

SUMMER 2007

Victorious

MAGAZINE FOR FRIENDS AND ALUMNI OF VICTORIA UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON



Seated for success

Oxford trio

Wharenui celebrated

Tuatara return home

Victoria
UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON
*Te Whare Wānanga
o te Ūpoko o te Ika a Māui*





Long awaited release

Members of Northland iwi Ngāti Wai wept with joy when 60 tuatara—nurtured in captivity for 12 years—were released on the Hauraki Gulf Island of Hauturu late last year, bringing the reptile back from the brink of extinction there.

Victoria staff led surveys on the 3,000ha island in 1991 and 1992, to search for tuatara which had last been seen 14 years earlier and were thought possibly to be extinct. Eight adult tuatara were found and kept in captivity on the island to protect them from kiore (Pacific rats) that also inhabited the island.

Since 1994 staff in the School of Biological Sciences have been incubating and hatching eggs laid by these tuatara and sending the hatchlings back to Hauturu, also known as Little Barrier Island. There they have been raised by Department of Conservation staff in safe 'tuatariums' awaiting a rat eradication that would enable their release. The eight founder tuatara have produced more than 100 tuatara.

In 2004 after much negotiation between the Department of Conservation, local iwi, and other interested parties, the rat eradication programme began and in June 2006 the island was declared rat-free. This was particularly significant since Hauturu is the largest island that tuatara had survived on and the only island with tuatara and kauri forest co-existing together.

Tuatara expert, Professor Charles Daugherty, led the team that captured some of the last tuatara on the island. He says the release of the reptiles is a major achievement in the island's ecological restoration.

"We've been working toward this day since the late 1980s, and the team has been so passionate the whole way through. It's a big step towards

a positive future for the tuatara on one of New Zealand's most important nature reserves. Without predators like the kiore on Hauturu, tuatara now have a much better chance of survival.

"Tuatara are vulnerable to predators as they are slow breeders, but between our captive incubation and husbandry programme and DOC's rat eradication programme, we have ensured the tuatara, and other rare and endangered plants and animals, will have a chance to flourish again in a pest-free environment."

The School's Technical Officer, Sue Keall, has been involved since the beginning and was present at the release. She says returning to the island 15 years after helping to capture the first of the adults was a very special occasion.

"It was fantastic to see the 'baby' tuatara we hatched all those years ago—now almost fully grown, wonderfully healthy and ready to live in the wild without the threat of introduced predators.

"Seeing a project like this come full circle is hugely satisfying, and I was very happy to be involved in the celebration with people from the many different groups that worked so hard to enable the release to happen."

The tuatara released are between eight and 12 years old and are a mix of both genders. The young tuatara are approaching breeding age and it's hoped they will eventually repopulate the island naturally.

Forty tuatara remain in captivity and will be released when they are large enough to more ably defend themselves.

Tuatara are the last survivors of the reptilian order *Sphenodontia* and have changed little since they walked with the dinosaurs some 200 million years ago.

Contact

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



Education Review

From the Vice-Chancellor

The beginning of a new year is a time when we reflect on the year that has gone and the year ahead. For Victoria, 2006 was a year of considerable achievements. Our first Alumni Dinner in Wellington in October, where seven alumni received our inaugural Distinguished Alumni Awards and our Alumni Appeal was launched, was a spectacular success and is set to become an annual event.

On the teaching and research front, we have seen continued demand from students for our qualifications. Academic staff were honoured with teaching and research awards, such as the Fellowship of the Royal Society of New Zealand bestowed on mathematician, Professor Matt Visser. Victoria was recognised for the second year in a row as one of the top 500 universities in the world by Shanghai Jiao Tong University's Institute of Higher Education.

Our researchers continued to be successful in picking up substantial external research grants and we aim to further improve our research strategy in the year ahead. A fine example is Victoria's College of Education, which has substantially increased the number and value of research contracts, and has established the Jessie Hetherington Centre for Educational Research to give further focus to its research activities.

A significant task this year will be working with the Government to implement its tertiary education reforms. Vice-Chancellors will be working hard to ensure the distinctive contribution of universities to New Zealand's economy and community is fully realised in the final proposals.

Victoria faces significant challenges in the years ahead. While most of our students are more than 20 years old, the number of school leavers in our traditional recruitment area is due to decline. We will have to initiate major strategies if we are to maintain enrolments, undertake significant capital investments and meet the needs of employers and students.

Pat Walsh
Vice-Chancellor

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Cover Image: Georgio Saltos with one of his first designs, *the Illegitimate Son of Mars* chair. Image: Martin Stewart, 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.



Killings prompt law change call

The legal defence that allows men to claim they were provoked into killing another because the victim made a homosexual advance can no longer be justified.

That's the view of Associate Professor Elisabeth McDonald from the School of Law, whose research on homophobia as a factor in New Zealand homicide cases was recently published in a special edition of the *Victoria University of Wellington Law Review*, which examined sexuality and citizenship.

The defence of provocation was controversially invoked by the killer of television celebrity David McNee in 2003, claiming that he lost control when an unwanted sexual advance was made. The case was one of several killings in New Zealand and internationally where such a defence has been made.

Elisabeth says the defence in murder cases had its origin in the fact that the charge of murder used to carry the death penalty.

"Only in murder cases can someone defend a charge by saying they lost control and committed a crime because they were provoked. In assault cases, for example, provocation is not a defence but can be considered by the judge as a mitigating factor in sentencing. While that distinction could be justified when the ultimate penalty was death, it is increasingly untenable in the twenty-first century."

In her article, Elisabeth says a homicidal reaction to such sexual advances can only arise from the killer's homophobia and cannot be treated as mitigation for a crime. The evidence in the cases she has examined show the killings had all the hallmarks of violent robberies rather than sexual offences.

The legal situation has been further complicated by a law change in 2002, which allows judges to give harsher penalties for crimes provoked by hatred of a specific group. While it has been invoked in racist attacks, Elisabeth says there is no evidence of it being used in homophobic attacks, even when the defence of provocation has failed.

Contact

Elisabeth.McDonald@vuw.ac.nz
+64-4-463 6317

Olympic achievement

Three years on from composing key ceremonial music for the 2004 Olympics, Associate Professor John Psathas' latest work has been released to critical acclaim.

View from Olympus (Rattle Records) spent several weeks at the top of the New Zealand classical charts, with one American critic describing the New Zealand School of Music composer as "one of the most exciting composers working anywhere today".

The album contains three works for soloist and orchestra: *Ommifenix*, a saxophone concerto featuring American saxophonist, Joshua Redman; *View from Olympus*, a double concerto with pianist Michael Houstoun and Portuguese percussionist, Pedro Carneiro; and *Three Psalms*, a piano concerto, with Michael Houstoun as soloist.

All three pieces feature the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra conducted by Marc Taddei and the release includes a DVD with extensive interviews and footage.

John says he was drawn to the concerto as a musical form. "The focus is on the relationship between the one and the many and the integration of the individual into a larger group and exploring it has the potential to create something incredibly dynamic, exciting and powerful."

Despite the title, none of the music is from the Olympics, but the title work was written near Mt Olympus in 2000 and draws heavily on John's Greek ancestry. The Olympic experience, however, has changed his life.

"It has impacted on my personal life—people now recognise me in the street. I received a lot of commission offers, but turned most of them down and focused on work I wanted to do as I didn't want to write for someone who didn't know my music."

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), Professor Neil Quigley, says the University, along with Creative New Zealand, provided key financial support because John had a vision to take New Zealand music in a new direction.

"*View from Olympus* is the most ambitious musical recording ever undertaken here. The combination of John's music, the calibre of the performers and the quality of the release has set a new standard for quality in New Zealand classical music."

Contact

John.Psathas@vuw.ac.nz
+64-4-463 5862
www.viewfromolympus.com



Michael Norris



Mandy, left, and Olivia, far right, with Melody, a Tangoan Islander who supports her family selling hand-woven bags and mats at the local market.

Assisting in a changing world

Two Master's students have taken their ideas to the world to help a small island community cope with the threat of climate change.

Last year, Olivia Warrick and Mandy Leathers travelled to Vanuatu to undertake six weeks of field research with the Tangoa Island community. Their research focused on helping the community adapt to a changing climate to ensure long-term sustainability of its society and environment, and to plan the management of its natural resources.

The changing world has had a major impact on the island community. A history of land disputes and the effects of globalisation has led to social conflict while the growing population and increased competition for resources has affected the environment. Western-style education has taken over traditional practices of teaching children about effective resource management.

Mandy, who is completing a Master of Development Studies, says their main contribution was to get people to discuss what they wanted for the future. "This was something they might not otherwise have done, because they are so busy with everyday life—they expressed that there is often little time for such reflection.

"We weren't there to advise, rather we were helping them to sort out their own thoughts on issues they felt were important. It's a matter of finding a middle ground between development and conservation."

Olivia, who is completing an MA in Geography, says being first-time field researchers wasn't the only thing that was challenging. "Tangoa has no electricity or telephones, and outrigger canoe is the main means of transport. In everything you do you're constantly aware that you're an outsider in a culture completely different from your own."

Not all Tangoans initially understood their purpose in being there, she says. "I was surprised and a bit bemused to find that the local children called me 'mishy'—which didn't mean 'Mrs' but 'missionary'."

Mandy says it was a steep learning curve. "It was like seeing the world for the first time again—every day we would reach a new level of understanding their social environment." They found, however, that the majority of people were warm and keen to make friends. "They made the research easy as they enjoyed teaching us."

Dr Sean Weaver, Senior Lecturer in the School of Geography, Environment & Earth Sciences, says the two students are making an important contribution to a larger scale project he is leading.

"This Vanuatu pilot project explores sustainable development options for reducing deforestation for climate change mitigation in developing countries. The results will be fed into an international policy development process currently underway within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change".

"Olivia's work helps us to understand other ways of delivering sustainable development outcomes, whereas Mandy is exploring some of the barriers and challenges to achieving this in the real world of village-based conflicts and power struggles over resources. They make a great research team."

