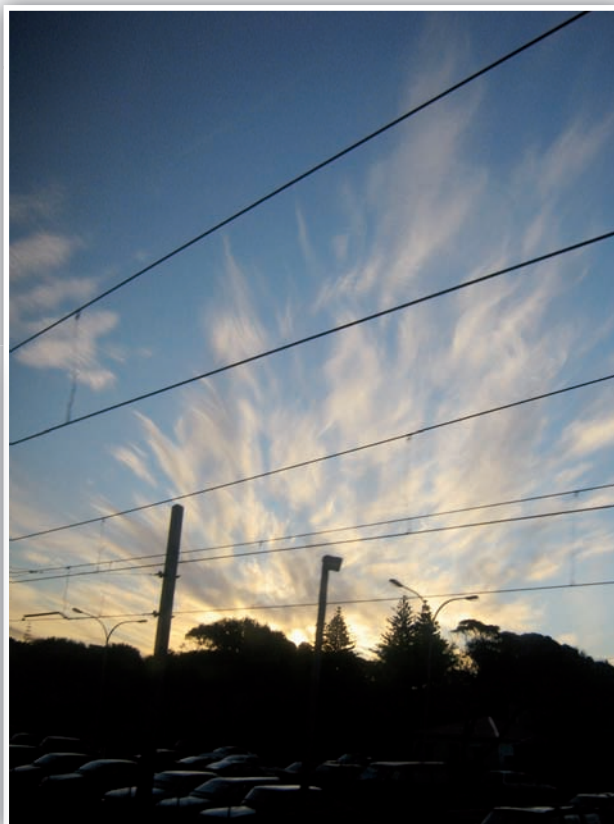
His photo was titled "Coloured Energy – Desert Rd" and was taken on State Highway One during "a pleasant break from a somewhat rainy trip to Te Puke".

Runners up were Mike Gannaway, from the National Contact Centre in Palmerston North; Dr Mark Goellner a lecturer Industrial Design in Wellington; Dr Murray Potter, Ecology, Palmerston North; and Hans Zindel from National Student Administration and Teaching Support

Entries can be viewed online via:
<http://news.massey.ac.nz>



Above: *View from a Snow Cave - A Cosy Mountain Retreat* taken from Mount Ruapehu by Dr Mark Goellner. Right: *TJ and Plasma Ball* by Mike Gannaway



Above: *Solar and electric: dual energies to be respected* taken by Hans Zindel from inside the moving 'Capital Connection' train near Paekakariki Railway Station;. Left: *Burning Match* by Mike Gannaway.



Above: *Energetic Sparkler* taken by Dr Murray Potter in his back yard.