

# Victorius

MAGAZINE FOR FRIENDS AND ALUMNI OF VICTORIA UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON



**SUMMER 2004**

**Hunter Building hits 100 years**  
Celebrating a birthday and a wedding

**Developing nations**  
Technology boosts local knowledge

**December graduation**  
Research, parades and  
honours bestowed

**Farewell Weir House**  
The Fulchers move on after 17 years

**Victoria**  
UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON

*Te Whare Wānanga  
o te Īpoko o te Ika a Māui*



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Physics Honours student Mike Dalley generates a blue laser beam from a Raman Spectrometer.

# Leading laser research

Just bought the extended version of *The Lord of the Rings* and wished it could be on one disc instead of four? Ever needed a small but powerful battery but found that lithium batteries aren't made that size?

These are but a couple of the potential uses that may one day come from research being carried out by academics in the School of Chemical & Physical Sciences, in collaboration with institutions and scientists throughout the world, into the chemical, electrical and optical properties of a new form of the semiconductor, gallium nitride.

This compound, made from the silvery metal gallium and nitrogen, and combinations of it with other elements, is showing promise in a whole host of areas and Victoria researchers are leading many of the breakthroughs causing excitement in the scientific world.

Emeritus Professor Joe Trodahl says the research, which is funded by a grant from the Foundation for Research Science & Technology, is investigating a new method of making gallium nitride that is possibly cheaper and more stable than the current

crystal form. This method involves speeding up the nitrogen molecules so they strike the gallium atoms in a somewhat violent process.

"About two years ago we began investigating this new route for making gallium nitride that nobody had used before. Another group in the US has since begun work in this approach because we had shown some success with it. But we are by far the most advanced."

Joe points out that any practical outcomes of the research may be many years away.

"It's very exciting research because we are discovering new things all the time. Hardly a week goes by when we don't find something we didn't know before. For scientists, this is very interesting and a small fraction of our discoveries could be very important. It is exciting to be part of a group

of people who are the only ones in the world to know something that wasn't known before."

One use of the new form of gallium nitride the Victoria team are investigating is that it promises to deliver the sought-after blue-light laser that allows optical storage media to be read with higher resolution. With a higher resolution than the current red lasers used in CD and DVD players, discs could carry two or three times more information.

As well as lasers, the new material may also have uses in the creation of UV detectors that are not affected by visible light and as a new way to encase lithium in batteries that allows them to be produced on a smaller scale.

Email: [Joe.Trodahl@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:Joe.Trodahl@vuw.ac.nz)  
Tel: +64 4 463 5964

## From the Vice-Chancellor



The New Year is a time to reflect, not only on what has gone before, but also on what lies ahead. Last year was a spectacularly successful year. Strong growth in domestic and international student numbers means a surplus of about \$8 million that is being ploughed back into the University to create new services and facilities for students and staff. Our achievements can be viewed online in our Annual Report in early March at [www.vuw.ac.nz/annualreports](http://www.vuw.ac.nz/annualreports)

This year marks the centenary of the laying of the foundation stone of the Hunter Building, that iconic 'handsome pile' as it was once described, that commemorates the life and achievements of Victoria's first Principal, Sir Thomas Hunter.

Marking that centenary shows just how much Victoria has grown and what it has achieved since it was established to mark Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee. From one building on one campus, Victoria has grown to a University of more than 15 major buildings spread over four campuses. That sense of achievement will be showcased in April when Victoria launches its Pipitea Campus.

Comprising Old Government Buildings, the refurbished and extended Rutherford House and the upgraded Wellington Railway Station it will bring together on one site almost all of Victoria's teaching and research in commerce, law, government and administration.

The year ahead promises much. The University will continue to develop its strategic partnership with the Wellington College of Education and with other research and teaching institutions. Work is also afoot to enhance the open spaces of the Kelburn Campus to better connect its facilities and buildings. The Quad, which should be the University's heart, is set for a major upgrade to make it a more inviting space.

We look forward to the support that I know you will give your University.

Stuart N McCutcheon

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To notify a change of address: Tel: +64 4 463 6700, Fax: +64 4 463 5108  
Email: [info-desk@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:info-desk@vuw.ac.nz)

Editorial team: Juliet Montague, Antony Paltridge, Nancy Linton, Vicky Young, Jude Urlich. Photographs (unless otherwise credited): Image Services, Victoria University of Wellington.

*Cover photo: A birthday and a wedding: Sir Thomas Hunter's great granddaughter Lizzie Studholme married Monty Masseurs in the 100 year old Hunter Building in January. The foundation stone for the Hunter Building was laid in 1904 and named in Sir Thomas' honour in 1959. Photography, Louise Bishop.*

# Research & Innovation

Victoria's academic staff are leaders in their fields of research expertise. If you have a project that requires the skills and knowledge of our staff, contact Mike Doig at VicLink. Email: [Mike.Doig@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:Mike.Doig@vuw.ac.nz) Tel: +64 4 463 5072

## Light years

Some like to keep quiet on the number of candles on their birthday cake but the samples in Uwe Rieser's Luminescence Dating Laboratory are afforded no such luxury.

In his darkened laboratory sediment samples are bombarded with doses of radiation to unlock the secret of their age. The older they are, the brighter they glow.

"Thousands of years lying buried away from the sun means that we can use luminescence dating to get an accurate measure of when the material was last exposed to the light," says Uwe, Senior Research Fellow in the School of Earth Sciences.

This reading then helps scientists to geologically and chronologically unravel the site where the material was retrieved. Luminescence dating is applicable to

samples from between a few hundred years to hundreds of thousands of years of age, and is complementary to radiocarbon dating.

Uwe, a graduate and past staff member of the Max Planck Institute for Nuclear Physics in Heidelberg, Germany, was appointed a year and a half after the laboratory was established in 1997. It is the only one of its kind in New Zealand and one of the few in the southern hemisphere.

He quickly saw the potential to offer luminescence dating as a service both in New Zealand and overseas. Its success can be seen in the pile of samples waiting to be dated.

Uwe reckons that he gets the best of two worlds—doing the lab work and going out on field trips to retrieve samples. He has been involved as an associate investigator on projects as diverse as climate change, geological hazards, innovative new materials and the archaeology of the Palaeolithic.

Uwe and Henrik Rother collect sediment to date South Island glacial advances.



"I've climbed mountains, drilled into volcanoes and touched the bricks of Homer's ancient Troia. The book of Earth's history is already written, and physics is now supplying the page numbers."

Email: [Uwe.Rieser@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:Uwe.Rieser@vuw.ac.nz)  
Tel: +64 4 463 6125

## Life in the fridge exists



▲ Haibo Liu prepares for the cold of Alaska.

Spare a thought for PhD meteorology student Haibo Liu this summer—he's spending the next three years in Alaska researching Arctic weather.

But Haibo's not worried about the cold—he grew up in Harbin in Northeast China which is famed for its spectacular ice sculptures—but he is concerned about the wind.

"Anchorage is a little bit warmer than Harbin but I'm a bit worried about the wind. A colleague recently emailed me and

said the first storm of winter had winds of 144km/h. It makes Wellington's wind seem a little timid."

Haibo will be working at the University of Alaska at Anchorage as a research associate, assisting the Alaskan Meteorological Service investigate low jet flows; the high winds caused by the cold air of the Arctic meeting warmer air from the South. The wind can pose a real danger to ships and aeroplanes.

Haibo's research at Victoria investigated methods for mapping snow cover in the South Island so the information can be fed into weather forecasting models.

In the past, meteorologists found it difficult to tell snow from clouds in satellite data because they're both white and highly reflective. Haibo has developed software that can analyse satellite information for snow cover more accurately.

The significance of Haibo's research is that snow cover can have a dramatic impact on local weather, reducing the temperature and changing the wind patterns.

His research can also help meteorologists to better predict the amount of snow that will result from certain weather patterns, information that is vital for South Island farmers and the life and death of their spring lambs.

Haibo has been in New Zealand for five years and his wife Jing Yuan will remain here while she completes her PhD, also under the supervision of Senior Lecturer in Meteorology, Dr Jim McGregor.

# Geographical communities

Impoverished and remote rural communities in Asia are benefiting from the technology and expertise of Victoria University staff and collaborators.

Dr Jack McConchie, Senior Lecturer in the School of Earth Sciences and Dr John McKinnon, Honorary Research Associate and former Director of Development Studies, lead a team involved in a project called MIGIS—a Mobile Interactive Geographical Information System.

