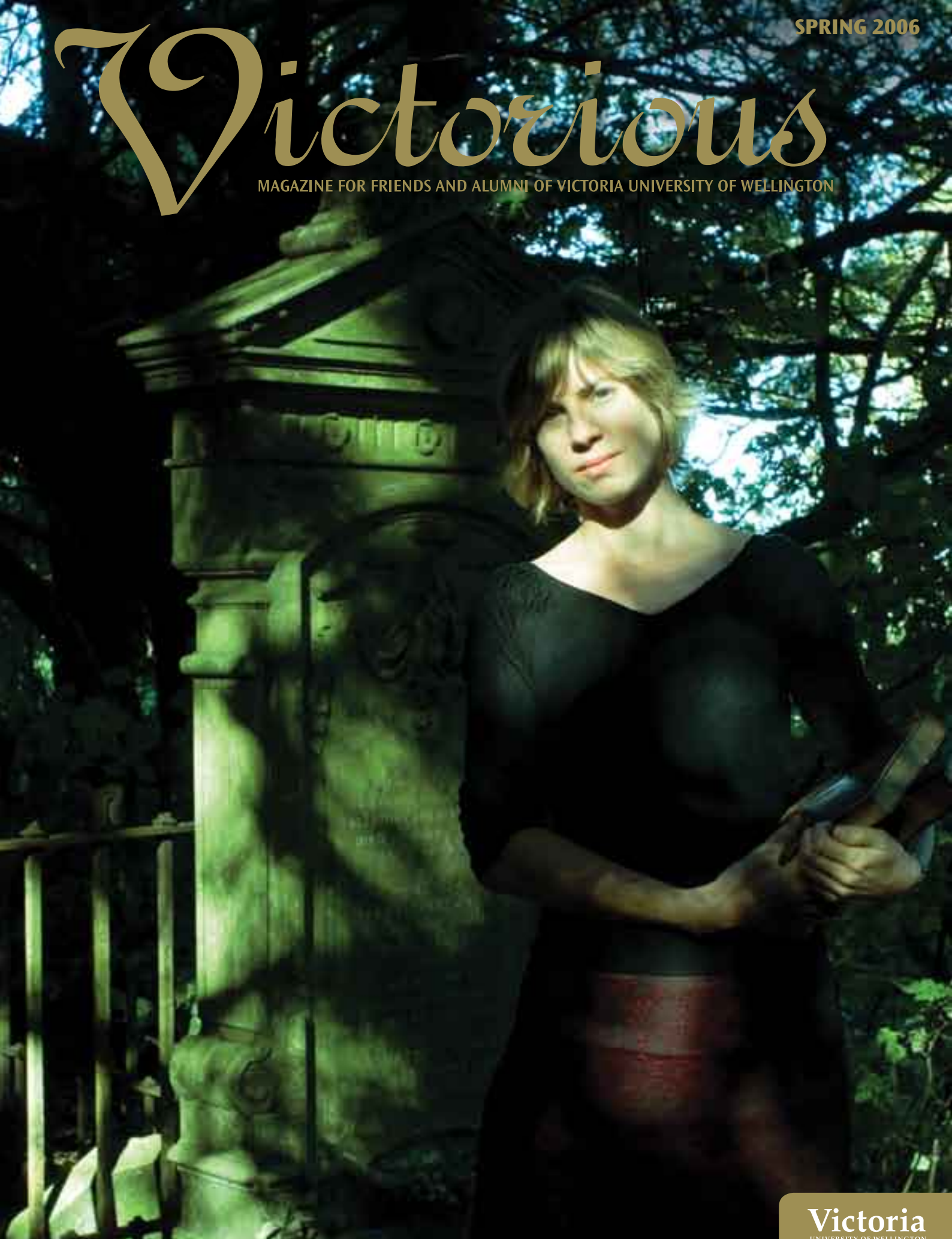


SPRING 2006

Victorious

MAGAZINE FOR FRIENDS AND ALUMNI OF VICTORIA UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON



Gothic children's literature

Scent of the rhino

Latin American connection

Community presence

Victoria

UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON

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



CAPITAL CITY UNIVERSITY



Andrew (right) and Matt test the brick structure embedded with tyre strips.

Used tyres go the extra mile

It's said you should never trust a used car sales rep—but used car tyres could be the structural saviour of poorly-built earthen houses in developing countries.

Research by Associate Professor Andrew Charleson, from the School of Architecture, and Master's student Matt French, is looking at reinforcing adobe houses with strips of rubber cut from discarded tyres.

"This low-cost approach has the potential to reduce seismic vulnerability in developing countries and help solve the ecological problem of used tyre disposal," says Andrew.

"As tragically witnessed after every damaging earthquake in developing countries, due to their high mass and lack of tensile resistance, the seismic performance of these forms of construction, and in fact any buildings lacking tensile strength, is very poor."

The initiative involves horizontally embedding strips of connected, 40mm thick rubber at regular intervals into the walls of an adobe house.

Pairs of vertical strips of rubber, anchored into the foundations, rise up the walls and are nailed to roof timbers. Together, they provide strength and stiffness to what is otherwise weak load-bearing construction, and also prevents the roof separating from the walls.

Andrew says used tyres create a huge environmental problem by accumulating at approximately the rate of one used tyre per head of population per year in so-called developed countries. It can cost up to \$3 to dispose of a tyre in a New Zealand landfill.

"My vision is for tyre strips to be mass-produced in developed countries like New Zealand and then transported to developing countries, where, at no or minimal cost, villagers will incorporate them into their houses," he says.

"This low-cost approach has the potential to reduce seismic vulnerability in developing countries and help solve the ecological problem of used tyre disposal."

Andrew sees a day where a non-profit organisation will establish a site where used tyres will be collected, processed, packed and shipped for use overseas.

"The preliminary tests give grounds for optimism and two very desirable outcomes eventuate. First, dwellings will be resistant to collapse during an earthquake, and secondly, the environmental challenge posed by millions of used tyre casings is, at least partially, addressed."

Contact

Andrew.Charleson@vuw.ac.nz
+64-4-463 6222



From the Vice-Chancellor

Reconnecting with our alumni and friends has been a major emphasis during 2006—whether in New Zealand or overseas. It's been refreshing to meet so many of you and to hear your stories and recollections. Another opportunity to meet is at our annual Alumni Dinner on October 12 in Wellington. This evening will be marked by the presentation of our Distinguished Alumni Awards. The process of selecting this year's winners was a humbling experience as we reviewed the achievements of so many talented alumni. I look forward to next year's nominations process.

It is not only our alumni who shine in their chosen endeavours—staff have again received external accolades. In our creative writing programme, Professor Bill Manhire won the Montana Book Awards poetry section for his collection, *Lifted*, and Senior Lecturer Damien Wilkins won the reference section for his edited collection, *Great Sporting Moments: The best of Sport magazine 1988–2004*. Both books were published by Victoria University Press.

Each year since its inception in 2001, a Victoria staff member has won a National Tertiary Teaching Excellence Award. This year was no exception with Dr Warwick Murray from the School of Geography, Environment & Earth Sciences becoming the seventh Victoria staff member to do so.

And just last month Victoria researchers were given a significant funding boost, picking up funding worth almost \$4.7 million for 11 new research projects from the highly competitive Marsden Fund. This equates to almost 12 percent of the available funding and is a significant increase from 2005 when \$3.5 million was awarded to Victoria researchers.

All this highlights that we can be proud to be part of the vibrant Victoria University of Wellington community.

Pat Walsh
Vice-Chancellor

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Image: Robert Cross, Image Services.



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 Professor Charles Daugherty. E-mail: Charles.Daugherty@vuw.ac.nz Tel: +64-4-463 5572.



The Dominion Post

Arcade analysis

1980s arcade games—the cause of many a misspent youth—are a dying breed, and there's a risk an important part of our cultural history could be lost if nothing is done to preserve them.

Dr Melanie Swalwell, Lecturer in the School of English, Film, Theatre, & Media Studies, has published a study on the history of New Zealand's gaming culture, which she found was booming in the 1980s.

She describes her interactive, web-based work as “part game and part exploration”. Players can retrace her discoveries by ‘talking’ to figures in the game and following the resulting avenues of inquiry.

Melanie says computer games can tell a lot about New Zealand's introduction to digital technology, as many people became familiar with it through playing computer games.

Her research uncovered the fact that a surprising number of arcade, console, and computer games were produced locally, partly due to strict import licensing restrictions making it difficult to import video games.

“Games deserve to be recognised as historically significant artefacts but so little has been kept that if we don't do anything soon to preserve them, a whole part of New Zealand's history will be lost.

“My hope is that my research will contribute to a greater awareness of the early digital games material New Zealand produced, so work on its conservation can get underway.

“Consoles like the Sportronic (a Designmark award winner) and the entirely New Zealand-made arcade game, Malzak, are unique internationally.”

Melanie's study, *Cast-Offs from the Golden Age*, was published in American-based online journal, *Vectors: Journal of Culture & Technology in a Dynamic Vernacular*.

