

Victorious

MAGAZINE FOR FRIENDS AND ALUMNI OF VICTORIA UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON

Autumn 2001

**Wellington City welcomes
Victoria students**
record enrolments

**New Zealand's largest literary
prize established**
*at the new International Institute
of Modern Letters*

Honour beneath the sea
*Honorary Doctorate for alumnus,
Professor Alexander Malahoff*

2001 – A Mars odyssey
Victoria Professor aids NASA

Victoria

UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON
Te Whare Wananga o te Upoko o te Ika a Maui



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From the Vice-Chancellor



Victoria moves ahead

Since my appointment last November I have had an opportunity to meet many of Victoria's staff, students, friends and supporters. They are all passionate about this University and what we can achieve. One of the comments I have heard consistently is that we must stay in touch. We have therefore re-organised our publications so that we can communicate with you, our friends and alumni, three times a year through *Victorious*.

Tertiary sector proposals

Major changes within the tertiary sector are affecting universities. A second report by the Tertiary Education Advisory Commission (TEAC), *Shaping the System*, proposes removing much of the responsibility for tertiary education from the Ministry of Education and creating a new Crown entity: the Tertiary Education Commission (TEC).

Provisions within the Education Amendment (No.2) Bill would give Government new powers to monitor financial performance of most of the institutions. Under the Bill, the Minister of Education would have the right to dissolve a university council and replace it with a commissioner if the university were at financial risk.

Proposals relating to the standard of University Entrance under the new National Certificate in Educational Achievement (NCEA) have also been subject to scrutiny by universities. The new system will be introduced in 2002 by NZQA.

At a time when the final shape of the tertiary sector remains unknown and important issues are under debate, Victoria is continuing to move ahead.

Enrolments

This year we experienced a record number of enrolments for any first trimester in 103 years. It is heartening to see a real increase in the number of people participating in higher learning and choosing to do so at Victoria. New international student enrolments are up by 88 percent. We now have 824 international students with further enrolments expected in the second trimester. Overall we have a six percent increase in students and this will translate to revenue around five percent higher than last year.

Budget

This addition to our income is welcome news as, along with all New Zealand universities, we are grappling with the overall decline in university funding owing to the freeze on student fees and the net reduction in real terms of the Government's contribution. Our deficit in 2000 was \$4.1 million. This year we are working towards a balanced budget before one-off costs.

Graduate employment

Graduates with a Victoria University degree are finding paid employment at rates above the national average for New Zealand universities. More than 80 percent of Victoria graduates found paid work after completing their studies, according to independent research by the New Zealand Vice-Chancellors' Committee.

Strategic plan

With the development of the University Charter following public consultation earlier this year, our strategic planning is under way. This involves outlining a path to 2011 with realistic targets for student recruitment, course development, research performance and financial sustainability across the University. Consultation on the plan is already taking place.

Academic Audit

The New Zealand Universities Academic Audit Unit recently confirmed our high quality academic and research policies and procedures. The Report commented positively on developments that will move the University forward including: establishment of ToiHuairewa, our innovative approach to fostering Maori teaching and research; implementation of the learning and teaching plan; and the excellent quality of academic support services for students.

Alumni Association

This year will see a new President of the Alumni Association as Jocelyn, Lady Keith steps down from this role. Jocelyn has been a warm and active friend to the University and has been responsible for many changes within the Association. We are extremely grateful for her loyal support.

New alumni

Finally, congratulations to our newest alumni – graduates from the May ceremonies. It is always a pleasure to take part in this event, which we regard as the highlight of our year. You can be proud of your achievements and we look forward to staying in touch.

A stylized, handwritten signature in white ink, consisting of a large, sweeping 'S' followed by a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke.

Stuart N McCutcheon
Vice-Chancellor

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Chair honours Nobel Prize winner

A Chair in Physical Sciences has been established at Victoria in recognition of the accomplishments of Nobel Prize winning alumnus, Professor Alan MacDiarmid.

Pro Vice-Chancellor and Dean of Science, Professor Peter Englert, says the Chair underlines Victoria's commitment to teaching and research in physical sciences and is intended to attract a succession of outstanding scientists and educators to the University-based position.

"We have embarked on a search to find an eminent scientist in the area of physical sciences to occupy the inaugural position," says Peter.

"Hand-in hand with this search, we are seeking sponsorship from public and private sector organisations to help fund the Chair, with assistance from the Victoria University Foundation."

Peter says the creation of the Chair contributes to the University's and wider Government objectives, of nurturing and investing in human capital and of fostering talent, intellect and determination.

"Establishment of the Alan MacDiarmid Chair in Physical Sciences is one tangible way of recognising the man, while setting the scene for future excellence in physical sciences at the University and the wider scientific community."

It is hoped to announce the first appointee to the Chair at the public lecture being given by Alan in Wellington on 4 July, as part of his visit to the University.

All friends and alumni are welcome to attend the Public Lecture: **Wednesday 4 July 2001 6.00pm – 7.30pm, Wellington Town Hall.**

Marketing and international business



Professor Peter Thirkell and alumna the Hon Fran Wilde at the School's launch.

Victoria's new School dedicated to Marketing and International Business, located in the heart of Wellington's central business district, was launched in March by the Hon Fran Wilde, Chief Executive of Trade NZ.

Professor Peter Thirkell, Head of the

School, says its focus is to equip future decision-makers with the skills and knowledge needed for the global market place.

Peter says the formation of a School devoted purely to marketing and international business is an important initiative. "We now have a pool of world-class staff

working purely to develop these disciplines, providing their students with specialised knowledge in these subject areas."

"Because of its interdisciplinary nature, international business draws on a variety of areas, and bringing these experts together under one roof will lead to increased research and further growth initiatives."

Aligning the international business and marketing disciplines within a stand-alone school is a strategic response to the changing demands of the New Zealand environment, he says.

"Our location in Rutherford House, at the heart of Wellington's commercial and political centre, enables easier access by practitioners to expertise in these disciplines. It will also enable our students to have hands-on exposure to some of the leading players in the local and international business community. Our school seeks to assist in developing the capability of New Zealand companies, both locally and abroad."

Entry levels for the school are already ahead of expectations.

Doctoral studies

Student research undertaken at Victoria University is an important and fundamental part of the academic experience, spanning a diverse range of topics. Outlined below is a snapshot of the work undertaken by student researchers presented with PhDs at the May 2001 Graduation Ceremonies.

Joy Anderton

Towards an Ecofeminist Praxis within Social Work Pedagogy

Joy's thesis makes an important contribution to the debate around knowledge and practice in applying ecofeminist principles to social work education. Her work explores the history, development and key themes of

ecofeminism, which link social justice and environmental sustainability.

Chaohong Shen

Electrophilic Metal Complexes

Chemists have long sought more specific, more efficient and more environmentally benign ways of converting crude hydrocarbons. Chaohong's studies were directed towards the synthesis of a new class of metal catalyst based on palladium and platinum, and capable of activating the carbon-hydrogen bonds in hydrocarbons. Ultimately, he found a small group of complexes with the correct balance of features, and was able to demonstrate their ability to transform methane and other hydrocarbons into oxygenated derivatives.

