

# Victorious

MAGAZINE FOR FRIENDS AND ALUMNI OF VICTORIA UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON



## AUTUMN 2005

### Vocal victory

Lexus Song Quest success

### Disaster story

Foreign aid and the media

### Design-led future

Students take the reins

### Through our eyes

Young Māori picture their world

**Victoria**  
UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON

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



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▲ Jo Hoare with a New Zealand common gecko.

Photograph: Jo Hoare.

# Radio gecko

They're quiet, sometimes green, and always hard to be seen. It is not surprising that not a lot is known about New Zealand geckos—many of which are struggling to survive against introduced predators.

Ecology PhD candidate, Jo Hoare, is doing her best to find out more about these secretive lizards, and is employing modern radio tracking technology to help her.

Jo is using tiny radio transmitters, which weigh less than one gram, to track the movement patterns of geckos on islands that do and don't have rats.

"I'm comparing data from the different islands to establish whether the geckos have changed their habitat use and movement patterns as a result of introduced mammals, such as rats. To do this I have to find the geckos in the wild—which is a task in itself—and then attach the tiny transmitters using specially designed 'backpacks'."

Jo then spends a week closely monitoring the positions of the geckos. Her results indicate that geckos may have altered their habitat use to avoid rats.

"Geckos living on the islands with rats seem to be more wary of people, suggesting greater predator awareness."



▲ A Marlborough green gecko with its radio transmitter attached.

Understanding how New Zealand's 40 species of geckos are affected by mammals is important to ensuring their future survival.

"The introduction of mammals has been catastrophic for geckos and other lizards. We have already witnessed extinctions and severe population declines in some species. The more we learn about the geckos' behaviour, the more we will be able to help them."

New Zealand's geckos are unique. They give birth to live young, whereas almost every other species around the world lays eggs, and they live for up to 42 years in the wild—the longest in the world. Their extreme longevity and low reproductive output makes populations particularly susceptible to predation by introduced mammals.

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

## From the Chancellor



To be elected as the chancellor of any university, steeped as the role is in centuries-old tradition, is an honour. To be elected as Chancellor of Victoria University of Wellington is a special honour.

On a personal level, and to draw on the name of Victoria's marae, Te Herenga Waka, my family long ago hitched its canoe to this University. My great-uncle enrolled as a student at Victoria College 100 years ago, beginning a family association that has seen five generations of students, four members of staff and several members of Council participate in its life. I enrolled as a student in 1951 and, apart from five years away, I have been here ever since.

The election means I also have the chance to work closely with our new Vice-Chancellor Professor Pat Walsh. The Council looked widely for someone with the mana to take on the role and I was delighted, although not surprised, when the strongest applicant was an internal one. Having recently produced vice-chancellors for Waikato, Otago, Canterbury and Auckland universities, it was about time we produced one for Victoria.

Victoria is a special institution. As the last of the New Zealand universities to be established in the 19th century it had humble beginnings. While the struggle for funding seems almost eternal, it no longer struggles for recognition. It is a University that plays a key role in building a society where intellect is respected for its contribution, not only to our material well-being, but above all to liberal and humane values.

Finally, in February the Council adopted the 2004 Annual Report. I would urge graduates and friends to read of Victoria's many achievements online at [www.vuw.ac.nz/annualreports](http://www.vuw.ac.nz/annualreports)

*Tim Beaglehole*

Tim Beaglehole  
Chancellor

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Editorial team: Kate Fox, Rob Lee, Nancy Linton, Antony Paltridge, Jude Ulrich, Anita Vallely, Vicky Young. Photographs (unless otherwise credited): Image Services, Victoria University of Wellington.

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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

Janet and Nick ►  
outside  
Hutt Hospital.

## Marketing insight to hospital service

Principles often used in studying retail businesses have been used by School of Marketing & International Business researchers to uncover for the first time how hospitals can ensure complaints are properly resolved.

Senior Lecturer Dr Nick Ashill and Lecturers Janet Carruthers and Jayne Krisjanous surveyed 152 receptionists, nurses and other frontline staff in Wellington's Hutt Hospital and 101 similar staff in four private Wellington hospitals.

"The care that patients receive in hospitals has been a major public concern in recent years. For hospitals, their staff and patients, it would be better for everyone if complaints about service were quickly resolved by frontline staff instead of escalating into formal disputes," says Nick.

"In commerce, the concept of 'service recovery performance' has been applied in businesses such as banks to find out what conditions are needed to ensure frontline staff can resolve complaints. Given Janet and Jayne had both worked in the public health sector, we decided to apply those principles to hospitals for the first time."

In the public hospital setting, the research revealed that if staff were working in a strong team environment, were committed to the organisation, felt they were empowered and their roles were clear, then they were far more likely to believe they were satisfactorily resolving complaints.

Nick says the research has been welcomed by hospital managers. "In some cases, it provided hard evidence that backed up their gut feelings. But in other areas, it has

suggested ways service delivery at the frontline can be improved."

The team is planning to carry out face-to-face interviews with frontline staff and patients to provide greater insight into their work.

Email: [Nicholas.Ashill@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:Nicholas.Ashill@vuw.ac.nz)  
Tel: +64 4 463 5430



## Media aid

How much does news media coverage influence the allocation of humanitarian aid when disaster strikes?

Dr Douglas van Belle, Senior Lecturer in Media Studies in the School of English, Film & Theatre, has explored the role the news media plays in influencing the level of international response to natural disasters such as the Sahel Drought in Africa during the 1980s.

By analysing the relationship between the aid offered and the United States news media coverage of disasters

that occurred between 1964 and 1995, Doug and colleagues at the University of Missouri and Florida International University have established that the level of coverage of a disaster in *The New York Times* appears to increase the amount of aid distributed by about \$US500,000.

"Policy-makers don't look to the media for information, they look at what is being covered as a measure of public perception, and adjust their aid accordingly," says Doug.

"Even when you take the magnitude of the disaster and other factors such as the number of people killed or left homeless, and the relative wealth of the country into account, we found the volume of media coverage directly correlates to a substantial increase in the

aid that a country would otherwise have received."

These findings are part of a series of research projects that Doug is conducting on the connections between news media, disasters and public policy and his projects on race and media coverage are beginning to generate results.

Doug is continuing his research by expanding the database of media clippings up to 2004. He also has plans to look at New Zealand coverage of ethnic groups from 1850-2005 to explore some long-term changes that can be traced through the media.

Email: [Doug.VanBelle@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:Doug.VanBelle@vuw.ac.nz)



# Religious rights

The rise of the religious right in Australia under the Howard Government has been a neat fit for a government that stresses market capitalism and a privatised economy over social welfare and collective responsibility, according to Dr Marion Maddox, Senior Lecturer in the School of Art History, Classics & Religious Studies.

Marion's latest work, *God Under Howard*, explores how American-style evangelicalism has been able to take hold in Australian society, to the extent that issues such as abortion, creationism and family values are now on the political agenda, in a country that does not share the same religious convictions as America.

"Australians are not used to looking for religious currents in their politics, and this is why Howard has been able to push his agenda without many people realising what the rhetoric of his Government means for Australian society.

"My research indicates that the Howard Government has used sophisticated techniques to push the agenda of the religious right onto Australians, through subtle changes of Federal funding, legislation and a carefully constructed media image of Howard himself.

"Much has been made of Howard's Methodist upbringing but I think he sees political advantage in depicting his conservatism as religiously based, when the weight of evidence suggests his childhood religion tended in a quite different political direction."

Marion argues that one of the keys to Howard's repeated electoral successes is his skilful blending of market liberalism with a conservative social agenda, and that religion has played a particular part in that blend.

"Even though the proportion of Australians who identify with the conservative, 'prosperity gospel' end of the Christian spectrum is very small, religiously-inflected language helps convey a sense of philosophical cohesion to the blend of two strands which otherwise sit uncomfortably together."

New Zealand's MMP electoral system, which gives greater incentive to 'boutique' parties catering to special interests, such as those on the religious right, means that such patterns are unlikely to be replicated here. However, the contribution the language of Christian conservatism has made to the electoral landscape in a country as secular as Australia, means it is just as likely that New Zealand may develop its own version of religiously-inflected politics in the future, she says.

Email: [Marion.Maddox@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:Marion.Maddox@vuw.ac.nz)  
Tel: +64-4-463 5590



## Evolving thoughts

Humans and chimpanzees may have started out as similar creatures but "something unusual" happened along the evolutionary chain to give humans a huge advantage.

That's the theory of Philosophy Professor Kim Sterelny, who has won the prestigious Lakatos Award for his book *Thought in a Hostile World: The Evolution of Human Cognition*.

"Humans are very strange chimps indeed," says Kim. "We are not just more technological than other apes, we are much more co-operative as well.

"Our language is an aspect of that co-operation: sharing information is just as much an act of co-operation as hunting collectively or sharing food and shelter.