Both students say they have learned a lot from the experience. "Finally I have a real-life context for the theory I've been learning about the role of participatory research in community development," says Mandy.

Olivia agrees, saying she developed new perspectives enabling her to engage with printed material far better. "There's really no substitute for first-hand experience."

"It was like seeing the world for the first time again—every day we would reach a new level of understanding their social environment."

Contact

Sean.Weaver@vuw.ac.nz
+64-4-463 5392



The Dominion Post

Marked women

The world's oldest profession is the subject of a new book in one of academia's newest fields.

Contact

Russell.Campbell@vuw.ac.nz
+64-4-463 6824

Dr Russell Campbell, Senior Lecturer in the School of English, Film, Theatre, & Media Studies, has spent the last 15 years on a project analysing the depiction of prostitutes in films.

His book, *Marked Women: Prostitutes and Prostitution in the Cinema*, was published last year and classifies 15 recurrent character types and three common narratives. Each character type spans cinema's history since silent films, with a focus on American and European films, but also from Africa, Asia, and Latin America among others.

"I was intrigued by the fact that the institution of prostitution is very controversial in all societies —none actually recognise it as respectable and yet it's always existed," says Russell.

He found that the way prostitutes were represented in the films is often very hackneyed and clichéd. Often the portrayal of the prostitute is highly romanticised; for example, in love stories the prostitute falls in love with the male protagonist and leaves the business. In other narratives the prostitute is killed, often violently. "In some way she is usually taken out of circulation."

The violence shown towards prostitutes in film shows the contradictory attitudes of society to the women. "At one extreme they're seen as sexual objects created for the pleasure of men, while at the other end of the spectrum they're a woman defiant of the expectations of a male-dominated society."

Russell believes a good example of this male domination can be seen in local councils' regulation of prostitution. "The suburban brothels that have been outlawed in several towns and cities are primarily run by women, whereas the businesses in those cities' red-light districts are mostly run by men, and the authorities don't really have a problem with those."



One million Māori words

Which words do learners of Māori really need to know? Recent PhD research at the School of Linguistics & Applied Language Studies gives us an answer to this question.

Mary Boyce spent more than a decade compiling a one million word corpus, or database, of modern spoken Māori. She aimed to identify the most frequently used words, and to find out more about these words. She also considered how the corpus could be used to help the learning and teaching of Māori.

As a former Māori Studies lecturer, Mary had students who wanted to use Māori broadcasts to help them learn the language. The students had little exposure to Māori outside of the classroom, but wanted to use Māori in authentic contexts. Māori broadcasts were available, but the students found them difficult to understand.

Mary explored ways of helping students understand the material, and identified that vocabulary knowledge was a key factor. She later revisited this issue when considering a PhD topic.

The Māori Broadcast Corpus is made up of a collection of excerpts taken from Māori television and radio broadcasts that Mary recorded off-air in the mid-1990s, and spent many hours transcribing into electronic files. It includes a representative sample of types of broadcast language such as news bulletins, documentary, and goods and services notices.

"I used software to identify the distinct words in the corpus, but it cannot distinguish the various meanings of these words, so I had to examine each individual occurrence of my target words in context to determine which meanings were most frequent."

The corpus is a valuable resource for researchers, and for language teachers. Mary has already put it to use to help compile a dictionary of Māori for children, called *Tirohia Kimihia*.

"The corpus provides information on the language as it is actually used."

Small particles, big future

It sounds like the stuff of science fiction, but particles a million times smaller than a grain of salt could hold the key to cures for cancer and other diseases.

Particles that are 10 nanometres in size—10 billionths of a metre and consisting of as little as 1000 atoms—are being put to use by researchers at Victoria and the Malaghan Institute of Medical Research to investigate ways to find, and possibly one day treat, cancerous tumours.

Dr Richard Tilley, a chemist with the School of Chemical & Physical Sciences, is the principal investigator of a \$1.26 million project funded by the Foundation for Research, Science & Technology. The research team, which includes colleagues at the Malaghan, Victoria, and Japan's International Medical Centre, are developing silicon nanoparticles or 'quantum dots' that emit coloured light. The nanoparticles are identified with an electron microscope, such as that in the MacDiarmid Institute for Advanced Materials & Nanotechnology at Victoria.

"We're hoping that by attaching antibodies to the quantum dots, researchers will be able to locate abnormalities, such as tumours within the body. They will even be able to look at tumours very precisely at the cellular level to determine the type of cancer, and with far better resolution than is possible with MRI technology," he says.

Richard says the advantage of using silicon is that it's not toxic, unlike the cadmium-based nanoparticles other researchers have used. As well, unlike therapeutic dyes currently used in medical imaging, the nanoparticles do not lose their light emitting properties over time.

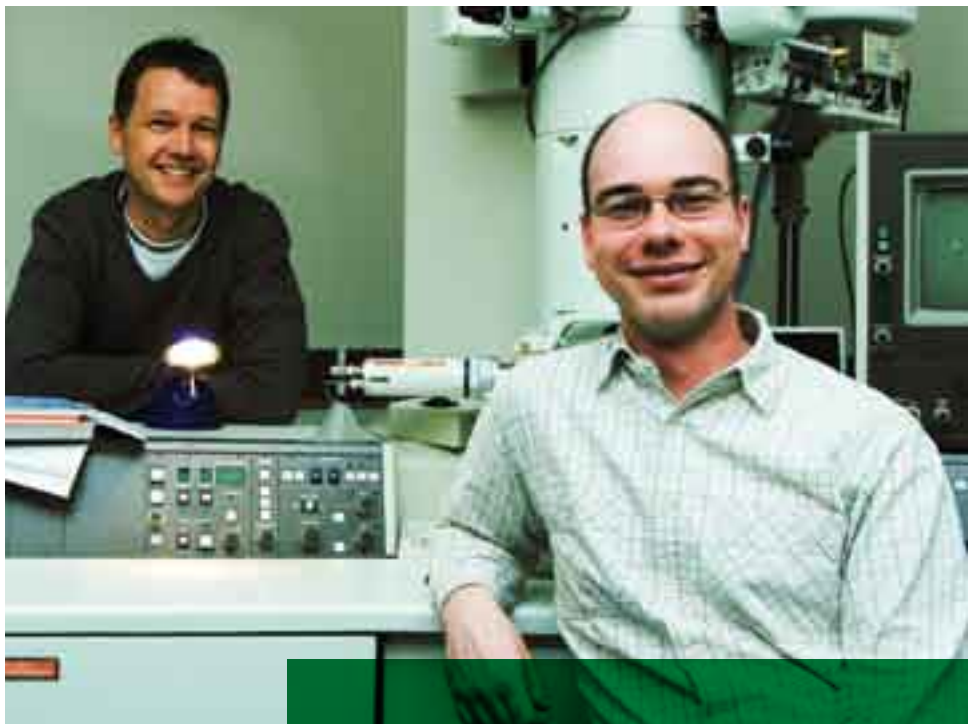
Associate Professor Thomas Bäckström, from the Malaghan, is investigating using the technology to also treat tumours.

"We're hoping we might also be able to attach a toxin that attacks the tumour when the nanoparticle makes contact. Unlike chemotherapy drugs which not only attack the tumour, but all other fast growing cells, causing significant side-effects, these nanoparticles would only affect the cancer cells."

Victoria's Associate Professor Pablo Etchegoin and Malaghan Research Fellow, Dr Patries Herst, are taking another approach that uses antibodies attached to nanoparticles to target cancer cells. They're using MacDiarmid Institute lasers to heat gold nanoparticles to kill the tumour.

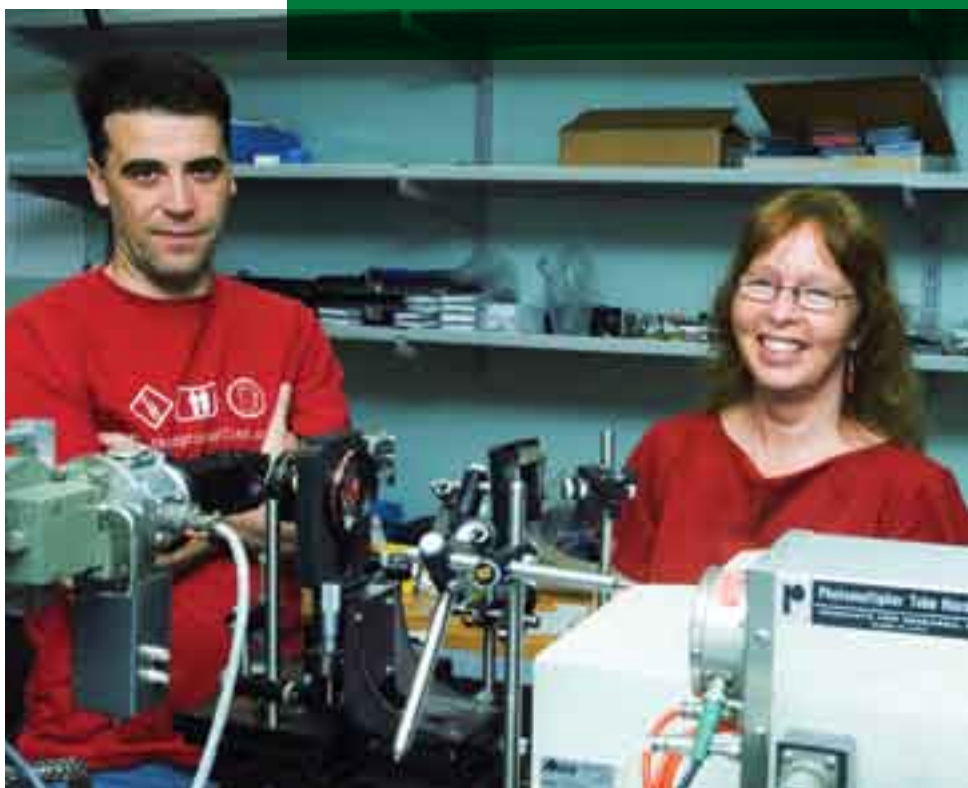
Patries says the non-toxic gold nanoparticles are attached to the cancer cells by cancer-specific antibodies.