Darrell Collins

Stimulus Saliency and Contingency Judgment: An application of the Rescorla-Wagner Model

Darrell's research investigated how people determine whether one event or cue (such as the presence of a symptom) is related to another event or outcome (such as having a particular disease). His studies indicated that the Rescorla-Wagner model was able to predict the direction of effects observed over time and as a function of cue saliency but provided a poor quantitative model of the phenomena. He then presented an alternative quantification of the associative process. Darrell's research makes a timely and significant contribution to our understanding of the processes underlying human judgments.

Wellington City welcomes Victoria students



Wellington's Mayor, Mark Blumsky, greets the students.

Around 1,000 Victoria University students were welcomed by Wellington's Mayor Mark Blumsky at a unique Civic Square reception in February. Many of the students, who were all from outside Wellington, were international students.

Mayor Blumsky says the growing numbers of international students reflect the changing face of Wellington. "These students add to our city's lively and cosmopolitan culture – and they give a considerable economic boost to the region. Students are attracted here both for the quality of the education they receive and for Wellington's many different cultural, sporting and entertainment attractions."

Vice-Chancellor Professor Stuart McCutcheon agrees, citing Wellington's obvious appeal to students from other locations. "What other cities can offer students the culture, lifestyle and job opportunities of Wellington coupled with the robust academic

tradition of Victoria University?"

This year a record number of 481 new international students enrolled at Victoria, an increase of 88 percent. That follows last year's dramatic 43 percent rise, with Malaysia, China, Germany, Sweden, the USA and Indonesia, providing nearly three-quarters of the new intake.

All faculties experienced growth in international student numbers, with Commerce courses attracting half of the enrolments, particularly in accounting, information systems and marketing. Computer science, architecture and design were also popular courses.

All faculties showed solid growth in postgraduate numbers, with Commerce and Humanities showing the largest increases.

International Centre Manager, Tim Fowler says applications are flowing in for July 2001 enrolment and he is predicting a strong increase on the previous July intake.



As well as an address by the Mayor, students were welcomed with comments from the Vice-Chancellor and Chris Hipkins, President of VUWSA. Performances were also given by the Samoan Students' Association and the University's Kapa Haka Group, winners of Mauariki, the national Kapa Haka competition held in Taumarunui in March.

Photos courtesy of New Zealand Education Review.

Books

Victoria University Press

Victoria University Press books are available from all good bookstores or by contacting VUP at:

PO Box 600, Wellington

Fax +64-4-463 6581



Parihaka

The Art of Passive Resistance

This book is the major publication of the national exhibition which was on at the

Wellington City Gallery until January 2001.

The text includes major new essays on the history, art and contemporary significance of Parihaka, plus new poems by leading New Zealand writers.

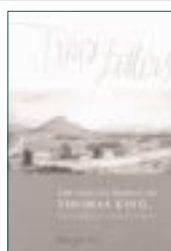


Stray Leaves

Colonial Trompe L'Oeil Drawings
Roger Blackley

These drawings reveal a fascinating category of colonial still life painting. The trompe l'oeil or illusionistic watercolours present apparently casual arrangement of objects, arrayed on tables or desktops and reproduced as realistically as possible including drawings of newspapers, playing cards, letters and envelopes, pens, coins and banknotes.

Although a popular colonial form, these artworks are little known today. This book reproduces 10 surviving examples from art galleries in New Zealand and Australia.



Tom's Letters

The Private World of Thomas King, Victorian Gentleman
Margot Fry

In 1854, Thomas King temporarily left his wife and three children in New Plymouth to attend the first General Assembly in Auckland. Lonely and alone he wrote to his Mary.

"I shall come back starved of kisses and shall have to return not to a coy blushing maid, but to a ripe joyous woman, one who will return my kisses with ardour and respond with warmth to my embraces."

The letters are drawn from the Alexander Turnbull Library's large Thomas King collection.



Lucky Table

Vincent O'Sullivan
Lucky Table is the dazzling follow-up to Vincent O'Sullivan's acclaimed 1999

Montana New Zealand Book Award-winning collection *Seeing You Asked*.

Hot off the Press

Look out for new releases coming soon:

Black Oxen
Elizabeth Knox

Collected Poems
Bill Manhire

Oh There You Are Tui
Dinah Hawken

Realia
Kate Camp

Below
Tim Corballis

Institute of Policy Studies

The Institute of Policy Studies exists to promote independent study, research and neutral and informed discussion of current issues of public policy, both foreign and domestic.

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Tel +64-4-463 5307, Fax +64-4-473 1261

Email ipos@vuw.ac.nz

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Economics for Policy

Expanding the Boundaries

Essays by Peter Gorringer
The late Peter Gorringer was one

of New Zealand's most original thinkers and policy advisers, with interests in economics, psychology and biology. This book is a collection of papers representative of Peter's work. The main topics include: property rights, transaction costs and market failure; labour market contracts and public sector management.



Shared Trust in New Zealand

Strategies for a Small Industrial Country

Martin Perry

A social perspective on the development challenges facing small developed countries and New Zealand's distinctiveness amongst these countries. The book explores how the issues of trade openness and reliance on comparatively low technology industries affect small countries and what can be done to boost the competitiveness of small nations such as New Zealand.

New Zealand's largest literary prize established

INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF MODERN LETTERS

Te Pūtahi Tuhi Auaha o te Ao
VICTORIA UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON



A \$60,000 grant, the largest single literary prize in New Zealand and Australia, has been established at Victoria University, along with the International Institute of Modern Letters.

Announcing the Glenn Schaeffer Prize in Modern Letters, the Prime Minister, Rt Hon Helen Clark said the initiative was an exciting development for both the University and the New Zealand literary community.

"These announcements constitute a major boost for New Zealand's writers. The Institute will help to further enhance Victoria University's reputation as a seedbed for nurturing outstanding literary talent. I wish it and the writers it is involved with, every success."

The prize will be awarded biennially and is designed to acknowledge and advance the work of emerging writers from, or based in, New Zealand. The award is to be selected by a panel co-ordinated by distinguished poet and director of Victoria's Creative Writing Programme, Professor Bill Manhire.

The first award of the Glenn Schaeffer Prize in Modern Letters will be in March 2002.

The International Institute of Modern Letters incorporates New



Bill Manhire and Glenn Schaeffer.

Zealand's oldest and most prestigious Creative Writing Programme as well as the Writer-in-Residence programme. The Institute is located at Glenn Schaeffer House on the Kelburn campus.

Founded by the President & CFO of the Mandalay Resort Group, Glenn Schaeffer, the Institute aims to encourage emerging New Zealand writing talent. It will support and develop scholar exchanges, fellowships, research and publishing projects and administer the Glenn Schaeffer Prize in Modern Letters.