"The crucial development in our evolution has been our practice of modifying our own environments and those of our children. Those modifications began a feedback loop that made us increasingly unlike our chimp cousins."

The Lakatos Award of £10,000 is an international prize presented to individuals for an outstanding contribution to the philosophy of science. The Award is in memory of Imre Lakatos (1922-1974), who pursued investigations in the philosophy of mathematics and science at Cambridge University and the London School of Economics.

This is the first time the Award has been presented to a Southern Hemisphere philosopher.

"The intellectual centre of gravity may be in the United States, but winning this Award proves that you can make a difference as an academic while living in Australasia," Kim says.

He delivered a special Award lecture at the London School of Economics in April and has made useful contacts in Britain and the US.

A new book, incorporating some new developments in the fields of psychology, anthropology and neuroscience, is planned for 2007-8.

Email: [Kim.Sterelny@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:Kim.Sterelny@vuw.ac.nz)



## The life and times of a telco network

A world-first network management tool, developed with the help of Victoria's School of Mathematics, Statistics & Computer Science, is aiding in the optimisation of one of New Zealand's telecommunications networks with an eye to Next Generation technology.

Senior Lecturer, Dr Peter Komisarczuk, an expert in telecommunications and network management, is part of a multi-disciplinary collaborative research team, including Auckland University, Telecom New Zealand Ltd, Repair Group Ltd, NEC New Zealand and Alcatel.

The team was assembled by Wellington-based MediaLab South Pacific and led by Telecom to investigate and develop a new predictive tool to forecast component expiry dates and help plan network lifecycles.

Statistical and mathematical modelling techniques were central to the nine-month long project, which included close work with Telecom's marketing, technical and management staff.

"We took their business, services, network technology and process requirements and devised a tool enabling them to keep better track of network deployment and determine life-cycle expectancy of Telecom's current equipment," says Peter.

"My engagement was from the perspective of getting a handle on the network technology and to determine the impact of 'what if?' scenarios on the modelling."

Peter says the network management tool is part of a much larger project looking at Telecom's existing technology base and how they migrate in the future to Next Generation technologies.

The quality of the project team and resulting reports has been applauded by Nathan Blewitt, Investment Manager in Telecom's Technology Investment Group.

"The academic participation gave the project fresh thinking and intellectual rigour that enabled Telecom to build a model that both helps enhance our current asset management and aid planning investment for Next Generation technology," Nathan says.

The project is ongoing with a view to extending the tool's functionality.

Email: [Peter.Komisarczuk@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:Peter.Komisarczuk@vuw.ac.nz)

## Should auld acquaintance be forgot?

There's a highland pipe band in nearly every New Zealand town, our universities follow the Scottish model and our language can be a 'wee' bit Scottish, but there has been little research conducted on the effects of our Scottish forebears on today's society—until now.

The Irish-Scottish Studies Programme, within Victoria's Stout Research Centre, has begun the first in-depth research project into Scottish migration with a \$510,000 grant from the Marsden Fund.

Dr Brad Patterson, Director of the Irish-Scottish Studies Programme, says Scottish people accounted for up to a quarter of New Zealand migrants in the century before 1950. But they remain the least studied of New Zealand's major ethnic groups.

"In the early part of the 20th Century, New Zealanders of Scottish origin knew exactly where their ancestors were from, as they were just one or two generations away from the original migrants. As time passed they lost those links and became part of an amorphous 'British' mass.

"Our research will significantly increase knowledge of the Scots as a New Zealand migrant group and demonstrate that past emphasis on New Zealand as an homogenous 'British' nation has been misleading. We will also consider how the Scots-born and their descendents became New Zealand Scots, which cultural elements were preserved, and the nature of new traditions."



The project involves major collaboration with researchers at the University of Aberdeen, Scotland, other New Zealand universities and genealogical societies.

"After using statistical records to create demographic migrant profiles, we will conduct about ten case studies of well-known Scottish settlements around New Zealand, including the Highland settlement of Turakina and the Shetland settlement of Karamea.

"The final part of the research will determine what Scottish things have become entrenched in New Zealand culture. These could include aspects of language, food, town lay-out, place names, the introduction of plants and animals, music and dance—to name a few."

Email: [Brad.Patterson@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:Brad.Patterson@vuw.ac.nz)  
Tel: +64-4-463 5132





## Technology taken for a spin

Industries from food to construction stand to be enhanced by the commercialisation of technology created by researchers at Victoria and Massey universities and internationally marketed in a unique joint venture company.

Magritek Ltd has been formed to commercialise the results of the research by a team of scientists from the two universities led by renowned physicist Professor Paul Callaghan, director of the MacDiarmid Institute for Advanced Materials & Nanotechnology, a Government-funded Centre of Research Excellence hosted by Victoria, and Robin Dykstra, an electronics engineer at Massey in Palmerston North.

Manager Dr Andrew Coy runs the spin-off company housed at the Wellington Business Incubator 'T-Up'. A past PhD student of Paul's with commercial experience, Andrew took on the position from the company's inception.

Paul, Robin and fellow inventors Dr Craig Eccles and Mark Hunter are all shareholders in the company, with substantial start-up capital provided by Victoria Link Ltd (VicLink) and Massey Holdings Ltd. Magritek is the first recipient of funding from VicLink's Commercialisation Fund, set up in 2004 to invest in promising Intellectual Property discoveries and inventions initiated at the University.

Andrew says Magritek was established to realise the potential of Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) technology, where samples are placed in a magnetic field, causing the nuclei of certain atoms to resonate in a particular way. By firing a short pulse of radio waves, the waves that come back can tell scientists a lot about the sample.

"Current NMR technology, such as that used in research laboratories, is cumbersome, as it requires large magnets and coils to generate a magnetic field. They're expensive and impractical for 'out of the laboratory' applications.

"Our products are leading edge as they use several unique technologies such as using the Earth's own magnetic field to act as the magnet. The result is products that are portable and accessible to a range of new markets.

"We're developing devices to measure moisture levels in buildings and concrete, an expensive problem the building industry faces, that has been very much in the headlines. It could also be used for fruit inspection as well as for devices that allow university students and research scientists to understand the principles of NMR."



▲ Andrew with a Magritek product.

Email: [sales@magritek.com](mailto:sales@magritek.com)  
Tel: +64-4-920 7671  
[www.magritek.com](http://www.magritek.com)

## Texan connections

A potential new anti-cancer drug discovered by Victoria scientists is taking a critical step towards clinical trials thanks to an international licence agreement with prestigious United States partners.

Dr Peter Northcote, and then PhD student, Dr Lyndon West, with colleagues from the Schools of Chemical & Physical Sciences and Biological Sciences, discovered the novel potential anti-cancer agent in marine sponges from Pelorus Sound in 1999.

Peloruside has been patented in the US by Victoria Link Ltd (VicLink), Victoria University's commercial arm. The University of Texas Southwestern (UTSW), a leading academic medical research institution with four active Nobel Laureates

on its faculty, and Reata Pharmaceuticals Inc, a Dallas-based biopharmaceutical company, saw Peloruside's potential and signed a three way agreement with VicLink to further develop it.

Peloruside shares a molecular target with Taxol, a cancer therapy agent developed for use against ovarian and breast cancer. Taxol commands gross sales of more than \$US2 billion a year, but the pharmaceutical industry is searching for a replacement with improved properties. Peloruside is one compound being assessed as a second generation Taxol-like anti-cancer agent.

The research has been supported by generous grants from the Foundation for Research, Science & Technology, the

New Zealand Cancer Society and the Wellington Medical Research Foundation. But Peter says progressing the research to this stage would simply not be possible without international linkages.

"Combined early research is providing promising results, showing that Peloruside retains potent activity in cells that are highly resistant to other drugs in use."

UTSW researchers synthesised the compound, while work continues in New Zealand cultivating aquaculture to provide a continuing supply of Peloruside without depleting the marine sponges' natural stock. Reata has started a pre-clinical development programme, and hopes to move to clinical trials as early as 2007.

Email: [viclink@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:viclink@vuw.ac.nz)  
Tel: +64-4-463 5135



## Chilean ties

From left, student Tony Chandler, ►  
Warwick, and Robinson Lafferte,  
a local grape exporter, in a  
Chilean vineyard.



Chile has been a growing focus for New Zealand's business and political interests over the last 15 years. New Zealand companies have invested in forestry, fisheries and the dairy industry, and the two governments' development of the Closer Economic Partnership (CEP) agreement has provided significant opportunities for industry and the education sectors in both countries to develop closer research and economic links.

Victoria has been working on a range of research collaborations and scholarship initiatives with universities in Chile and will also play an active role in monitoring the impacts of the CEP, which will be co-ordinated by Senior Lecturer Dr Warwick Murray, and colleagues in the School of Earth Sciences.