She is now collaborating with researchers from other Schools, including Dr Ian Welch and Stuart Marshall, Lecturers from the School of Mathematics, Statistics & Computer Science, intellectual property lawyer, Susan Corbett, from the School of Accounting & Commercial Law, and archivist Rachel Lilburn, Senior Lecturer in the School of Information Management, to conserve this unique New Zealand gaming material.

Contact

Melanie.Swalwell@vuw.ac.nz
+64-4-463 7446
www.nztronix.org.nz
www.vectorsjournal.net

The ethics of aboriginal research

Through the ages, research and ethics haven't always been bed-fellows. But when it comes to contemporary, university-based research, ethics is a fundamental and vital component.

Dr Bill Hipwell, Lecturer in Development Studies and Ethics Officer for the School of Geography, Environment & Earth Sciences, was invited to Taiwan in March to conduct a lecture tour on ‘University Research Ethics and Aboriginal Peoples’.

Research ethics, as practiced in much of the world, are based on a set of prescribed procedures and policies.

“This usually involves obtaining informed consent from research subjects and assuring ethics panels, such as Victoria's Human Ethics Committee, that research subjects won't be harmed in the research process,” says Bill.

“However, in Taiwan, research ethics have received relatively little attention, particularly in relation to aboriginal communities. Given the Taiwan Government's increasing use of aboriginal cultures to establish an identity separate from the People's Republic of China, ethics is even more important.”

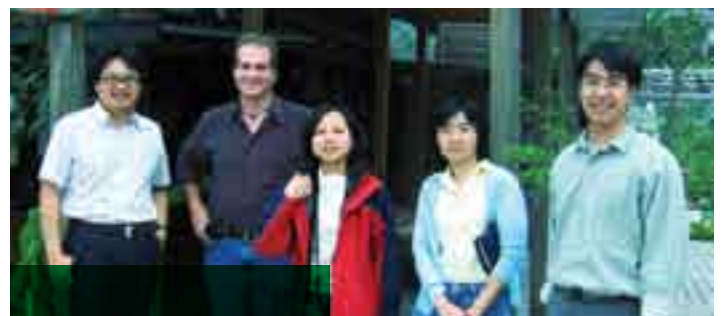
Bill says research ethics among aboriginal peoples is more complicated as they are often marginalised and politically disempowered, so may lack the confidence to say ‘no’ to researchers. “This creates a greater potential for harm, and makes it harder to ensure they are truly giving their informed consent.”

On his five-day lecture tour, Bill visited three universities and three aboriginal communities, discussing research ethics. “There's a huge gap between ethical practice and research in Taiwan, and I wanted to close that,” he says.

In the aboriginal communities he visited, Bill encouraged people to share their research needs, and explained how research ethics procedures could help protect them.

At the universities—Providence University, the National Kaohsiung Normal University and National Dong Hwa University—he spoke with researchers about developing their own research ethics committees.

“The Human Ethics Committee at Victoria is terrific, offering guidance to staff and students, and administering the University's policy on research ethics. I think that universities in Taiwan should enjoy this kind of relationship.”



Bill (second from left) and a delegation of scholars from Providence University, Taichung, visit an aboriginal village.

Contact

William.Hipwell@vuw.ac.nz
+64-4-463 6116

Not so 'quiet in the land'

Described by one reviewer as historical social anthropology at its best, Dr James Urry's new book on the politics of Mennonites in Europe, Russia and Canada is the culmination of 10 years' meticulous research.

Mennonites are the descendants of Anabaptists formed in the Reformation, who hold to adult baptism, non-resistance and historically, separation from 'the world'.

But James' book, *Mennonites, Politics, and Peoplehood: Europe, Russia, Canada 1525 to 1980*, reveals a political existence at odds with the Mennonites' self-image.

"Through time, Mennonites have fought hard to preserve their own way of life in an increasingly modernised world. They've invented an image of themselves as being the quiet in the land, people removed from political influences. But it is only an image, as Mennonites always have been participants in worldly politics."

James, a Reader in Anthropology in the School of Social & Cultural Studies, qualifies this view by explaining that Mennonite political activity has sought to secure their right to exist in different political domains as pacifist, cohesive Christian communities.



"Their rejection of social norms actually required ongoing political engagement."

James' book traverses more than 500 years, mapping an equally expansive geographical migration. He follows the Dutch Mennonites who fled to Poland in the 1500s, through Russia in the late 1700s to North America in the last two centuries.

Throughout this time, Mennonites interacted with states and rulers, rejecting state-enforced baptism, seeking privileges, confronting constitutional reforms and even dealing with fascism and communism. In Canada they have come to terms with democracy.

James has been fascinated by Mennonites for more than 30 years, and appreciates their sense of humour.

On one trip to rural Manitoba, he was greeted by a Minister in a Soviet military hat, and pancakes strung across the road in a makeshift, notional Mennonite border.

"There was once Russia's Iron Curtain and East Asia's Bamboo Curtain. But only in Mennonite country would you find the outside world symbolically closed-off with a Pancake Curtain."

James (left) is issued with a passport by Harold Peters-Franz at the notional border of 'Mennonite Land'.

Contact

James.Urry@vuw.ac.nz
+64-4-463 6130

Stirring up the public sector

A Victoria management researcher caused major news headlines recently when his research on State-owned enterprises' directors was published.

Dr Richard Norman's research, conducted in partnership with Cameron & Co and published in *Public Sector*, found directors of the largest SOEs are concerned the appointment process is too heavily weighted towards political acceptability.

Richard, Senior Lecturer in the Victoria Management School, used electronic meeting software to enable directors from nine SOEs to generate ideas anonymously through two focus groups and a questionnaire.

The election of Labour-led Governments since 1999 has seen the 'prepare for sale' approach to SOEs replaced with a 'long-term hold' strategy, he says.

"Does political commitment to long-term ownership mean there should also be a change in the governance framework for SOEs? My research found SOEs could be at risk from an appointment process that virtually guarantees relatively high turnover among directors and limited engagement by chairs and directors in creating boards with the balance of skills needed for effective governance.

"Directors are concerned that appointments made

for political or diversity reasons may be reducing their ability to assess long-term strategy."

Richard says the directors' views about SOE governance raise interesting questions about the future of the SOE model.

"While these views are only one input into assessing the strengths and weaknesses of the model and identifying potential for improvements, they provide 'inside' knowledge and experience. Included are important suggestions for improving and aligning the allocation of decision rights, performance measurement and directors' compensation."

Richard says the survey indicates the move to a 'long-term hold' approach has seen one significant improvement, in that boards feel they are in control of decisions about strategy and have the opportunity to test strategic plans proposed by management.

"However the process and criteria for choosing directors ... are seen to have shortcomings. Responses indicate the process for selection is too arbitrary, lacks adequate input from the chair and board and is too heavily weighted towards political acceptability and correctness rather than capability."

"Does political commitment to long-term ownership mean there should also be a change in the governance framework for SOEs?"

Contact

Richard.Norman@vuw.ac.nz
+64-4-463 5455

Korean complexities

For 60 years the Korean peninsula has been one of the world's flashpoints and it remains so today despite the efforts of China and South Korea to ameliorate relations between the United States and North Korea.

A new book by Dr Tim Beal, Senior Lecturer in the School of Marketing & International Business, investigates North Korea's struggle against the American power as it has escalated over the past four years.

"During the late 1990s relations between North Korea and the US and its allies were on the mend," says Tim.

"However, the election of George W Bush, in 2000, resulted in renewed crisis. The nuclear accord between the two countries was torn up, and years of relationship building under the former administration were unravelled.

"The change in the relationship dashed North Korean hopes for establishing normal diplomatic and economic relations. Though malnutrition has eased and the economy is now growing, the outlook is still bleak."

Contact

Tim.Beal@vuw.ac.nz
+64-4-463 5080



Dr Tim Beal

North Korea: The Struggle Against American Power was a result of four visits to the isolated nation, as well as research into its historical and political framework, the development of the nuclear crisis, human rights issues, drug trading, and its shifting relationship with South Korea.

"I wanted to unearth the complex realities of this much-demonised country. The North is not a worker's paradise but, like Iraq, neither is it a threat to its neighbours and the region in the way usually portrayed."

Tim hopes to develop Victoria's involvement with North Korean academics and students.

"It would be great if we could include North Korean students in some of our programmes aimed at government officials, as it's extremely difficult for North Koreans to gain access to up-to-date information and education."

Tim has been invited to teach at the Pyongyang Business School in the North Korean capital, and hopes to use the opportunity to further his research for his next book on the region.

Learning, motivation and the NCEA

Does New Zealand's National Certificate of Educational Achievement (NCEA) actually motivate secondary school students to learn and achieve?

This question was explored in research carried out by Professor Luanna Meyer, of the College of Education, and Associate Professors John McClure and Frank Walkey, from the School of Psychology, in a major report for the Ministry of Education.

"Student perspectives and voices were emphasised, with a special focus on what students think and say about the impact of NCEA on their learning and study behaviour," says Luanna.

Research was based on survey, interview and focus group data from 6,000 Year 10–13 students from 20 representative secondary schools.

Year 11–13 students also consented to their learning records being accessed, allowing the relationships between motivation orientations and actual achievement to be investigated. Parent and teacher focus groups provided additional perspectives on the issues raised by students.