MIGIS combines graphics, computer technology, and community planning procedures to accurately gather, analyse, and represent a wide range of social, economic and geographical data. The information can then be used to explore solutions for a variety of community, environmental, and resource issues. The project is supported by the Asia Development Assistance Facility (ADAF), part of the NZ Agency for International Development (NZAID).

**"The project was so effective that a number of forest reserves have now been established and reforestation was carried out."**

Geographical Information Systems can store a diverse range of knowledge and information in digital form. The MIGIS project takes advantage of this and displays complex information in ways that transcend language, literacy, and cultural barriers within the communities.

Jack and John and their team of specialists, including Jean McKinnon of Kinsa Associates, have been involved with the development of MIGIS for a number of years. In 1999, they ran a pilot scheme in Luchun County in the southwest of China. This is one of the poorest counties in China, devastated by deforestation and a variety of associated environmental problems such as erosion.

"The farmers in the area, despite little formal education, have an incredible knowledge and understanding of their environment. The MIGIS system is designed to bring the best of indigenous knowledge and scientific information together to find practical solutions for their problems," says Jack.

"We involved the locals in a variety of participatory exercises using graphics and visual symbols to overcome barriers caused by language and literacy. The information we gathered provided common ground from which the farmers and development agencies could work together to plan for a better future.

"The project was so effective that a number of forest reserves have now been established and reforestation was carried out."

The system also proved effective in Cambodia in 2001, where significant advances were made in developing the process used in China. Emphasis was placed on incorporating aerial photography and on training local development workers to use the equipment and techniques after the team's departure.

Planning is under way for a project in the Gujarat region of India this year. The Rathwas groups that the team intends to visit are struggling to cope with drought and settled agricultural development after a history of tribal nomadic living. These villages face endemic poverty and water shortages that threaten their sustainability.



▲ Deforestation threatened firewood supplies and the sustainability of the community.

The MIGIS system will be used to help these villagers define their situation and quantify the natural constraints on their lives.

By developing and exploring possible interventions with the communities, the team hopes to improve resource planning and initiate activities to improve livelihoods. This project will be in partnership with Gujarat-based Bhasha, a non-Government organisation and DA-IICT, a university. The team will also be working with Professor Vishvajit Pandya, who has taught in the School of Social & Cultural Studies at Victoria.

Email: [Jack.McConchie@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:Jack.McConchie@vuw.ac.nz)  
Tel: +64 4 463 6119

Luchun County's Hani women were encouraged to be part of all developmental aspects.



# Health reforms under the microscope

The Government's changes to the health system have been put under the microscope by Victoria's Health Services Research Centre.

The Centre released two major reports late last year examining key parts of the health reforms. The first was a halfway report in a three-year project, undertaken jointly with independent researchers and colleagues at Auckland, Massey and Otago universities, examining the implementation of district health boards (DHBs), which deliver health and hospital services. The second report examined the first year of primary healthcare organisations (PHOs), which deliver community health services.

Centre Director Dr Jackie Cumming says both reports highlight important issues, which have attracted considerable interest from the media and the health sector.

"Both reports have found strong support and goodwill from health groups to make the health reforms work. But they've also found issues, particularly around implementation, public education, funding and participation by Māori and Pacific Peoples that need attention and to which the Ministry of Health is responding."

Jackie says many of the respondents, all healthcare stakeholders, questioned the need for 21 DHBs, suggesting it was leading to unnecessary duplication. However, no boards were 'putting their

Jackie Cumming ►



Photospace

hands up' to amalgamate. Some respondents also worried that the establishment of PHOs would add another layer of bureaucracy and further increase management costs.

"With any public policy research, we're often analysing events after the fact. With both of these projects we have been able to watch the changes unfold, talk to key participants as events happen and, through our reports, feedback into the process and hopefully improve the outcome."

"The Centre is a logical organisation for this kind of research. Not only do our own staff have a reputation for providing timely high-quality research but, as part of the School of Government, we have access to a wide pool of public sector expertise."

The PHO report was funded by the Ministry of Health, while the Health Research Council, the Ministry of Health, The Treasury, and the State Services Commission are funding the DHB study.

Email: [Jackie.Cumming@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:Jackie.Cumming@vuw.ac.nz)

Tel: +64 4 463 6567

## Eye on diversity

As the variety and number of ethnicities in New Zealand's societal melting pot increases, a new applied research centre at Victoria will be dedicated to studying the mix.

Launched in October, the Centre for Applied Cross-Cultural Research is an internationally networked institute, led by cross-cultural psychologist, Professor Colleen Ward, to study globalisation, migration, and intercultural contact.

"There is an urgent need to understand how so many cultures can coexist without creating misunderstanding and the associated negative side effects," says Colleen.

The Centre's research outputs will include high quality research, training, consultation and policy advice in key areas, and it will work in collaboration with various government and policy agencies.

The launch of the Centre also saw the release of a key piece of research. Colleen and Lincoln University's Dr Tracy Berno

co-authored an Asia 2000 Foundation funded project: *Cross-cultural and Educational Adaptation of Asian Students in New Zealand*.

Conducted from 1997-2002, the research examines Asian students' expectations of studying in New Zealand. The findings show that students' experiences in New Zealand generally do not meet their pre-arrival expectations.

"International education is a billion dollar industry in New Zealand. This research provides a timely and interesting insight into the adaptation and satisfaction of international students," says Colleen.

The research shows that factors associated with successful adaptation included having realistic expectations; language proficiency; more frequent and more satisfying contact with New Zealanders; availability of social support; and lower levels of stress and perceived discrimination.

Colleen says that despite the presentation of some psychological and social adjustment problems, overall, Asian students adjust well to being in New Zealand.

"The findings also present a range of practical pre-entry and post-arrival recommendations to help international students adapt to New Zealand," Colleen says.

These include the need for education recruitment material to set realistic expectations, for buddy or mentoring support to be available, and only accepting students with proficient language levels—all issues that are reflected in Victoria's recruitment practices.

Victoria won the New Zealand Export Educator of the Year Award for 2003, primarily for its international marketing and pastoral care of students. The Alumni Association's Kiwi Connections scheme matches alumni with international students to welcome and introduce them to life in New Zealand.

Email: [Colleen.Ward@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:Colleen.Ward@vuw.ac.nz)  
Tel: +64 4 463 6037

# Digging for clues

The fact that tuatara lay their eggs at the end of long burrows does not prevent postdoctoral conservation expert Nicky Nelson from probing their deepest secrets.

Late last year, she spent six weeks on rugged Stephens Island in the Cook Strait gathering data on tuatara egg-laying and incubation as part of her research into the effects of global warming on determining the sex of unhatched eggs.

"When we incubate the eggs in the lab, there is just 1° Celsius difference between what produces all females and what produces all males. Global warming may upset the balance of the sexes, so has real implications for the survival of the species," says Nicky who completed her PhD at Victoria in 2001.

Nicky was awarded one of 12 Millennium Fellowships from the San Diego Zoo in 2002 and her trip to the remote Stephens Island this summer was the second in a series of significant visits that she will make as a Fellow over the coming three to five years.

Nicky says that patience is important for her research, given that she has to work on "tuatara time".

"Tuatara eggs take around 12 months to hatch so this Fellowship facilitates the long term approach needed for my research to deliver solid results."

Nicky's Stephens Island trip continued with the permanent marking of females so that she can keep track of them to discover



▲ Nicky Nelson doing night time fieldwork.

their nesting patterns. She also measured how deep the incubation tunnels are and gathered data from recorders placed a year ago to reveal a year's worth of hourly burrow temperatures.

As part of the Millennium Fellowship, Nicky spent a month earlier in 2003 at San Diego Zoo, where she met with other Fellows, shared her research with staff and gave seminars. In turn, she hosted two San Diego Zoo staff members on Stephens Island. An education officer visited to learn about Nicky's research and to meet with other people involved, including local iwi Ngāti Kōata. A technician trained Nicky to use a Global Positioning System to map nesting patterns, which Nicky says will enable her to use it independently in the future.

Lee Pagni

## Educating scientists to manage

Associate Professor Sally Davenport is an unusual candidate to be an award-winning management academic—all her degrees are in chemistry.

Sally recently won a research award from the International Association for Management of Technology. She will receive the award at the Association conference in Washington DC in April for being one of a group of international researchers to publish the most papers in a select group of technology management journals from 1998 to 2002.

Sally, who has an Honours degree and PhD in Chemistry from Victoria, initially worked as a research chemist but moved into the business world while working as a consultant in Britain in the 1980s.

Returning to Victoria in 1991, she was responsible for developing the University's innovative programme for science and engineering graduates, the Master of Management Studies in Technology.