Glenn has a BA *summa cum laude* and MA in literature from the University of California (Irvine) where he was elected the youngest *Phi Beta Kappa Scholar* and was named one of Irvine's "Top 30 Distinguished Graduates". He also holds a Masters of Fine Arts in Fiction from the famed Iowa Writers' Workshop at the University of Iowa.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Stuart McCutcheon said the University was delighted to be home to the International Institute of Modern Letters. "It is a very prestigious honour and we see it as recognition of the excellent reputation Victoria's creative writing programme has gained, not only locally but also overseas."

Institute Co-director and head of its New Zealand operations, Professor Bill Manhire, says the new award will highlight the potential of important new writers. "Both the Prize and the Institute itself will significantly enhance awareness of New Zealand literature in the US and internationally. It is a major vote of confidence in the work of New Zealand writers."

The Advisory Board of the Institute includes Booker Prize winner Salman Rushdie, Pulitzer Prize winning biographer Scott Berg, recent US Poet Laureate Mark Strand, novelist Jane Smiley and New Zealand business leader, arts patron and Victoria Professor, Dr Roderick Deane.



The Prime Minister, Rt Hon Helen Clark, speaking at the Institute's launch in March, where she announced the literary prize, the largest in Australasia.

Biologist basks in the Bahamas

Very occasionally you meet someone who is living out their dream. That's exactly what 23 year-old New Plymouth man Mark Corcoran is doing under the sea in the Bahamas. Mark's job as Station Manager of the Bimini Biological Field Station gives him the opportunity to pursue his research on the social organisation of spotted eagle rays.

Mark has a Bachelor of Science (Ecology, Zoology and Biology) from Victoria but it was his undergraduate experience at the Marine Laboratory in Island Bay, Wellington that clinched his career path in marine biology.

Spotted eagle rays are a common sight in the world's tropical oceans but surprisingly little is known about their basic biology and behaviour. The rays feed by using their strange shovel shaped head to plough through the sandy seabed digging up clams, fish and the endangered Caribbean Queen Conch (*Strombus gigas*). With a ray fish having a typical fin span of between 1.4 – 2 metres across and the biggest brain to body ratio of any fish, encountering a school of rays is an awesome experience for any diver. It's this schooling behaviour that Mark is particularly interested in. After a year of observation and analysis Mark believes spotted rays primarily form schools as protection from sharks and not to interact socially with other rays.

The Station accepts volunteers all year round at a cost of \$US450 a month to cover expenses. So if hands-on experience with sharks and rays in the wild has always been your passion contact

Dr Gruber, at sgruber@rsmas.miami.edu but if you would like to ease into marine biology more slowly you can always visit the Marine Laboratory in Island Bay on the first full weekend of every month.

Contact: Tel +64-4-383 8284



Mark Corcoran with his research colleagues in the Bahamas.

A family of dissent

The Ministry for Culture and Heritage has awarded Dr John Barrington a New Zealand History Research Trust Award in History. Currently an Honorary Research Fellow in the School of Education and a former Associate Professor, John's award will assist him to describe his upbringing in a New Zealand 'family of dissent'.

The son of AC Barrington, a Christian Pacifist who helped

develop the Riverside Community outside Motueka, John's early life has parallels with other 'dissident' childhood experiences. These include the teenage James Baxter's letters and poems where he likens it to being a Jewish boy growing up in an anti-semitic neighbourhood. Others include James Edwards' early life as the son of Jim Edwards in *Waiting for the Revolution*, Sally Belfrage's *Un-American Activity*, and Carl Bernstein's *Loyalties – A Son's Memoirs*.

Grant for rape study

The Wellington Branch of the New Zealand Federation of University Women (NZFUW) has awarded the Victoria University Staff Professional Development Award for 2000 to Jan Jordan, Senior Lecturer in the Institute of Criminology.

The grant will help Jan complete research towards a doctorate during 2001. Her research focuses on issues of belief and

credibility in relation to Police responses to rape victims.

In addition to analysing Police rape and sexual assault files and interviewing Police investigators, the study includes interviews with women attacked by serial rapist Malcolm Rewa.

The study has the potential to inform policy and Police training and the way in which they deal with victims and women. The women's accounts will be a valuable resource for academics and justice professionals.



Jan Jordan.

Fired up

In recent years, the New Zealand Fire Service has dedicated significant time, money and staff toward educating the public about domestic fire protection. This has included mass media and publicity campaigns about what people can do to reduce household fire risk factors.

Dr Michael Lloyd, sociology senior lecturer in the School of Social and Cultural Studies, has investigated how knowledge about fire safety is put into action. His study, *Fire Safety in Action: from 'risk factors' to 'translation'*, was undertaken with independent researcher Dr Katrina Roen and funded by the New Zealand Fire Service.

Previous research has established a clear list of risk factors, including gender, age and socio-economic status; however, questions have to be asked about how these factors play out in everyday life.

"Our concern is with how risk factors are translated, or enacted, in the everyday social practices employed to promote and constitute fire safety," says Mike. "We look at how fire fighters attempt to put their knowledge to work, or as we put it, how they translate risk factors into practice."

The research, carried out in Wellington in 2000, involved 13 residents from diverse demographic and socio-economic backgrounds and a variety of local fire fighting crews.

Firstly, residents were interviewed in their own homes about their household and fire safety, followed by a fire fighting crew undertaking a fire safety assessment in the home.

Mike says a key feature of the research was the fire fighters' presentation to the householder of the fire-safety assessment, which was tape-recorded and transcribed.

Varying skill levels were evident in the fire fighters' ability to interact with the householder, build rapport with the research participants, use appropriate language to talk about fire safety and tailor the fire safety message to the audience.

The human interaction is very important to ongoing fire safety education. But, as Mike explains, this will never be an easy role to fulfil. The translation process will always differ depending on the

people involved and the situations each interaction presents.

"In the to-and-fro of interaction, fire fighters are in fact forced to formulate answers relative to the residents' concerns, and indeed to their own concerns about what exactly their role is and how to translate their fire safety knowledge and experiences.

"Risk factors will always be elusive, but this could be something that is useful rather than problematic, as it forces people to turn expert knowledge into lay knowledge," says Mike.

Mike and Katrina have been funded by the NZ Fire Service to look in more detail at the Service's attempts to get knowledge across to identifiable vulnerable groups.

Contact: Dr Mike Lloyd

Tel +64-4-463 5678; E-mail Mike.Lloyd@vuw.ac.nz



Firefighters from the Wellington suburb of Khandallah examine smoke alarms before installing them. Photo courtesy NZ Fire Service.

Teaching Awards

In recognition of their talent, skills and dedication in teaching, Teaching Awards for 2000 were presented to Professor John Collen, School of Earth Sciences; David O'Donnell, School of English, Film and Theatre; Dr Matthew Trundle, Classics; Professor Don Trow, Accounting; and Bill Atkin, Law. The Award for Innovations in Teaching went to the team from the School of Education including: Professor Cedric Hall, Dr Anna Piekarsa, Hazel Neser, Dr Lise Bird and Carmen Dalli, for their work on the distance learning component of the Police Education Programme.