Warwick co-ordinated a conference at Victoria in April that explored the rationale and potential outcomes of the CEP from several perspectives, with delegates from New Zealand, Britain and Chile taking part in the discussions.

Warwick completed his PhD research on the Chilean fruit sector in the mid-1990s, and has retained close interest in the country's development. He returned in 2004 to produce a 10-year follow-up to his research on the impacts of Chilean economic reforms on rural development, particularly in the highly successful fruit export sector.

"Transnational companies have consolidated their hold on small scale farmers, and many of the farmers have been squeezed out of their sector given the demands of global trade networks," says Warwick.

"My role in monitoring the development of the CEP will be to observe the regions of Chile where there will be specific impacts and develop sustainable development recommendations to help policy-makers in their work."

Warwick is also supervising five Master of Development Studies students who are exploring various aspects of Chilean society from the fruit sector and the wine industry, to poverty reduction schemes and the impact of free-trade on Chile's indigenous population. Two students are from Chile on NZAID scholarships. The University has also recently hosted

two final year medical students from the University of Valparaíso who have been working with Dr Darren Day in the School of Biological Sciences.

Research links with Chile span other Victoria Schools, with Associate Professor Jonathan Gardner, from the School of Biological Sciences, working closely with colleagues from the University of Concepcion on mussel aquaculture research. Jonathan will also be co-teaching an international aquaculture class in Chile next year, where students from Chile, Peru, Argentina and hopefully New Zealand, will take part.

The Schools of Architecture and Design are also exploring research opportunities in timber construction, and will be introducing a translated software package later this year to Chilean architecture schools.

Dean of Science and Pro Vice-Chancellor, Professor David Bibby, says Chile and New Zealand share primary product

export economies, and compete across the wine, fruit, dairy and forestry sectors.

"It was clear from the conference that the CEP is going to increase our potential for collaboration on a variety of science and social science research fronts. Economically, there will also be a multitude of opportunities for companies within both countries to work together to present their products to third parties.

"New Zealand is seen as a prime study destination within the South Pacific by Chileans, and by continuing to develop agreements with partner universities in Chile, such as the PhD scholarship agreement with the Chilean National Commission of Science & Technology signed in 2004, we aim to encourage more students to consider Victoria in the future."

Email: [Warwick.Murray@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:Warwick.Murray@vuw.ac.nz)  
Tel: +64-4-463 5029



▲ Delegates at the conference in April





## Through our eyes

Māori teenagers are using photography to convey the important aspects of their lives in an innovative research project by He Pārekereke, the Institute for Research and Māori Development within the School of Education Studies.

Supported by Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga, the National Institute of Research Excellence for Māori Development & Advancement, the research involves loaning six young Māori in Bream Bay (Ngāpuhi), Turangi (Ngāti Tūwharetoa), Porirua (Ngāti Toa) and Kaiapoi (Ngai Tahu) digital cameras to photograph the important things in their lives according to a set of key concepts.

The photography has been followed up with in-depth interviews to fully understand and interpret the imagery, says Senior Lecturer Dr Joanna Kidman.

“Young people often have difficulty putting into words what is significant in their lives. But through photography they’re providing us with unique information about their lives in the cities, small towns and rural farmlands. The images vary from friends having fun by break-dancing to intimate pictures of family relationships to quite bleak views of school corridors. Intriguing images of birds flying away and of a crow, we were later told, symbolised friends who had committed suicide.”

Joanna says the research has shown the importance of the young people’s whānau and iwi in their lives. “There are stereotypes of young Māori but our research has shown that they are just that, stereotypes, and that the reality is far more complex. Many young people that mainstream society would dismiss as ‘drop outs’ are often at the centre of their communities.”

The research will be invaluable to policy-makers and there are plans to publish the photographs. “Most researchers tend to work at the macro level, seeking to find similarities between large groups of people. While there is a place for that, it often means that young people’s lives are taken out of context and the intimate and complex interactions that occur at the individual level are lost.”

Bream Bay’s  
Moirā  
Pitman-Smith  
and Julian  
Thompson  
check out  
their cameras.



Email: [Joanna.Kidman@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:Joanna.Kidman@vuw.ac.nz)  
Tel: +64-4-463 5882  
[www.vuw.ac.nz/throughoureyes](http://www.vuw.ac.nz/throughoureyes)

## Protecting paradise

A remote group of islands with pristine waters teeming with exotic sea life may sound like your perfect holiday destination—but the Kermadec Islands are far too special for everyday tourists.



▲ A sea urchin found in the waters around the Kermadec Islands.

Research conducted by Victoria’s Centre for Marine Environmental & Economic Research aims to ensure this unique and biologically important New Zealand marine reserve will survive despite the increasing impact of humans on the world’s oceans.

Centre Director, Associate Professor Jonathan Gardner, says it’s important to understand exactly how the Kermadecs’ ecosystem functions.

“The Kermadecs are New Zealand’s only truly sub-tropical region with a unique community of species. Because of the remoteness of the reserve, very little is known about the structure of the sea life.

“It’s crucial that we learn more so we have a ‘contingency plan’ in case of any future ecological disturbance, such as an oil spill or the introduction of an invasive species.”

Jonathan and his team have recently returned from a three-week trip to the Kermadecs where they began their survey.

“We have begun carefully mapping the waters to see exactly what is there, what eats what, and how everything interrelates.”

Technical officer, Joanne Long, says collecting information underwater was an amazing experience, with so many large friendly fish surrounding her.

“It’s incredible how big fish grow without the pressure of commercial fishing. I had large Galapagos sharks and giant spotted black groper swimming all around me. We also saw many pods of dolphins and humpback whales.”

The research coincides with the recent resurrection of the Government’s Oceans Policy, which aims to ensure consistent management of the oceans within New Zealand’s jurisdiction, says Jonathan.

“Because the Kermadecs are New Zealand’s largest marine reserve our findings will certainly become a valuable resource.”

The Centre is preparing a bid for Government funding to continue its research, in collaboration with the Department of Conservation, The Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa and the Cawthron Institute.

Email: [Jonathan.Gardner@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:Jonathan.Gardner@vuw.ac.nz)  
Tel: +64-4-463 5574



# Preserved peaks

Associate Professors Tim Stern and Tim Little, from the School of Earth Sciences, turn to mountains in Antarctica and New Zealand to explore what's going on deep below the surface of the Earth and in its climate.

New research from Tim Stern and his team at Victoria provides evidence of just how much climate can affect the height of mountain ranges.

In polar climates, glaciers up to 30km wide slide through the terrain, cutting deep into valleys and chiselling out new paths for the flow of rocky debris that they carry. This incisional erosion lightens the load on the Earth's crust and causes rock under it to flow upwards to even out the pressure. As a result, uplift occurs over a wide region and mountain peaks adjacent to the large glaciers rise.

"For 15 million years, Antarctica's mountains have been completely frozen, so the tops of the mountains don't erode in the same way as they do in temperate regions like New Zealand where they are exposed to a wider range of elements," says Tim.

Using the Transantarctic Mountains in eastern Antarctica as their model, Tim and his team assumed most of the range's unusually strong relief came from glacial erosion and used digital terrain models to reconstruct its original shape.

"Our findings suggest the rebound can account for as much as 2000m or 50 percent of peak elevation in the central Transantarctic Mountains, which is much more substantial than rebound due to glaciation in mid-latitude areas."

The results were recently reported in the Geological Society of America's journal, *Geology*, and the team is now working on expanding their climate research by developing a model in collaboration with United States colleagues, which will be applied to the Himalayas later this year.



▲ The Transantarctic Mountains between Beardmore and Nimrod Glaciers.



▲ Bauman Glacier on the west side of Franz Josef Glacier.

Tim Little, Senior Lecturer Julie Vry, and colleagues from the Institute of Geological & Nuclear Research and the University of London haven't had to delve deep below the surface of the Earth to provide an answer for why one of New Zealand's most active faults is notorious for its lack of earthquakes.

The Alpine Fault, which runs on-land for about 600km from Milford Sound through Aoraki Mt Cook, Franz and Fox glaciers, and on to Wairau Valley, is pushing up rocks from 30km below the surface, providing a natural laboratory of samples from the lower crust.

"It's not often that you can see such changes in the rocks, but because it's an active zone, there's no need to drill to bring up the evidence—nature is doing it for us, providing an excellent environment for research," says Tim.

The team's research suggests there is a restraining bulge in the fault's surface that strengthens or interlocks the two sides of the fault against each other. The slightly steeper inclination of the fault in this area can also explain the high rates of rock uplift expressed by the elevated topography of Aoraki Mt Cook and the surrounding region of the glaciers.

"Our interpretation is that this bulge has acted like a sticking point, allowing extra plate tectonic pressure to accumulate, but not allowing that strain to be released easily in small earthquakes.

"By understanding more about the shape and structure of the fault, we can relate it back to the visible landscape, and explain why rocks move at different rates to come to the surface to influence the heights of mountains and glaciers in the region."