"Essentially I've been working for a decade at the fascinating boundary between

management and science, both in the classroom and in my research.

"There is a great need to understand the management of science, with so many wonderful opportunities stemming from scientific discoveries. From a management and policy perspective, the key issue has been how best to get those discoveries out of the laboratory and into the market place and society."

Her skills and knowledge in management and science have been brought to the fore as one of three leaders in a new \$2.5 million Foundation for Research Science & Technology project involving researchers from four universities and a Crown research institute.

"We're examining the social and cultural impacts of biotechnology on New Zealand and how it's no longer enough to consider



▲ Sally Davenport

only commercial potential. The public want to be more involved. We're trying to develop frameworks for debate and decision-making surrounding biotechnology that are supported by New Zealanders."

Email: [Sally.Davenport@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:Sally.Davenport@vuw.ac.nz)  
Tel: +64 4 463 5144

If you are interested in sharing your views or supporting Victoria on issues of tertiary education politics and policy, contact us. Email: [Tertiary-Policy@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:Tertiary-Policy@vuw.ac.nz)  
Tel: +64 4 463 5301

## Taking stock of the tertiary sector

### New Zealand Vice-Chancellors' Committee

Professor Stuart McCutcheon starts this year as Chair of the New Zealand Vice-Chancellors' Committee (NZVCC). The NZVCC consists of the Vice-Chancellors of all New Zealand universities who are supported by a permanent staff focusing on such issues as policy analysis and scholarships. It is the interface between the Government and the universities, and has been particularly important during the tenure of the current Government and its major tertiary reforms.

As the new Chair of the NZVCC, I encourage you, our alumni and friends, to consider the state of tertiary education. The tertiary sector, and universities and their research capabilities in particular, have been highlighted by the Government as key to New Zealand's success in a global economy.

Whether universities are able to deliver on that expectation depends very much on the environment we operate in. This includes major factors such as the impact of government tertiary policy, the competitive international education market and the funding pressures created when universities must absorb increasing costs.

In 2002, the Tertiary Education Commission (TEC) was established by the current Government to implement its tertiary reforms. While universities concur with some of TEC's goals, much of its 'reason for being' is to formalise what universities have actually been doing for a long time. Far from this being harmless, TEC has introduced a raft of bureaucratic paperwork that distracts university staff members from the business of educating students and carrying out research. TEC's claim that universities must collaborate is no news to us—New Zealand universities have been doing just that for many years. Victoria, for example, is in a progressive partnership with the Wellington College of Education and will launch the New Zealand School of Music in partnership with Massey University this year. Victoria staff make full use of their position in the Capital city and collaborate with government and business on many research projects.

While the current Government has increased funding for tertiary institutions, there has actually been a marked decrease in per student funding over the past 15 years in real terms. This has occurred at a time when student fees have increased and tertiary participation has been on the rise, particularly here at Victoria—enrolments nearly doubled between 1990 and 2003 when they rose from 9,500 students to more than 18,000.



▲ Professor Stuart McCutcheon

It is argued that New Zealand's public spending on tertiary education is on par with the OECD average, at a little under 1.1% of GDP (*OECD Education at a Glance 2001*), but because we are not a wealthy country and perhaps because we have such high tertiary participation rates, this translates into a relatively low expenditure per student. Expenditure per equivalent fulltime student (EFTS) in the United States is \$US19,802, in Australia it is \$US11,539 and in the United Kingdom it stands at \$US9,699. New Zealand lags at the bottom of the scale with expenditure per EFTS at \$6,645 (all 2001 figures in equivalent purchasing terms).

**"Education is too important an issue to leave to someone else to think about."**

This predicament for New Zealand is compounded by the fact that our universities are operating in a global market—for staff, for equipment, for collaborative partnerships and the funding they bring, and for students. While New Zealand can offer a good lifestyle, quality academics and research staff will only be retained and attracted if our universities are able to offer competitive salaries and facilities.

A realist knows that there is 'no such thing as a free lunch' and for government funding to increase for universities, it must decrease in other areas. We see four options available to the tertiary sector: an increase in government funding per student; an increase in fees per student; to decrease the number of students (but keep total funding the same), and the unacceptable option of decreasing quality.

Education is too important an issue to leave to someone else to think about. Take some time to consider the implications of the current tertiary environment on New Zealand's future.

If you are interested in finding out about the dynamic courses and qualifications offered by Victoria, contact our Course Advice team.  
Email: Course-Advice@vuw.ac.nz Tel: 0800 VIC UNI

## The art of innovation

A desire to make her teaching more interactive and meaningful to students saw Christina Barton win Victoria's Excellence in Innovation Award late last year.

Christina, Senior Lecturer in the School of Art History, Classics & Religious Studies, saw an opportunity to improve the design of the third year course, Topics in Contemporary New Zealand Art, which she had been teaching for a few years.

"Essentially I changed the weekly format from a conventional two, one-hour lectures and one tutorial into one having two, two-hour lectures that incorporated interaction and discussion. This allowed me to be more flexible in the way I delivered information and to broaden what we discussed."

"This simple change meant I could incorporate more film and video and bring in guest speakers from the art world. It also gives me time to take students on visits to Te Papa and the City Gallery and to discuss the exhibitions in some depth without having to rush back to campus for the next class."

Christina says she sees the course evolving to incorporate topical exhibitions.

"Last year we were fortunate to have a major exhibition on New Zealand painter Colin McCahon, *A Question of Faith*, showing at the City Gallery. It was a perfect opportunity for the students



▲ Christina Barton in the artistic heart of Wellington.

not only to see a substantial collection of his work but to also compare this exhibition with previous displays and to understand the curator's theme and why certain works were selected and the way they were presented."

Christina says the feedback from students has been very positive. "They really enjoyed the new format and they felt comfortable raising questions during lectures when there was more time to discuss them."

The last class for the course was a debate, including a curator, artist and art critic, on the topic: The end of New Zealand art? "The participants were impressed that an academic institution was reaching out to the art world."

Also receiving awards were: **Excellence in Teaching:** Associate Professor Judy Brown; Dr Ramon Das; Dr James Liu; Dr Warwick Murray; Dr Joanna Scott-Kennel; **Excellence in Research:** Professor Tony Angelo; Susy Frankel and Geoff McLay; Dr Maryanne Garry; and Dr Martha Savage.

Email: Christina.Barton@vuw.ac.nz  
Tel: +64 4 463 5804

## Nursing celebration

Alumni of the graduate nursing programme returned to Wellington in December to celebrate its successes and the 10th anniversary of the appointment of the first nursing professor.

About 70 graduates gathered in the Capital for the daylong alumni conference that culminated in a black tie dinner.

While nursing has been taught at Victoria since 1928, a review of the then Department of Nursing Studies saw the appointment of the first professor in 1993 and the establishment of the Graduate School of Nursing & Midwifery.

Head of School, Professor Jan Duke, said the conference was a chance for graduates to celebrate the successes of the last decade.

"The School has been at the forefront of changes in the nursing and midwifery professions and its graduates are national and international leaders."

Graduates include Ministry of Health chief nursing adviser Frances Hughes, Capital & Coast District Health Board Director of Nursing and Midwifery, Anita Bamford, Executive Director of the College of Midwives, Karen Guilliland, and working with the International Council of Nurses, Gay Williams and Jill Caughley.

"It was refreshing to hear from Jean Watson, who co-authored the review recommending setting up graduate studies in nursing and midwifery, and to hear and learn from the experiences of the previous two Heads of School, Jill White and Ali Dixon."

Jan said a particular highlight was the alumni panel discussion and the role Victoria played in their personal and professional growth and development.

"A consistent comment was that the Graduate School created 'space' for their academic work that would have been impossible to do in the healthcare environment they work in. They also commented on the intellectual rigour and that they were able to write and articulate ideas in ways they had not thought possible."

Email: Jan.Duke@vuw.ac.nz  
Tel: +64 4 463 5034

## Doing the hard yards

Kea Ward can often be found down at Wellington's waterfront in the early hours of the morning, coaching teams for the Victoria University Rowing Club. Add to this her commitment to the development of the club, through fundraising and marketing schemes, and it's little wonder that she was the recipient of the 2003 University Blues Sports Administrator of the Year award in October.

Kea started rowing when she was 14 but a back injury when she was 19 steered her towards coaching. She now coaches a variety of school teams and novices, and the crews that make up Victoria's rowing squad.

President of the club, Kea has been instrumental in developing its potential.