Dr Deborah Willis, Director of the University's Teaching and Development Centre, says the awards are an important way of recognising outstanding teaching practice and of ensuring high teaching standards continue at Victoria.

Book prize winner

Victoria graduate Elizabeth Knox recently won Australasia's richest book award, the Tasmania Pacific Region prize for her novel *The Vintner's Luck*.

Knox, a former VUW Writing Fellow and Katherine Mansfield Fellow, beat five other finalists, including Victoria University lecturer Vincent O'Sullivan's *Believers to the Bright Coast*, for the inaugural \$A40,000 prize. A total of 120 writers entered the competition open to writers from Australia, New Zealand and Melanesia.

The Vintner's Luck is published by VUP Press and previously won the Deutz medal for fiction at the 1999 Montana New Zealand Book Awards. It's been described as an idiosyncratic tale of an enduring relationship between a peasant winemaker and a fallen angel in 19th-century Burgundy.

State housing revisited



Thousands of state house dwellings and the people who occupy them remain an important part of New Zealand's social fabric.

With this knowledge as the backdrop, Morten Gjerde, CCANZ Fellow at the School of Architecture, has revisited a multi-family housing project in the Hutt Valley, Wellington, to identify how it might be modified after nearly 40 years of service.

Working with Housing New Zealand and with financial support from the Science Faculty, Morten is exploring the 'liveability' of the houses, the changing family structure of the tenants and energy efficiency.

"The research included a historic review of state-owned housing in New Zealand, evaluation of the site by the researchers, input from the owners, Housing New Zealand, and interviews with the tenants," says Morten.

Design proposals for the site have been made. Ongoing research is hoped to include implementation of the final proposals by Housing New Zealand and the research team having the opportunity to evaluate the success of the modifications in meeting the needs of all parties once construction is completed and tenants have moved in.

Morten says that the research findings will inform future work undertaken by architects on this type of project.

The State house research is one of several projects looking at housing issues currently being conducted at the School of Architecture. A multi-disciplinary symposium on these issues is planned to take place later this year, hosted by Victoria University.

Contact: Morten Gjerde

Tel +64-4-463 6233; E-mail Morten.Gjerde@vuw.ac.nz

IT update

A four-year Bachelor of Technology being planned for 2002 provides a thorough grounding in IT with specialisation in one of four areas. Developed in consultation with major industry sources, the degree offers a summer work placement programme and final year industry-driven project. It aims to provide students with real-life experience in design and systems development.

The Masters in Information Management is a post-experience

degree for middle and senior managers wanting to get access to the latest IT trends and management system.

A partnership with Ericsson has led to the establishment of the Ericsson Professor of Information Systems with Professor Sid Huff the first Chair.

The Sir David Beattie Professorial Research Fellow in Information Technology and Communications Policy was also established. The initial appointee is Professor Ben Bates from the University of Tennessee, a recent Fulbright Fellow.

Cyber cafes

Three new cyber-cafes at Victoria have proved so popular that further expansion of the concept is being considered seriously.

A total of 10 computers have been installed in three venues allowing students to surf the web and check their e-mail in a relaxed, non-academic environment.

The machines were installed after students requested a simple way of catching up with their messages without having to go to the time and effort of booking a computer in one of the University's many computer suites.

The computers have been continually busy since being introduced last month. Not only can students quickly get computer access, but the fact they can do so while having a chat with friends or enjoying a cup of coffee seems to have a real appeal.



Information networks

a Vietnam – New Zealand project

A series of training workshops conducted by the School of Information Management is helping develop Vietnam's capability in the broad field of scientific and technical information.

The project is based in Hanoi at the National Centre for Scientific and Technical Information and Documentation (NACESTID), Vietnam's premier centre of science, technology, information technology and information management.

Nine workshops over three years cover the areas of:

- information policy formulation and policy implementation
- information management skills development
- programme establishment and evaluation

Two workshops have already been held, with a further two scheduled for the remainder of 2001.

The workshops are primarily funded by a Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade Asia Development Assistance Facility (ADAF) grant, the rest from NACESTID.

"The end result is a project which has built-in procedures to ensure that the results do not reach only the 'information-haves' in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City but also the 'information have-nots' in the provinces," says Professor of Information Management, Dr Gary Gorman. "ADAF have insisted that there be clear procedures for training the trainers to help ensure sustainability after the project has finished, and we are pleased to be able to incorporate this requirement into the project."

Gary says there is broad recognition within Vietnam that the country is in a cycle of information poverty. The lack of local information services in regional centres leads to information becoming a black market commodity, with selected government and World Bank reports, for example, available at a price.



Participants at the first workshop.

"While these features will slowly change as the information sector evolves, this project intends to bypass the traditional information infrastructure by providing more effective delivery of information to point of need, repackaged for immediate consumption by end-users," Gary says.

"The programme has the specific intention of helping the development of information infrastructures and personnel in the short to medium-term, rather than increasing Vietnam's dependence on developed country expertise in information management."

The project idea arose from conversations between Gary and Vietnamese information professionals in the early 1990s.

"It has taken the insight and foresight of MFAT and ADAF to bring this idea to fruition. Those of us involved in the project look forward to participating concretely in Vietnam's development," he says.

Contact: Professor Gary Gorman

Tel +64-4-463 5782; E-mail Gary.Gorman@vuw.ac.nz

Human Rights Award



John Miller, barrister, alumnus and Senior Lecturer in Law received a Human Rights Commission Millennium Award for his work as an advocate for the disabled.

In numerous cases taken on a *pro bono* basis, John represented people with traumatic brain injuries and their families for entitlements that the Accident Compensation Corporation had denied. Many hundreds of families were able to obtain a proper level of care for accident victims worth more than

\$216 million.

Other cases ensured that more than 230 pensioners deprived of compensation were reinstated and the orphaned children of HIV/AIDS sufferers infected by blood transfusions received their proper entitlements.

Sir Paul Reeves, a graduate of Victoria, presented the award to John on International Human Rights Day last year.

Honour beneath the sea



Pro Vice-Chancellor and Dean of Science, Professor Peter Englert and Professor Alexander Malahoff in front of one of Alex's submersibles in Hawaii.

For many people the thought of being deep under the sea sends a shiver down the spine, and erupting volcanoes are equally frightening. So to have passion, expert knowledge and international stature in undersea volcanism requires a special person.

That person is Professor Alexander Malahoff, awarded a Victoria University Honorary Degree (Doctor of Science) at the May 2001 graduation ceremony.

Some 40 years earlier, Alex graduated with a BSc and an MSc from Victoria in 1960 and 1962 respectively. He obtained a PhD in Geophysics from the University of Hawaii in 1965.

Much of his career has centred on the great tectonic features of the South Pacific, particularly the Hawaiian islands.