"This technique is very useful for hard-to-treat cancers found in sensitive structures. The surrounding tissues are not damaged because the cancer-specific antibodies will only bind to the cancer cells and not to the surrounding normal tissue," she says.



Thomas, left, and Richard with the electron microscope.

Pablo and Patries with the Raman Spectrometer.



All the researchers say the close relationship between the Malaghan and Victoria has aided their research. The Malaghan, which is New Zealand's leading biomedical research institute, moved to purpose-built facilities at Kelburn in 2004 and a host of joint research and teaching collaborations have been developed with the School of Biological Sciences and the School of Chemical & Physical Sciences.

Contact

scps@vuw.ac.nz or
mimr@malaghan.org.nz
+64-4-472 1000 or
+64-4-499 6914



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.



Transforming Wellington

From Vice-Chancellor, Professor Pat Walsh

The value of a university qualification is well known—graduates are often leaders in the economy and community and tend to have better, higher paid jobs. But a new report that examined the contribution of tertiary education to Wellington's economy shows our influence goes much further.

The report, *Transforming Wellington: Tertiary Education's Economic Contribution 2006*, was prepared by independent consultants, Infometrics Ltd, for Positively Wellington Business and the Wellington Tertiary Education Cluster, which represents the region's six publicly-funded providers.

Infometrics found that tertiary education attracted \$450 million of revenue to the region in 2005, up 59 percent on 2000. Victoria's revenue in 2005, for example, was \$238 million, up five percent on the combined figures for the University and Wellington College of Education in 2004. All this is direct revenue that would be lost to the Wellington economy if the six tertiary providers were not based in the Capital.

They also found that equivalent full-time student (EFTS) numbers in Wellington had increased by 44 percent to 38,612 between 2000 and 2005. With each student estimated to spend an average of \$9,830 during their time in Wellington, it suggests a total spend by tertiary students of \$330 million. This figure is significant as it assumes that students

from outside the region would not have lived in the Capital without the education opportunities in the region and that local students would have studied elsewhere.

The consultants found that tertiary providers also spent \$122 million in capital expenditure from 2003 to 2005, while, in the same period, the number of staff we employ has increased by six percent to 3,778 full-time equivalents. Infometrics estimated the economic activity generated in the rest of the region as a result of the Cluster's activities generated a further 1,890 jobs in 2005 while spending by students would also have created 4,440 jobs. The total value of all the transactions by the six institutions was estimated at almost \$1.4 billion, with the net value added to the region estimated to be worth almost \$750 million, an increase of 67 percent on five years earlier.

While these figures are impressive, they should be taken as the first word on tertiary education's contribution and not the last. Try to imagine Wellington if the institutions were closed forever. Wellington's economy would go into a major recession and several thousand highly qualified staff would be out of work. As our staff are all highly skilled, they would probably leave the city. Thousands of students who moved to the Capital to study would pack up their bags and go home and local students would leave to study elsewhere. Housing values would plummet as the population declines and a whole swathe of rental houses would sit empty. The businesses that rely on all those people spending would contract or fold, sending more people to the dole queue.

Long-term Wellington would contract in many other ways. Those employers that survived would find it difficult to attract qualified staff. The wait for a plumber, carpenter or electrician would get even longer while the rates they charge wouldn't be cheap. The vital research interplay between Crown research institutes and high technology businesses and the tertiary sector would be gone. Our health system would struggle to find the doctors, nurses, midwives and other workers it so desperately needs.

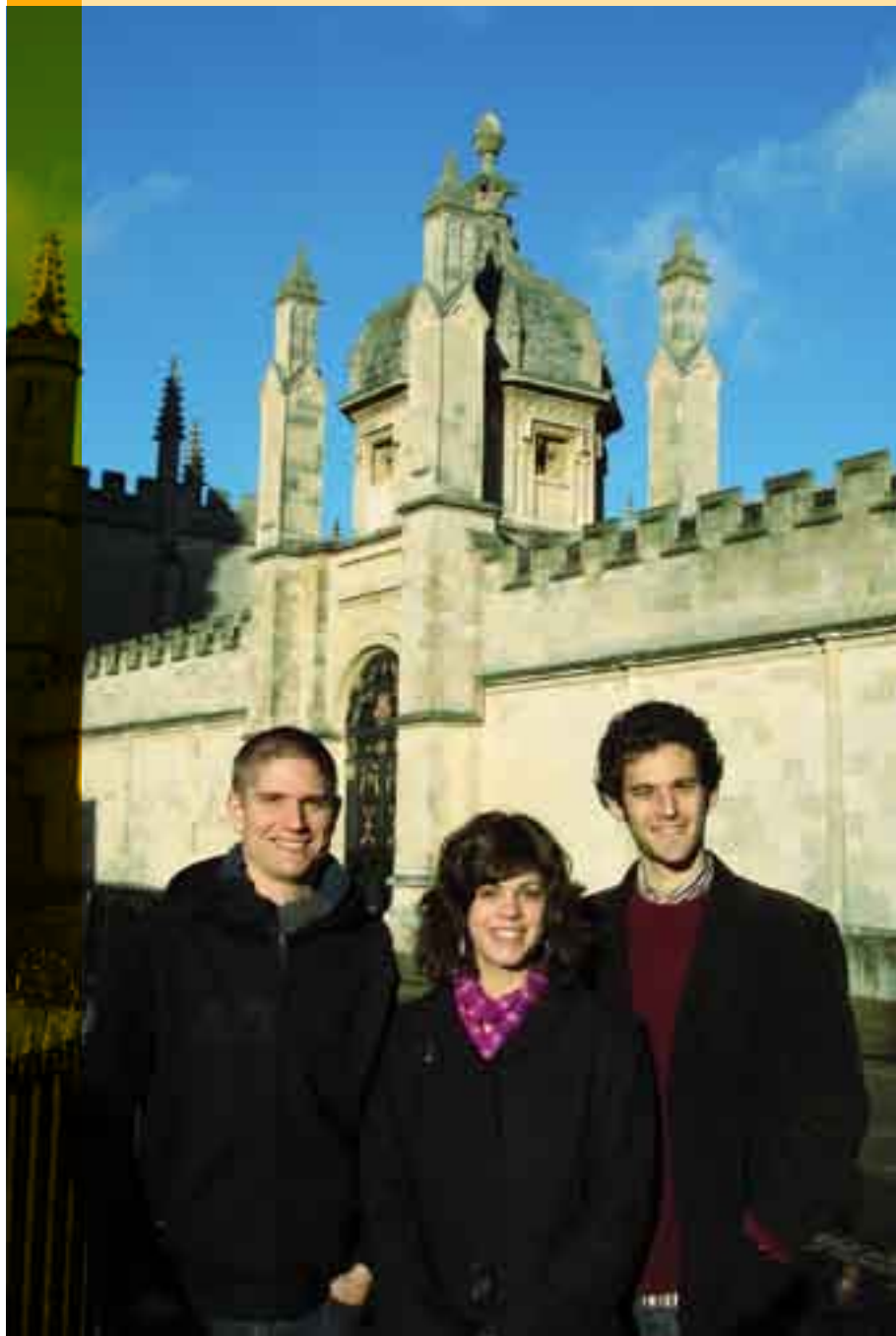
The links between Wellington's tertiary providers and cultural organisations would also disappear. The New Zealand Symphony Orchestra would struggle to find players or to commission New Zealand music and there would be fewer new actors or plays at Downstage or Circa. Where would companies like Weta get the technical and creative people that make such organisations special? The "buzz" that makes Wellington so special would disappear. In effect, we would witness the death of the Capital's soul, and probably New Zealand's as well. Tertiary education is clearly not just a driver of individual success, but for the economy and society as a whole. It also underlines the need for the Government to deal with the long-standing under-funding of New Zealand universities.

Infometrics found that tertiary education attracted \$450 million of revenue to the region in 2005, up 59 percent on 2000. Victoria's revenue in 2005, for example, was \$238 million, up five percent on the combined figures for the University and Wellington College of Education in 2004.



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.



From left: Simon, Liesl, and Alex outside All Souls College, Oxford

Classical Oxford

Oscar Wilde once famously described Oxford University as “the most beautiful thing in England, and nowhere else are life and art so exquisitely balanced, so perfectly made one”.

Three Victoria Classics alumni are discovering this truth as they study for their doctorates. Liesl Nunns, Simon Perris, and Alex Kalderimis have all won scholarships to the prestigious university, and all say it's the experience of a lifetime.

Liesl, at Merton College on a Top Achiever Doctoral Scholarship, is doing her degree in classical languages and literature. “Oxford’s a place that has such a strong mythology about it, and it’s a very inspiring thing to become a part of. You can be reading someone’s book in the morning, then be sitting beside them at an afternoon seminar.”

Simon, who won a Commonwealth Scholarship and is studying at Wilde’s alma mater, Magdalen College, agrees. “It can be daunting at first being surrounded by so many great minds, but once things are familiar it’s an incredibly stimulating intellectual environment.”

Woolf-Fisher Scholarship winner Alex, also at Magdalen College, was struck by the size of the University. “The colleges and assorted libraries and laboratories and other various facilities must take over half the city.”

All put their success down to their experience at Victoria. “There is no question that the Classics staff at Victoria are the primary reason I’m here,” says Simon. “The teaching is first-rate from every member of staff.”

Liesl says she had strong encouragement from Victoria staff to follow her dream of studying overseas. “All the lecturers gave me a lot of advice, and answered questions, and showed interest in my plans, and gave me the confidence to go through with it.”