"This year, we're aiming to take 80-100 people to the University Games in Dunedin. But we've got to offset the costs for everyone so we're trying hard to fundraise and apply for community grants. Hopefully we'll be able to afford new uniforms for the team as well."

Kea completed a BCA in Human Resources and Industrial Relations at Victoria in 2003 and is now on an extended break in Thailand and the UK. While she is in the UK, she plans to visit rowing clubs to see if she can pick up ideas to develop when she comes home.

"Ideally I'd like to see the Vic club have its own premises at the waterfront. At the moment we only have one boat and it would be great to see Victoria's rowing club distinguish itself from the other clubs in Wellington."

The University Blues Awards are awarded by the Students' Association on the recommendation of the Blues Panel. The panel consists of the Chair and Secretary of the Sports Council, and four appointed members who are respected Wellington sportspeople.



▲ Kea Ward is up to greet many dawns.

## Principal concerns

It's not easy being the principal of a New Zealand school. They must ensure the safety of children on school trips, address legal requirements, deal with parental concerns and act as an academic leader for fellow teachers.



▲ Pauline with students at Glenview School.

Janet Hay, the Wellington College of Education's Director of School Support Services, says the College has put in place strategies to ensure principals get the chance to have 'time out' so they can learn about the latest innovations in teaching practice.

"As with any senior managerial position, it can also be a very lonely role. It's important that principals are seen to be effective curriculum leaders as well as being responsive to the purely administrative work they have to do. It's absolutely imperative they have the opportunity to step back and examine different ways of teaching and managing."

Those strategies include the College sponsoring a research award and a fellowship in association with the Wellington Regional Primary Principals' Association and the Greater Wellington Secondary Principals' Association.

The research award, also sponsored by school furniture manufacturer, Furnware, was won by Porirua principal Pauline Thomas. It will allow her to travel to Britain for six weeks later this year and pays for a relieving principal to cover for her while she is away.

Pauline, principal at Glenview School, plans to study programmes in Britain designed to assist the development of oral language skills in children.

"Listening and speaking skills come before literacy and while we have learnt how to accelerate literacy through teacher training, teachers have not had a lot of training on how to improve oral language skills."

The fellowship, awarded to Pieter Braun, principal of Redwood School, saw him join the College's leadership and management advisory team in School Support Services while the College paid for a relieving teacher to work in his Tawa school for a term.

Janet says Pieter's role saw him act as an adviser / mentor for local principals, supporting the work of College advisers.



## Who's new?

### Stephen Epstein

Stephen Epstein has taken up a half-time position as Director of the Asian Studies Institute, which he will combine with work as a Senior Lecturer in the School of Art History, Classics & Religious Studies. Stephen has a PhD in Classics but also has a long-standing research interest in Asian languages and culture. He has published numerous translations of modern Korean and Indonesian fiction and also researches contemporary popular culture in Asia. He is committed to developing formal study of Asia and has been engaged in hosting a variety of academic seminars and cultural events, including a film series. Stephen has worked at Victoria since 1994 after completing his studies at Harvard and UC Berkeley.



### Stephen Ihaka

Stephen Ihaka (Te Aupouri, Ngāti Porou) has been appointed as Pou Hautū—Executive Officer Māori—a newly created position designed to support the development of the University's strategic framework for Māori. Stephen joined Victoria in October with considerable experience in the public sector at NZQA and as a facilitator at the Crown Forestry Rental Trust assisting claimants in the Treaty sector. He qualified to the rank of senior sergeant in the New Zealand Police after a 14-year career based in Auckland from 1985 to 1995 and in Northland from 1995 to 1999. A graduate of Victoria University with a BA in Political Science, Stephen is based in the office of the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Māori).



### Roy Fleetwood

Roy Fleetwood has joined Victoria as Professor and Head of the School of Design. He has an extensive background in architecture and design, and is the director of design companies in England and Japan. Roy graduated from the Liverpool University School of Architecture and is a Rome Scholar in Architecture. He has designed numerous award-winning projects around the world and has a number of patented innovative structures and lighting systems. Roy is interested in the inter-cultural aspects of design and has a particular interest in the artefacts, culture and micro-landscape of Japan.



## New programmes

New programmes are regularly provided by Victoria University to meet the demands of employers, students and developing disciplines. A selection includes:

### Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Media Studies

An Honours programme will be offered for the first time in 2004, following the successful implementation of the undergraduate programme over the last three years. This diverse and expanding programme offers students the chance to study courses that range from media theory and policy to television drama, and media identity and subjectivity. To meet the growing demand for the courses, three new lecturers will start in 2004 bringing with them an exciting array of research interests. The Honours programme also utilises the resources that Wellington provides, by arranging a variety of guest speakers from media fields and institutions such as Te Papa and New Zealand On Air.

Email: [mediastudies@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:mediastudies@vuw.ac.nz) Tel: +64 4 463 6821

### Master of Strategic Studies (MSS)

The Master of Strategic Studies offers a mixture of core and elective courses and is designed for strategic thinkers from a wide range of government and community agencies. Offered by the School of Government, the qualification offers theories and methods needed to take New Zealand forward in the 21st century. The programme is stair-cased, so that students completing the first year of the MSS can either continue on towards the degree or graduate with a Postgraduate Certificate. Likewise, those completing the second year can either complete the degree or graduate with a Postgraduate Diploma.

Email: [Sog-Masters@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:Sog-Masters@vuw.ac.nz) Tel: +64 4 463 5453

### Master of Nursing & Master of Midwifery

The Master of Nursing and the Master of Midwifery are research by thesis degrees that will replace the previously offered taught MA. This move, in line with international trends, improves the visibility of Nursing and Midwifery research. It is envisaged that these programmes will strengthen the possibility of disciplinary based research methods and processes, increase the ability to respond to practice research issues, and provide the opportunity for practitioners to undertake clinically relevant and significant research. To support entry to these programmes by providing teaching research methods, the School has also introduced Postgraduate Diplomas in both Midwifery and Nursing. These programmes will provide for entry into the research Masters degrees.

Email: [Nursing-Midwifery@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:Nursing-Midwifery@vuw.ac.nz) Tel: +64 4 463 5363

Where will you be in six months' time? Contact us now for more information on the world of learning options available to you at Victoria University.

Email: [Course-Advice@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:Course-Advice@vuw.ac.nz)

[www.vuw.ac.nz](http://www.vuw.ac.nz)

Tel: 0800 VIC UNI

If you are interested in joining the Alumni Association of Victoria University or the Wellington College of Education Email: [Alumni-Association@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:Alumni-Association@vuw.ac.nz)  
Tel: +64 4 463 5128, [www.vuw.ac.nz/alumni](http://www.vuw.ac.nz/alumni) or [www.wce.ac.nz/alumni](http://www.wce.ac.nz/alumni)

## Victoria Events

Alumni and Friends of the University are warmly invited to the following events:

### Concrete Horizons: Contemporary Art from China

21 February–9 May

The Adam Art Gallery warmly invites Alumni Association members to the official opening of the exhibition on Friday 20 February at 5.30pm.

### Debate—Alumni vs VUW Debating Society

21 April

Come along to the Hunter Council Chamber at 6.30pm to witness a clash of debating super powers! Students \$2.50, Alumni \$5 (pay at the door). A cash bar and light refreshments will be available.

### It's a Small World for Alumni— Towards a Better World, New Zealand Alumni Convention 2004

8 July–10 July

This event in Sarawak, Malaysia is being held to capitalise on the goodwill of NZ alumni networks in Asia and worldwide. For more information contact [nzac@nzcentre.biz](mailto:nzac@nzcentre.biz) or +60 (82) 334 299.

### Lecture: A Portrait of Tommy Hunter— an all-round educationalist and man of action

26 August

Emeritus Professor Tony Taylor will talk about the contribution that Sir Thomas Hunter made to education and the political and social life of Victoria University and New Zealand, in the Hunter Council Chamber at 6.30pm.

To register your interest in any of these events, contact the Alumni Office on Tel: +64 4 463 6700.

Go to [www.vuw.ac.nz/events](http://www.vuw.ac.nz/events) for a wide range of concerts, lectures, reunions and activities that are open to members of the University community.

Leon and ▶  
Jane Fulcher



## Haere rā to Weir House Wardens

Leon and Jane Fulcher originally accepted a three-year appointment as Joint Wardens at Weir House in 1986, and it is only now, 17 years later, that they say goodbye.

They came to New Zealand from Scotland with their two young children earlier that year for Leon to take up the Chair of Social Work. A few months later, they were successfully appointed at Weir, with Jane looking forward to doing up a "stately home".