Alex began his geophysics career as a student of the late Professor Harold

Wellman of Victoria University and as a staff scientist at the former DSIR. He later started an aeromagnetic programme in Hawaii using measurements of the Earth's magnetic field to study the internal structure of volcanoes. Using this technique, he discovered the presence of a new submarine volcano south of Hawaii, called Loihi.

Alex has been the Director of the Hawaii Undersea Research Laboratory, a world-class deep submergence centre, since 1984. He established the deep submergence system at the Laboratory, raising funds for and directing the design of a 1900-tonne, 70-metre long mother ship, a fibre-optic tethered remotely operated vehicle and two operational deep diving submersibles.

His large scale geological work requires large scale international funding and Alex has played a key role in acquiring resources such as aircraft, ships and satellite imagery to make the study of volcanism and plate tectonics in the South Pacific possible.

Alex has played a significant role in developing and maintaining the flow of ideas and the exchange of students between New Zealand and Hawaii.

His efforts have contributed greatly to the understanding of how the large scale geology of New Zealand is integrated with that of the South Pacific.

Musical scores

A percussion ensemble made up mostly of graduates from Victoria's School of Music has won the Classical Album of the Year award.

The *STRIKE CD* of New Zealand percussion music was produced by the Morrison Music Trust and features compositions by School of Music staff Ross Harris and Gareth Farr. The award isn't the first for the School's staff, with lecturer John Psasthas receiving last year's Classical Album of the Year award for his CD *Rhythm Spike*.

Also winning awards were music students Beth Chen and Hamish Robb who took first and second prize respectively at the National Piano Concerto Competitions. Both students are taught by Thomas Hecht, Head of Piano Studies at Victoria.

East Timor medal

Law Faculty staff member Dr Andrew Ladley has become the first New Zealander to be awarded the East Timor Medal. He was awarded the medal by the Prime Minister, Rt Hon Helen Clark, at a ceremony in March.

Andrew is currently the Alliance party's coalition manager and a key adviser to Deputy Prime Minister Hon Jim Anderton. He spent seven months in East Timor as a United Nations legal adviser. During his time there he was one of the UN staff trapped in the besieged UN compound in Dili by pro-Indonesian militia.

The new medal is awarded to people who served for varying lengths of time on land, ship, as air crew, part of a support element to a New Zealand contribution, or as an official visitor.

The art of diplomacy



Europe may be half a world away from the South Pacific, but in reality decisions made in Brussels can have major ramifications for New Zealand – particularly in the crucial area of agricultural export markets.

So what is the current state of European integration and how does it affect us in New Zealand? Has, for instance, any common ground been established in foreign and security policy by the member states and does the European Union yet have a world-wide presence?

According to Dr Tim Bale, lecturer in politics at Victoria, there is still a great deal of room for improvement because, when it comes to the crunch, EU member states will still look after their own individual interests.

"Despite the progress made in the last decade by those who would like to see the European Union speak and act with one voice on the world stage, the EU cannot yet be regarded as a foreign policy or diplomatic actor in the conventional sense," says Tim.

With a research grant from Victoria, Tim researched day to day co-operation between EU states at the diplomatic level in the capital cities of Washington DC, Kuala Lumpur, Canberra – and, of course, Wellington!

Although the European Commission has around 120 overseas delegations primarily responsible for negotiating trade and organising aid, the main burden of Europe's diplomatic representation around the world continues to be left to the member states operating on a more or less bilateral basis.

Tim sees the continued commitment to

separate diplomatic representation in countries such as New Zealand relying more on, and recognising the continuing value of, ethnic or historic ties with third countries – citing the British in New Zealand as a good example.

"It is also an acknowledgement that the job of the diplomat is increasingly one of maintaining and projecting a national cultural presence," he says.

"Collective representation might make sense in terms of costs, narrowly defined. But these costs are far outweighed by the political, but also commercial benefits that accrue from having people 'in-country' flying their own nation's flag."

Notwithstanding these essentially bilateral benefits, he considers the opening of a dedicated European Commission presence in New Zealand as something that would be welcomed by the seven member state heads of mission in Wellington.

"After Australia, the European Union is still New Zealand's second largest export market," says Tim.

"New Zealand and the European Union have signed agreements on veterinary matters and on the mutual recognition of

New Zealand/European Commission standards for a limited number of medical, electrical, telecommunications and pharmaceutical products. Work is also ongoing on a wine agreement."

But even if these positive developments lead to the establishment of a Commission office in Wellington, we're unlikely to say goodbye to the national embassies that cluster around Wellington suburb of Thorndon. "Europe's diplomacy in New Zealand – as in the rest of the world – remains in essence very much a bilateral affair."

The European Union still has a way to go before it can truly live up to its name both in New Zealand and on the global stage, says Tim.

Contact: Tim Bale
Tel +64-4-463 5233 ext 8509
E-mail Tim.Bale@vuw.ac.nz

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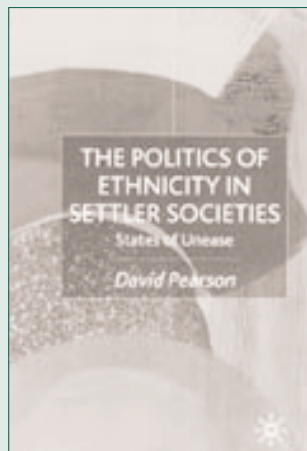
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Settled change



Why have settler societies moved from a traditional position of ethnic insularity to being at the forefront of multicultural change?

A question highly relevant to New Zealand is addressed by Dr David Pearson, Reader in Sociology, in *The Politics of Ethnicity in Settler Societies – States of Unease*.

David's book was released world-wide in April by Palgrave, Macmillan's global academic publishing arm. Written over the last two years and following six years of research, it is a

comparative study of Australia, Canada and New Zealand, set against the USA and UK experience.

David explores the linked processes of aboriginal dispossession, settler state formation and international migration, and argues these

historical foundations are still closely related to recent trends in ethnic politics.

The book examines important current issues such as biculturalism and multiculturalism, national identity, sovereignty, globalisation, and citizenship, with David challenging what he sees as many misconceptions about them.

According to David: "One thing we can be sure of, the power of ethnicity and nationalism to shape foreseeable future worlds is unlikely to dissolve. So, even in those places where innovative civic/ethnic arrangements might inspire some optimism, people will continue to live in states of unease."

David has published widely on comparative ethnic politics. His previous books include *Race, Class and Political Activism*, and *A Dream Deferred: The Origins of Ethnic Conflict in New Zealand*, as well as co-editing, *Nga Patai Racism and Ethnicity in Aotearoa/New Zealand*.

Contact: David Pearson

Tel +64-4-463 6748; E-mail David.Pearson@vuw.ac.nz

MFAT scholarships

Victoria University students, Tui Dewes and Tereora Crane, have been awarded scholarships by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. The Aorere and Pacific People Scholarships are worth \$4,000 each and are open to Maori and Pacific Islands students.

Student's model predicts aftershocks

PhD student Annemarie Christophersen developed a model that will help predict the expected occurrence of aftershocks of different sizes and in different time intervals following a large shallow earthquake.