Email: [Tim.Stern@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:Tim.Stern@vuw.ac.nz)

Email: [Tim.Little@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:Tim.Little@vuw.ac.nz)



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 5072

## Legal legacy

The remarkable career of one of New Zealand's most distinguished legal professionals has inspired friends and colleagues to set up a scholarship fund in his name.

Dr Colin Aikman, CBE, who died in 2002, made an important contribution to the New Zealand legal profession and, in particular, to constitutional development in the South Pacific.

Family, friends and former colleagues of Colin's have come together, through the Victoria University of Wellington Foundation, to establish an Award to provide opportunities for School of Law students at Victoria. The campaign is being spearheaded by international jurist Sir Kenneth Keith and will support study towards a Master of Laws degree in constitutional law, human rights, international law or issues affecting the South Pacific.

Colin's widow, Betty Aikman, says the Award will recognise his significant input to the School between 1955 and 1967, when he was Professor of Constitutional Law and also served as Dean of Law.

"He introduced some major changes during that period, when the School was changing from a 'night school' to an all-day institution. The establishment of the junior lecturer position,

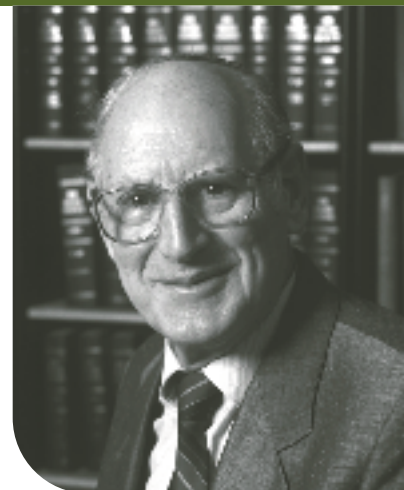
for example, made it possible for students to pursue postgraduate studies."

Colin gained an LLM from Victoria in 1942 and a PhD from the London School of Economics. He then went on to play a significant role in many important New Zealand diplomatic initiatives. He was a member of the delegation that attended the United Nations founding conference in 1945 and took part in the drafting of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights at the United Nations General Assembly, in Paris, in 1948.

Colin's 12-year period at Victoria followed, during which time he worked on the constitutional development of the Cook Islands and Niue, and drafted the Constitution of Samoa. He then became the first Vice-Chancellor of the University of South Pacific, in Fiji.

He served as High Commissioner to India and Bangladesh and Ambassador to Nepal before retiring in 1979. He then became the Director of the Institute for International Affairs for the next six years. He was a member of numerous organisations, including Volunteer Service Abroad and the Norman Kirk Memorial Trust.

He was made a Commander of the British Empire in 1990 and awarded an honorary Doctor of Laws from Victoria in 1992.



## Hunter slates



The call for alumni and friends to donate \$100 to the Hunter Scholarship Fund in return for a unique slate from the Hunter Building's original roof has been enthusiastically taken up.

Victoria University Foundation Fundraising Manager, Wendy Lawson, says 220 people have donated \$38,000 to the Scholarship Fund. The fund was launched last year to mark the centenary of the laying of the foundation stone of the Hunter Building.

"Many alumni have donated \$100 in return for a slate from the roof of the much loved historic building. Some have taken two or three slates as they each come in a presentation box and make an ideal gift."

The slates are individually numbered and have caught the attention of people from all over the world who wish to have their own "piece of history".

Wellington businessman, Gary Dickinson, has donated funds in return for seven slates that are displayed in his home. "The aesthetically pleasing slates depict a part of a major Wellington institution and I am pleased to know that the funds are going directly to help current students," he says.

Wendy says Hunter slates are still available. Donations to the Fund can either be made on the Foundation's website or by calling the Foundation.

Tel: +64-4-463 6497  
[www.vuw.ac.nz/foundation](http://www.vuw.ac.nz/foundation)



## Mathematical investment

A mathematics teacher's commitment to furthering mathematical education throughout his lifetime will continue through a trust that will provide opportunities for students at Victoria.

The late Bill Vaughan taught at Onslow College, and was also an active member of the Wellington Mathematical Association. Bill worked tirelessly to produce model solutions for Scholarship exams, which were then bought by schools to prepare hopeful students for the end-of-year exams. This commitment extended to Bill personally typing the solutions onto stencils and reproducing them on a Gestetner copying machine in his garage.

The income generated from this detailed work was invested prudently by a fellow mathematics teacher, Fred McCausland, one of the trustees of the Bill Vaughan Trust who, along with fellow trustee Trevor Boyle, decided to donate the income to Victoria University after Bill's death in 2002.

"We decided to donate the income to the Victoria University of Wellington Foundation to ensure that the fund continued to be administered for the benefit of students studying mathematics," says Fred.

"The Foundation's resources mean that the fund will continue to be looked after and the bequest also provides some

flexibility, to ensure that the income can be utilised in the best way for developing mathematics amongst Victoria's students in the future."

Gareth Westerskov, 18, from Tauranga, is the first recipient of the WH (Bill) Vaughan Trust Scholarship, which awards a promising mathematics student up to \$2,500 towards their mathematics major at Victoria.

The WH (Bill) Vaughan Prize for Mathematics, which has been awarded annually since 2000 to the best mathematics student at 300-level, went to Timothy McKenzie, now studying towards an Honours degree in Mathematics.

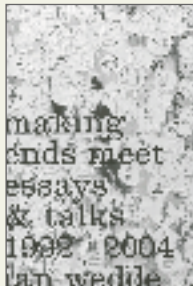


## Books

### Making Ends Meet Essays and Talks 1992-2004

Ian Wedde

Passionate, witty and erudite, these essays and talks disclose persistent questionings of the role of institutions in culture. Ian Wedde was a member of the conceptual team charged with developing The Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa's radical agenda. He came to be closely linked with its aspirations for wide popular appeal, public scholarship and contemporary relevance. *Making Ends Meet* provides a running commentary on the project's pressing cultural issues. He has published novels, short stories, poetry and the book of essays, *How to be Nowhere: Essays and Texts 1971-1994*. A research associate in Victoria's Stout Research Centre for New Zealand Studies, he is the 2005 Meridian Energy Katherine Mansfield Memorial Fellow in Menton, France.



### New Zealand in a Globalising World

Edited by Ralph Pettman

In 2003, Victoria hosted the Fourth Wellington Conference on World Affairs and this book is a collection of papers from that gathering. The theme was 'New Zealand in World Affairs' and focused on three major threads: New Zealand's role in the Pacific, Trans-Tasman relations and New Zealand in a globalising world. Chapters include a discussion and deconstruction of globalisation; the role of diplomacy in a global world; security in Oceania in the post 9/11 era; a survey of diplomacy and politics with regard to nuclear testing by the French; and an investigation of the differing world views held by Australia and New Zealand.



### Hypnic Jerks

Geoff Cochrane

Hypnic jerks occur on the point of sleep when our brains, alarmed by the sensation of falling, send out our limbs to catch us. The poems in *Hypnic Jerks*—especially the two highly innovative stories in verse, 'A Green Jesus' and 'Little Bits of Harry'—seem to come from this zone, in which the settled order of apparent autobiography is disrupted or illuminated by fragments of surreal imagery or language play. Geoff Cochrane is the author of several highly regarded collections of poetry, of which the most recent is *Vanilla Wine*, the novels, *Tin Nimbus* and *Blood*, and two collections of short stories.



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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](mailto:Course-Advice@vuw.ac.nz) Tel: 0800 VIC UNI

## Hi Darling!

A hand-crafted wooden stool, named *Hi Darling*, is on a winning streak, picking up two major design awards for its creator, Go Osaki.

Go, a final year Industrial Design student, has won \$1,500 for first place in the Dowse Art Museum's Student Craft Design Competition and, last year, a trip to Vietnam in a competition organised by New Zealand Trade & Enterprise and the Vietnamese Wood Manufacturers Association.

It was while Go was in Vietnam that *Hi Darling* got its unusual name.

"I was walking on the street in Ho Chi Minh City at night when many beautiful ladies came out from a bar and suddenly called out to me 'Hi Darling, come in!' I didn't have the opportunity to go into the bar, but it was something memorable.

"This incident had something in common with one of the design ideas for the stool. The design expresses the hidden beauty of the material, New Zealand radiata pine, and exposes it as a design element. So the notion of expressing and exposing internal beauty can be seen in both the incident in Vietnam and the design of my stool."



Dowse competition judge, Phyllis Mossman, says Go's design was a "clear winner".

"*Hi Darling* is a visually appealing, flexible and practical flat-pack pine and aluminium stool, obviously influenced by Go's Japanese roots. He took an extremely creative approach to the brief which definitely paid off."

Go created *Hi Darling* as part of Furniture Design, a third year elective for the Bachelor of Design degree.