The pride and respect the couple has for Weir House and its residents is readily evident. Jane became renowned for her 'Weir House salute', which saw her chime a triangle when a Weir resident's name was called at the University's graduation ceremonies.

The community spirit of Weir House has been carefully nurtured by the Fulchers. They have been responsible for implementing many projects to welcome the students and to encourage the leap into their new lives. They introduced a week-long orientation programme for first year students. Weekly floor meetings were established and they also introduced a Leadership Programme, which encourages students to take on a leadership role or community task.

Weir House celebrated its 70th anniversary in 2003. Leon says that changes since 1933 have seen the all-male hostel welcome women, and in more recent years there has been a steady increase in the number of international student residents. He noted that the ranks of maids, cooks and matrons who staffed Weir in 1933 has been somewhat diminished!

Jane and Leon have moved on to a new challenge in Abu Dhabi where Leon is working as an Assistant Dean in the College of Family Sciences at Zayed University. They welcome any visitors.

Jane's 'retirement project' will be tracking down the 5,000 or more residents who have passed through Weir under the Fulchers' care. In 2008, Weir House will celebrate its 75th anniversary and Jane would love to hear from any ex-residents interested in joining the celebration.

"We leave Weir House with real excitement about a new and totally unexpected adventure ahead. However, cutting ourselves loose is going to be a long and complicated process, full of mixed emotions," Jane says.

Email: [Jane@weirhouse.co.nz](mailto:Jane@weirhouse.co.nz)



## Keep in touch...don't miss out!

Introducing Vicky Young, Victoria's new Alumni Relations Manager.

I graduated from a small Collegiate affiliated to Manchester University and since then haven't heard a word from its alumni association. It has only been since I started in my role as the new Alumni Relations Manager in November that I have realised how much I have missed from not having that connection.

Belonging to an alumni association is a two way street. While the amazing variety of opportunities made available to Victoria Alumni Association members to keep learning and to network with other graduates exists, members also have something to give back to the University.

Victoria's graduates seem to be an extremely talented lot who have gone on to do interesting things, meet (or indeed, become) interesting people, and spread themselves around New Zealand and around the world.

In this tight funding environment, Victoria depends on its graduates to support it. It seems to me that our alumni and friends' community has much to give in terms of making strategic connections, coming forward as advocates and by financially supporting students and staff.

I would encourage everyone who has studied at Victoria to think back to their time here, reflecting on the opportunities they have been given, and what they can give back through the Alumni Association.

I want to dismiss current myths that alumni associations are only for the 'old school' and encourage more of our young Alumni to join the association and also become part of the committee.

Researching the views and needs of current and future alumni and friends is an important part of the job and I hope that all alumni will feel welcome to contact me with suggestions for future events, collaborations and any other opportunities.



▲ Vicky Young

Email: [Vicky.Young@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:Vicky.Young@vuw.ac.nz)  
Tel: +64 4 463 5246

## Oxford odyssey

Victoria graduates, brothers Alexis and Daniel Kalderimis, have every reason to smile.

Winner of the Fulbright Buddle Findlay Award in Law in 2002, Daniel is currently an Associate-in-law at the esteemed law faculty at Columbia University, while Alexis has been awarded a Woolf Fisher scholarship to attend Oxford University in 2004.

Daniel graduated from Victoria in 1999 with a first class honours degree in Law and a BA in English and Philosophy. He worked for the New Zealand Court of Appeal and Chapman Tripp, one of New Zealand's largest legal firms, before taking up his position at Columbia where he researches international economic law.

His younger brother, Alexis, has also studied at Victoria, completing his first class honours degree in Classics in 2003. Alexis researched the relationship between New Zealand poet Ian Wedde and the Latin poet Horace, and will use his scholarship to further his study of Horace's odes. Fluent in German and Italian, and with a major in Latin literature, Alexis is looking forward to studying at Oxford, a university with an excellent tradition of classical research.

"I am absolutely thrilled to be able to study at such an august institution. It is a massive responsibility too, and I am looking forward to justifying the faith that so many people have put in me," says Alexis.



▲ Alexis and Daniel catch up in New York.

The award, sponsored by the Woolf Fisher Trust, is worth up to \$100,000 a year and covers full fees, airfares and a study allowance. The late Sir Woolf Fisher, co-founder of Fisher and Paykel, was one of New Zealand's most successful industry leaders and the award recognises academic achievement and boldness of vision, zeal and the candidate's capacity for work.

Both brothers plan to return to New Zealand after they have completed their studies.

## Life after Vic

Thanks to the graduates and members of the University community who have sent in their news. For more alumni updates visit [www.vuw.ac.nz/alumni/lifeaftervic.htm](http://www.vuw.ac.nz/alumni/lifeaftervic.htm)

### Tai Purcell MCA 2003

Since graduating, Tai has been working in the communications industry in Samoa and is the secretary of the Samoa Information Communication Technology committee—a cabinet committee advising the Government on how to bridge the digital divide. Her role is to develop a national ICT strategy and action plan including consultation with key stakeholders.



Tai has been active at the World Summit of the Information Society (WSIS) preparatory meetings as well as the first phase in Geneva. She was delighted, as the only representative from the Pacific, to be selected to the committee responsible for drafting the declaration as well as the plan of action.

"I am working to develop the national Samoan ICT strategy. This is challenging as I find that there is a lack of skill, knowledge and understanding of ICT and what its uses are, especially in rural villages."

### Simon Bowden BA 2001

Simon's voluntary work as a student with the Wellington Jazz Collective started him on the road to his hobby becoming his career. Later appointments included Festival Director of the Wellington International Jazz Festival and in February 2002, as Executive Director of the Arts Foundation of New Zealand.



He remains close to the jazz scene as Chairman of the Wellington International Jazz Festival Trust and as a guitarist and composer in Wellington jazz group CL BOB. Simon says that being a musician provides his brain with relief from intellectual challenges.

During 2002 the group won the Jazz Album of the Year at the New Zealand Music Awards. In 2005 he will marry another alumnus, Amanda Hereaka.

### Paul O'Connor

BSc 1992

As managing director of Datamine, Paul sees his role as helping staff meet their goals and doing what it takes to make things happen for customers.



His student research included a datamining project for Telecom, which, after he graduated, led him to start Datamine from the spare bedroom of his flat. The company now has offices in Wellington and Auckland, employs eighteen staff and works with some big name companies in New Zealand, Australia and Asia.

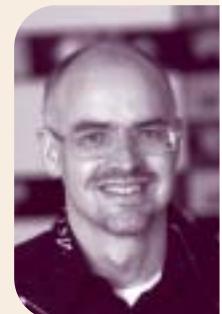
Developing close relationships with clients and playing a part in their success has been a real highlight for Paul.

Under Paul's guidance, Datamine has completed pro bono work for many not-for-profit organisations, including Amnesty International, Cancer Society, Fred Hollows Foundation, IHC and UNICEF. Outside the office, Paul has recently taken up triathlons and last year completed his first half Ironman. His next challenge is to reduce the times for each event.

### Alan Blackwell

MSc 1989

Alan Blackwell flew in the face of tradition when he established Crucible—Cambridge University's first network for research in interdisciplinary design. It brings together technologists with researchers from the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences.



"A multidisciplinary research environment recognises that technology has a lot to learn from the arts in investigating human thought and behaviour," he says.

Alan completed his Master in Computer Science, supervised by Peter Andreae, in the then very small Victoria department of Computing Science.

Since that time he has worked in the northern hemisphere balancing the ratio between his passion for pure research with the reality of employment. He has worked in a variety of research institutions, mainly in electronic engineering and computer programming, and carried out some of the early industrial applications of artificial intelligence.

Late last year he spent six weeks at Victoria collaborating on research with a group of staff and students.

Alan sees himself staying in Cambridge, saying that Government policy and funding from the public and private sectors there provides ten times the research resources that he would have access to in New Zealand.

If you are interested in supporting students and staff with a donation of funds, resources or time, we'd like to hear from you. For financial contributions contact the Victoria University of Wellington Foundation Executive Director, Tricia Walbridge.  
Email: [Tricia.Walbridge@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:Tricia.Walbridge@vuw.ac.nz) Tel: +64 4 463 5109

## New insight on Vic's first VC

A daughter's donation to the University has shed new light on the life of her father, Professor James Williams, Victoria's first Vice-Chancellor.

Elizabeth Bedwell donated her father's papers to the J C Beaglehole Room, the University Library's research facility specialising in 'special materials' such as manuscripts, rare books, historic maps and photographs.

Elizabeth said she was happy a permanent home had been found for the papers.