The model can be used anywhere in the world and has two immediate applications: forecasting for insurance purposes the expected occurrence of aftershocks which might cause damage; and advising emergency managers on the likely further occurrence of aftershocks after a large earthquake has occurred.

The New Zealand Earthquake Commission supported her project, for which Annemarie received her doctorate in the December 2000 graduation ceremony.

Centre for Public Law

The Victoria Law School is the natural home of Public Law teaching and scholarship in New Zealand. To further this, Professor Matthew Palmer, Pro Vice-Chancellor and Dean of Law, has taken on the Directorship of the New Zealand Centre for Public Law. The centre has planned a busy year filled with seminars, conferences, visitors and publications.

In February, Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg of the US Supreme Court spoke and on 12 December, Lord Cooke of Thorndon will give a similar address detailing the procedures of the House of Lords, Privy Council and Hong Kong Court of Appeal. A Public Office Holders' Seminar Series began with the departing President of the Law Commission, Justice Baragwanath, and a postgraduate students' seminar series is well under way.

A conference is planned this year on *The Treaty of Waitangi in Legislation*. Public Law Symposia will be held on topical issues as they arise, including the future of the Privy Council and human rights law reform.

Visitors include Professor Bob Hughes of the University of the South Pacific, Vanuatu and Professor David Mullan of Queen's Law School and the Chapman Tripp Visiting Fellow for 2001.

Public Office Holders' Seminar Series 2001

June 5	Speaker of the House, Rt Hon Jonathan Hunt MP
July 10	Chief Judge of the Maori Land Court, Joe Williams
July 17	Solicitor-General, Terence Arnold QC
July 31	Secretary to the Cabinet, Marie Shroff
October 23	The Chief Justice, Dame Sian Elias

Exercise your mind



Wellington Rugby Academy scholarship winners at the signing ceremony formalising the sponsorship.

Sports fans should keep their eyes on results in the next few years as the number of talented sports stars currently enrolled at Victoria continues to grow.

Victoria's strong rugby pedigree looks set to continue through the Victoria/Wellington Rugby Academy combination that provides five full-fee scholarships to promising young rugby players in 2001 and 2002.

Academy Manager Mike Ryan says the partnership with Victoria is an invaluable way to help prepare Academy players for the future. "Our philosophy is to provide our players with the support to maximise their abilities both on the field and in life beyond rugby. The career span for a professional rugby player is extremely limited, so it is critical that players also have educational qualifications behind them."

The five Academy scholarship holders for 2001 are Justin Purdie, Scott Ireland, Brent Moresi, Matthew Egan and Michael Barnes. Given the Academy's success with players such as Jerry Collins, Riki Flutey, Shannon Paku, James King and Rodney So'oialo representing Wellington at NPC and Super 12 level, there is every chance some of Victoria's intake will go on to bigger and better things.

Victoria's rugby connection is not just limited to the future though. All Blacks including Alama Ieremia, Jason O'Halloran

and Mark Robinson all attended Victoria as did a host of NPC and Super 12 players for a range of provinces and teams.

One current Victoria student who is performing wonders for the Hurricanes in this year's Super 12 competition, is Paul Steinmetz, who is halfway through his science degree.

It's not just rugby stars that Victoria is

likely to produce in the future either. Twelve of New Zealand's international and developing athletes currently attending Victoria were recently awarded Prime Minister's Scholarships.

The aim of the scholarships is to assist talented young athletes to achieve tertiary qualifications in order to help young sports people develop other areas of their lives.



Pictured during Victoria's 2001 Enrolment in Person Week are Prime Minister's Scholarship winners Pryia Bhika and Beth Jurgeleit (hockey); Jean Tompkins (equestrian); George Crosby (squash); Byron Smith (badminton) and softball playing sisters Upu and Togi Lote who were both non-travelling reserves for the New Zealand team at the Sydney 2000 Olympics.

Life After Vic

Peter Wallis BSc 1963

UN technical adviser in Laos. Works at Nam Tan an agro-forestry research and demonstration station not far from the Thai border which was set up to help the Laotian government to improve the nutrition and quality of life for its people, particularly the nomadic hill tribes. He has been working in South East Asia for 17 years and formerly conducted animal and vegetation surveys in New Zealand's Ruahine and Kaweka ranges.

Bridget Douglas BMus 1994

Principal flautist for the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra. Also a member of the contemporary music ensemble *Stroma*, involved in coaching music students, records solo recitals and competes in Japan. After graduating from Victoria she won a Fulbright Scholarship, a Creative New Zealand grant, an International Peace Scholarship and an Alex Lindsay Memorial Award to complete a Masters degree at the State University of New York. Previously was principal flautist for Chicago's Civic Orchestra and won several US competitions including the New York Flute Club young artists' competitions and the Artists International Award, which culminated in a recital at Carnegie Hall.

Alan McCorkindale BA 1980

A Canterbury-based winemaker who is making his mark in international wine circles. Recently he outperformed French champagnes and Spanish cavas by winning a gold medal for his Alan McCorkindale Brut at the Salon Internacional del Vino in Madrid.

Lyn Provost BCA 1977

Newly appointed Deputy Police Commissioner – the first civilian and first female to gain the office. A public servant of 19 years, she began her career in the Audit Office and was previously Acting Chief Executive of Archives New Zealand. Her role of Deputy Commissioner for resource management means she is responsible for human resources, employment relations, information technology and leading change in the organisation.

Anne Carter MAAPL 1995

Chief Executive of the Ministry of Youth Affairs. Joined the Department of Maori Affairs after graduating and since then has worked for Te Puni Kokiri, the Ministry of Women's Affairs and the Auditor General.

Gerry Morris BA 1971, BCA 1984

Recently hailed as a hero by people in the South Island's West Coast after his role in reversing Dominion Breweries' decision to close Greymouth-based Monteith's Brewery. Born in Greymouth he's been described as a West Coast icon. He owns PR firm Morris Communications Group winner of the Public Relations Institute's supreme award last year for its work on the *Stop the Wall along Wellington Waterfront* campaign. He has also written two books about the West Coast.

Arama Kukutai BCA 1989, LLB 1994

Trade New Zealand's General Manager of Corporate Services, has now been confirmed as Trade NZ's Senior Trade Commissioner, North America which includes the US, Canada and Mexico. He was recently judged the New Zealand Institute of Management's Young Executive of the Year for the northern region. He was instrumental in the development of a special Maori enterprise team at Trade NZ that focussed specifically on developing Maori trade and was the team's first leader. At the age of 29, was the youngest General Manager ever appointed in Trade NZ.

Jack Yan LLB 1995, MCA 2000

Started one of the world's first "virtual" companies in 1987 while still a student at Victoria. An internet pioneer he also initiated one of the first digital magazines in 1994. Since 1997 he has produced the global online fashion magazine *Lucire*, www.lucire.com from his home in the Wellington suburb of Kilbirnie. Operates his own global communications company Jack Yan & Associates. He has also guest lectured on typography, design, law and international marketing at both Victoria and Massey universities and for the National College of Design and Technology.