This year he has a new challenge. Go is taking part in the Government-funded Design Led Futures initiative, where teams of final year students develop innovative product concepts for a real company—this year it's New Zealand tap and showerware manufacturer, Methven.

The students have been asked to explore 'domestic water' from new perspectives to create ideas that are initially challenging and non-conventional, before resolving them as tangible products. At the conclusion of the 14-week project, senior designers from Methven, along with other industry professionals, will attend a presentation by the students. Their ideas will also be published.

Industrial Design Programme Director, Professor Simon Fraser, says Design Led Futures provides an ideal opportunity for the students to interact and collaborate with the best of the New Zealand design industry and also top international design professionals.

"The students thrive when they are creating designs that will be considered by industry, rather than just added to a portfolio. This is real life. Work is reviewed by industry experts, and, thanks to Government funding, we are able to host visiting designers for substantial periods. At the moment we have German designer Dirk Schmauser with us, who was Managing Director of the Porsche Design Studio for 25 years."

◀ Go Osaki and the stool he designed.



▲ A Design Led Futures concept for a fridge, by student Sarah Adams, who has been offered a position with the Fisher & Paykel design team in Dunedin.

Simon says it's an extremely positive signal that both industry and the Government are keen to develop creative talent at an undergraduate level.

"There are huge opportunities opening up in the area of design. The fact that each industry partner is prepared to invest \$50,000 in Design Led Futures, on top of the Tertiary Education Commission funding of \$645,000, is truly unprecedented in New Zealand."

Email: [Simon.Fraser@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:Simon.Fraser@vuw.ac.nz)  
Tel: +64-4-463 6260



## Policing for the future

New Zealand's police are being educated for the future thanks in part to an innovative distance learning programme co-ordinated by Victoria.

Victoria Police Education Programme (VPEP) Director, Jenny Barclay, says the model has much to offer other public sector agencies seeking to integrate diverse education and training needs.

"The police wanted a long-term relationship with a tertiary provider to assess what needed to be taught at the Police College and as part of on-going in-service training, and other areas of learning which were better offered by a tertiary provider.

"Victoria won the contract to enter into this long-term relationship and has been involved in a journey involving changes within Police and the development of new distance teaching and learning responses at the University."

VPEP is now five years old and more than 2,700 police have participated, completing one or more courses alongside their initial training and workplace training requirements.

Since 2000, all sworn officers have had to complete at least one course before the end of their probationary period, while anyone wanting to be promoted to Sergeant has to complete Victoria's Certificate in Contemporary Policing. More than 300 students have graduated already. As well, management courses have been built into Police promotion requirements. Police employees also have access to other programmes included within VPEP that are relevant to specific occupational areas.

Constable Simon Welsh, who completed the Certificate in 2001, says he could not fault the Victoria programme. "The courses were well-structured, the material for assignments was always provided on time and the tutors were excellent, providing constructive feedback and being very contactable."

Simon, who is based at Glen Innes in Auckland, says a tertiary-educated police force is the way of the future.

"Policing is regarded as a profession and if you want a professional police force you need to invest in tertiary education. A modern, well-rounded officer needs to know about cultural awareness, legal issues and human behaviour, especially if they're taking on supervisory roles."

Email: [vpep@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:vpep@vuw.ac.nz)  
Tel: +64-4-463 6948

## Boost for language learners

The teaching of languages at Victoria leapt into the 21st Century earlier this year with the opening of a state-of-the-art classroom kitted out with the latest computer technology in the Language Learning Centre.



▲ Language student, Chen Chen, at work in the new classroom.

Edith Paillat, the Centre's Language Technology Specialist, says the new classroom has 21 networked computers.

"Like a traditional language laboratory, students listen to audio material and make voice recordings to practise their pronunciation and fluency while their lecturer listens and communicates with them, either directly or with the whole group.

"But these computers offer much more. Not only can students use in-house and commercial language software that combines text with audio and video files, but they can also access authentic material on the internet during class, as well as take advantage of online web logs, chat rooms and discussion forums. The room also has a data projector to provide high-quality viewing of video and software presentations on a large screen."

The new classroom is heavily booked and has proven popular with students, lecturers and tutors, she says.

"Teachers have quickly adopted the new technology because it's far more flexible, allowing them to interact with students at different levels and incorporate a wide variety of different media into their teaching. Not only can the students communicate with each other and their lecturer, but anyone in the world."

Part of the University Library since 2002, the Centre supports language and related courses in a dozen languages taught by three Victoria Schools and has resources in about 50 different languages.

As well as the new computer classroom, the Centre also has a conventional audiovisual classroom with a language laboratory and camera equipment for the teaching of Sign Language. For independent learning, there are three self-access areas with facilities that include computers, satellite television, double-track audio recorders, and a quiet study area with access to dictionaries, grammar books and foreign language magazines.

Email: [llc@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:llc@vuw.ac.nz)  
Tel: +64-4-463 5315





## Who's new?

### John Davies

Associate Professor John Davies is the new Head of the Victoria Management School. He has a BSc(Hons) in Applied Mathematics from the University of Wales and an MA in Operational Research from the University of Lancaster. John joined Victoria in 1980 and his teaching and research background is in applied mathematics, operational research and management science. He is involved in directing post-experience management education programmes within the School and also teaches various aspects of decision-making and sports-management. He is a member and former president of the Wellington Rugby Football Union and also served as President of the Ponke Football Club.



### Val Lindsay

Associate Professor Val Lindsay has been appointed as the Head of the School of Marketing & International Business. Val has worked in senior positions with the Tertiary Education Commission, the Trade Development Board and ICI New Zealand, and has consulted on a range of strategic planning and management initiatives. She has an MBA from Victoria and a PhD from the University of Warwick. She joined Victoria in January 2004 after working as a Senior Lecturer in International Business at the University of Auckland. Her research interests include export strategies and organisational development in international business.



### Robert Easting

Professor Robert Easting is the new Head of the School of English, Film & Theatre. After completing his undergraduate degree and doctorate at Oxford University, Robert joined Victoria in 1973. His research focuses on medieval literature and he teaches medieval courses, late 17th and 18th Century literature and the history of the English language. He was instrumental in setting up a specialised Tolkien and Medieval Literature course in 2002. Robert has recently returned from research leave in England, where he has been writing a book on Latin visionary texts from the 3rd to 13th Centuries at Lambeth Palace Library in London.



## Conservation connection

Living on opposite sides of the world hasn't stopped two groups of conservation biology students sharing their ideas and working together.



Video-link technology has allowed Victoria students to connect with University of Montana students in the United States, to complete a new joint postgraduate course, International Issues in Conservation.

At weekly sessions, the students, lecturers and invited experts discuss set topics that have included the public perception of conservation, invasive species and indigenous people. At the end of the trimester, groups of students presented research proposals on real conservation issues.

Course co-ordinator Dr Nicky Nelson says the course provides students and staff at both universities with a unique opportunity to hear international perspectives.

"There are striking contrasts between New Zealand and Montana. While many of our native species are struggling because of the impact of introduced mammals, in Montana, it is their native mammals, such as wolves and grizzly bears, that need protection."

Nevertheless, Nicky says both New Zealand and Montana confront similar conservation management issues, particularly habitat loss and the effects of invasive species.

"Many conservation issues are global. So we may come up with very different scenarios and examples but the overall themes of restoring natural ecology and species are the same."

Holding regular sessions with students living in different time-zones has been challenging for Nicky and prominent conservation biologist Professor Fred Allendorf, who co-ordinates the course from the University of Montana and now has a joint appointment with Victoria.

"Montana is 18 hours behind us," says Nicky, "so we always have to consider that when we schedule the class times."

Video-link sessions are followed up with information sharing on Victoria's academic internet portal and discussion forums.

When the course runs again, in 2006, technology will have taken another leap forward, as Victoria will have a new 'access grid' video-link system that will allow multiple items, including images, documents, and camera-feeds, to be viewed at once.

The links between the two universities will be strengthened by several student exchanges and research trips.

Email: [Nicola.Nelson@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:Nicola.Nelson@vuw.ac.nz)



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.

## Universities deserve better

From Vice-Chancellor, Professor Pat Walsh

An election year is a time when a country stops for a short while and considers its future direction. A common thread in the debate is likely to be the ongoing need to ensure New Zealand moves from having a low-wage, low-skill economy to one based on highly skilled individuals earning higher wages. The key to that transformation is higher education, particularly that provided by New Zealand's eight universities.

But sadly the quality of tertiary education has been making headlines for all the wrong reasons. The public has expressed dismay that taxpayer money has been used by some tertiary education providers to provide courses with little educational or societal value. But a key piece of information has been lost in the debate—not all providers have run such valueless courses and none of them were provided by New Zealand's universities.

New Zealand spends \$3.6 billion every year in tertiary education, but only 22 percent (\$790 million) goes to universities. The rest goes to other tertiary education tuition subsidies (25 percent), student financial support (39 percent) and industry training and community education (14 percent).