"We now have substantive information about student perspectives on motivation and NCEA, and the relationship of those attitudes to their

actual academic achievement and learning patterns," says John.

"The findings are consistent with motivation theory and suggest ways to enhance the qualification design and actions that schools could take to maximise student NCEA motivation and performance."

NCEA strengths and concerns related to student data are highlighted.

"Overall, students, parents and teachers are positive about the mix of internal and external assessment," says Frank. "Conversely, some saw the maximum 80 credit requirement as a potential cap on ambition that could encourage a minimalist approach."

"Students, parents and teachers made suggestions for improving NCEA, including more detailed grade bands, the need to work on consistency across schools and subjects, and reducing any grading anomalies."

Luanna says the NCEA's implementation was intended to achieve particular educational outcomes for students, ensuring their futures are informed by evidence they had met learning outcomes in areas important to them and society.

"This research provides insight into NCEA's intentions. Longer term research, supported by actual achievement evidence, will better inform decisions aimed at improving student outcomes."

Contact

Luanna.Meyer@vuw.ac.nz
+64-4-463 9598



The dark side of kids' books

Weird and wonderful tales of the supernatural have both fascinated and frightened children for hundreds of years.

Dr Anna Jackson, Lecturer in the School of English, Film, Theatre, & Media Studies, is researching the dark underbelly of these literary themes and is co-editing a book, *The Gothic in Children's Literature*, to be published next year.

Anna first became interested in the intersection between Gothic and contemporary children's literature after teaching separate courses on both subjects.

She was interested that the Gothic genre—usually said to begin with Horace Walpole's *The Castle of Otranto* (1764)—began to emerge at the same time as books written for children, such as John Newbery's *The History of Little Goody Two-Shoes* (1765). Both genres reached a peak in the 1790s.

"Children's preference for the supernatural was a cause of concern in the late eighteenth century, so books began to be written especially for children, which were highly moralistic and educational. Few children now would ever want to read them," says Anna.

In 2005, Anna travelled to Britain on a Victoria New Researcher Grant to look for Gothic motifs and images in eighteenth and early nineteenth-century texts primarily read by children. Many of these were ephemeral texts such as chap-books, inexpensive pocket-sized booklets containing many kinds of printed material, including folk tales, nursery rhymes, and children's stories.

"These were far more readable than the texts that were ostensibly for children, and far more recognisable as children's books," she says.

This has led Anna to question whether books such as *The History of Little Goody Two-Shoes* should really be considered as the origin of a new genre of children's literature at all. One theory she proposes is that children's literature might start with the first children's books satirising the very genre they are part of.

"*Alice in Wonderland*, the first children's classic, recaptures the dream-like style of fantasy of the chap-books, while also parodying the more socially sanctioned, instructive children's literature of the eighteenth century," says Anna.

The Gothic genre also began as a parody of earlier literature. *The Castle of Otranto* was originally presented as if it was a translation of a discovered medieval romance, and the eighteenth-century Gothic novel was typically presented as an imitation of an earlier tradition. "Both children's literature and the Gothic genre can be said to begin with a return to the past."

Today, children continue to seek out the Gothic in books such as J. K. Rowling's *Harry Potter* series and Lemony Snicket's *A Series of Unfortunate Events* books.

No doubt their children will seek out the weird and wonderful in the books they read, too.

"Children's preference for the supernatural was a cause of concern in the late eighteenth-century, so books began to be written especially for children, which were highly moralistic and educational. Few children now would ever want to read them."

Contact

Anna.Jackson@vuw.ac.nz
+64-4-463 6840



Research assistant Neto Pule monitors a black rhino.

The scent of the rhino

Few people can claim part of their day job involves experimenting with the dung and urine of endangered black rhinoceroses.

But Dr Wayne Linklater, Senior Lecturer in the School of Biological Sciences, can boast this on his CV—all in an effort to ensure the species' survival.

In 2001 Wayne developed, and has since led, a rhinoceros research project in the Republic of South Africa, part of which involves trying to mitigate the death-rates of rhinos.

Physically moving the black rhinoceros into new or established rhino environments—or translocation—is a key part of the animal's recovery, either by relocating stock to new areas or supplementing the genetic stock of existing populations.

But there's an irony in this population-saving approach.

In some circumstances death and poor reproduction rates occur in the new habitat when the animals can't quickly establish home ranges or settle into normal behaviour. Fighting between rhinos, accidents and stress all contribute to the mortality rate.

And that's where the rhino dung and urine comes into play. "As part of our work, we've conducted an experimental trial on the effect of scent broadcasting on the rhino's post-release behaviour," says Wayne.

Since 2002, South Africa's KwaZulu-Natal wildlife reserves have been home to Wayne's research, with significant support from United States Fish & Wildlife Service's Rhinoceros & Tiger Conservation Fund. In September this year, 11 rhinos in the Pongola Reserve were subject to the broadcast scent experiment.

Prior to a rhino's release, the animal's dung and urine is spread around its new habitat. The intention is to fool black rhinos into behaving less aggressively to newcomers by causing them to think an intruder is in fact a neighbour.

"Rhinos have poor eyesight, but a well-developed sense of smell, and rely on this in their social lives and when making decisions about where to live. What we do know is that by smelling the dung and urine, rhinos are capable of telling which animal the scent comes from as well as its sex, age and location.

"In the rhinos' world, smell is the source of much of their information about their habitat and other rhinos, so their scent can be used to familiarise rhinos with one another before they physically meet. This reduces the tendency for the first response to an intruder to be all-out attack."

Wayne says the key to the success of this technique is establishing what the scents of the hundreds of different chemicals in dung mean to rhino.



Wayne (left) and MSc student Ian Hutcheson radio tracking black rhinoceros in South Africa.

"It appears that the spread of a rhino's scent gives them confidence and they move further from the release site. However, if we use dung from the opposite sex they hang around. So the type of scent broadcasting we do depends on what we want to achieve and how we want to manage their behaviour."

Wayne says this approach is relevant to other species and he wants to take the knowledge and experience from work in Africa and apply it to the endangered Greater One-Horned Rhino in South East Asia.

"It's a pretty novel approach, but one I hope will make a valuable contribution to black rhino conservation."

Contact

Wayne.Linklater@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 Tel: +64-4-463 5301.



Tertiary education reforms

From Vice-Chancellor,
Professor Pat Walsh

The Government recently announced a number of key decisions as part of its reform of tertiary education.

While many details have yet to be determined, I am cautiously optimistic the proposals will allow Victoria University to build upon its tradition of excellence in the research-led teaching. The reforms emphasise the investment in our nation's future that comes from a strong university sector.

These announcements come at a time when Victoria is experiencing strong domestic enrolments, and we have completed a campus development plan to improve the environment for study and research at Kelburn. As well—as a result of tripartite talks between Government, the Vice-Chancellors, and staff unions—staff will receive a significant salary increase.

Perhaps the most gratifying feature is the intention to reinforce the distinctive contribution made by universities. Universities are committed to research-led learning to postgraduate level, to undertaking research, and to the dissemination of knowledge and promotion of learning. The reforms aim to support universities to be internationally competitive, and to deliver high-quality teaching and research, building on current areas of strength.

There is also a strong commitment by the Tertiary Education Commission (TEC) to reach agreement with Vice-Chancellors on how the reforms will be implemented.

While there are positives, the overall level of funding for the university sector is still inadequate and New Zealand universities are, by international standards, under-funded. This hampers efforts to improve staff-to-student ratios and makes it increasingly difficult to support teaching and research activity at levels consistent with comparable Australian universities.

Underpinning the Government's policy changes is a reform investment strategy that sets our direction and funding for a three-year period.

This commitment will allow longer-term planning and investment than is the case at present with an annual funding regime. While we will have to meet the various agreed targets and other measures of performance, annual movements in enrolments are less likely to require sudden, disruptive adjustments to long-term plans. I am concerned, however, that there will be increased compliance costs if this process becomes a complex negotiation.

The Government intends to replace the EFTS system, which has been criticised for encouraging institutions to focus only on short-term enrolment gains, with a two-component system.

The Learner Achievement Component will contribute to the costs of teaching and learning and will be adjusted according to the nature of the programme, student numbers, and the nature of the learners. The second, institutional or Tertiary Education Organisation Component, will be a contribution to the costs of focusing on an agreed specific and distinctive role. This component will be made up of a core, but may also provide access to a strategic fund to promote and support innovation of various kinds. It is not yet clear what proportion of total funding each component will be, and Vice-Chancellors will soon be discussing this with TEC.

Universities will receive their first instalment of the three-year funding commitment in 2008 and performance measures will come into effect in 2009.

Universities back 'investment' as a means of supporting individual organisations to carry out their distinctive role. There is also broad support for the negotiation of a plan that contains an overall funding limit and focuses on quality outcomes. The implications for student fees, and the existing fees maxima and fee movement regulations are not yet known.

The Government's commitment to university education and its willingness to invest in its distinctive contribution bodes well for the future.

As always, the devil is in the detail and Vice-Chancellors will be working to ensure unnecessary and costly compliance costs, that have the potential to divert us from focusing on quality learning, teaching and research, are avoided.

