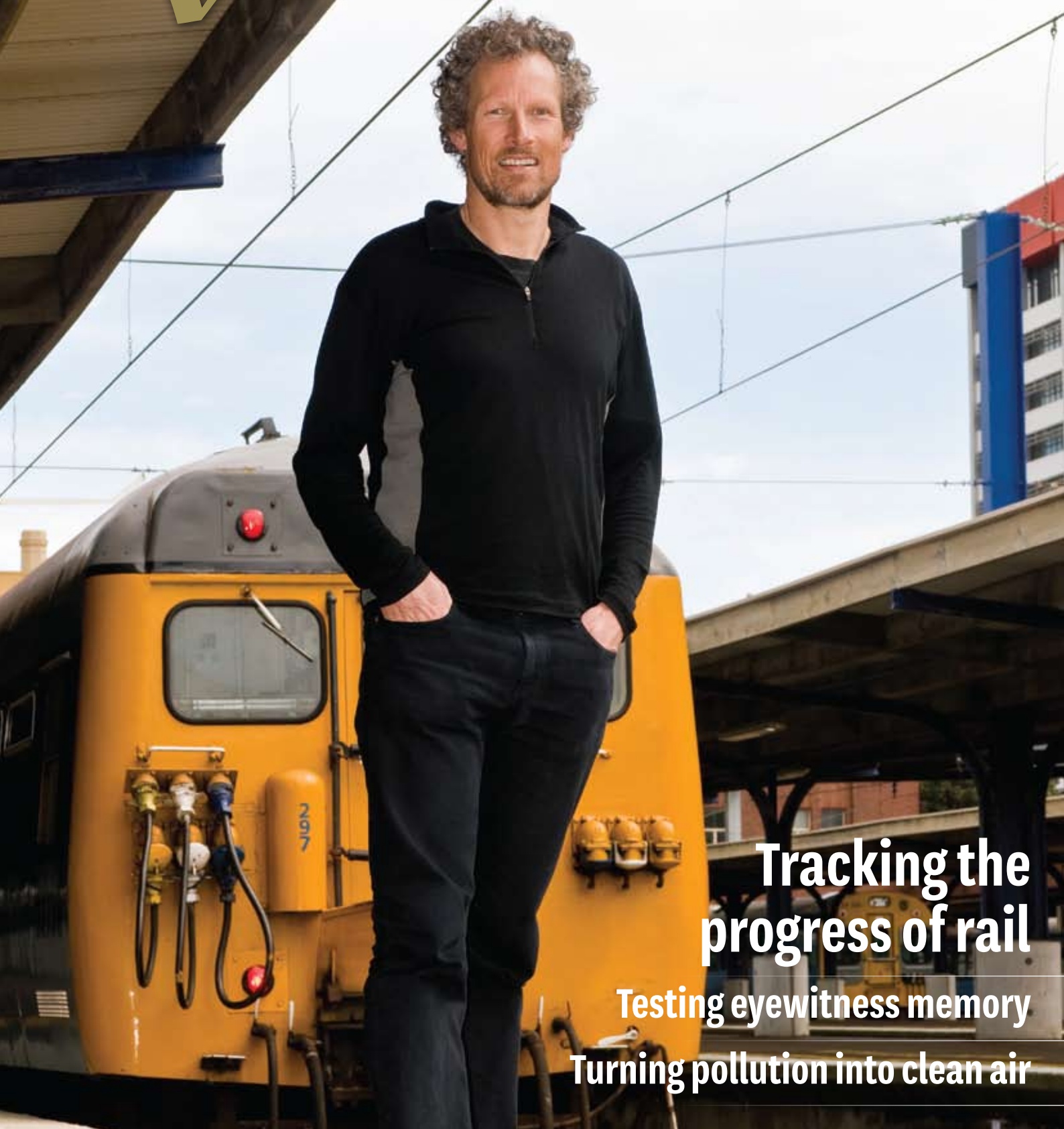


SUMMER 2009

Victorious

MAGAZINE FOR FRIENDS AND ALUMNI OF VICTORIA UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON



**Tracking the
progress of rail**

Testing eyewitness memory

Turning pollution into clean air



Turning pollution into clean air

On the surface it may sound like an impossible challenge—turning pollution into clean air.