Alex says the comparatively small size of Victoria’s Latin and Greek classes programme has been a huge advantage. Oxford has a reputation of having intense one-to-one tutor-student relationships, but “simply by being one of few I had the same privileged experience, unaware of how much some would give for it”.

Professor John Davidson, Head of the School of Art History, Classics, & Religious Studies, says the University is extremely proud of their achievements. “It’s extremely unusual for such a small programme as Classics to have three high achievers like this at Oxford at the same time.

“Oxford is one of the world’s most prominent universities, and it reflects very well on Victoria that we can turn out academics of such high calibre.”

Oxford has admitted a Classics student from Victoria in each of the last three years, which Simon believes is “testament to Victoria’s strength in producing high-quality Classics graduates”.

Despite the limited number of positions in the field, all are confident of pursuing careers in academia. As Alex puts it: “Classics is perhaps the subject with the greatest range of material and skills, and it is, I hope, the ultimate transferable skill set.”

Contact

John.Davidson@vuw.ac.nz
+64-4-463 5969



Script wins Embassy Prize

An overland trip that never was—from London to South Africa to watch the 1995 World Cup—is the genesis for an award winning film script, *Into Africa*.

Brendon Simpson, who is completing an MA in Scriptwriting at Victoria's International Institute of Modern Letters, was awarded the 2006 Embassy Trust Prize at a function at the Embassy Theatre in Wellington, in December.

"It's a trip that a group of friends and I planned, to travel through Africa to see the 1995 World Cup, but never got around to. We researched it, but it was way too dangerous. But I've always wondered what would have happened if we had done it.

"It's about how four guys, who don't actually like each other much at the beginning, are thrown together by different circumstances and how they bond through the trip. There's a little bit of adventure along the way, being chased by animals, and their interactions with the local people in the various countries."

Brendon will be working on the script with a producer during 2007 and is hopeful of seeing it produced in the next few years.

Brendon praised the course and course director, Ken Duncum. "The course has such a great reputation and Ken is an amazing lecturer. It's been great, especially with the nine others on the course—we get to bounce ideas off each other."

Ken says the winner of the Embassy Trust Prize was keenly anticipated each year as recognition of high potential in an emerging scriptwriter.

"The overall quality of scripts—whether theatre or film—from within the MA course continues to improve each year, and has made the 2006 award particularly competitive. Increasing numbers of MA scriptwriting graduates are finding development opportunities for their film or theatre scripts and/or obtaining work on television series."

Brendon is also one of six MA graduates awarded inaugural Project Scholarships of \$5,000 to aid them in continuing their writing on completion of their degree.

The scholarships are made possible by funds raised in response to a challenge set by the Institute's founder. He offered US\$1 million to Victoria's Creative Writing Programme if it, and the Victoria University Foundation, could raise NZ\$1 million by the end of 2005.

Going the extra mile for study

You don't have to live in Wellington to study at Victoria—in fact, you don't even need to live in New Zealand.

Increasing numbers of students are distance learners, and Faculties are developing more papers to accommodate students who, for whatever reason, can't attend classes or choose not to.

For example, the School of Marketing & International Business' Principles of Marketing and Marketing Management courses are now being offered as distance programmes.

The School's Flexible Learning Project Manager, Rochelle Savage, who helped develop the papers with Dr Michel Rod and Sarena Saunders, says the format has been very successful, with students providing a lot of positive feedback.

In these marketing courses, teaching is done by video clips and interactive activities, a method of learning that appeals to a lot of students. "Powerpoint slides come up as the teaching video plays, and if there's something you don't understand you can watch it as often as you need."

Having proven their usefulness in online courses, elements of these distance learning papers, such as the interactive activities, are now being adopted by on-campus lecturers for use in more traditional face-to-face courses.

Students still have the opportunity to swap ideas, as in an on-campus tutorial, with a discussion board on Blackboard, Victoria's learning management system, adopted in 2001. The College of Education operates LearnOnline, a system similar to Blackboard.

In 2006, Blackboard was used by 18,760 students in 1,370 courses, including those delivered face-to-face on-campus, online at distance, or in blended mode, while the LearnOnline environment delivers 270 courses to 1,000 students both nationally and internationally.

Victoria distance learning papers are aimed at people for whom not attending classes is more convenient. Almost all Faculties now offer distance learning papers, including Master of Education and Master of Library and Information Studies. The College of Education also offers students the opportunity to complete a Graduate Diploma of Teaching in Primary or Secondary Education through online distance education in collaboration with schools where the students live. Some Early Childhood courses are also available using LearnOnline.

Contact

www.vuw.ac.nz/home/studying
www.vuw.ac.nz/smib/distance/distance.aspx
Course-advice@vuw.ac.nz

Who's new?



Sue Roberts

Sue Roberts has been appointed as Victoria's University Librarian. She is the Dean of Learning Services at Edge Hill University in Britain, which provides library and other extensive learning services at its three campuses in North West England. She is also Director of its Centre for Excellence in Teaching & Learning in Supported Online Learning. Sue, who is completing a PhD at Sheffield University, holds a BA(Hons) in English from Leicester University, an MA in American Studies from Liverpool Hope University, and a Postgraduate Diploma in Library and Information Management from Liverpool John Moores University. She is a member of the Chartered Institute of Library & Information Professionals and the Society for Research in Higher Education and a member of the Executive Board of the Society of College, National & University Libraries. Victoria's Library employs more than 150 staff (including student assistants) and operates from five full-service campus sites.



David Harper

Associate Professor David Harper has been appointed as the Head of the School of Psychology. David, who holds a BSc(Hons) from the University of Otago and an MA and PhD in Psychology from the University of Canterbury, undertakes teaching and research in comparative cognition, behaviour analysis and behavioural pharmacology. Much of his work in these areas has focused on memory function, including comparing memory across species and the effects of various classes of drugs on the memory. David is the President of the New Zealand Association for Behaviour Analysis and is a member of the Editorial Board of the *Journal of Experimental Analysis Behaviour*, the International Association for Behavior Analysis, the European Society for Behavioural Pharmacology and the New York Academy of Sciences. David joined Victoria as a Lecturer in 1994, having been a Postgraduate Research Fellow in Psychology at the University of Otago.



David Crabbe

Associate Professor David Crabbe has been appointed as the Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Academic) and is responsible for the University's academic policy. He is the line manager for the staff of the Office of the Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Academic) and the University Teaching Development Centre. David brings considerable academic and management experience to this role, including a year as a member of the Senior Management Team in 2005-6, when he was Acting Pro Vice-Chancellor and Dean of Humanities & Social Sciences, and several years as Head of the School of Linguistics & Applied Language Studies. A major focus will be the ongoing implementation of the recommendations from the 2005 Academic Audit of Victoria by New Zealand Vice-Chancellors' Committee's Academic Audit Unit and for leading the design and implementation of the University's strategic objectives relating to teaching and learning. He holds an MA(Hons) from Victoria and Postgraduate Diploma in English as a Second Language from Leeds University.



Paul Teesdale-Spittle

Associate Professor Paul Teesdale-Spittle has been appointed as the Head of the School of Biological Sciences, having previously been Deputy Head and Acting Head of the School. Paul, who holds a BSc(Hons) in chemistry and PhD from the University of Nottingham, undertakes research in pharmacology and chemical biology. His particular research interests are in understanding the way bioactive compounds act within cells, which feeds into the design, synthesis and evaluation of compounds for the treatment of cancer and parasitic infections. His main teaching activity is in the areas of pharmacology, proteins and enzymes. He is the co-author of *Essentials of Biological Chemistry* published by John Wiley in 2001 and is the author or co-author of more than 50 journal articles and conference presentations. Paul joined Victoria in 2000 as a Senior Lecturer, having previously been a Senior Lecturer at De Montfort University in Leicester, Britain.



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.



Patricia in character while in her twenties



The Dominion Post

Southern Cross supports travelling fellow

While in her twenties, Dr Patricia Moore packed her bags and went off to explore America and Canada—disguised as an 80-year-old woman. What she found was a hostile world, one she has spent her professional career trying to change for the better.

In September 2006 Patricia visited New Zealand, from America, as the inaugural Southern Cross Healthcare-New Zealand Institute for Research on Ageing Visiting Fellow at Victoria. She spent almost a month travelling around the country sharing her experiences as one of the United States' leading industrial designers and gerontologists.

The Institute, which aims to improve public awareness of issues related to ageing and to inform practice and policy, was instrumental in arranging the visit. It works to raise public awareness

through public lectures, seminars, conferences and publications, and organising a series of visits by international experts.

Institute Director, Associate Professor Judith Davey, says Patricia was an entertaining, informative speaker and an excellent selection as the inaugural Southern Cross Fellow.

"Dr Moore had a significant impact with her insightful comments and refreshing ideas, many of them arising from her experiences 25 years ago when she toured the United States disguised as a woman in her eighties.

"This has clearly coloured her subsequent career, rising to the top of her profession as a leading exponent of inclusive design and an avid supporter of a better quality of life for elders, especially those experiencing some physical or sensory limitations."

Southern Cross Healthcare Group Chief Executive, Dr Ian McPherson, says they were delighted to be involved with bringing Patricia to New Zealand.

"She provided helpful insights about our future environment and how we can adapt to a population that is ageing.

"Southern Cross has recognised the challenges posed by the ageing population for New Zealand generally, and for the health system in particular. We're keen to work collaboratively with organisations such as Victoria University, to generate greater focus and discussion in this area."

Patricia has been named by American-published international design magazine, *ID Magazine*, as one of the 40 most socially-conscious designers in the world and was selected in 2000, by a consortium of news editors and organisations, as one of the 100 most important women in America. ABC World News also featured her as one of 50 Americans defining the new millennium.

The fellowship was established through the Victoria University Foundation.

Contact

NZiRA@vuw.ac.nz
+64-4-463 6746

Ernest Rutherford now at Victoria

A life-sized model of New Zealand's Nobel Prize-winning scientist Ernest Rutherford was unveiled by its creator at Victoria late last year.