New Zealand gets very good value for its investment in universities. It gets highly educated graduates holding qualifications that have a job market premium, as well as research that creates new knowledge critical to social development, new industries and products. In the last decade, the number of New Zealand-authored research publications has grown each year by 45 percent. The majority of this research is conducted in universities.

New Zealand has a highly efficient research sector and is ranked eleventh in the world for research productivity and first for cost effectiveness, according to the Ministry of Research, Science & Technology. Given universities employ two-thirds of the country's research staff, it is clear the investment in universities is money well spent.

But that investment is low by international standards. New Zealand's universities have a vision of a country that benefits from a highly educated workforce that is able to apply knowledge for personal and economic gain, on both an

individual and national basis. But without greater public investment, it will be nothing but a hollow ideal.

The New Zealand Vice-Chancellors' Committee has calculated that when OECD figures are adjusted for purchasing power parity, public resourcing for the tuition for each public university student each year in the United States is \$NZ18,100 while New Zealand spends just \$NZ7,800. Australia, in contrast, invests \$NZ12,700 per student.

The need for greater investment has become increasingly clear. New Zealand's population is growing slowly and is likely to be in decline by 2050. The days when economic productivity could be increased by population growth alone are over.

A more educated workforce leads to significant labour productivity gains, which in turn has the greatest influence on economic growth. Not only are university graduates far less likely to be unemployed, but they're a key element in fostering New Zealand's economic growth as they will be the innovators of the future. Sadly, fewer and fewer New Zealanders each year are enrolling in a university-level education, while greater numbers than ever before participate in a disparate range of lower-level courses.

If we're serious about achieving a knowledge economy, the amount of investment per student needs to increase by 40 percent, to be competitive with Australia. The simplest means of achieving this is to redirect a portion of the investment going to the rest of the tertiary sector. Much of the Government's tuition subsidies have gone into sub-degree courses, some of which are little more than glorified hobby courses. Such a reallocation, however, should not be at the expense of vital trade and skill-based qualifications.

Universities represent an excellent investment in New Zealand's future and in an election year, I would urge our alumni and friends to let the politicians vying for your vote know you believe New Zealand's universities deserve better. If New Zealand wants highly educated graduates at the forefront of new industries and innovative technologies; it can no longer take its universities for granted.





To keep in touch with University friends, meet new people and continue to participate in the stimulating intellectual and cultural life of Victoria, contact the Alumni Relations Office.  
Email: [Alumni@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:Alumni@vuw.ac.nz) Tel: +64-4-463 6700  
[www.vuw.ac.nz/alumni](http://www.vuw.ac.nz/alumni)

## Victoria Events

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

### Still Present: Exploring Psychiatric Institutions in Photography 13 May—17 July

The Adam Art Gallery presents work by three highly acclaimed photographers: Magnum photographer, Chien-Chi Chang (Taiwan/New York); photographer and installation artist Anne Ferran (Australia); and New Zealand artist Jono Rotman. The exhibition explores the spaces of psychiatric institutions in photography. For more information visit: [www.vuw.ac.nz/adamartgal](http://www.vuw.ac.nz/adamartgal)  
Email: [Emily.Cormack@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:Emily.Cormack@vuw.ac.nz) or Tel: +64-4-463 5229

### Alumni Association: Annual General Meeting Thursday 30 June 6pm

Alumni Association members have the opportunity to hear stimulating presentations from scholarship and travel award winners and hear from the winner of the special Hunter Prize. Any Association financial member can be elected to the committee or as President and you can send nominations (with the nominee's consent) to the Alumni Relations Office or simply bring them along to the meeting itself. RSVP to [alumni@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:alumni@vuw.ac.nz) or Tel: +64-4-463 6700.

### Opera Victoria: David Farquhar's Enchanted Island (Act III), and scenes from Mozart's Magic Flute

#### Saturday 9 July 7.30pm and Sunday 10 July 3pm

Opera Victoria's final performance will see Lexus Song Quest winner Madeleine Pierard and runner-up Allison Cormack sharing the leading role of Pamina in scenes from Mozart's *Magic Flute*. Director Bernd Benthak has directed Opera Victoria's productions since 1999 and directed the School's elaborate touring production of *Orpheus in the Underworld* in 2003. The world premiere of Act III of Emeritus Professor David Farquhar's *Enchanted Island* will also be performed. Alumni and friends who have bought tickets are invited to attend the after-show function at 5pm on Sunday 10 July.

Adam Concert Room, Gate 7, Kelburn Parade. Tickets \$15 and \$10 concession.

For information and ticket sales visit:

[www.vuw.ac.nz/music/events/booking\\_information.php](http://www.vuw.ac.nz/music/events/booking_information.php)

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

### Victoria House reunion: Calling all residents from 1978-79

#### Saturday 30 July

The reunion day starts at Victoria House for morning tea and a nostalgic look around at 10am. The party starts at 7.30pm with drinks and finger food at The Function Room, Wellington Brewing Company, Wellington. A charge of \$30 per person is required to cover costs.

For more information email Suzanne Howard on [vicreunion@xtra.co.nz](mailto:vicreunion@xtra.co.nz)

Celebrating Raewyn Tan's graduation were (from left): May Yeng Yee, David, Raewyn and Davinnia.



## Family ties

In the Asia-Pacific region, family tradition is a high-ranking factor used to decide where prospective students decide to study.

Singaporean David Tan graduated from Victoria with a BA in 1975 and then a BA(Hons) in 1976. Twenty-four years later his daughter, Raewyn followed in his footsteps when she too completed her first degree at Victoria, and has since completed three more degrees here. Her younger sister, Davinnia, also graduated last year and will complete an LLB next year.

"My father always talked enthusiastically about Victoria and it was always made clear to me that I would be expected to study here too. I'd always wanted to study overseas and I am really happy that I came to Wellington to share similar experiences with my father and sister," Raewyn says.

Traditions associated with past, present and future students from the Asia-Pacific region will form part of the celebrations at the New Zealand Alumni Convention in Wellington between 22 and 24 March 2006.

Alumni Relations Manager, Vicky Young, says this event follows on from the very successful inaugural Convention held in Kuching, Sarawak in 2004.

"For Victoria alumni from the Asia-Pacific region, it will be an opportunity to celebrate the lifelong connections that they and current international students have made, not just with the University, but with New Zealand and its people and culture."

The Convention is sponsored by the Wellington City Council and has the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade and New Zealand Trade & Enterprise, as well as Victoria and the wider tertiary education sector. This level of support promises a broad selection of interesting presentations, delivered by expert and internationally-renowned speakers.

[www.wcc.govt.nz/rd/alumni](http://www.wcc.govt.nz/rd/alumni)



## Life After Vic

Thanks to the graduates and members of the University community who have sent in their news. To catch up with the latest news from your alma mater register with *Life After Vic* online at [www.vuw.ac.nz/alumni](http://www.vuw.ac.nz/alumni).

### Christopher Kelly

BBSoc 1980,  
BArch 1982

Producing architecture to reflect the brand of a South Island winery, won an award for Chris in 2004. The building, which is the home of Peregrine Wines in Queenstown, won the prestigious Emerging Architecture award for its falcon bird-inspired building. Chris is the first Kiwi to win this international accolade. The design also won the NZ Institute of Architects Resene New Zealand Award for Architecture 2005. He is the principal of the Wellington-based architect firm, Architecture Workshop Ltd, which he set up in 1991.



### Simon O'Neill

BMus(Hons) 1995

Simon's talent as a tenor has taken him all over the world performing at an amazing array of outstanding venues and concert halls. Described in the media as having a "vivid, towering voice, filled with drama and emotion", he is rapidly establishing himself as one of today's most sought-after tenors on the international stage. His most recent achievements have included joining the roster of the Metropolitan Opera, the New York City Opera and debut recital engagements at Carnegie Hall and Concertgebouw. Later this year he will debut at the Salzburg Festival, the Wexford Festival and Covent Garden.



### Andrew Little

BA, LLB 1992

As national secretary of New Zealand's largest union, the Engineering, Printing & Manufacturing Union (EPMU), Andrew is responsible for the day-to-day running of an organisation equivalent to a medium-sized business and is the one charged with translating into action the wishes of nearly 50,000 members. While studying at Victoria he was president of the Victoria University of Wellington Students' Association in 1987 and was National President of the New Zealand University Students' Association in 1988 and 1989. When he graduated he shunned the corporate ladder and chose a job in Auckland as a lawyer with the Engineers' Union (a forerunner of the EPMU). He loved using his legal skills to help working people who would probably otherwise not have been able to afford them. In 1997 he was appointed as the Union's general counsel, based in Auckland.