"The papers have haunted me ever since I inherited them when my stepmother died many years ago. They've sat in boxes in my living room or spare room as I moved around. I was concerned that none of my family would have any interest or use for them in the future, so I began looking for a permanent home. I'm happy they will now be preserved."

James Williams (1908-76) replaced Victoria's first fulltime Principal, Sir Thomas Hunter, in 1951, but with a law change in 1957, he became Victoria's first Vice-Chancellor. Victoria's autonomy was confirmed when the University of New Zealand, of which it was a constituent college, was dissolved in 1961.



▲ Victoria's first Vice-Chancellor Professor James Williams.

Special Materials Librarian Nicola Frean said the papers cast new light on Professor Williams' life and career.

"One of the reasons the J C Beaglehole Room was established in 1975 was to hold materials that are distinctive to Victoria and we are always interested in material that will be of value to future researchers examining its stories.

"We're delighted to accept these papers and photographs as they are a considerable addition to our collection about James Williams and his career, both before he became Principal and Vice-Chancellor and also before he joined academia. It includes material about his work as a barrister and teacher of law and about his appointment as Principal."

Email: [Nicola.Frean@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:Nicola.Frean@vuw.ac.nz)  
Tel: +64 4 463 5681  
[www.vuw.ac.nz/library/special/beaglehole](http://www.vuw.ac.nz/library/special/beaglehole)

## Iwi partnership brings home legal expert

A new partnership between Ngai Tahu and the School of Law will bring home esteemed indigenous law expert Dr Paul McHugh.

Paul, a New Zealander based at Cambridge University who has played a key role in the recognition of customary rights, will spend 11 weeks each year for the next four years at Victoria. He will take up the position in July this year teaching, researching and sharing his knowledge with the legal community.

The position will be called the **Ashley McHugh-Ngai Tahu Visiting Professor of Law**, to honour Paul's father, the late Judge Ashley McHugh, who presided over the Waitangi Tribunal hearing of the Ngai Tahu claim.

Paul, a Victoria alumnus (LLB 1980), is one of the world's leading authorities on

indigenous issues. He wrote his PhD dissertation at Cambridge University on 'the aboriginal rights of the New Zealand Māori at Common Law'. Two new principles that came out of this research were applied in a fisheries prosecution, making it the first time in the 20th century that aboriginal fishing rights were recognised in a court as out-trumping Fisheries Regulations.

Dr Te Maire Tau, Ngai Tahu, says that the iwi recognises the important role played by Victoria University and the intellectual community in New Zealand in stimulating and facilitating critical debate on issues concerning indigenous people.

"Ngai Tahu believes that Paul McHugh was critical to the elevation of customary rights from a marginal field of interest to one that had a huge impact on Māori-Crown understanding of Treaty rights," says Dr Tau.

Professor Matthew Palmer, Dean of the School of Law, welcomes Dr McHugh back to Victoria.

"During Paul's time with us, he will make an important contribution to the national dialogue on Treaty and customary rights issues. The fact that his visit is made possible by funding from, and an initiative of, Ngai Tahu is a partnership that makes this endeavour all the more special. It is an honour to the School of Law and Victoria University."

Email: [Matthew.Palmer@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:Matthew.Palmer@vuw.ac.nz)

# Happy 100 years Hunter

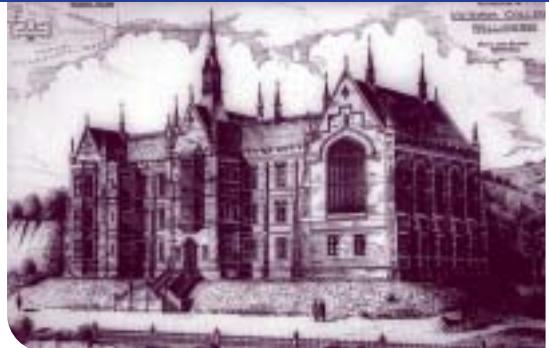
The Hunter Building has hosted many important guests and events in its 100-year history but a wedding in January might have pleased the spirit of Professor Tommy Hunter the most.

In January, Lizzie Studholme married Monty Masseurs in the building named after Sir Thomas Hunter—Lizzie's great grandfather and an early and distinguished Professor at Victoria. It was an opportunity for generations of the family to celebrate in the building named, in 1959, in honour of their ancestor who contributed greatly to the development of the young University.

Tommy Hunter joined the staff of Victoria College, as it was then, in 1904—the year that the Building's foundation stone was laid by the Governor, Lord Plunket. He came to the University as a Lecturer in Mental Science and Political Economy, rose to a professorial rank, was appointed Vice-Chancellor of the University of New Zealand in 1929, and was made the first full-time Principal of Victoria University College in 1947. In his 40-year tenure at Victoria, he became recognised by colleagues, as the “very essence of the College”.

The building, although far from completed, was opened on 30 March 1906 and received a great welcome from the city.

Sir Tommy Hunter's great granddaughter Lizzie Studholme  
 ▼ married Monty Masseurs in the Hunter Building in January.



▲ The successful 1903 submission from Wellington architects, Plenty and Blake.

The next day, the *Evening Post* commended the building and described it as, “a handsome pile”. Over the years new wings were added to the building and others rose up around it to form the fledgling Kelburn Campus.

In 1974, the Hunter Building was declared a safety risk and was evacuated, locked and left empty. The Friends of Hunter, established in 1977, were instrumental in saving the building from the wrecker's ball and bringing about its restoration.

To meet the strict earthquake codes, the Hunter Building underwent intensive strengthening. The two brick skins that made up the old walls were bolted together and a layer of reinforced concrete was then sprayed on to the inner brick skin. The building reopened in 1993 to house the University administration.

**In his 40-year tenure at Victoria, he became recognised by colleagues as, “the very essence of the College”.**

A recent bequest of \$92,000 from Tommy Hunter's granddaughter, Moira White, will be used to create an endowment fund for a prize in postgraduate Psychology. Mrs White, who passed away in 2002, wished for the prize to be used for the advancement of education and it will be awarded to the top fourth year research student who is going on to do postgraduate study.

On 26 August, Emeritus Professor Tony Taylor will deliver a public lecture on Sir Thomas Hunter's contribution to education, the political and social life of Victoria and the Country. Details can be found in the Alumni News section.

The Hunter Building's centenary will be celebrated throughout the year, with a special day on August 27 to mark the laying of the foundation stone, in the hope that the Hunter spirit will be alive for at least another hundred years.



The Hunter Council Chamber and many other areas of the University can be hired for meetings, conferences and events. Contact the Functions Centre to discuss your catering, beverage and audiovisual needs.

Email: [Functions-Centre@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:Functions-Centre@vuw.ac.nz)

Tel: +64 4 463 6999



## Christian partnership

Respected theologian Dr Chris Marshall takes up a new position as Senior Lecturer in Christian Theology this year thanks to a generous grant from a Wellington church.

St John's in the City has contributed \$200,000 over three years through the Victoria University of Wellington Foundation to establish the position.

Chris, most recently at the Bible College of New Zealand in Auckland, is a Victoria alumnus, having completed an Honours degree in 1975 and grown up in Wainuiomata. Among many qualifications, he has a PhD from the University of London.

He is an expert in restorative justice, working as both a theorist and facilitator of conferences between victims and offenders and is the author of the award-winning book, *Beyond Retribution*. In January, he received an International Community Justice Award at a conference in London for his work in

developing community-based justice alternatives.

"Teaching Christian theology is very worthwhile, despite the prevailing secularism of New Zealand society. While our public institutions are decidedly secular, our culture is not as secular as some think. There is increasing awareness of, and interest in, spirituality, particularly through the influence of Māori culture, which rubs off in public life, more so than in other comparable countries."

Rev Dr Graham Redding of St John's says the Church is delighted with Chris' appointment. "He's an excellent inaugural appointment and will have broad appeal. He is well respected in both religious and academic circles."



▲ Dr Chris Marshall

Email: [Chris.Marshall@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:Chris.Marshall@vuw.ac.nz)

## V for Victoria

Victoria's new top honorary award, the Hunter Fellowship, was presented to eight recipients in 2003. Named after Sir Thomas Hunter, Victoria's first full-time Principal, the award recognises individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the development of the University.

Seven of the inaugural Fellowships were presented in October, and the final recipient, John McLean, received his award in December—all in the Council Chamber of the Hunter Building. John McLean is President of the United States Friends of Victoria University, a charitable body that administers donations from US residents to the University.