The model of Lord Rutherford, depicting him in his early 20s, was created by Canterbury Museum specialist preparator, Gary Sutton, in 1978 for a display in Rutherford's Den at a former Canterbury University site.

Gary says the model was removed from the display and returned to him so it made sense to gift it to New Zealand's capital city university, ensuring it would be well utilised in encouraging today's young scientists.

"It wasn't hard to decide where it should go so I was glad Victoria University agreed to accept the gift. The model is made of a special prosthetic material I invented. It radiates light, like skin does, so it's good the model has been displayed in such a public area, with some natural light around it."

Pro Vice-Chancellor and Dean of Science, Professor David Bibby, says when Gary approached the University about displaying the model, they quickly agreed.

"Ernest Rutherford was the first person educated in New Zealand to be awarded a Nobel Prize and his discoveries have shaped modern science, created nuclear physics and changed the way we envisage the structure of the atom.

"Having his model on display is a permanent reminder to the young scientists of today of his groundbreaking contribution to science. Victoria's School of Chemical & Physical Sciences has a strong reputation in physics and hosts the MacDiarmid Institute for Advanced Materials and Nanotechnology."

Fittingly, Institute Director, Professor Paul Callaghan, who won the Royal Society of New Zealand's Rutherford Medal for his research on nuclear magnetic resonance in 2005, spoke at the unveiling while Victoria's other Rutherford Medal recipient, Professor Jeff Tallon, was also present.

The model of Lord Rutherford shows how students were required to dress in his era. The clothing was made by Yvonne Queree, who worked with Gary under the guidance of her daughter Jennifer Queree, Curator of Canterbury History at Canterbury Museum, at the time.

The model and an information board are displayed with a Voss machine, on loan from Canterbury University scientist, Dr John Campbell, author of *Rutherford: Scientist Supreme*.

The display is situated on level 1 of the Cotton Building on the Kelburn Campus.

Contact
science-faculty@vuw.ac.nz
+64-4-463 5101



The Press

Gary working on the model of Ernest Rutherford in 1978

Gary (left) and David (right) with the Rutherford model





Defying the odds

As one of the first students with a severe mobility disability to graduate from Victoria, the late Denis Phelps defied the odds. Now a scholarship has been set up to help others to do the same.

“The triumphs of disabled people often entail struggles, inconveniences and expenses few would understand, and I hope that this small amount of money can go a little way towards easing those struggles”.

The Denis Phelps Scholarship was established in 2006 through the Victoria University of Wellington Foundation to support second-year undergraduate students studying for a BA or BMus at Victoria or the New Zealand School of Music who have a disability or health condition that affects their mobility or sight.

The scholarship was donated by Denis’ sister, Carol Jenkins, who says she wanted to “celebrate the fact that people with disabilities often achieve so much more than is predicted”.

Denis Phelps, born in Wellington in 1943, never spent more than a few weeks in a classroom. He spent much of his childhood and adolescence reading and listening to the radio in hospital and at home. From the age of 15 he began educating himself; when he was 16 he was told by doctors that he would never work.

Some years later he enrolled at Victoria, intending to study law, with help from Carol and staff of the University, who arranged for ramps. However, the School of Law was on the Kelburn Campus at the time, and there was no lift to take him to the School, so he studied politics on the ground floor instead.

He threw himself into university life, discovering the world of student politics as Secretary of the Victoria University of Wellington Students’ Association, and writing a weekly column about student affairs for *The Evening Post*, says Carol.

“He used to be carried up and down the stairs of the Student Union and spent a lot of time in the café socialising and making up for a lonely adolescence.” His time at Victoria also saw him make lifelong friends and become a well-known student of the University.

“He was very proud four or five years later to be on the stage as student representative on Council at a capping ceremony.”

Despite the predictions of the doctors, in 1970 Denis began working at the New Zealand Broadcasting Corporation News Service, replaced by Radio New Zealand in 1975, where he remained for 35 years. Before long, he was president of the Association of Broadcasting Journalists—this during the tumultuous Muldoon years. He remained at RNZ until his death in September 2005, aged 62.

Preference for the scholarship will be given to a student studying journalism or music, another of Denis’ passions. Carol intends the scholarship to recognise that “the triumphs of disabled people often entail struggles, inconveniences and expenses few would understand, and I hope that this small amount of money can go a little way towards easing those struggles”.

Disability Support Services now offers students a wide range of services, providing help to students with any temporary, recurring or permanent impairment. Their services include: personal support, research assistants, note-takers, reader-writers, sign language interpreters, mobility parking, transport, and rest and study rooms. In 2006, 525 students were enrolled to use these services.

Real-life experience gifted

An undergraduate physics student has been given the opportunity to put her studies into action, through the endowment of a new summer studentship in physics.

Nguyen Huyen, the top student in PHYS114, was awarded the Deane Endowment Trust Summer Studentship in Physics. The award, worth \$5,000, allowed Huyen to spend this summer working alongside Professor Paul Callaghan—who is a teacher on PHYS114—in the MacDiarmid Institute for Advanced Materials & Nanotechnology Laboratory.

The studentship was established by Dr Roderick and Gillian Deane to help students focus more fully on research and studies without the distractions and loss of time caused when students have to work to support themselves.

Huyen was given the opportunity to speak with graduate students about their research, to carry out her own research project supervised by Paul Callaghan and Mark Hunter, and to attend their research group meetings. She also spent time at Magritek, which is closely linked to the laboratory, learning how science generates high-technology business.

Paul describes her as “exceptionally brilliant” and says she has a bright future ahead of her. “It’s a privilege to have students of this quality at Victoria, and the support given through generous endowments such as this enable the students to develop to their full potential.”



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

With their awards, from left, are Tim Coney (on behalf of Jeremy), John, Emeritus Professor Tim Beaglehole, Deirdre, Pat, Jocelyn, David, Joseph and Richard.

From Alumni Relations Manager, Matthew Reweti-Gould

A whirlwind end to 2006 saw three significant alumni events take place in New York, Wellington and London.

Early in October Vice-Chancellor, Professor Pat Walsh, co-hosted a Life After Vic alumni reception in New York with HE Rosemary Banks, New Zealand Permanent Representative to the United Nations. We are very grateful to Rosemary for opening her official residence to alumni and friends.

Just days later almost 500 alumni and friends packed into the Wellington Town Hall for the inaugural Annual Alumni Dinner on 12 October, where seven distinguished alumni were recognised for their achievements.

The recipients were: Jeremy Coney, professional cricketer; David Gascoigne, arts patron and businessman; John Allen, Chief Executive of New Zealand Post; Chief Māori Land Court Judge Joseph Williams, Chairperson of the Waitangi Tribunal; Dr Richard Furneaux, scientist; Deirdre Tarrant, dancer and choreographer; and Lady Jocelyn Keith, President of the New Zealand Red Cross.

Contact

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

Music was provided by the New Zealand School of Music and students from Victoria, including international barbershop quartet champions, the Musical Island Boys. Our thanks to *The Dominion Post*, Wellington City Council, LT McGuinness, The Print Room, Toolbox, Candywhistle, Photography by Woolf and Beba Design for their generous support of the event.

It was at the Annual Alumni Dinner that Pat launched the Alumni Appeal that gives all alumni and friends of Victoria University the opportunity to assist financially in specific areas of interest.

The Alumni Appeal enables you to set up a regular credit card, direct debit or automatic payment to the fund of your choice. Just \$10 a month can make a substantial difference—if five percent of alumni and friends were to gift \$10 a month, they would collectively contribute a staggering \$360,000 a year. More information about the Appeal can be found on the alumni website. Remember all regular donors will receive a 50 percent discount on their ticket to the Annual Alumni Dinner.

In November a small team from Victoria flew to London where Pat hosted the final Life After Vic reception, at Marlborough House. There were 150 alumni present at the function, which included conferring an honorary Doctor of Music degree on Dame Kiri Te Kanawa. Alumna Madeleine Pierard sang to welcome Dame Kiri into the Victoria community and the Commonwealth Secretary-General, the Rt Hon Don McKinnon, replied on Dame Kiri's behalf. The event capped off a successful year.

As a final note, please remember we keep our website regularly updated with alumni news. You can also update your address and email details online, ensuring you continue to receive *Victorious* and news of upcoming events.

Victoria Events

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

Inaugural Lecture series

Victoria's newest professors will be presenting a series of lectures throughout 2007. Typically on a Tuesday at 6pm the topics will be wide and varied. Visit the alumni website for details.

Life After Vic functions

During 2007 the Vice-Chancellor will host Life After Vic alumni functions in New Zealand, Australia, Asia, Europe and North America. To view the cities and dates, and to register your interest, please go to the Alumni website, www.vuw.ac.nz/alumni

Ako Pai Marae 20th Anniversary

30 April – 5 May

Commemorate the twenty year anniversary of Ako Pai Marae at the Karori Campus. This will be an opportunity to celebrate, pay tribute, and share memories of the last 20 years. For more information contact Peihana Ruhe, Marae Taurima, on +64-4-463 9553, or by emailing peihana.ruhe@vuw.ac.nz

Annual Alumni Dinner

11 October

As well as entertainment, plenty of fun and great food you will discover who the next Distinguished Alumni are. This event is the highlight of the Wellington alumni calendar. Start planning your group of friends and family to take advantage of the table discount.

Antarctic Study Tour

February 2008

Peter Barrett, Director of the Antarctic Research Centre, is leading a once-in-a-lifetime adventure and exciting study tour to the Antarctic peninsula in February 2008. A tour brochure with further details will be available from the Centre for Continuing Education & Executive Development. Contact +64-4-463 6556 or ceed@vuw.ac.nz to reserve your copy.

Contact

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

International success

Travelling the world to showcase his designs may soon become a way of life for Victoria alumnus Georgio Saltos, but the up-and-coming designer is smiling in disbelief at his recent success at the prestigious Milan Furniture Fair.