### Carmel Fisher

BCA 1985

Carmel worked as a sharemarket investment adviser and analyst in the mid-80s and through the 1987 crash. In 1988 she joined Prudential Assurance, and stayed for six years before moving to Sovereign Assurance, which she left in 1997 to establish a new company in partnership with her husband, Hugh. Fisher Funds was launched in August 1998. Since its inception the company has gained numerous awards and accolades, easily topping larger and older firms. In January it was named fund of the year for the third time by researchers FundsSource. Fisher Funds has a strong policy of only investing in New Zealand.



### Tony Zohrab

BA 1983, LLB 1985

As a lawyer, Tony has specialised in litigation, particularly criminal and employment law and has been an instructor at the Institute of Professional Legal Studies and on the prosecutor training programme at the Royal New Zealand Police College. His many voluntary contributions have included providing legal advice at the Lower Hutt Citizens' Advice Bureau, at Rimutaka Prison and for the Hutt Old Boys Rugby Football Club. He has recently been appointed as a District Court Judge to sit in Nelson, where he will live with his wife, Michelle Duggan (LLB 1990), and three young children. They are looking forward to making the most of the 'Great Outdoors' in the Nelson area.



### Friederike Klippel

MA(Hons) 1975

Friederike's academic career started in Northern Germany even before she studied at Victoria. She is now a Deputy Vice-Chancellor at Ludwig-Maximilians University, Munich. The University is the largest in Germany with nearly 50,000 students, 700 professors, 18 faculties and 7,400 non-academic staff (including those at teaching hospitals). As one of four Vice-Rectors she is responsible for the Humanities. Friederike sees working with young, bright people everyday as a privilege and enjoys being able to satisfy her own academic curiosity through research and helping students learn about English language education.







# Alumni relations in a new era

By Vicky Young, Alumni Relations Manager

The 18 months since I first introduced myself to alumni in the pages of *Victorious* has been a steep, yet exciting learning curve. It has given me the opportunity to get to know many of the distinguished alumni whose fantastic careers were launched at Victoria.

Developing relationships with alumni overseas remains high on the agenda for the Alumni Relations Office during 2005 and 2006. The resounding success of the reunion function at the House of Lords in London last year has given us the incentive to maintain the momentum and return again during September this year, when we will introduce our new Vice-Chancellor, Professor Pat Walsh. Other visits in the planning stages include the United States, Hong Kong and Australia.

Change is a constant occurrence in any large organisation and Victoria is no exception. The New Zealand School of Music was launched last year. The School, a joint venture between Victoria and Massey University, will be developing its own performance groups to showcase new talent. Therefore, the long-standing and acclaimed Opera Victoria will perform its swansong in July. More information is available in the Events section.

Victoria has been developing great teachers in Wellington for 125 years and to mark this special year a series of events for graduates of the former Wellington College of Education will take place later this year. The celebrations will culminate with a gala dinner for alumni and friends. Please let us know if you're interested in getting involved with the planning or if you know of any former College alumni we're not in contact with.

Hundreds of graduates are now registered on *Life After Vic*, the new alumni online directory. These alumni have taken the opportunity to update their contact details and are letting each other know what they're doing. Once registered, alumni can search for old classmates and make initial contact using secure email.

*Life After Vic* also offers registrants an increasing list of alumni network groups to join. It's free to register and you can join as many as you like. Recent groups made available are the Māori Alumni Network Group, the Tourism Alumni Network Group and the Careers in Focus Volunteer Group. The Tourism Group has been set up by a group of enthusiastic young graduates from the Tourism programme in the Victoria Management School, who organise trips, talks and reunions.

Anyone interested in helping current students to understand life after Victoria in the working world should join the Career in Focus Volunteers Group. Vic Careers organise a number



of Careers in Focus seminars throughout the year and alumni volunteers are an essential part. Some make formal presentations about their current roles while others chat with students, providing advice that can only come from graduates.

The number of local buddies who've signed up to the Kiwi Connections programme has more than doubled this year but with the large numbers of international students at Victoria there's always room for more. If you feel that you could help a new international student get the most out of their time in Wellington, please register your interest by completing the registration form on the website.

**Hundreds of graduates are now registered on *Life After Vic*, the new alumni online directory. These alumni have taken the opportunity to update their contact details and are letting each other know what they're doing.**

Finally, the Alumni Relations Office has a new home. We've moved to room 005 in the Robert Stout Building. This recent change of scene gives alumni and students easy street level access from Gate 1, off Kelburn Parade. You can also contact us by phone or email or by logging onto [www.vuw.ac.nz/alumni](http://www.vuw.ac.nz/alumni). Here you will find more information about alumni-related activities, how to register with *Life After Vic* online, update your contact details and join the Alumni Association. Keep in touch.

Email: [Alumni@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:Alumni@vuw.ac.nz)  
Tel: +64-4-463 6700  
[www.vuw.ac.nz/alumni](http://www.vuw.ac.nz/alumni)

May's graduation saw more than 1,500 students graduate at five ceremonies. These successes included the conferment of fourteen PhDs and four honorary doctorates.

## Counting the beat

Blood pressure, heart beats and the respiratory system are not usual subject matter for mathematicians but for Victoria researcher, Young Hong, it is his lifeblood.

Young has just completed his PhD in the relatively new field of medical mathematics. He has spent three years working with Wellington doctors and medical experts to create a mathematical model of the intricate relationship between respiratory and cardiac rhythms in humans.

"The equations I have come up with help to explain tiny but unusual increases and dips in blood pressure and how these are linked with the heart, brain and our breathing.

"The mathematical models will help doctors more accurately interpret what would happen if there is a change in state, such as rapid breathing. They could also help develop better diagnostic tools for the non-invasive assessment of cardiac health."

Young's supervisor, Dr Mark McGuinness, from the School of Mathematics, Statistics & Computer Science, says Young is entering an exciting new area of mathematical research.

"Mathematical models of complex biological systems are still in their infancy but they are already proving very useful to medical and health scientists.

"As humans become more interested in improving health and longevity, there is a lot of opportunity for research that is able to give more accurate interpretations of how the body works."

Mark is collaborating with researchers at Oxford University, where blood pressure and heart rate data is being collected and analysed using mathematical models.

Young is hoping to continue postdoctoral research into the relationship between respiratory and cardiac rhythms. In the meantime, he is working on a project for Industrial Research Ltd, modelling ion channels throughout the human body. These channels allow ions such as sodium, potassium, calcium and chloride to travel in and out of cells.

Email: [y.hong@irl.cri.nz](mailto:y.hong@irl.cri.nz)



## Youth crime

Research by Anna Duncan on youth crime and its prevention reveals that 45 percent of young people feel that the police hardly ever or never treat youths as fairly as they treat older people.

Anna completed her PhD on the politics of 'youth crime' and its prevention in New Zealand. The issue of 'youth crime' has been an enduring phenomenon in New Zealand since the mid-19th Century, she says.

"I explored how governments have attempted to prevent and control offending by young people, particularly in the context of broader political developments."

"There was also a gap in research about young people's experiences of crime, victimisation, crime prevention and policing, which is why I surveyed more than 1,000 state secondary school students."

Anna completed a Bachelor of Arts in criminology and sociology in 1993 at Victoria, before moving to Melbourne

to complete a Graduate Diploma in Criminology. She then came back to Victoria and was invited to enrol in a PhD by the Institute of Criminology.

"Youth crime and its prevention must be understood as a social and economic phenomenon that is integrally linked to social policy. My recommendations include more regular and systematic involvement of young people in decision-making processes that affect them, including the development and implementation of youth crime prevention strategies.

"I'd also like to see improved training for police recruits and other officers, which focuses on the dynamics of police-youth interactions, the policing of young people in public spaces and young people's victimisation."

Anna now works in the justice sector, and hopes to publish some of her findings in journal articles to make her results more accessible to policy-makers.

Email: [Anna.Duncan@actrix.co.nz](mailto:Anna.Duncan@actrix.co.nz)



## Honours awarded

From the study of complex mathematical equations and the literature of the Pacific to the glamour of Hollywood and the complexities of multinational companies, the four honorary doctorates awarded at the May Graduation ceremonies recognise lifetimes of achievement.

### Shayle Searle

Professor Shayle Searle received an honorary Doctor of Science for his contribution to statistics over a long and varied career. The holder of an MA from Victoria and a PhD in Animal Breeding from Cornell University, his contribution to translating applied problems into solvable mathematical formulations has been one of his greatest contributions to the field. After completing his PhD, Shayle worked at Cornell as a statistical consultant for the University's computer centre. By 1970, he had attained the rank of professor and remained at Cornell until his retirement in 1995 when he was appointed Professor Emeritus of Biological Statistics. Shayle has a long-standing association with Victoria and established a Visiting Fellowship in Statistics in 2003, to enable leading international statisticians to visit Victoria University to undertake research and seminars. He is also an active member of the US Friends of Victoria, and endowed a prize for the best student in first-year applied statistics, which has been awarded since 1999.