The reforms aim to support universities to be internationally competitive, and to deliver high-quality teaching and research, building on current areas of strength.



Learning @ Vic

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.



Wild ducks fly north

The Wild Ducks check out the sights in China.

Most students are content to learn in the classroom and for some the classroom is half a world away.

Earlier this year, a group of 10 Victoria students visited China to talk to fellow students and businesspeople about Chinese and New Zealand business relationships.

Known as the Wild Ducks Club, a reference to innovative young IBM employees, the group was led by marketing graduate Chen Shi and comprised students from a variety of ethnic backgrounds and academic disciplines, including theatre and Māori business.

The aim of the trip was to give students real-life opportunities to exercise the skills and learning gained from their studies.

"We were keen to get first-hand experience of Chinese business, so we can offer specialist skills to clients or employers in the future," Chen says.

The group visited three top universities in China: Peking University and Renmin University in Beijing, and Wuhan University.

Dr Tim Beal, Senior Lecturer in the School of Marketing & International Business, who accompanied the group, says Victoria has long-standing links with all three universities.

"But this was probably the first time there had been a student initiative to develop the relationship. It was exciting, and a bit sobering, to see how easily Chinese and Kiwi students interacted, with scarcely a professor or administrator in sight."

The students say the most important aspect of doing business in China is developing a good grasp of the culture.

"Talking to university students was useful; as the future business leaders of China, it was important for us to understand where they have come from and the values that have underpinned their educational development," says Chen.

The students are maintaining their Chinese contacts and some group members have started studying the Chinese language, with a view to returning in the future.

"All the Wild Ducks found the trip to be a hugely rewarding experience, rich in learning and personal development," says Chen.

The group travelled to China with support from Victoria and the Asia New Zealand Foundation.

Contact

Tim.Beal@vuw.ac.nz
+64-4-463 5080

New programmes

Victoria updates its programmes to incorporate advances in scholarship and to reflect the needs of society, students and employers. Graduates are encouraged to develop skills in creative and critical thinking, leadership and communication. A selection of new programmes include:

Postgraduate Certificate in Nursing

The Graduate School of Nursing, Midwifery & Health has developed the certificate programme to extend the learning of nurses in professional practice. This may be a stand-alone qualification or can provide the basis for further study.

nmh@vuw.ac.nz
+64-4-463 5363

Postgraduate Certificate in Higher Education Learning & Teaching

In February 2007 the University Teaching Development Centre will offer this professional qualification for new and experienced academics, and related staff, who want to become more effective in research-led teaching.

utdc-contact@vuw.ac.nz
+64-4-463 9786

Master of Industrial Design

Following on from the Design-Led Futures initiative in the School of Design, the new Master of Industrial Design brings together a unique partnership of design professionals, industrial design students, and industry partners, to develop creative leaders for New Zealand's sustained cultural development and economic success.

design@vuw.ac.nz
+64-4-463 6256

Master of Marine Conservation

The Faculty of Science has introduced several new subjects and programmes, one of which is the Master of Marine Conservation in the School of Biological Sciences. With marine conservation at the forefront of national and international marine science priorities, there is a pressing need to train scientists to advise on, implement and manage conservation areas.

biosci@vuw.ac.nz
+64-4-463 5339

Media lab boosts programme

The School of Design's new digital media programme has been given a substantial boost with the opening of a state-of-the-art digital lab at the Te Aro Campus.

The new lab means students undertaking the new programme will work with the latest technology.

"Digital media is of growing importance in the education of the next generation of designers," says Head of School, Professor Roy Fleetwood.

The Digital Media Design Lab coincides with the establishment of a Digital Media major in the Bachelor of Design programme.

Programme Director, Marcia Lyons, is fresh from New York where she's been based for the past two decades. She's thrilled to be at Victoria and keen to continue exploring digital media in a period of rapid change and broadband development.

"The new Digital Media Design Lab creates a twenty-first century experimental laboratory and think-tank, with access to the latest range of software and hardware required to actively engage in interactive and immersive methods of communication and research.

"We've also installed the largest professional AVID editing educational suite in New Zealand and one



Marcia and Vice-Chancellor, Professor Pat Walsh, check out the new lab.

of the first MAX/MSP interactive suites. This enables students to examine design in the context of cinematic communication processes along with interactive experience in the information age."

The Digital Media programme will provide students with a foundation of film industry skill sets and interactive experience design uses.

Marcia says this combination will help ensure graduates have international job opportunities in the growing design-led interactive entertainment industries.

"A taste of what lies ahead can be seen in the fascinating and creative digital design work already carried out in many of the major films recently shot in Wellington. This programme builds on those innovations and in the broadband expanded augmented reality iTV broadcasting happening worldwide. The new lab will enable us to forge links both nationally and internationally which will launch students into the future."

Contact

Marcia.Lyons@vuw.ac.nz
+64-4-463 6278

The Latin American connection

Victoria has forged stronger links to Spanish-speaking countries this year, thanks to new exchange agreements.

Four Victoria students departed for Chile and one to Argentina in Trimester 1 and a further five students are set to go to Latin America in Trimester 2, with four expressing interest for 2007.

"Vic OE offers students an unparalleled opportunity to enrich their education," says Pro Vice-Chancellor (International), Professor Roberto Rabel.

"Coming into close contact with another culture, developing independence and learning another language are very valuable experiences."

Victoria has exchange agreements with three universities in Chile: Universidad de Chile in Santiago; Universidad de Valparaíso; and Universidad Católica de Chile.

In August, Rob signed an agreement with Pontificia Universidad Católica Argentina, marking the first such agreement with an Argentinean university.

"This new agreement is an opportunity for Victoria to further strengthen its portfolio of exchange partners in Latin America," he says.

"As Spanish is one of the most widely-spoken languages in the world, it's great for Victoria, and its students, to have strong relationships with Spanish-speaking universities."

A new programme is under way offering English language training to Government officials of Peru. The project is helping the Peruvians organise the 2008 Asia Pacific Economic Co-operation (APEC) Summit to be held in Lima, providing opportunities to improve language skills and liaise with the organisers of the 1999 Auckland APEC Summit.

The first 16 Peruvian officials arrived in Wellington in August for a five-month stay. A second group is expected in February 2007.

The pilot programme, run by Victoria Link Ltd and the English Language Institute, is modelled on the successful English Language Training for Officials (ELTO) Programme which has been running at Victoria for several years.

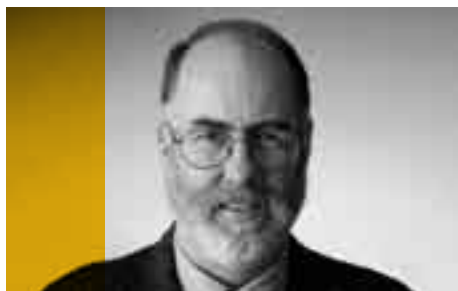


Carlos Ezcurra (left), of Universidad Católica Argentina, and Rob sign the agreement.

Contact

www.vuw.ac.nz/international

Who's new?



Charles Daugherty

Professor Charles Daugherty has been appointed Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Research). A leading New Zealand biologist, he has responsibility for the team of portfolio managers in the Office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) and will lead initiatives to improve the University's external research income. Charles was last year made an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit and holds a PhD in zoology from the University of Montana. He is a well respected member of the scientific community and a Fellow of the Royal Society of New Zealand, convening the Ecology, Evolution and Behaviour Panel of the Society's Marsden Fund Council. His research interests cover the evolutionary and population biology of vertebrates, conservation genetics, and ecological restoration. He is particularly well known for his work on New Zealand's native and endangered tuatara. Until recently, he was Head of the School of Biological Sciences and Deputy Dean of the Faculty of Science.



Elizabeth Hudson

Professor Elizabeth Hudson is the inaugural Director of the New Zealand School of Music—a centre of excellence established jointly by Victoria and Massey universities. She has a PhD and MA in musicology from Cornell University and has taught music at the University of Virginia in the United States, where she also chaired the music department. She has written extensively about nineteenth-century opera, and her critical edition of Verdi's *Il corsaro* has been performed at major opera houses around the world. Her ongoing research focuses on the representation of women in opera, and on performance studies. The New Zealand School of Music is based at Victoria's Kelburn Campus and Massey's Wellington and Albany campuses and has been operational since January 2006.



Keitha Dunstan

Professor Keitha Dunstan has been appointed as the Head of the School of Accounting & Commercial Law. She is also the founding Director of the School's Centre for Accounting, Governance & Taxation Research. Her research interests are in the areas of corporate governance, public sector accounting, financial accounting and management accounting. She is conducting research into the corporate governance practices of New Zealand listed companies and the capital market reaction to disclosures made under New Zealand's continuous disclosure regime. Her teaching areas span research methodology, financial accounting and management accounting. Keitha has been a member of the New Zealand Securities Commission since 2003 and is the New Zealand President of the Accounting & Finance Association of Australia & New Zealand. She is one of the University's co-editors of *Pacific Accounting Review*, and has been a member of the Business and Economics Panel of the Performance-Based Research Fund.