“It was surreal. Being in that environment with the big names in design, their products, the sheer size of the show—it was amazing.”

Georgio, who graduated with a Bachelor of Design in Industrial Design in 1998, is the first New Zealander invited to have a solo show in the fair’s Salon Satellite section.

There are 140 spaces in the Salon Satellite section, for the next generation of designers. Exhibitors are invited to three consecutive shows and about 20 sites are reserved for design schools each year, so only about 20 new designers are invited each year.

“Due to the competitiveness in obtaining a space the other designers tended to work for famous designers such as Tom Dixon and Karim Rashid of large international corporations such as Nike, Sony and Yamaha,” Georgio says.

“There was a lot of encouragement to be yourself which is what design is about. Everyone’s skills are so specific that they appreciate the skills of others so it’s not as competitive as people might think. I’m always trying to do better than before and to push the boundaries even further.”

Georgio is returning to the Fair in 2007 to build on the impressions and contacts he formed the 2006 show.

“I’d also like to exhibit at some of the international shows if I can get the money together and produce some of the designs.”



“It’s only because of the intensity of studying in Victoria’s School of Design that I don’t feel totally out of my depth.”



As well as being invited to shows all over the world, Georgio has been asked to display his products in the renowned SuperStudio Piu in Milan, where many famous designers showcase their products.

“I’ve got so much running through my mind at the moment but foremost I’m thinking about manufacturing the products I’ve already shown.”

A Portuguese company with facilities in three continents is in negotiations with Georgio around starting production of the *Illegitimate Son of Mars* chair, which is based on a horse saddle with a futuristic twist.

“It’s only because of the intensity of studying in Victoria’s School of Design that I don’t feel totally out of my depth. After having worked so intensely on such a broad range of projects, often with little sleep, I’m mentally fit enough to deal with the rigours life throws at someone trying to make it in the international design world.”

Contact

www.georgiosaltos.com/products
Georgio@georgiosaltos.com

Nominations open for Distinguished Alumni Awards 2007

If you know someone who has made an outstanding contribution to their profession or the community, consider nominating them for the 2007 Distinguished Alumni Awards.

There is no limit on the nature of the achievement and contributions recognised. The awards span all professional, political, voluntary, creative and social domains. Particular attention will be paid to

selecting alumni who epitomise the attributes of a Victoria University of Wellington graduate:

- Creative and critical thinking;
- Leadership; and
- Communication skills.

Nominations close in April 2007. Full details of the nomination process and a copy of the nomination form can be downloaded from the alumni website: www.vuw.ac.nz/alumni

The 2007 Distinguished Alumni Awards will be presented at the Annual Alumni Dinner on Thursday 11 October 2007 at the Wellington Town Hall.

Life after Vic

Kevin Brady MPP 1993



As Controller and Auditor-General, Kevin is responsible for auditing public organisations and providing independent assurance to Parliament that they are operating in accordance with its intentions. He has worked in various roles in the Audit Office from 1971, and held the position of Deputy Controller and Auditor-General in 2000 before being appointed by the Governor-General to his current position in 2002. He was in the public eye late last year when he released a report that criticised political parties' use of public funds for election advertising. Kevin, who grew up in Oamaru, is also a Fellow of the New Zealand Institute of Chartered Accountants. The father of five is also a keen lawn bowler.

Raymond Goldie BSc 1969



Working as a Senior Mining Analyst, Raymond is also a Vice-President of Salman Partners, a research-driven Canadian investment dealer. Ray's first job was with Kennecott Explorations, prospecting for copper and nickel in Otago. In 1970, he took a summer job with Kennecott in Canada, joining the first party to prospect the frigid coast of Labrador. Armed with a PhD in geology from Queen's University, Canada, Ray has worked for more than 25 years as a mining analyst. In 2005, he published *Inco comes to Labrador* (Flanker

Press), in which he recounted the discovery of the massive Voisey's Bay nickel deposit in Labrador; and how misunderstandings between the International Nickel Company and the people of Newfoundland and Labrador nearly ended the development of one of the world's major mines.



Caroline Shorter

BSc 1997, MSc(Hons) 2000

Caroline was awarded the 2006 Zonta Building Research Award, presented by the Prime Minister, Rt Hon Helen Clark, in June last year. This biennial award (worth \$75,000) is sponsored by the Building Research Association of New Zealand and provides the means for a woman scientist to gain a PhD in a building-related field. Since graduating from Victoria, Caroline has worked in Christchurch as a scientist in the built environments and public health group of AgResearch, primarily researching allergens and their interactions with textiles. Her PhD research concerns the levels and characteristics of fungi that influence air quality in New Zealand homes, and is being carried out in conjunction with AgResearch and the Wellington Asthma Research Group at Otago University.

Robyn Wong BCA 1995

Robyn Wong grew up on a farm outside Masterton and went on to become a professional mountain bike rider, representing New Zealand at the Athens Olympics in 2004. Robyn's major achievements include twice being New Zealand National Series Champion and a world ranking of 22 in 2004, after finishing in the top sixteen at the Olympics and the World Marathon Biking Championships the year before. Robyn worked for National Bank and TelstraSaturn before she left her career as a chartered



accountant to pursue her love of mountain bike racing overseas. For the past two years she has been working for AMR Consulting, which offers her diverse, challenging work and flexibility—a necessity while training and competing at an elite level.

Christopher Wright

BA(Hons) 1981

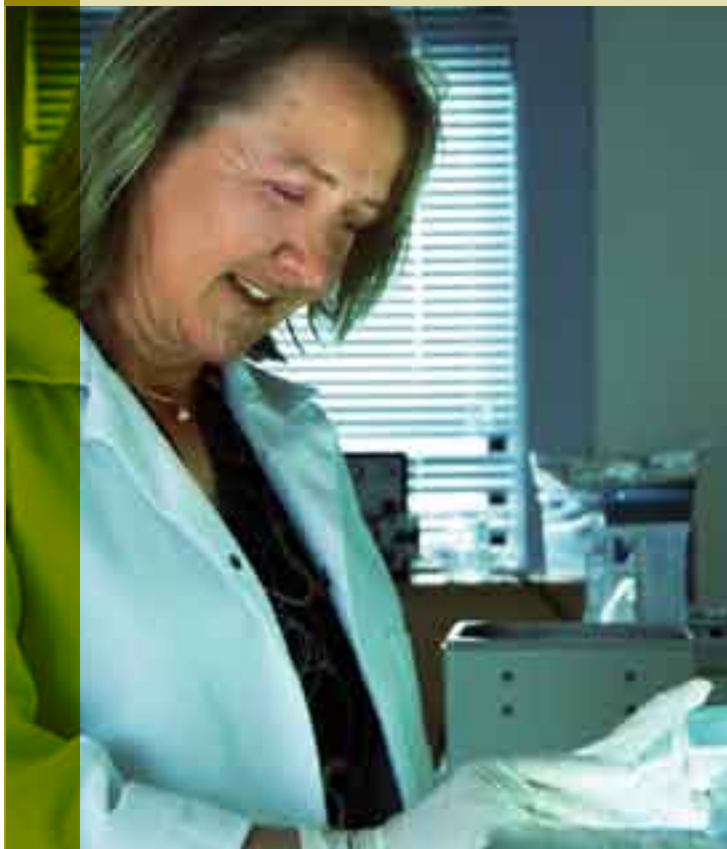


Christopher joined the Australian Trade Commission as Senior Trade Commissioner Shanghai following an extensive career in international marketing. He worked with BAE Systems (formerly British Aerospace) and Siemens marketing aerospace and technology products throughout Asia, Europe and the United States. He was previously Marketing Director of BAE Systems Australia and Chief Representative of British Aerospace in China. He has lived and worked in China, Malaysia, and Hong Kong on international assignments, and travelled and worked extensively throughout Southeast Asia. Before embarking on business, Christopher served as a commissioned officer in the Royal Australian Air Force. Christopher also holds an MBA from Monash University, and is a Foster's Prize winner and former New Zealand Grants Commission scholar. Christopher is married with two children.



Graduation

December's graduation saw more than 1,000 students graduate at four ceremonies. These successes included the conferment of 29 PhDs and three honorary doctorates.



Fertility figures

Elisabeth Feary's PhD research into a unique line of sheep that have more twins could not only help the economy but also unlock some of the mysteries surrounding human infertility.

Three years ago Elisabeth began research into a line of sheep that had a marked increase in twinning. Her aim was to find out why and the result was her PhD in Cell and Molecular Bioscience.

"This is a fascinating line of sheep with a gene that's passed on by the father but displayed in females. As sheep are a good model for humans with respect to studies on fertility, the science could be used to benefit humans at a later date."

Her research paved the way for other scientists by eliminating several possible reasons for the increased twinning. "Science is as much about finding out what it isn't, as well as what it is," Elisabeth says.

Completed with the help of funding from Oviya and the Foundation for Research Science & Technology, Elisabeth's findings are significant within New Zealand society.

"Fifteen percent of couples can't have children and twenty-five percent of those don't know why. We may be able to help these people in the future," she says.

"It could also be beneficial for our economy. Further down the track we will be able to better control our farming stock so that we know how to react to situations. The more you understand something, the better you are able to control it in the future."

Elisabeth's PhD began with a love of animals. She originally wanted to be a vet and worked as a vet nurse in Australia. She now works as a Business Manager for the Foundation for Research Science & Technology, "fighting for science from the other side of the fence", and works to get scientific projects funded.

Changing times

When Esther Harcourt visited Germany in 1997 she bought a book of Bertolt Brecht's poetry and something in the words reminded her of Bob Dylan. She found a line in Brecht's poetry that Dylan used in one of his songs: 'The times they are a-changin'.

Esther calls this her "jackpot moment"—she realised that it was evidence of a significant connection between Dylan and the German poet.

What began as an Honours thesis soon developed into a PhD in German as Esther discovered there was more to learn about the connection between Brecht and Dylan. She travelled to New York to interview people who knew Dylan, including the girlfriend who first introduced him to Brecht's work.