Dean Dalton DBusAd 1993

After returning from overseas he bought his first business and sold it three years later having tripled the original sales revenue. After graduating, Dean invented and patented office products before establishing Dalton Business Action Planning where he passes on his success formula to help other businesses achieve their goals.

David Thodey BA 1977

CEO and Managing Director of IBM Australia/New Zealand.

Mary Wareham MA 1995

Senior advocate for the Arms Division of Human Rights Watch in Washington DC. Recently featured as a guest speaker at the Asia-Pacific Regional Disarmament Conference in Wellington.

Fran Walsh MA 1995

Film scriptwriter, who in collaboration with partner Peter Jackson produced movies such as *Meet the Feebles*, *Braindead* and *Heavenly Creatures* which won a Silver Lion at the Venice Film Festival and was nominated for a best screenplay Oscar at the 1994 Academy awards. Their latest project is the trilogy *Lord of the Rings*.

Joan Allin LLM

Newly appointed Environment Court Principal Judge. Formerly a partner at Wellington law firm Chapman Tripp Sheffield where she practised environmental law.

Special notice for alumni in Thailand

The New Zealand Thai Alumni Association would like to make contact with alumni in Thailand. Contact www.nzaa.or.th or the New Zealand Embassy in Bangkok.

Print and book culture

Dr Sydney Shep has been appointed to Australasia's first Lectureship in Print and Book Culture.

A Victoria graduate, Sydney recently completed a three-year Marsden grant funded investigation of the history of colonial paper and papermaking in New Zealand and is working on an Electronic Atlas of Paper History.

Sydney says her appointment reflects the international growth in the study of print in relation to oral, written and digital media as well as the social, economic, political and cultural aspects of the production, reception and preservation of texts.

She says Victoria is ideally and uniquely placed to offer courses in print, communication and culture through its Media Studies programme and in association with Wai-te-ata Press, established in 1962 by Professor Don McKenzie, where she is also Director.

Media Studies in demand

Wellington's increasing prominence as the centre of New Zealand's film and digital media industries is evident in the huge demand for places in Media Studies courses which has resulted in the appointment of an additional lecturer. The courses – Media: Texts and Images and Media Society and Politics are taught by staff from a number of disciplines.

Pro Vice-Chancellor and Dean of Humanities and Social Sciences, Professor David Mackay says the intention is to proceed to a major in Media Studies that will respond to rapid changes in society and to student and employer demand. "The major will capitalise on the strengths of Victoria's existing arts subjects and augment expansion in areas such as theatre, film, print culture and creative and professional writing."

Partnering Radio NZ

A joint venture between Radio New Zealand and Victoria involves the public broadcaster in a partnership with Professor Bill Manhire's Creative Writing Programme.

A new course, Creative Writing in the Marketplace, starts in July. It has a strong practical orientation and includes an overview of the ways in which literary imagination is incorporated into the world of broadcasting.

In one of the course options, students will have the opportunity to work alongside experienced broadcasters and programmers to complete special projects related to writing and production for radio.

Bill believes the groundbreaking partnership is particularly exciting. "Radio is a very creative and flexible medium, offering an audience on a scale writers can only dream of."

Two other course options include designing and staging a literary event, and editing a literary magazine (print or web-based).

2001 – a Mars odyssey

As you read this, there's a remote operated spacecraft speeding on its way to Mars, millions of kilometres above us all and bearing the best wishes of a Victoria University professor.

Pro Vice-Chancellor and Dean of Science, Professor Peter Englert is a member of an international scientific Flight Investigation Team supporting the 2001 Mars Odyssey mission.

The Odyssey mission is one of a series of missions run under the Jet Propulsion Laboratory's Mars Exploration Programme.

Peter flew to Orlando, Florida in early April to meet fellow scientists and watch the April 7 launch. The orbiter craft is due to reach Mars around October 24, with the entire mission due for completion in December 2005.

Once the craft is in orbit, Peter can monitor its activity from New Zealand by way of a secure internet site.

The programme aims to collect information from the red planet that will help scientists to complete maps of chemical and mineralogical composition and to understand its climatic and geological history. This includes a search for water ice at and below the surface and the evidence of past life.

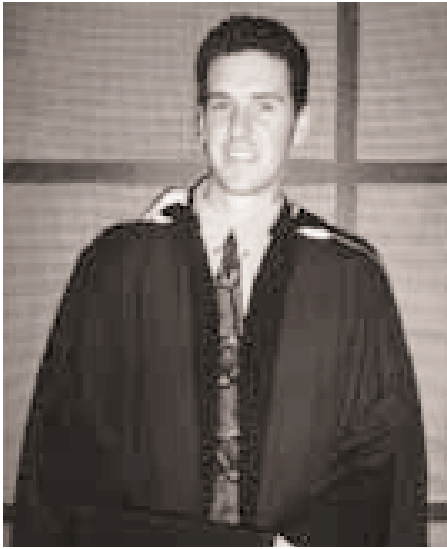
Peter will work as part of a team analysing scientific and engineering data gained from a gamma ray spectrometer and neutron spectrometers attached to the orbiter craft. Team members include scientists from Russia, Germany and France as well as New Zealand, with team leader Professor Bill Boynton of the University of Arizona.

Peter was also a member of the 1993 Mars Observer Mission.



Peter with a model of the orbiter craft.

John Fitzgerald Memorial Fund



A Memorial Fund has been established at Victoria University to remember the late John Fitzgerald, who graduated in 1997 from

Victoria's School of Architecture. In December 2000 John died after contracting meningococcal septicaemia while holidaying in Egypt; he was aged 28.

His former employer, the London-based architectural firm of Holden + Partners, initiated the John Fitzgerald Memorial Fund from contributions raised in the UK and New Zealand from architectural and academic colleagues, clients, friends and family.

John's family, Norva, Mike and Sally Fitzgerald say they are proud that John's passion for excellence in architecture has been recognised by colleagues and friends in setting up the Fund. "Those whose projects are selected for awards will carry on this passion and will be a lasting tribute to a talented young architect."

Interest from the Fund is to be used for John Fitzgerald Memorial Awards to encourage people who are in their fourth or

higher years of architecture study. The awards will support studies, research, projects, exhibitions or other similar activities relating to the completion of undergraduate or postgraduate qualifications.

It is expected that recipients will enhance the relationships between New Zealand and the UK that John helped to foster. Preference will be given to projects that are forward-looking and aim to further architectural knowledge, techniques or developments and encourage innovative ideas.

The awards will be made annually. The total amount available each year may vary but will be approximately NZ \$5,000.

Those wishing to contribute to the Fund can do so through the Victoria University Foundation.

Contact: Tel +64-4-463 5871

E-mail VUW-Foundation@vuw.ac.nz

Stout Research Centre

Alumna Dr Lydia Wevers is the new Director of the Stout Research Centre.