Jenny Barclay

Jenny Barclay has been appointed as Director, Continuing Education and Executive Development, and took up her role in mid-August. Jenny was most recently the Director of the Management Delivery Unit in the School of Government, responsible for the University's coordination of the Victoria-Police Education Programme. The Programme is a multi-disciplinary and pan-University development designed to meet the undergraduate and postgraduate study needs of New Zealand Police. Before joining Victoria in 2000, Jenny was the Dean of the Faculty of Community & Continuing Education at Bromley College of Further & Higher Education, England. She brings a broad range of experience in education, training, social policy, and cultural heritage in advisory, policy analysis, and management positions. This experience has been gained at national and local level, in community and government organisations, and in policy and operational roles.

‘Hijacking’ wins top award

Research into the cunning ability of tuberculosis to hijack immune cells has resulted in PhD student Kylie Quinn winning a MacDiarmid Young Scientist of the Year Award.

Kylie, a student at the Victoria-based Malaghan Institute of Medical Research and the School of Biological Sciences, was awarded joint runner-up in the Advancing Human Health category of the Awards earlier this year.

Her winning poster, *TB’s partner in crime: How Tuberculosis hijacks our cells to hide*, described how TB-causing bacteria may escape destruction by hijacking ‘Tregs’, a type of white blood cell that can shut down the immune response.

“This may be the way these bacteria escape the immune response and cause long-term infection,” says Kylie.

Her research could assist in designing a more effective vaccine against TB, which kills up to two million people worldwide each year.

Inactivating the Tregs using antibodies led to an increased immune response and, in one TB infection model, a marked decrease in lung damage. This points to an improved ability of the immune system to control the bacteria without causing injury to infected tissue.



“Ultimately, if we can help the immune system control TB infection, we will help prevent lung damage,” she says.

Kylie was the first student at the Institute to enrol in a PhD programme at Victoria, following relocation of the Institute to the Kelburn Campus in 2004.

Her work is supervised by Dr Joanna Kirman, head of the Institute’s Infectious Diseases Group, and Dr Ronan O’Toole from the School of Biological Sciences. Kylie is supported by a PhD fellowship from Lotteries Health.

The MacDiarmid Awards are presented annually by the Foundation for Research, Science & Technology to foster excellence and the innovative spirit of New Zealand’s top young researchers. Her award category was sponsored by the Health Research Council of New Zealand.

Kylie receives her award from the Minister of Research, Science & Technology, Hon Steve Maharey, and Graeme Fraser, Chair of the Health Research Council of New Zealand.

Contact

www.vuw.ac.nz/scps-demos

‘Best brains’ benefit

Two Victoria University Master’s students are the recipients of prestigious William Georgetti Scholarships.

Amanda Gilbertson, an anthropology student from the School of Social & Cultural Studies, was awarded \$4,000 in August to complete her MA, while Stephanie Head, studying English literature, was awarded \$25,000 over three years to study toward a PhD at the University of Rhode Island in the United States.

The Georgetti Scholarships are managed by the New Zealand Vice-Chancellors’ Committee and Public Trust. They are awarded by the Scholarships Board, which includes the Prime Minister, and were established in 1943 from the estate of William Georgetti who, declared “the best brains available shall receive the benefit of this trust”.

A further significant achievement saw Jessica Kerr, studying an LLB(Hons), named co-recipient of the Chapman Tripp Sheffield Young Prize in June. She was also awarded the Victoria University Medal for Academic Excellence.



Amanda Gilbertson



Stephanie Head



Gifting

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 Tel: +64-4-463 5109.



Benjamin (right) and Andrew in downtown Wellington.

Zimbabwean judge joins Victoria

A Zimbabwean High Court judge who fled his homeland as a refugee is now based at Victoria thanks to the Sigrid Rausing Trust and Victoria University Foundation.

Benjamin Paradza recently arrived in Wellington as Victoria's first Sigrid Rausing Visiting Fellow in the Institute of Policy Studies.

Professor Pat Walsh, Vice-Chancellor, welcomed Benjamin to Victoria. "We are proud to be assisting Benjamin in rebuilding his career in an academic setting and we sympathise that he is unable to do this in his own country. It will be beneficial to our staff and students to have the opportunity to develop their skills with a practised jurist in their midst."

Benjamin is working with Institute Director, Dr Andrew Ladley, in developing a personal study programme, and researching and commenting in the broad area of peace and conflict studies. He is focusing on the importance of the independence of the judiciary and the rule of law.

"For all of us who believed in liberation from oppression, Zimbabwe is a tragedy with no obvious end," says Benjamin.

"I hope to draw lessons from our experience that might help others. My family and I are deeply grateful for the opportunity we have been given."

London-based Swedish philanthropist, Sigrid Rausing, has a particular interest in refugees and guardians of human rights, like Benjamin, who are persecuted for trying to uphold the rule of law.

She has provided funding for two years during which time staff in the Institute and the Faculty of Law hope to found a permanent fellowship in the area of the Rule of Law.

Noteworthy endowment

Professional violinist Clare Galambos-Winter has ensured the future of violin performance is in talented hands.

Her substantial gift, made in August this year, provides annual scholarships worth \$7,500 to an undergraduate and honours student in the New Zealand School of Music.

Made in perpetuity, the Clare Galambos-Winter Honours Scholarship in Violin Performance is valued at \$4,500 and the Clare Galambos-Winter Undergraduate Scholarship in Violin Performance is valued at \$3,000. The endowment was arranged through the Victoria University of Wellington Foundation.

Clare (82), a World War II Auschwitz-Birkenau Camp survivor, arrived in New Zealand in 1949 as a Hungarian immigrant. She played the violin professionally for 50 years, including 33 years in the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra.

New Zealand School of Music Director, Professor Elizabeth Hudson, says the endowment is an amazing and thoughtful contribution from an incredible survivor and musician.

"We are exceedingly fortunate to have Clare as a benefactor and future generations of talented violin students will benefit immensely from her generosity."

Elizabeth says the scholarships will be awarded on a yearly basis to one Honours student in violin performance—based on their talent, performance, examination results, career aspirations and financial need. The undergraduate scholarship, also in violin performance, may be held for more than one year, but is based on the same selection criteria.

Clare says the endowment is her way of showing her appreciation to her adopted country. "New Zealand provided me with a new home and enabled me to continue to play the violin as a professional performer."

Last year, she gifted two of her valuable violins to the School, one of them was the first violin she bought after arriving in New Zealand—sold to her by a member of the NZSO. The other Hungarian violin was bought in the 1980s from a fiddler touring with the first group of gypsy musicians to visit New Zealand.



Clare and Elizabeth mark the handover of the scholarship funds.



Patricia's desk in the Beaglehole Room.

A writer's gift

Influenced by books from a young age, Patricia Grace has written a number of award-winning stories and influenced many up-and-coming writers. Now, in a nostalgic act of generosity, Patricia has gifted her writing desk to Victoria's J. C. Beaglehole Room.

A Writing Fellow at Victoria in 1985, Patricia was awarded an honorary Doctor of Literature degree in 1989, and has contributed to the Literary Archives project since 1993. When her grandchildren all said the desk was too big for their use, she thought of offering it to the staff at the Beaglehole Room.

"We're delighted Patricia chose to gift her desk to the Library. It's inspiring to think about what she achieved at it over the years and we appreciate that she thought of us," says Special Materials Librarian, Nicola Freaan.

Patricia's glad it's getting used. Until the end of 2006 the desk will be used for a Beaglehole Room

project on the New Zealand Students' Arts Council archives and posters, which are to be described and digitised to ease research use. From 2007 it will be available for use by any of the researchers accessing the rare books and archives collections.

The desk was bought in 1986 by Patricia at auction after she won a computer from Digital Equipment for her novel, *Potiki*. Although she says the desk is "nothing special," it marked her graduation from writing at the kitchen table with a typewriter, and was used for 20 years until her novel, *Tu*.

Since 1993 Patricia's papers, along with those of Witi Ihimaera, Alistair Te Ariki Campbell, and Jenny Bornholdt, have formed the growing New Zealand Literary Archives Collection at Victoria.

"The four of them are building up a rich resource for researchers," says Nicola. "Patricia's archive now takes up about 2.5m of shelf space and includes drafts through which her writing methods and development can be traced."

Regularly remembering

A new opportunity to regularly donate to Victoria is included with this issue of *Victorious*.

The Annual Alumni Appeal provides a tangible way of keeping memories of Victoria fresh in your mind on an ongoing basis.

By setting up a modest ongoing direct debit or credit card payment you can contribute to:

- supporting top students who couldn't otherwise afford to complete their studies—through the Hunter Scholarship Fund
- groundbreaking research that could make a difference to all New Zealanders—through the Maclaurin Research Fund

- supporting student participation in local and international social, cultural and sporting events—through the Team Victoria Fund
- ongoing enhancement and access to valuable learning resources—through the Rankine Brown Library Fund
- enabling Victoria to maximise innovative new teaching, resource or development opportunities through the Victoria Trust Fund.

"This initiative recognises the significant and vital support alumni can contribute to the University's future teaching and research excellence, infrastructure and environs," says Vice-Chancellor Professor Pat Walsh.

"Victoria's 125 years of proud history is reinforced by the high calibre of students and staff who have studied, taught and researched here.