Photography by Woolf

he pioneered a new understanding of the diversity and depth of its indigenous literature. He has also been influential in the development of New Zealand creative writing. Born in Samoa, he moved to New Zealand to complete his education and attend teachers' college. He then studied at Victoria, where he attained a MA in History. Since 1988 he has been Professor of English at the University of Auckland. He also holds the prestigious Citizens' Chair at the University of Hawai'i. Albert has published extensively, producing novels, short stories, poetry, plays, and critical articles. He has also promoted the academic study of the Pacific and mentored new generations of scholars and artists. Recently he has been awarded New Zealand's Senior Pacific Islands Artist's Award, Japan's Nikkei Asia Prize for Culture and the Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit for services to literature.

### Fran Walsh

Fran Walsh received an honorary Doctor of Literature for her contribution to scriptwriting and the motion picture industry. The holder of a BA from Victoria she began her career as a fledgling scriptwriter working in television before collaborating with Peter Jackson on several full-length films. Her work on *Heavenly Creatures* (1994) saw her admitted as a Member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences in the United States. Her contribution as one of the producers, scriptwriters and lyricists on *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy received international acclaim and saw her win several awards from the Academy and the



Photography by Woolf

British Academy of Film & Television Arts as well as being made a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit. She has been a strong supporter of Wellington's creative industries, actively supporting the Scriptwriting programme in Victoria's International Institute of Modern Letters and the launch of the scriptwriting major in the University's MA in Creative Writing.

### Judith Hanratty

Judith Hanratty received an honorary Doctor of Laws for her contribution to corporate governance. The holder of an LLB and LLM from Victoria, she began a 28-year association with BP plc in 1975 when she became its principal legal counsel for New Zealand and the South Pacific. Moving to Britain in 1986, she was closely involved in its acquisition of Standard Oil of Ohio, at the time one of the largest transactions on the New York Stock Exchange. Following BP's 1994 decision to split the roles of Chairman and Chief Executive, she became Company Secretary and Counsel to the Board and introduced a highly distinctive governance model that defines with rigour the roles of the board and chief executive. The holder of an OBE, she has and is a current and former board member of a number of British regulatory and company boards. A former Victoria University Council member, she is Chairman of the Commonwealth Institute and Chairman of the British College of Law.



Photography by Woolf

### Albert Wendt

Professor Albert Wendt received an honorary Doctor of Literature for his outstanding contribution to literature over the past 40 years. As a leading writer of the South Pacific,



Photography by Woolf

Take a look at the University's online database of varied and exciting events available to members of the University community at [www.vuw.ac.nz/events](http://www.vuw.ac.nz/events)

## Voice of victory

Victoria alumna Madeleine Pierard joined an elite group of New Zealand opera singers in April when she won the Lexus Song Quest, the nation's premier event for young classical singers.

The competition, formerly known as the Mobil Song Quest, has helped launched the careers of Dame Kiri Te Kanawa, Dame Malvina Major and Jonathan Lemalu, and could open many doors for Madeleine, who is completing a Bachelor of Music with Honours in Performance Voice this year and hopes to use her prize to help her advance her training in Europe in 2006.

The prize package includes \$10,000 cash, a \$15,000 scholarship and a return international airfare.

Madeleine says winning the competition confirmed she made the right choice in deciding to study composition and voice at Victoria after initially planning to study medicine. "I entered the competition to get audition experience—I never expected to win."

Euan Murdoch, Interim Director (Academic) of the New Zealand School of Music, a joint school set up in 2004 by both Massey and Victoria universities, was proud the nascent school was represented by all three place-getters.

Doug Cole



▲ Lexus Song Quest judge, Grace Bumbry, second from left with, from left, Alison, Madeleine and Jamie.

Alison Cormack, in her third year of a Bachelor of Music in Performance Voice at Victoria, and Jamie Frater, a graduate of Massey's Conservatorium of Music, took second and third places respectively.

"Their extraordinary success is testament to the strengths of Victoria and Massey universities' music schools. We're confident that the new school will continue to produce top performing students as we build our programmes together."

Past Victoria alumni finalists include Simon O'Neill, Anna James and Wendy Dawn Thompson.

[www.nzsm.ac.nz](http://www.nzsm.ac.nz)  
Tel: +64-4-463 5222

## Foreign leaders flock to Victoria

Victoria is gaining a reputation as a destination of choice for foreign leaders who want to present a public lecture at a high-quality academic institution.

In February, Swedish Prime Minister HE Göran Persson, outlined Sweden's economic and social policy at a lecture hosted by the Institute of Policy Studies in the School of Government, and Lower Hutt's Family Centre Social Policy Research Unit.

A month later, IPS teamed up with the New Zealand Institute of International Affairs for a visit by Norwegian Prime Minister, HE Kjell Magne Bondevik, who spoke on Norway's efforts in peacemaking. Both lectures, at the Pipitea Campus, were attended by

New Zealand Prime Minister, the Rt Hon Helen Clark.

Also in March, the Prime Minister of Malaysia, the Hon Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, delivered a lecture in the Hunter Council Chamber on the relationship between Islam and good governance, while in May, Vietnamese Prime Minister, HE Phan Van Khai, spoke on the economic and social development of Vietnam.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Pat Walsh says the fact that foreign leaders were including Victoria in their itinerary reflected its status as New Zealand's Capital City University.

"We are honoured that Victoria is firmly on the map as a key destination for

heads of state when they visit New Zealand. This continues our 106 year-long tradition of robust debate and community service.

"Our connection to the local, national and world community is apparent every day. In particular, we seek to develop close working relationships with research institutions, our own Government, and with our Asia-Pacific neighbours.

"These connections have led to the development of innovative partnerships with these governments. The formation of the Australia and New Zealand School of Government involving the New Zealand and Australian Federal governments, is but one example, as is the creation of the Chair of Malay Studies in partnership with the New Zealand and Malaysian governments."





Richard Killeen's *Welcome to the South Pacific*, 1979

# Victoria's Art

The remarkable collection of original art works owned by Victoria is now available for all to see within a vibrant new publication.

*Victoria's Art*, edited and introduced by highly-regarded art writer and curator, William McAloon, showcases the University's unique collection of New Zealand art, which it has actively acquired since 1948.

Adam Art Gallery Director, Sophie McIntyre, says the 96-page publication will be an invaluable resource for research and scholarship into the history and development of New Zealand art.

"The breadth and depth of the University's art collection combined with the integrity of the scholarship and research behind the publication will ensure that *Victoria's Art* is a notable resource.

"It features 34 works by major New Zealand artists. Beginning with the early pioneers of contemporary New Zealand art, such as Frances Hodgkins and Evelyn Page, *Victoria's Art* extends to cover important developments in the work of Colin

McCahon and Ralph Hotere, through to present day artists such as Gavin Hipkins, Neil Dawson and Yuk King Tan."

In his lively essay, William charts the collection's development, from its first incarnation as a supplier of "inexhaustible topics for conversation in all emergencies" to its status as an

"extremely valuable resource that reflects not only changing styles and concerns within New Zealand art, but also changes in Victoria's policy and direction".

Commentaries on individual works have been provided by some of New Zealand's most prominent scholars and art writers. The collection's overall shape and relationship to contemporary New Zealand art is considered in a thoughtful postscript by Tina Barton, Senior Lecturer in Victoria's School of Art History, Classics & Religious Studies.

victoria's  
art &  
university  
collection



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

# In Memoriam

Peter Preston-Thomas

I never knew Peter, but he grew up in Wellington and left New Zealand in 1949.

He worked his passage to Britain aboard the *Ceramic*, where he was the “fireman’s peggy” – laying the tables for firemen who stoked the ship’s boilers.

Peter then went to British Columbia and worked on an aluminium smelter at Kitimat. Conditions there were tough – icicles six feet long hung from the buildings. In Canada, Peter met Ruth, his future wife. They married, but ended up struggling for much of their working lives with their builders’ merchandising business.

On his retirement Peter received a very generous offer for the business and he decided to help some young people in his old hometown, Wellington, for which he retained a strong, lifelong sentimental attachment. So he chose to honour his daughter, Averil, by setting up a scholarship in her name at Victoria University, through a bequest in his will.

Sadly, Peter died in 2002. I’ll always be grateful for his legacy – if it wasn’t for Peter’s bequest, the Averil Brent Scholarship in Science wouldn’t exist and I wouldn’t be in the privileged position of studying cell and molecular bioscience at Victoria University.

**KATHRYN JONES**

BSc (Hons)

First recipient of the Averil Brent Scholarship in Science.

## It makes you think.

*If you’d like to know more about making a bequest to Victoria University, do contact Wendy Lawson in confidence at:*

Victoria University Foundation  
PO Box 600, Wellington, New Zealand  
[vuw-foundation@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:vuw-foundation@vuw.ac.nz)  
0800 VIC LEGACY (0800 842 534).

**Victoria**  
UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON

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



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