Each Fellow was presented with a uniquely-crafted pin, shaped in the letter 'V' and inlaid with pounamu. One of the recipients, Jocelyn, Lady Keith CBE, spoke on behalf of the Fellows in October:

"It is a great privilege to be asked to speak on behalf of the inaugural Hunter Fellows tonight. Between them, they have already clocked up many years of service in the Hunter tradition and there are still many years to come. In honouring us, you, the University, are also marking out the part the University can play in the service of the community. Our sincere thanks for this very significant honour of fellowship."

The December presentation also saw the official unveiling of the Victoria University Honours Boards, which have been reinstated in the Hunter Building. The names of Victoria's 115 honorary graduates, Hunter Fellows and winners of their predecessor,

the Distinguished Service award, appear together, highlighting the considerable contribution and talent of the University community.

The inaugural recipients of the Hunter Fellowship are: Paul Baines, Judge Ian A Borrin, Robert L Cameron, Richard Christie, Gerard J Gordon, Jocelyn, Lady Keith CBE, John McLean and Denis G Thom.



▲ Hunter Fellows: Rick Christie, Judge Ian Borrin, John McLean, Rob Cameron, and Jocelyn, Lady Keith CBE.

# Graduation

December's graduation saw more than 800 students graduate at three ceremonies. Thirty six PhDs were conferred taking the year's total to 75—more than double the number conferred in 1998 and reflecting the growing number enrolled in postgraduate study at Victoria.

## Law maker to law student

When Rana Waitai lost his seat in Parliament in the 1999 election, a change of career beckoned.

"I sulked for 10 days after losing my seat in Parliament but then I thought, if I get kicked off one horse, I'll get on another, so I went across the road and signed up at the School of Law."

Rana graduated with a Bachelor of Law degree at Victoria's marae-based graduation, Te Hui Whakapūmau, at Te Herenga Waka Marae, in December. The former Gisborne police superintendent already has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology and a Master of Public Policy degree from Victoria and is one course away from completing his Master of Law degree.

"I found the work hard going but it was very challenging. Being a policeman was no help at all. We have the 'unfair' benefit of knowing what it's really like out there. But it was a great experience. It reorganised my mind and body, although I didn't have much of a social life."

Living in Wanganui, Rana travelled to Wellington twice a week to attend lectures and tutorials. "I did thousands and thousands of kilometres in two cars. It was tiring but you get used to it. I like to sleep in my own bed!"

Rana, who is of Ngāti Kahungunu, Ngāti Ruapani and Rangitane descent, has six months of work ahead of him with a Māori organisation in Wellington and then plans to practice law in Wanganui.

▼ Rana Waitai



▲ Rilla Khaled

## Comp Sci success

Rilla Khaled says that her Computer Science Honours year was 'kind of gruelling'.

By this she means that she balanced a year of dedicated study and tutoring as the only female in a class of twenty students and still came out on top—as winner of a Victoria University Medal for Academic Excellence.

She was presented with the medal at December graduation and is now at the start of a PhD studying the graphic representation of computer programmes. Rilla says that increasingly complex IT projects and staff migration create the need for some sort of tool to readily educate team members on the intricacies of a programme.

"Depicting a programme graphically is one of the most accessible ways of doing this, however it is currently under explored and under utilised."

As a standard bearer for women doing Computer Science postgraduate study, Rilla says that the key to getting female school pupils interested in the subject is to have professionally trained Computer Science teachers. She credits her interest to a high school teacher with such qualifications.

"It's not a matter of there being more female computer science teachers, it's more about the quality of the training and experience that the teacher has."

Education runs in the family. Rilla's father has a PhD and lectures in Economics at Victoria, her sister has just gained registration as a Doctor, and her mother has a BA in Economics.

Rilla took six months off to travel around Europe last year and likes to draw cartoons in her spare time.

The Victoria University Medal for Academic Excellence is awarded annually to the top First Class Honours graduate in each Faculty who has shown exceptionally high academic achievement across four or more years of study.



# Language learning in New Zealand

Although New Zealand depends on increasing trade with many countries and growing numbers of international tourists for its economic well-being, it remains one of the most monolingual countries in the world.

Sandra Shearn, a language teacher for a number of years, was well aware of the difficulties in attracting students to pick up and follow through with studying an international language at school.

Her PhD, awarded in December, set out to investigate a number of 'myths' related to language learning that she had heard during her time as a teacher.

"People often say that languages are too difficult to learn and that classes are generally dominated by girls," says Sandra.

"I wanted to provide teachers with some tangible research that they could use to help them work out ways to encourage and develop language learning in New Zealand."

Sandra found that because language learning remains optional in schools, it signals to students that it is not as important as other compulsory subjects. She also found that there was limited understanding of the skills and knowledge to be gained from learning languages among students, non-language teaching staff and employers.

Sandra's research complements the recent Ministry of Education curriculum stock-take on language learning. Their recommendations included more emphasis on language learning and that, from 2005, schools must offer language options to students from Year 7-10, which Sandra sees as a step in the right direction.

"But it is disappointing that there is no signal that, in the long term, language learning might become compulsory as it is in some countries, including Australia," she says.

## Honours awarded

The University recognised three lifetimes of achievement when it awarded honorary doctorates to Tīmoti Kāretu, Alison Quentin-Baxter and Leslie Young at the December graduation ceremonies.

### Tīmoti Kāretu

Tīmoti Kāretu received an honorary Doctor of Literature for his work in promoting Te Reo Māori and Māori performing arts. Of Tūhoe and Ngāti Kahungunu descent, he attended Victoria and the Wellington Teachers' College (1957-59), graduating with a BA and a Primary Teachers' Certificate. He established the first stand-alone Department of Māori at Waikato University and became its founding Professor of Māori. As a lecturer, he pioneered the immersion teaching of Māori in New Zealand universities and as inaugural Māori Language Commissioner, played a key role in bringing Te Reo back from the brink of linguistic extinction. He is now Executive Director of Te Kōhanga Reo National Trust Board.



Photography by Woolf

### Alison Quentin-Baxter

Alison Quentin-Baxter received an honorary Doctor of Laws for her work in public and international law. Completing an LLB at Auckland University in 1952, she began a career in the public service, rising to be First Secretary in the New Zealand Embassy in Washington DC (1960-61). In 1974, she was a member of the NZ legal team at the International Court of Justice when NZ objected to France's atmospheric nuclear tests. In 1987, she became the first Director of the NZ Law Commission. In 1995-96 she worked as counsel assisting the Fiji Constitution Review Commission that saw the nation adopt a non-racial constitution.



Photography by Woolf

### Leslie Young

Leslie Young received an honorary Doctor of Commerce for his contribution to the international study of economics. A Victoria alumnus, he completed a BSc(Hons), MSc(Hons) and a PhD (from Oxford University) by the age of 21. His doctoral thesis earned him Oxford's Mathematics Prize. He then became interested in economics. The longest serving member of the *American Economic Review* editorial board, he is now Executive Director of the Asia Pacific Institute of Business and Professor of Finance at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. His co-authored book on 'economic black holes' received commendations from two Nobel Prize winners and the chairman of the Nobel Committee.



Photography by Woolf

If you would like to be involved in the varied and exciting events available to members of the University community contact the Events Office. Email: [Events@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:Events@vuw.ac.nz)  
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## Concrete China

When Adam Art Gallery Director Sophie McIntyre last visited Beijing, ten years ago, an artist cycled after her with his bike piled high with canvases, pleading with her to show them outside China.

After a trip back to Beijing in November to select works for the Gallery's upcoming show, *Concrete Horizons: Contemporary Art from China* (20 February – 9 May), Sophie says that the massive rise in popularity of contemporary Chinese art is all too clear.

"It's now the curators from major international galleries who are chasing the artists. If there is a 'centre' in the art world, China is it."

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*Concrete Horizons* is one of the first major shows of contemporary Chinese art curated in New Zealand and will present visually and conceptually engaging work by seven leading and emerging contemporary artists in China.

▼ Yang Zhen-Zhong, *Light and Easy* 2002, digital photograph



▲ Wang Gong-Xin, *Where are you?* 2003 – 2004, video installation

The last 100 years has seen massive socioeconomic upheaval in China as it has opened its doors to western ideals of progress. The building boom has seen rural dwellers flood to the cities in search of construction work, which has major social and economic repercussions.

"There's a saying in China, 'what's new today is old tomorrow', and the artists capture this by taking to the streets to make their work. Their studios are equipped with computers, scanners and video and DVD projectors, enabling them to quickly produce art that can be digitally spread around the world," Sophie says.