"Alumni have the ability to help shape the University's future. Please take the time to consider this request for financial assistance. Every contribution helps in making a valuable difference."

"This initiative recognises the significant and vital support alumni can contribute to the University's future teaching and research excellence, infrastructure and environs."



Alumni News

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 Tel: +64-4-463 6700 www.vuw.ac.nz/alumni



Alumni Relations Update

International MBA graduates celebrate completing their degrees at the *Life After Vic* function in Hong Kong.

From Alumni Relations Manager, Matthew Reweti-Gould

This year has been extremely busy for the Alumni Relations Office with 13 *Life After Vic* functions held this year, with another in London in November. There was a great turn-out at the functions and they provided an excellent opportunity to showcase Victoria and its recent achievements.

This year, for the first time, we offered international graduates the opportunity to have their degree certificates presented at these functions, instead of at Graduation in Wellington. This option proved popular with more than 40 people taking it up in Asia alone. The degrees were conferred by the University Council prior to the functions and by taking this option, graduates could have their families present, which might not have been possible at a ceremony in New Zealand.

The function in Kuala Lumpur was co-hosted by Victoria alumnus and New Zealand High Commissioner, His Excellency Geoff Randal. With 80 people attending it was a great opportunity to promote the goodwill of the University and for alumni from different disciplines to meet.

In Bangkok a more intimate group of 30 was present when Professor Rob Rabel, Pro Vice-Chancellor (International), presented

Sittichai Tanthasith with his Master of Public Policy degree certificate.

The celebrations continued in Ho Chi Minh City when, with 30 guests present, Do Thi Nhu Hoa and Ho Thi Ngoc Han were presented with their Master of Library and Information Studies degree certificates. The Kuching function provided a great opportunity to highlight the good news and achievements of the University to the 40 guests there.

About 65 people attended the Singapore celebration where Emeritus Professor Tim Beaglehole, Chancellor, presented renowned philanthropist Lee Seng Tee with an honorary Doctor of Literature degree.

Hong Kong was the biggest function, with 250 people in attendance. Thirty-five people were awarded their International Master of Business Administration degrees and a further five, who have chosen to have their degrees conferred in New Zealand, were congratulated for successfully completing the programme.

Shanghai and Beijing were the final functions in the Asian sector of the *Life After Vic* tour and both had a good turn out with 40 guests each. In Shanghai, Chen Jun was presented with her BCA degree certificate and in Beijing, Shi Yanjie was presented with her Master of Public Policy degree certificate.

These functions, as well as those in Hamilton, Sydney, Melbourne, Auckland and Christchurch, provided a great opportunity for alumni to reconnect with their alma mater.

Functions were held in California and New York in early October and on October 12 the Annual Alumni Dinner in Wellington takes place. The staff from the Alumni Relations Office are now looking forward to the final event in London during November where Dame Kiri Te Kanawa will receive an honorary Doctor of Music degree.

Contact

Matthew.Reweti-Gould@vuw.ac.nz
+64-4-463 5246

Victoria Events

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

Inaugural Annual Alumni Dinner

12 October

The highlight of the local calendar, the inaugural Alumni Dinner, will be held on 12 October at Wellington Town Hall. The evening will include the presentation of Distinguished Alumni Awards and the launch of the Annual Alumni Appeal.

Life After Vic function

6 November, London

Life After Vic functions are an opportunity to meet with other alumni, friends and staff. It is also a great way to learn of the future plans for the University. At this function Dame Kiri Te Kanawa will be presented with an honorary Doctor of Music degree.

Victoria House Centenary Celebrations

10 – 11 February 2007

Victoria House is celebrating 100 years of service to the University community. Did you stay in Vic House? Want to attend? For more information please email vichouse100th@gmail.com or phone +64-4-384 3357

New Zealand Alumni Convention

Cancelled

It is with regret that the New Zealand Alumni Convention, which was to be held in Wellington from 5-8 November, has been cancelled due to insufficient early registrations.

Contact

www.vuw.ac.nz/alumni
www.vuw.ac.nz/events

Family matters

Victoria's Chancellor, Emeritus Professor Tim Beaglehole, discovered a previously unknown fact while researching and writing his father's biography: his dad really was horrified by the way Tim drove after he first got his licence.

This and other more significant insights came from Tim's close reading of hundreds of letters written by his father, John Cawte (J. C.) Beaglehole, while he worked on his biography, *A Life of J. C. Beaglehole: New Zealand Scholar*.

In the years following his father's death in 1971, Tim began to explore the letters, firstly those written to John's parents while he was a PhD student in London in the late 1920s.

"I found them fascinating reading and wrote a paper based on them which studied my father's feelings at that time about New Zealand and Britain.

"That was the germ of the biography, and I started to collect material. But it was only after I retired that I got to work seriously. Once I started writing there were many interruptions—overseas travel and sailing on the replica *Endeavour*—and it took me about six or seven years to finish the first draft."

The book reflects more than a son's desire to write about a parent and their relationship—a potentially disastrous recipe.

"As an historian interested in New Zealand history, I found my father a key figure in our intellectual and social history in the middle decades of the twentieth century.

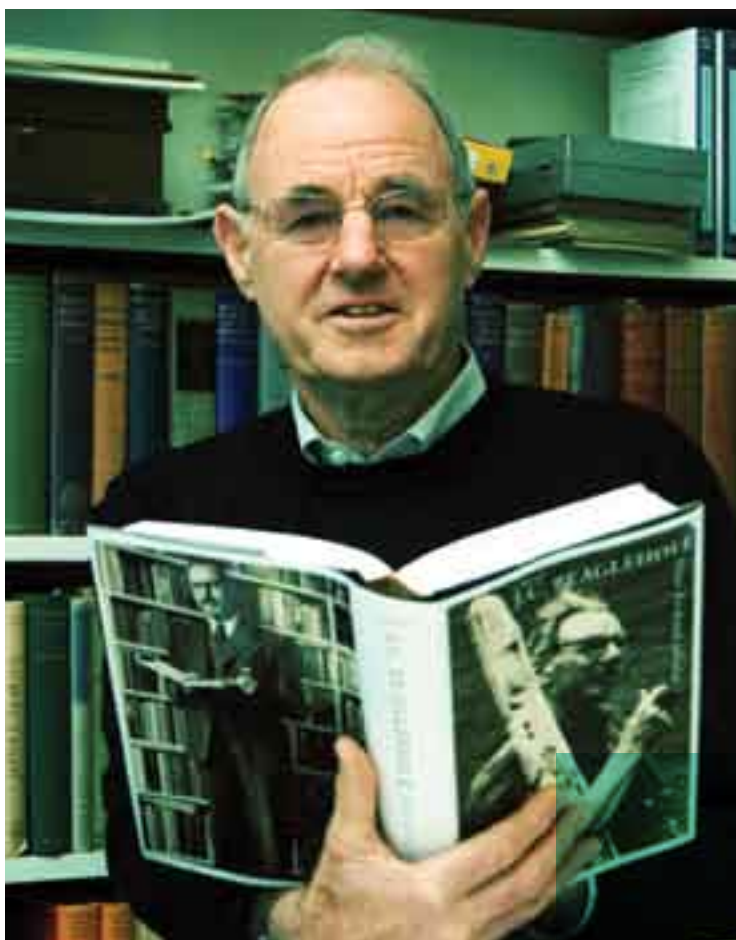
"Much that has been written about emerging ideas of nationhood in those years has focussed on poets, and I felt that by writing on my father and a number of his colleagues and friends I would give a fuller and more balanced picture."

J. C. Beaglehole's defining historical work on James Cook also served to motivate Tim to "understand just what was involved in editing Cook's journals and writing his biography, and what made him such an outstanding scholar".

His work on Cook resulted in the award of the Order of Merit, making him the first New Zealander to be so honoured since Lord Rutherford.

Despite learning of his father's despair over his punctuation and driving skills, Tim says his father did not emerge as a markedly different man from the one he had known. He was, however, staggered at the range of his activities and the depth of scholarship.

Tim says he is pleased to have finished the publication, and is delighted with Victoria University Press' production, which was launched



by the Minister for Tertiary Education, Hon Dr Michael Cullen, in September.

"Books were one of the most important things in my father's life and I just hope he would have approved. Now that it's in print I am apprehensive, as I imagine all authors are, about the mistakes reviewers and readers will undoubtedly discover."

And what next for a man who was himself a Victoria student and then variously a member of Victoria's history department, management and Council from 1961 through to his retirement in 1996?

"As an historian interested in New Zealand history, I found my father a key figure in our intellectual and social history in the middle decades of the twentieth century."

"I enjoyed working on the book, as I have enjoyed everything I have done, but at the moment I'm not bursting to start on another. There are too many things to do in retirement."

The need for some time out from writing is little surprise. VUP describes the book as a "monumental work of scholarship" in which "the author has woven together all the aspects of his father's life into an immensely readable narrative".

As a student and academic at Victoria, J. C. Beaglehole's legacy lives on in both spirit and bricks and mortar—the latter represented by the J. C. Beaglehole Room, the official repository of the special collections in the University Library. His London letters are available online at www.nzetc.org/tm/scholarly/name-207379.html

Tim with the biography of his father.