"On top of the direct influence, there are several parallels between the lives of Brecht and Dylan. Both became known as the voice of their generation and came to represent the rebellion of youth against society and their parents.

"The 20s, when Brecht was writing, was a time of social upheaval in Germany. Young people felt that the older generation had failed them. Both Brecht and Dylan were examples of how young people can lead social change."

When Dylan published his autobiography she was pleased to find he acknowledged Brecht as an influence.

"I was trying to prove that the Brecht connection was important, and then Dylan's book confirmed it. The best thing about doing this kind of research is when things fall into place like that."

Esther now works at the Ministry of Education and hopes to turn her thesis into a book. She says Dylan is undergoing a resurgence at the moment so there's interest in her research both in New Zealand and overseas.



Honours awarded

From opera to architecture and early childhood education, the honorary doctorates awarded in the last six months recognise lifetimes of achievement.

Photography by Woolf



Gordon Moller

Gordon Moller received an honorary Doctor of Literature for his contribution to architecture and his role in establishing it as a professional discipline in New Zealand. After graduating from the University of Auckland, he established with James and Jon Craig, the firm of Craig Craig Moller, which quickly achieved a high reputation in both domestic and commercial work. Gordon was a member of Victoria University's Campus Planning Group for more than a decade and for two years he served as a Professorial Teaching Fellow. His most public work was Auckland's Sky Tower and he has won more than 50 Institute and industry awards, including three Gold Awards. He has continually promoted the profession through his seven years as editor of *The Journal of the New Zealand Institute of Architects* and as president of the Institute from 2003 to 2006. Through his award-winning designs, Gordon has made a lasting impression on our urban landscape.

Photography by Woolf



Jeremy Commons

Jeremy Commons was awarded an honorary Doctor of Literature for his revival of, and research into, nineteenth century Italian opera. He discovered his love for opera as a student of English literature at Auckland and Oxford universities, pursued it as a junior diplomat, and became one of its finest scholars during 20 years as a lecturer in Victoria's then Department of English. Jeremy has long been the voice of New Zealand opera, through his service as President, now Patron, of the New Zealand Opera Society and editor of *Opera News*. He has published an estimated 1,000 publications, including a major book on Donizetti. Jeremy has collaborated with leading composers and has given professional opportunities to emerging and established performers. His contribution to the growth of New Zealand's operatic talent is significant and his operatic works, such as the adaptation of Ian Cross' *The God Boy*, are beginning to take their place in the national repertory.

Colin Edwards



Dame Kiri Te Kanawa

Dame Kiri Te Kanawa received an honorary Doctor of Music at a special conferment ceremony in London for her contribution to international opera. She first came to international attention when she performed the role of the Countess in *The Marriage of Figaro* at Covent Garden in 1971 and gained worldwide appeal when, as the soloist at the wedding of Prince Charles and Lady Diana in 1981, she performed to a telecast audience of more than 600 million. She was made a Dame Commander in 1982 and awarded New Zealand's highest honour, the Order of New Zealand, in 1995. Kiri delights a variety of audiences through her recordings of classic arias and albums of music by composers such as Gershwin. Her 1999 album *Maori Songs* paid tribute to her background and the launch of her Kiri Te Kanawa Foundation cemented her commitment to supporting a new generation of artists. She is renowned for her vocal beauty, versatility and poise.

Photography by Woolf



Iritana Tawhiwhirangi

Iritana Tawhiwhirangi received an honorary Doctor of Literature for her role in the establishment of kōhanga reo. Born in Hicks Bay of Ngāti Porou, Ngāti Kahungunu, Ngāpuhi, English and Canadian descent, she graduated from the Wellington Teachers' Training College in 1948 and returned to the East Coast to teach before joining the Māori Affairs Department in 1963. In 1982, she was appointed as an inaugural trustee of the Te Kōhanga Reo National Trust Board and served for two years as general manager. Returning to the Department she was appointed Assistant Secretary of Māori Affairs in 1986, before returning to the Trust Board in 1990, serving as chief executive until 2003. She involved with many organisations, including the Māori Women's Welfare League and the Māori Education Trust. She has been a guest lecturer at Victoria and North American universities and has received an MBE and was made a Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit.



Dedication rewarded

The Victoria community took top honours when it received five of the eight awards in *The Dominion Post* Wellingtonian of the Year Awards, announced in December. In their 17th year, 'The Wellies' celebrate notable individuals and the incredible difference they make to the Wellington region.

Professor Peter Barrett, Director of the Antarctic Research Centre at Victoria, not only won the Science & Technology category, which Victoria sponsored, but also the overall 2006 Wellingtonian of the Year Award. The award recognises Peter's leading contribution to Antarctic and climate change research, and to public understanding of these issues.

Peter's recent work has been dominated by the Cape Roberts Project—a multinational project that cored 1500m of strata off the Antarctic coast. The strata have recorded climate history from around 34 million years ago when the first ice sheet formed.

"This project will expose the warmer world we are fast heading back to," says Peter. "It's a warning of what the world will come to if we don't radically reduce carbon dioxide emissions."

This new style of Antarctic exploration has depended very much on talented locals within and beyond the University, for the technology and skills involved in the drilling, as well as for analysing the data and extracting the story.

"I am immensely grateful and proud of the recognition this award provides. The strong showing that Victoria's staff, students and alumni regularly make in these awards reflects the strong links between the University and the wider Wellington community."

In addition to Peter's win, BA and LLB student, Chris Bishop, who was the convenor of the Australasian Intersvarsity Debating Competition, won the Youth Award, whilst alumnae, the Rev Sylvia Jenkin (BA 1974) won the Community Service Award, and Jenni Dittmer (Postgraduate Certificate in Education Studies, WCE 2002) took out the Education section.

The University adopted the Science & Technology category of the 2006 Wellies as a way of recognising those who excel in their field, and as a way of publicly demonstrating community involvement.

Outstanding contributions recognised

The contributions to Victoria of two Wellingtonians have been recognised with the presentation of one of the University's major honours.

Andrew Dinsdale and Adrian Orr were named Victoria's two newest Hunter Fellows at a ceremony in October.

The Hunter Fellowships were inaugurated in 2003 to acknowledge the wide variety of individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the University. In most cases, these contributions have been made over a number of years. Since 2003, 14 Victoria supporters have been honoured.

Vice-Chancellor, Professor Pat Walsh, described Hunter Fellows as "active and passionate people" for whom "supporting Victoria University of Wellington is second nature".

Andrew and Adrian have both had a long history of supporting Victoria. Andrew, an alumnus, is Chairman of KPMG Banking and Finance Group. He joined the Board of Trustees of the Victoria University of Wellington Foundation in 2001, going on to become Chair of the Foundation's Finance and Investment (Audit) Committee in 2002. In his role, he has overseen the annual audit of the Foundation's accounts and the formulation of a strategy for the investment of Foundation trust funds.

Adrian, Chief Executive of the New Zealand Superannuation Fund, was appointed to the Victoria University Council in November 2001 and served until October 2003. He was also Chairman of Victoria's Institute for the Study of Competition & Regulation from 1998 to 2006. He is also a Friend of the Foundation, and has provided seminar contributions to the MBA Programme as part of a course on Advanced Corporate Management.

Pat says Victoria is fortunate to have such dedicated supporters. "It's a privilege to be able to honour these long-serving friends of the University. Their support has helped us reach so many milestones over the years—we're proud to have associates who are so committed to Victoria."



At the award ceremony, from left, Pat, Adrian and Andrew, with Emeritus Professor Tim Beaglehole.



Supreme sportspeople celebrated

Forty-six of Victoria's supreme athletes and administrators from a variety of sports were honoured in October for their achievements.

The 41st Annual Blues Awards are awarded by the Victoria University of Wellington Students' Association on the recommendation of the Blues Panel. The Students' Association is proud to deliver the ceremony and is particularly dedicated to supporting the sporting and cultural endeavours of Victoria students.

Former Blues winners include All Blacks Graham Mourie, Jerry Collins and Conrad Smith, five times World Mountain Running Champ Jonathan Wyatt, and Black Stick Suzie Pearce.

Thirty-six students received sports Blues and 10 students received sports administration prizes.

The three major awards were presented by World Mountain Running Champ and 2005 NZ Sportswoman of the Year Kate McLroy, herself a Victoria alumna and a former Blues recipient.

The award for Sportsperson of the Year went to Jessica Penney, a part-time BSc student. Jessica set a new NZ junior record for long jump when she was placed fifth at the IAAF World Junior Championships in August 2006, jumping 6.37 metres. She has a national junior ranking of 1 for both long jump and the 100m sprint and has a national senior ranking of 2 in long jump.

The Māori Sportsperson of the Year was awarded to Henry Heke. Henry has been a member of the NZ University Rugby League team in 1999, 2000, 2005, and 2006. In both 2000 and 2005 the NZ side won the Universities Rugby League World

Cup. In 2005 and 2006 Henry was selected for the Wellington Māori Rugby League Team. He has competed a BA in Māori.

Chris Bishop was named Sports Administrator of the Year. As the Convenor of the Australasian Intersarsity Debating Championships (Australas) Organising Committee, he was responsible for Victoria's successful bid to host the Australs and organised bringing more than 300 debaters from the Asia-Pacific region to Wellington. He was also Chief Adjudicator for the NZ University Games Debating Tournament. An experienced debater himself, Chris has won five national debating tournaments as well as top finishes in the world debating scene.

Vice-Chancellor, Professor Pat Walsh, says life at university has always been much more than books and lectures.

"For everyone, it is not only a time of intellectual growth but also of personal growth. The opportunity to grow extends beyond the lecture theatre as these award recipients have demonstrated."

Pat says 2006 was a particularly memorable year for sports at Victoria. The University Games were hosted, and won, by Victoria, and a multi-million-dollar upgrade of the Kelburn Campus Recreation Centre was completed.