Wang Gong-Xin's work *Where are You?* projects images onto what appear to be traditional Chinese scrolls. These images focus on Chinese cityscapes and urban dwellers, exploring ideas of consumerism and public / private spaces.

Lin Tian-Miao's art takes the escapist form of 'dreamscapes'. She creates languid semi-surreal images to show an alternative world in stark contrast to the bustle of the cities.

Wellington will be constructed as a 'portable city' in a work by Yin Xiu-Zhen, who recreates cities in suitcases. Wellington will be displayed alongside suitcase-bound representations of Guangzhou and New York and will emit the sounds of Wellington's streets.

*Concrete Horizons* is supported by funding from Asia 2000/Museums Aotearoa and is part of the 2004 New Zealand International Arts Festival. There will be a comprehensive public programme including artist talks, a Chinese film series and a public forum at which leading commentators will discuss issues explored in this exhibition.

Email: [Emily.Cormack@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:Emily.Cormack@vuw.ac.nz)  
Tel: + 64 4 463 5229  
[www.vuw.ac.nz/adamartgal](http://www.vuw.ac.nz/adamartgal)

## Physics teachers get lectured

Was it a case of the teachers teaching the lecturers or the lecturers lecturing the teachers?

Either way, the meeting of Wellington's 43 physics teachers with physics staff from the School of Chemical & Physical Sciences and the MacDiarmid Institute for Advanced Materials and Nanotechnology resulted in both parties being more clued up by the end of the day.

"It was timely to get together again as the introduction of the NCEA qualification framework has meant changes for secondary schools, which will flow on to affect students enrolling at Victoria for 2005," says Gillian Turner, Physics Lecturer and co-organiser of the day.

"The day was important to us to find out what knowledge future students will have when they come to Victoria. It also helped the teachers by introducing them to our staff, world-class facilities and research strengths."



Gillian says that a major aim of the day was to illustrate to teachers that studying physics is just the start of a wide variety of careers for their students.

"We hoped to have helped teachers to open their students' eyes to the potential career paths for physics graduates—fields as diverse as information technology, computer science, and earth and environmental science."

Email: [Gillian.Turner@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:Gillian.Turner@vuw.ac.nz)  
Tel: +64 4 463 6478

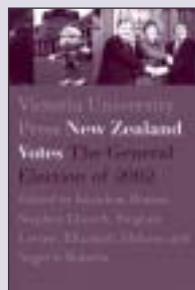


# Victoria University Press

### New Zealand Votes: The General Election of 2002

Edited by Jonathan Boston, Stephen Church, Stephen Levine, Elizabeth McLeay and Nigel S Roberts

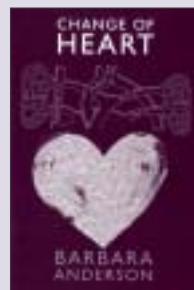
Edited by staff from the Politics programme, this book looks at the 2001 election campaign, which was dominated by bizarre events including 'paintergate', 'corngate' and Peter Dunne's 'overnight success' after 18 years in Parliament. It includes a CD-Rom of debates and ads from the campaign.



### Change of Heart

Barbara Anderson

Creative Writing graduate Barbara Anderson brings us the story of Oliver Gurth Perkins, a 75-year-old dentist who has an easy companionship with his wife; his son is a decent enough sort; and his granddaughter who comes for the school holidays is a delight. But when a minor heart episode convinces Oliver that it's time to put a little more time into the lives of those close to him, further shocks are in store.



### Obedient Servants?

Management Freedoms and Accountabilities in the New Zealand Public Sector

Richard Norman

Business-like control systems that seek to let managers manage and hold them accountable for results have been a feature of New Zealand's public management model since the late 1980s. Richard Norman, a Senior Lecturer with the Victoria Management School, describes the new realities of New Zealand's public management.



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# Festival fever

Victoria continues its involvement in New Zealand's cultural life by sponsoring SchoolFest, a special part of the 2004 New Zealand International Arts Festival.

SchoolFest is an opportunity for school students to experience the extraordinary variety of performances and activities offered by the Festival in Wellington. Through SchoolFest, students can attend performances at a discounted rate, see shows and visual arts in their school or community and also receive a free programme to accompany each event.

This is the third time that Victoria has sponsored the SchoolFest programme, which has been expanded to include workshops covering a range of areas including design, costumes and directing.

**SchoolFest is an opportunity for school students to experience the extraordinary variety of performances and activities offered by the Festival in Wellington**

Victoria is also running an online competition for students attending SchoolFest events to submit reviews on performances they see over the course of the Festival. They have the chance to win CD and book vouchers every day and go into the weekly draw to win their school a \$200 voucher. Each school attending a SchoolFest event has been supplied with a video resource to help students learn how to review effectively with tips and guidelines from journalists at Victoria's student magazine, *Salient*, the Wellington theatre community and reviewers from local newspapers.

As part of the University-wide commitment to arts and culture, Victoria Continuing Education Te Whare Pūkenga, the University's centre for professional and personal development, is offering seminars to link participants to the writers involved in Writers and Readers Week—one of the many events held during the Festival. Lecturers from the School of English, Film & Theatre will present three seminars that will introduce the audience to the works of each of the writers involved. An introduction to the Telecom opera, *The Elixir of Love*, will also be offered.



[www.vuw.ac.nz/schoolfest](http://www.vuw.ac.nz/schoolfest)  
[www.vuw.ac.nz/conted/courses](http://www.vuw.ac.nz/conted/courses)

## Politics in his blood

The achievements of noted Victoria political scientist Associate Professor Rod Alley were celebrated at the Fourth Wellington Conference on World Affairs in December.

The conference, organised by the University's Political Science & International Relations programme, focused on New Zealand's role in world affairs and marked Rod's retirement.

Rod says he's particularly pleased that Rt Hon Sir Geoffrey Palmer introduced his address on New Zealand foreign policy, as the two began their academic careers at Victoria as politics lecturers.

"I remember in 1968, Geoff and I had both given radio interviews downtown and we decided to pop into the National Party Conference. Before we could even get in, Prime Minister Keith Holyoake met us at the door, shook our hands and said: 'Wonderful to see you men. When you get back to your electorates tell them what a magnificent job this Government is doing.' Little did Holyoake know that he was shaking the hand of a future fellow Prime Minister."

Looking back over a career that spans nearly 40 years, Rod says the programme is in good health.

"We're publishing more and the standard of work from our top students is better than ever. We have good relationships downtown with the key people and agencies in Government, which is so important to our teaching and research."

Rod's research and teaching has been wide-ranging and covered areas as diverse as nuclear disarmament, the United Nations, ANZUS, South Pacific and Fijian politics, New Zealand politics, and the role of the Prime Minister. His latest research has focused on the links between domestic politics, warfare and international relations.

His interest in politics was probably destined by genetics. His uncle was well-known peace activist Rewi Alley and his grandmother, Clara Alley, was involved in the women's rights and temperance movements and was a friend of New Zealand suffragist Kate Sheppard.



▲ Long time politicos Rod Alley and Geoffrey Palmer.

Email: [Roderic.Alley@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:Roderic.Alley@vuw.ac.nz)  
Tel: +64 4 472 1000



# Fellowship of the poets

Poetry fever took centre stage in Wellington when Viggo Mortensen, one of the stars of *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy, took part in a poetry reading for Victoria's International Institute of Modern Letters (IIML) in November.

The fundraising event raised more than \$50,000 for the Institute's new Scholarship Endowment Fund, which will help students with their fees for the limited-entry creative writing course.

Bill Manhire, Director of the IIML, introduced the evening, which also featured recent graduates of the Creative Writing programme: Hinemoana Baker, Cliff Fell and Tusiata Avia. Each graduate captured the audience's attention with poems selected from their published collections, completed while students on the course.

Viggo Mortensen took to the stage last, engaging the audience with a selection of

his own poems, which he read in English, Danish and Spanish, and works from a variety of poets including Bill Manhire's *How to Take Off Your Clothes at the Picnic*.

He described the opportunity to share the stage with the four New Zealand poets as a dream, telling the audience that he had been surprised and delighted by how much poetry he had found and enjoyed in New Zealand while he was filming.

The poetry reading was originally scheduled for the City Gallery's theatre to coincide with the launch of one of Mortensen's photography exhibitions, but ticket sales proved so popular that the event was

eventually held at Wellington's Paramount Theatre with a capacity crowd of more than 500 people.

The IIML is an international centre for creative writing and was founded by Glenn Schaeffer, an American philanthropist and literary activist. The centre is co-headquartered at Victoria University and the University of Nevada and has centres at a number of American campuses including the prestigious Iowa Writers' Workshop.

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