Contact

+64-4-463 6488
www.vuw.ac.nz/vup



**The Musical Island Boys (from left):
Jeff, Marcellus, Matthew and William.**

Musical Island Boys

Forget the stereotypical striped waistcoats, straw hats and suspenders—the Musical Island Boys have updated the look of barbershop quartets and have made their mark on the international stage.

The four Victoria students—brothers Jeffrey Hunkin (tenor) and William Hunkin (baritone) with Marcellus Washburn (lead) and Matthew Gifford (bass)—have been performing together since 2002 and competing internationally since 2004.

Winners of the New Zealand Secondary Schools' Young Men in Harmony Competition in 2002 and 2003, the quartet stormed the 2004 International Barbershop Convention in Louisville, Kentucky, winning a bronze medal and becoming the first non-American group to be in the top three placed medal winners. In 2004, they won the top awards at the fourth Pan Pacific Barbershop Convention in Christchurch.

After winning bronze medals in 2004 and 2005, they became the first non-American group to win the International Collegiate Barbershop Quartet Championships, held in Indianapolis in July this year. Their result also won them the second-highest score in the history of the competition.

Winning first place earned them the coveted trophy and a prize pack, which included an expenses-paid trip to New Mexico for a barbershop convention in January next year, a return fare to next year's International Collegiate Barbershop Competition in Colorado and \$1,500 cash.

The Boys say they never dreamed they would come this far, says Matthew.

"We were really surprised to win—it's really humbling—and to also be the first non-American group to win feels amazing," he says.

The Musical Island Boys will perform at the Annual Alumni Dinner and inaugural Distinguished Alumni Awards, held in the Wellington Town Hall on 12 October.

Vice-Chancellor, Professor Pat Walsh, says it is an honour to have such talent on show at this prestigious function. "It's a wonderful opportunity to bring together alumni and some of our gifted current students," he says.

Great Wall, great journey

When alumnus Nathan Hoturoa Gray set out to be one of the first Westerners to walk the length of the Great Wall of China, he didn't realise quite what he'd get out of it.

Nathan, who holds an LLB(Hons) and BA, travelled to China in October 2000 as part of an expedition to walk from one end of the Great Wall of China to the other. His book on the experience, *First Pass Under Heaven*, was published this year and quickly went to number one on Dymocks' national booksellers list.

He says ego first inspired him to begin the 4,000km trek. He'd already travelled 20,000km around 50 countries before being invited to join the expedition by an Argentinean photojournalist friend of his brother.

"I was attracted to the idea of being one of the first Westerners to walk and document the Great Wall. I had this naïve, youthful, vigorous risk-everything energy."

The literal and figurative two-year journey turned into a humbling rite of passage, combined with a new self-awareness of mortality.

Up to one million people died in the construction of the Wall, earning it the dubious honour of being "the world's longest graveyard," he says.

"As I came to realise how amazing the structure is, it became a matter of honouring the builders."

The epic expedition proved far more challenging than ever anticipated. Blizzards, lightning strikes, the group splitting, thirst, starvation, snakes and police detention were among the hurdles.

During these times, the Māori phrase 'whitu ki raro, waru ki runga'—or 'seven times down, eight times up'—provided him with inspiration.

"You have to get up again; you're only beaten if you stay down," he says.

The life lessons learnt on his expedition are relevant to other people, at all stages of life, he says. "If you take small manageable steps within your own limits and capabilities you'll get to some cool places."



Distinguished alumni celebrated

On 12 October, the Wellington Town Hall will echo to the sounds of celebration as Victoria's seven inaugural Distinguished Alumni are recognised at the Victoria University Alumni Dinner.

Vice-Chancellor, Professor Pat Walsh, says each winner represents distinguished achievement in their field of endeavour.

The Annual Alumni Dinner reinforces town and gown links, through support from Wellington City Council and *The Dominion Post* and other local sponsors such as Toolbox, The Print Room and L.T. McGuinness. The recipients are:



Joseph Williams (LLB 1986) (Ngāti Pukenga, Te Arawa) is the Chief Judge of the Māori Land Court and Chairperson of the Waitangi Tribunal. He is an internationally recognised expert in indigenous rights law and a leading specialist in Māori issues. As well as being the youngest person to have been appointed Chief Judge in 1999, he was the first Māori lecturer in law at Victoria and established the first unit specialising in Māori issues at law firm Kensington Swan. He also holds an LLM from the University of British Columbia.



Jocelyn, Lady Keith (BA(Hons) 1983) is National President of the New Zealand Red Cross and a former registered nurse. She has been president of the New Zealand Nurses' Association, former head of Victoria's Department of Nursing Studies and friend of the Graduate School of Nursing, Midwifery & Health. She has held many professional, academic, public and private sector roles in nursing and health-related fields. Her outstanding contribution to the University was recognised in 2003 with an inaugural Hunter Fellowship.



John Allen (LLB 1983) is the Chief Executive of New Zealand Post, having held senior positions with the company before his appointment in 2003. He was a Senior Associate at law firm Rudd Watts and Stone (now Minter Ellison Rudd Watts) before becoming a partner in 1989. During 1995 and 2001, John was a Visiting Lecturer in Law at Victoria and became a Barrister and Solicitor in 1984.



Jeremy Coney (BA 1983) is one of New Zealand's most successful cricketers, widely regarded for his entertaining after-dinner speaking. Following retirement from professional cricket, he became a sports commentator, television host and author. Following seven years as a teacher, Jeremy began studying at Victoria in 1980 and in 1981 became a full-time cricketer. He received an MBE for services to cricket in 1986.



Deirdre Tarrant (BA 1967) has a distinguished career as a dancer, choreographer and director. Her ballet background was with Jeane Horne and the then New Zealand Ballet Company. She founded the renowned Footnote Dance Company in 1985 and is principal of the Tarrant Dance Studios and committed to youth performance in the work of the Deirdre Tarrant Youth Theatre. She was awarded an MNZM in 2000.



David Gascoigne (LLM 1964) has worked as a corporate lawyer (Minter Ellison Rudd Watts), arts administrator and holds an impressive list of public and private sector directorships. He is Chairman of the NBR New Zealand Opera and the New Zealand Film Production Fund. He was a founding Trustee and then Executive Chairman of the New Zealand International Arts Festival and Chair of the Rugby World Cup 2011 Bid Advisory Committee. He was awarded a DCNZM in 2005 for services to the arts and business and a CBE in 1989 for services to film.



Dr Richard Furneaux (BSc 1971, MSc 1973, PhD 1977) is the Carbohydrate Chemistry Technology Platform Manager at Industrial Research Limited. His world-renowned team of scientists is focused on the discovery and commercialisation of 'Glycotherapeutics'—drugs and dietary supplements based upon knowledge of the role of carbohydrate molecules in biological processes. His expertise is also playing a critical role in the burgeoning Australasian biotech sector. Richard is a Fellow of the Royal Society of New Zealand.



Victoria: A community presence

The University takes pride in being a valued member of and contributor to the Wellington community. The following events reinforce the thriving town and gown links involving businesses, organisations and people who support the University or are supported by it.



Emeritus Professor Tim Beaglehole with Victoria Legacy Club member, Emeritus Professor Les Holborow.



The Benzene Radicals from Wellington Girls' High School.

Double thanks for donors

Two recent functions recognised donors who, through their generosity, support the University through the Victoria University Foundation.

At the first function, the Foundation honoured its most significant donors and sponsors. Chancellor, Emeritus Professor Tim Beaglehole, presented certificates to new Members of the Foundation, and a gift to Victoria Legacy Club members who have arranged a bequest to the Foundation in their Will.

Vice-Chancellor, Professor Pat Walsh, hosted the second function to thank the many donors and sponsors who provide financial support specifically for more than 800 scholarships and prizes the University is able to offer students.

"Their generosity, foresight and commitment means we are able to offer talented students opportunities to further their studies—opportunities that might not have arisen without that financial support."

At both functions, guests heard from scholarship recipients and were entertained by New Zealand School of Music students.

Quirky chemistry

Two hundred and twenty senior secondary school students put their chemistry knowledge to the test at the eighth Annual New Zealand Institute of Chemistry Secondary Schools' Chemistry Quiz, held at Victoria in June.

Organisers Wendy Popplewell and Joanna Wojnar, both Victoria PhD chemistry students, organised the light-hearted, fun evening.

"Teams of four students compete against each other in eight rounds of sometimes quirky, sometimes strange, sometimes hard and often downright weird chemistry questions," says Wendy.

"Over the years this has become an event celebrating the artistic side of young chemists, not only encouraging them to see the lighter side of chemistry but also to study science, and ideally chemistry, in the future."

Volunteers from Victoria's School of Chemical & Physical Sciences ran the event, sponsored by the New Zealand Institute of Chemistry, the Faculty of Science and the School.

Top school-aged poet found

Christchurch's Alisha Vara won the Bell Gully National Schools' Poetry Award 2006, organised by Victoria's International Institute of Modern Letters. Alisha and nine other shortlisted nominees were flown to Wellington for a poetry masterclass in August with fellow poets James Brown, Chris Price and Bernadette Hall, and Institute Director, Professor Bill Manhire.