Lydia, who has taught in the English Department, specialises in New Zealand and Australian literature. She is a contributor to the *Oxford History of NZ Literature*, has published a number of articles and collections of writing, is a regular contributor to Radio NZ's *Kim Hill Show* and a newspaper reviewer. She is Chair of the Trustees of the National Library and Vice-President of the NZ Book Council.

Lydia intends to continue to build the Stout's reputation for encouraging scholarly enquiry into New Zealand society, history and culture, as well as providing a focus for contact and exchange of ideas that enrich the quality of research.

In April, the Hon Pete Hodgson, Minister for Research, Science and Technology, spoke on the Government's research policy.

A seminar in May on Michael Bassett's biography of former Labour Prime Minister Peter Fraser will include Michael Bassett, Rt Hon Sir Geoffrey Palmer and Bryce Harland. A series of seminars called *Thinking Pacific* starts in July, featuring Pacific leaders and academics.

Remembering Don McKenzie, a conference to be held during July, features a number of internationally distinguished book historians. In partnership with the Institute of Policy Studies, *Federation – States of Mind, Australia and New Zealand 1901 and 2001*, will cover defence, social policy, tax, currency, history and culture.

At the end of the year a multidisciplinary conference on *Constructing a New Zealand Canon* will be held.

The Stout Research Centre is expanding its membership and is especially interested in hearing from anyone who would like to get involved with sponsorship and advocacy as a Friend of the Stout.

Contact: Lydia Wevers

Tel +64-4-463 5305; E-mail Lydia.Wevers@vuw.ac.nz



Lydia in front of the Stout Centre's stained glass panels. These were retrieved from Robert Stout's original home on the Terrace, following a fire in the 1980s.

Art alive!

Two new initiatives were launched at the start of the year by the Adam Art Gallery. The first initiative comprised the establishment of two support groups: the Friends of the Adam Art Gallery; and Sustaining Members of the Adam Art Gallery.

For a small subscription, Friends receive invitations to exhibitions and events, discounts on gallery publications and an annual newsletter. Sustaining Members contribute financially toward identifiable exhibition and education programmes and benefit from dedicated newsletters and events. All subscriptions and donations are tax deductible and assist in the provision of the Gallery programme. Everyone is welcome to join.

The Chartwell Trust Writing Prize is the Gallery's other new venture. This award aims to foster young and emerging art writers and is offered in association with Art History, English, Film and Theatre at Victoria.

Upcoming exhibitions

Co-Existenz, complementary exhibitions of photography and new media work with the Centre for Contemporary Photography in Melbourne. Work by six Australian artists on show from 12 May, followed by six New Zealand artists from 23 June.

Secret Sounds, a collaboration with the School of Music that brings throat singing and the playing of Jews harps into the Gallery in

performances and workshops conducted by visiting Japanese and European performers.

Botanica, a major exhibition opens on 4 August. Looking at representations of botany from two perspectives, the scientific and creative, works range from early depictions of New Zealand flora to a giant floral lei created for the Gallery window by contemporary jeweller Niki Hastings-McFall.

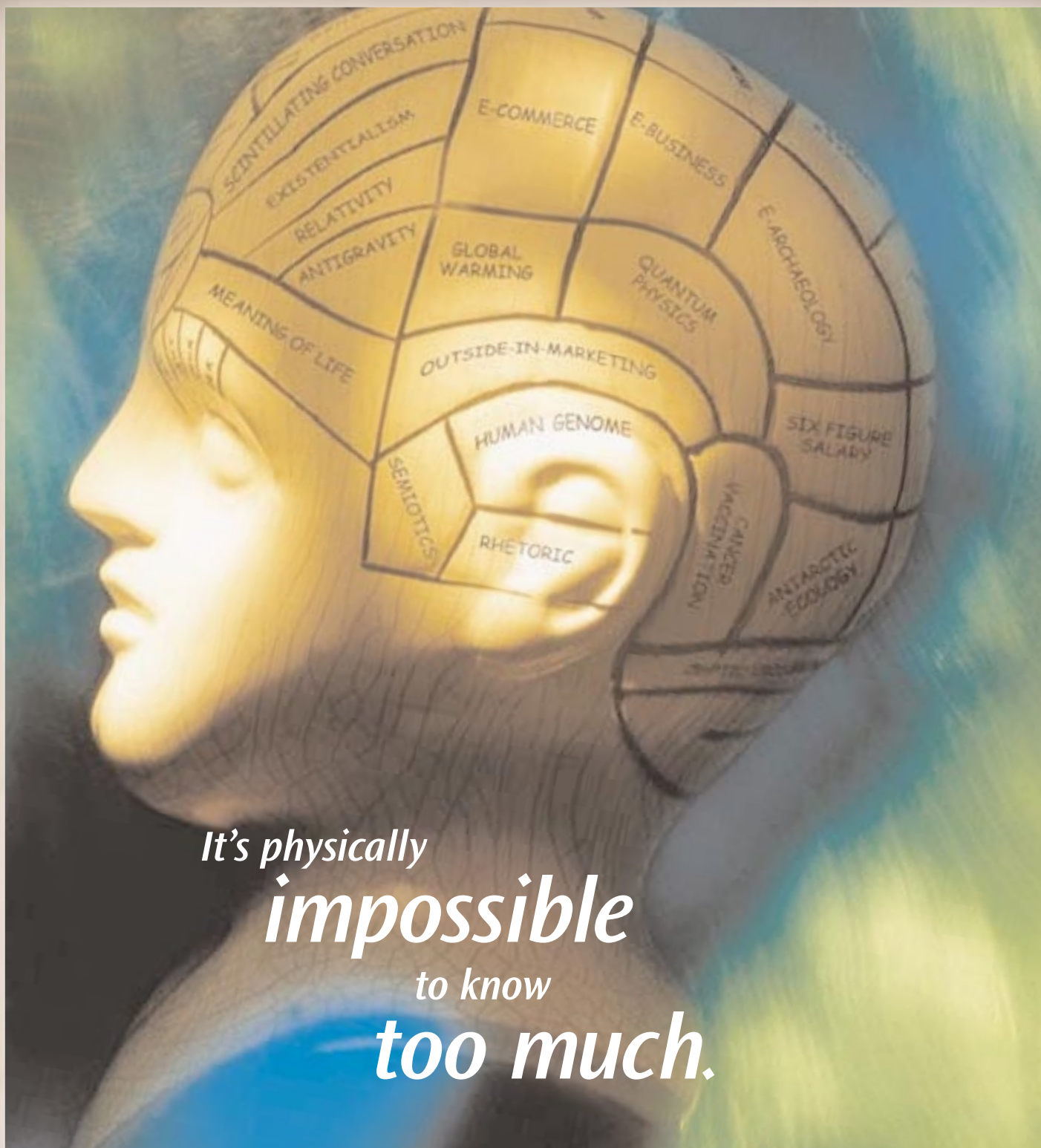
Artforums hosted between May – August. Four public discussions offer the opportunity to have a say about issues regarding art and culture in New Zealand.

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