"The Blues are the highest recognition the University can give to people who have, by their sporting achievements or contribution to sport, brought credit to the institution.

"The achievements of the winners not only speak of their own personal contribution and sacrifice but also bring vital recognition to the University community."

From left to right:
Louise Hosegood, Sam Fogel
(Blues recipient for athletics),
Jessica Penney (Sportsperson
of the Year for achievements
in athletics), Mike Beable
(Athletics coach),
Sarah Hosegood (Blue
recipient for athletics).

Contact

Brent.Hayward@vuwsa.org.nz
+64-4-463 5060



Linguistic passion lives on

‘When elephants tussle, it’s the grass that suffers’ is one of several thousand proverbial gems from around the world collected by the inaugural Ian Gordon Fellow at Victoria.

Professor David Crystal, the author of *As they say in Zanzibar*, presented three lectures on The Stories of English; Language Death; and The Future of Language, at the University late last year.

The lecture series was made possible thanks to the support of the late Emeritus Professor Ian Gordon, who made a \$500,000 gift in 2003 through the Victoria University Foundation to establish the fellowship and a series of scholarships to support his life-long passion for the study of language.

Professor Janet Holmes, Head of the School of Linguistics & Applied Language Studies, says David gave three fascinating lectures.

“Languages are always evolving, with new words being coined and old words disappearing or being given new meanings as society changes. Thanks to the generosity of the late Ian Gordon, students and members of the public were given the opportunity to learn about current and engaging linguistic topics from one of the world’s top linguists.”

There was an excellent attendance at all three lectures and in two cases the 280-seat lecture theatre was full to capacity.

In addition to having more than 100 books published, including several encyclopaedias of linguistics and English language, David has been a consultant, contributor, and presenter on several radio and television programmes and series, including numerous BBC programmes since the 1980s.

His most recent book was released in New Zealand at the time of his visit. *As they say in Zanzibar* (HarperCollins) is a collection of diverse and insightful proverbs from around the world.

David is patron of the International Association of Teachers of English as a Foreign Language (IATEFL), President of the British National Literacy Association, and an honorary Vice-President of the Royal College of Speech & Language Therapists, the Institute of Linguists and the Society for Editors & Proofreaders.

Contact

ials@vuw.ac.nz
+64-4-463 5600

Criminalising war

Former Malaysian Prime Minister, Tun Dr Mahathir bin Mohamad, called for war to be criminalised when he delivered the Chair of Malay Studies Saad Lecture at Victoria late last year.

A 300-seat lecture theatre at Pipitea Campus was full to capacity and his address was streamed live into an adjoining lecture theatre where a further 100 people listened. The lecture was attended by senior diplomats, members of Parliament and members of Wellington’s Malaysian and Muslim communities.

The Saad Lecture was established by an endowment through the Victoria University Foundation by Tan Sri Datuk Halim Saad, a Victoria alumnus and Chairman of the Saad Foundation.

Dr Mahathir, who was Prime Minister from 1981 to 2003, argued the path to peaceful resolution of disputes was to criminalise war. After thousands of years of conflict and millions of deaths, it defied belief that nations still believed resorting to war was a legitimate means to resolve disputes, he said.

“This is a really primitive way of thinking. We claim to be civilised. We claim to want to see the rule of law and to see justice done and we want to improve the quality of life, but at the same time we still claim it is right to kill people in order to solve our problems.”

The sanctioning of war, and the rights of the winner, encouraged nations to have strong military forces and to resort to war at the slightest excuse, he said.

The 2006 Saad Lecture celebrated the tenth anniversary of the establishment of the Chair of Malay Studies in Victoria’s School of Asian & European Languages & Cultures. The Chair, held by Professor Ungku Maimunah Mohd Tahir, was established in 1996 with the assistance of the Malaysian Government, Renong, a number of New Zealand companies, and the Asia:NZ Foundation.



Dr Mahathir meets members of Wellington’s Malaysian and Muslim communities after the lecture.

20 years on campus

Birds sang and karakia were said as a carved flagpole was unveiled, with a gentle breeze unfurling the new flag, at the 20th anniversary celebrations for Victoria's iconic meeting house, Te Tumu Te Herenga Waka.

Te Tumu was opened in 1986. Te Herenga Waka Marae, of which Te Tumu is the centrepiece, was opened in 1980, the only marae on a New Zealand university campus at the time.

The unveiling of the flagpole was a highlight of the day. It was carved by Takirangi Smith, the master carver who originally led the team who produced the carvings for the meeting house.

Presentations were also made by the whānau of Te Herenga Waka to significant figures to the marae, such as Mr Smith and Professor Hirini Moko Mead, the first professor of Māori Studies in New Zealand.

"Throughout the year we have built up to this event with a series of seminars based around Māori knowledge. It concluded in a day of celebration to honour those who have made a significant contribution to the establishment of the Marae," says Pro Vice-Chancellor (Māori), Professor Piri Sciascia.

"These celebrations are not just for the Māori staff and students. They are about the University coming together as one, with everyone taking part."

The marae and meeting house have been an integral part of Victoria since they opened, and Piri says they are vital to University life. He calls them "a home away from home for Māori students, a place where they can gather and where tikanga Māori prevails". As well, all staff are formally welcomed on to the marae.

It's also a key resource for Victoria's School of Māori Studies, Te Kawa a Māui, in its teaching programme, and for other schools.

"Te Herenga Waka, 'the hitching post', is pivotal because it's not an events or function centre, it's used every day like any other marae. While it teaches the practices of tikanga Māori, it's not just the theory—we put it into practice as well, and a lot of people enjoy that." This can often be a challenge to Māori students, as for many it's the first time they encounter this part of their culture and identity.

In December, the marae played host to Te Hui Whakapūmau, the marae-based graduation ceremonies. Around 45 students graduated at this ceremony, with three PhDs conferred and an honorary Doctor of Literature degree granted to kōhanga reo pioneer Iritana Te Rangi Tawhiwhirangi.

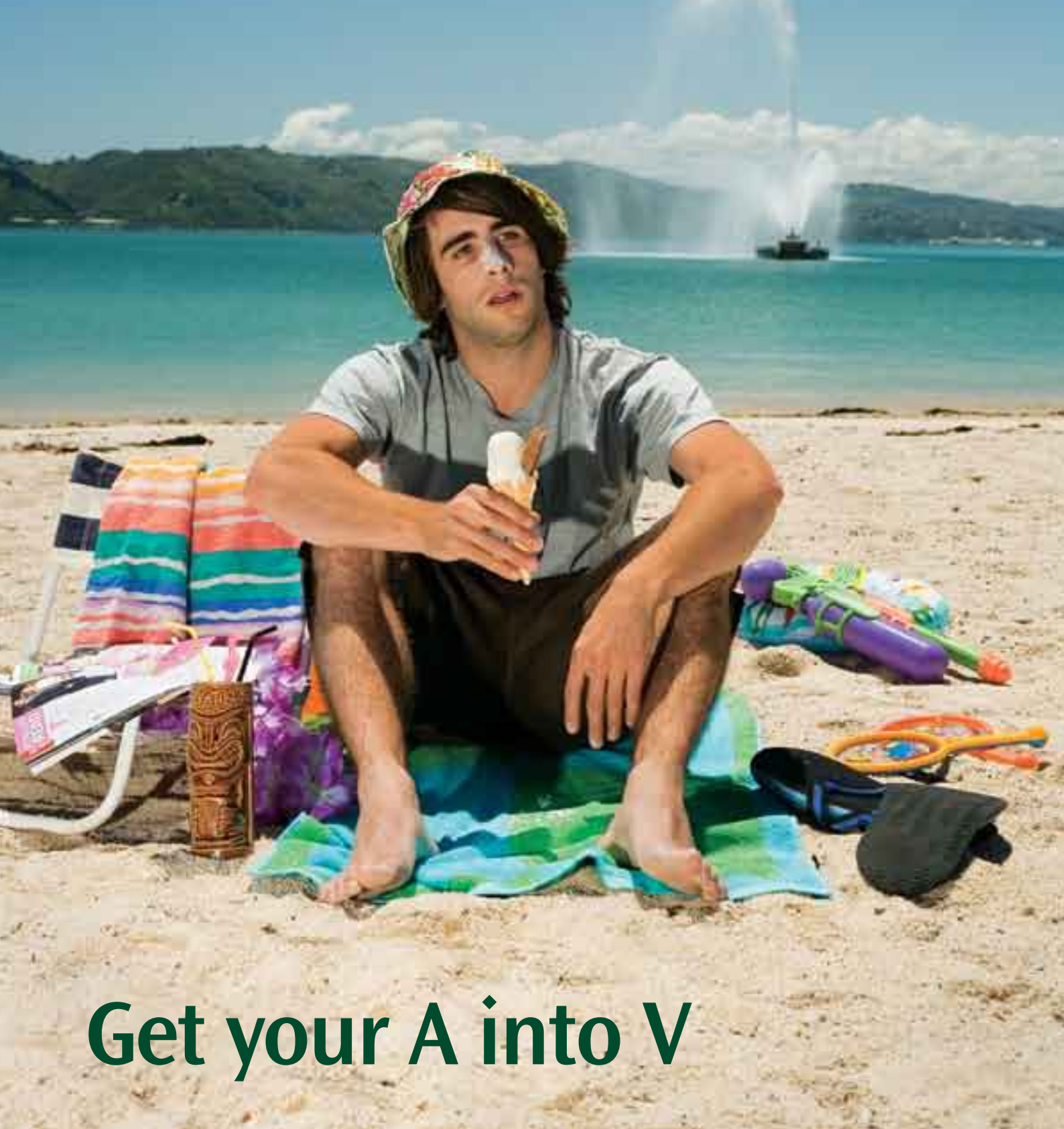
Ako Pai, the University's marae at the Karori Campus, celebrates its 20th anniversary later this year.



Takirangi speaks at the celebrations

Contact

www.vuw.ac.nz/marae
+64-4-463 7423



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