Law firm Bell Gully has been involved with these awards for the past four years to encourage secondary school students to explore their poetry talents. This year's competition attracted 180 entries from Year 12 and 13 students throughout New Zealand.



The Poetry finalists were (left to right): Graeme Ninness, Jennifer Niven, Sarah Wilks, Sophia Graham, Dora Sharpe-Davidson, Alisha Vara, Lisa Cochrane, Andrew Aitken-Fincham, Lilian Yong and Chaturika Jayasinghe.

Politics, dancing and Conrad Smith

For the first time in several years, Victoria hosted the national Model United Nations Conference. The University provided sponsorship for the Pipitea Campus venue in late June.

The event, and the regional rounds held earlier, was organised and run by students from Victoria, Auckland, Otago and Canterbury universities. A three day programme involved almost 200 Year 12 and 13 students from throughout New Zealand.

Participants each adopted the role of a country and lobbied to get resolutions passed to benefit their country and region. Following the Model UN Conference the students attended a ball where Victoria alumnus and All Black, Conrad Smith, was guest of honour.



Delegates in the UN Development Programme Committee listen intently to the views of another delegate's state.

Secondary school science on show

Hundreds of young scientists showcased their talent at Victoria in the annual NIWA-sponsored Wellington Regional Science & Technology Fair, held from 23-26 August.

Year 7-13 students entered around 400 exhibits from 38 schools throughout the Wellington and Hutt Valley areas.

The Science Faculty proudly donated the main prize of a one-year fees scholarship towards a science programme at Victoria, won by Tony Zheng of Upper Hutt College for a project entitled "Oxygen Oxygen Everywhere but Not a Mole to Breathe".

The Royal Society of New Zealand and Otago University co-sponsored the event.

Trees for life

Vice-Chancellor, Professor Pat Walsh, got his hands dirty in July when he took part in a tree planting ceremony at the Karori Wildlife Sanctuary, commemorating the relationship between the Sanctuary and the University's Centre for Biodiversity & Restoration Ecology.

Nancy McIntosh-Ward, Sanctuary CEO and Pat at the tree planting ceremony.





The Victoria competitors and judges.

A big debate

It's well accepted that lawyers like a good argument. That's why national law firm Buddle Findlay say they backed the Australasian Intervarsity Debating Championships for 2006. Known as the Australs, this prestigious event was hosted by Victoria at its Pipitea Campus for seven days in early July.

The Buddle Findlay Australs saw 78 university teams from 11 Asia-Pacific countries match wits on the debating floor. Seven gruelling preliminary rounds took place before the top 16 teams engaged in a knock-out competition to reach the grand final and be declared Australasian Champions for the year. Australia's Monash University were the overall winners.

The Australs is the world's second-largest debating tournament and equal in prestige to the World University Debating Championships. They have been running for 30 years throughout the Asia-Pacific region, attracting some 300 competitors from as far afield as Singapore, Hong Kong, Japan and the Philippines.

Buddle Findlay's chairman, Sarah Roberts, says the event lit up Wellington's winter with some "sparkling debate, good humour and intellect—all things we stand for as a firm. Debates, like the law, take place within a set framework, so this is an event we understand and really enjoy, as did many of our clients".

Competition convener, Christopher Bishop, who is in his fourth year of study towards a LLB(Hons) and a BA in Political Science and History, was pleased with the way the competition ran.

"The cultural diversity of the teams, coupled with the wide range of topics for debate made the tournament one of the most remarkable social, cultural and intellectual exchanges available to any student."

Supreme Court Justice, John McGrath, attended the Grand Final, to present the awards. John was the Patron of the debating tournament and Victoria's Chancellor from 1986 to 1989.

Victoria placed well in the Australs with one team placed fifth overall and two students, Sayeqa Islam and Joe Connell, ranked fourth and sixth as individual speakers.

Philanthropy recognised

Respected Singaporean philanthropist, Lee Seng Tee, has received an honorary Doctor of Literature degree for his unrivalled support of university programmes throughout the world.

Well known in his home country for public service, Seng Tee has supported Victoria in raising its international profile in Antarctic research and economics. He received his honorary Doctor of Literature degree at a ceremony in Singapore in August, attended by Chancellor, Emeritus Professor Tim Beaglehole, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Pat Walsh, and Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), Professor Neil Quigley.

"It was an honour to be able to confer Seng Tee's honorary doctorate in person while in Singapore," says Pat.

"He has a keen interest in supporting excellence in education, and he has limited his astonishingly generous gifts and donations to universities he regards as centres of excellence. We are proud to be counted among these."

Seng Tee's financial support for the Antarctic Research Centre allowed the University to set up the annual S.T. Lee Lecture in Antarctic Studies, now in its fourth year and the S.T. Lee Library.

His generosity has also enabled a student exchange between the Centre and the University of Alaska Fairbanks' International Arctic Research Center, providing valuable support for young polar scientists.

His backing of the Victoria University-based Institute for the Study of Competition & Regulation allowed the creation of a Visiting Fellowship to bring top international researchers to contribute to the Institute's research programme, cementing its reputation as New Zealand's leading research institute in the field. He has also provided funding for an annual lecture by Victoria staff and invited scholars at the University of Economics, Ho Chi Minh City, to build the relationship between Victoria and this important partner university in Viet Nam.

Victoria is one of many high-profile universities to benefit from his philanthropy. He has also supported Oxford and Cambridge universities in Britain and Harvard and Stanford universities in the United States.



Seng Tee with, from left, Pat, Tim and Neil.

Victoria's art collection in view

Some of Victoria's most precious and unique assets will soon be on show at the Adam Art Gallery.

The Gallery is running a major exhibition, *In View: Works from the VUW Art Collection*, from October 2006 to February 2007, featuring a selection of works drawn from the University's Art Collection.

The Collection comprises more than 280 works, dating from the late nineteenth century to the present, and includes work from New Zealand artists such as Colin McCahon, Ralph Hotere, Nigel Brown, and Robyn Kahukiwa.

The Gallery has commissioned 35 writers from diverse disciplines across the University to put pen to paper about the works in the exhibition.

These essays will be published in a full-colour publication alongside images of selected works.

Gallery Director, Sophie McIntyre, says the exhibition "seeks to raise an awareness and simultaneously activate research on the Collection, whilst highlighting the expertise of leading academics and students across the University".

Each of the contributors were invited to write a short essay on a selected art work, drawing on their research interests and backgrounds, providing an in-depth, informative and personal perspective.

Sophie says the exhibition represents a small selection of works from this important and diverse collection.

"The works in the exhibition aren't necessarily the most historically or culturally significant. We wanted to draw attention to works that may previously have been overlooked, and it was an opportunity to present some of our more recent acquisitions. There are also certain themes that have emerged which our contributors have further explored in their essays."

The exhibition follows on from *Victoria's Art*, published in 2005, which featured 34 works from significant New Zealand artists and includes commentaries by some of New Zealand's most prominent scholars and art writers.

This latest exhibition will include commentary by academics such as Associate Professor Jack Body, from the New Zealand School of Music, who comments on Ralph Hotere's *Song cycle*, *The voyage*, a work created in response to a multi-media performance presented at Victoria in 1975.

Dr James McGregor, from the School of Geography, Environment & Earth Sciences, will interpret three Nugent Welch paintings from a meteorological perspective, while Peter Addis, Head of Te Kawa a Māui, will present his thoughts on two images by Ans Westra.

Sophie says it has been a rewarding experience working with the collection and with members of the University community whose essays are engaging, informative and insightful.



Don Binney, *Tabernacle*, 1966



Robin White, *Glenda at Portobello*, 1977

Contact

+64-4-463 5489

www.vuw.ac.nz/adamartgal

In Memoriam

Barbara Finlayson left us in 1996.

I never knew Barbara while she was alive.
I know quite a bit more about her now of course.

She was passionate and knowledgeable about many things in life, but her first love was music.

She played the viola and gained a music degree from Victoria University in the 1950s – she worked as a 'char-lady' to help finance her studies.

She travelled a lot – especially in Europe where she went to many concerts. She loved concerts by all accounts and, closer to home, when the International Festival of the Arts was on, her friends would never see her.

If it wasn't for Barbara Finlayson I'd have had to work to pay for my studies. Instead, she gave me the opportunity to travel to Germany and study violin under some awesome mentors as the first recipient of the Barbara Finlayson Scholarship in Music.

Barbara left Victoria a bequest because she wanted to help talented musicians further their careers and recognised that it was often difficult for them to do so within New Zealand. She invested in my future and the future of all those Scholarship winners that follow. I think that's a pretty profound legacy – one I'd like to copy someday.

Barbara loved her music. I hope she would be proud of me.

VANESSA LEIGHS

BMus (Hons)

First recipient of the Barbara Finlayson Scholarship in Music, which has been awarded annually since 1997.

It makes you think.

If you'd like to know more about making a bequest to Victoria University, do contact Tricia Walbridge, Executive Director in confidence at:

Victoria University Foundation
PO Box 600, Wellington
New Zealand
vuw-foundation@vuw.ac.nz
+64-4-463 5109.

Victoria
UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON

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



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