Yet it's a challenge Victoria University PhD student John Watt has tackled with considerable success.

The 27-year-old's award-winning research involves using particles of palladium more than 100,000 times smaller than the width of a hair to remove toxic gases, such as carbon monoxide and nitrous oxide from dirty exhaust fumes, cheaply and more efficiently than existing methods.

"Palladium is currently used in car exhausts in this way, but the systems are horribly inefficient. This research increases their efficiency so that car companies get the same or better results by using smaller amounts," says John.

This could pave the way for a cheaper and more effective way of removing pollution from our streets, and create a double win for the environment by reducing the need for palladium mining.

"Mining this precious metal isn't very environmentally friendly, so our technology would mean using less of it and causing less harm to the environment."

With an estimated 600 million cars in the world, John thinks the ground-breaking technology could be a big money-spinner.

"The potential for commercialising this technology is huge. We've currently got a major British company, Johnson Matthey, a world leader in the supply of precious metals, studying our samples to determine their suitability for pollution control systems."

John's research, developed with the assistance of his supervisor Dr Richard Tilley, won him the 2009 MacDiarmid Young Scientist of the Year Award, which is presented annually to postgraduate science students by the Foundation for Research, Science and Technology. Awarded in honour of Victoria alumnus and Nobel Prize-winning chemist, the late Alan MacDiarmid, the award recognises young scientists who are making a valuable contribution to New Zealand's scientific efforts.

Napier-born John says winning the prestigious award came as a total surprise.

"I thought I did okay in the three selection rounds, including the last round which involved quite a gruelling interview session with a panel of top scientists. So when I found out I'd won the award, it was a really nice surprise."

As was the cash prize of \$10,000 and an additional \$5,000 for winning the Future Science and Technologies category. His prize package also includes the MacDiarmid medal and a trip to an international science event.

He also more recently won the inaugural Prime Minister's MacDiarmid Emerging Scientist Prize, worth \$150,000, which is presented to a scientist who is carrying out leading-edge science, and who is within five years of completing a PhD.

The chemistry student hopes to finish his PhD study at the end of this year and says he's keen to pursue this line of scientific research.

"I'm thinking about possibly doing a year of post-doctoral study in Japan, because they're doing some great research with nanoparticles over there. But my aim is to come back to New Zealand and work to commercialise the many applications that nanoparticles have, from environmental applications to medical imaging agents and even solar cells."



Photo: New Zealand Herald

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From the Vice-Chancellor

This year Victoria was reviewed in its fourth independent academic audit. The audit confirmed not only that we are heading in the right direction, but that our staff and students have tremendous confidence in their University.

Receiving a peer assessment from independent academic colleagues from both New Zealand and overseas is a useful way for us to get an outside view on what is working well and what we can do better—and it gives us an indication of how our staff and students feel about the University. The audit panel commented that there had been a significant growth in confidence since the last audit in 2005. A high proportion of our staff who were interviewed by the panel spoke positively about their work here and were supportive of our new strategic direction.

Learning and teaching are a key focus for all Universities, and the audit confirmed that there are many positive initiatives at Victoria. In particular, the Victoria Plus Award and our award-winning Victoria International Leadership Programme were seen as important developments in preparing graduates for leadership positions in society. The panel particularly noted the excellent quality of the student learning support offered by our Student Services Group.

We were commended for the improvements we have made to the facilities, resources and services in the Library since the last audit, and our progress and long-term planning in this area received great praise. An extension of this work is to continue for the next eight years, with a major transformation of the Kelburn Campus planned. This includes significant financial support from the Victoria University of Wellington Students' Association Trust. You can read more about these plans on page 12.

Of course, as is the case for all universities, there is always room for improvement. The report also made some suggestions about how we can further enhance our operations, often building on the ideas that we presented in our self-audit portfolio. The panel noted the significance of our new Learning and Teaching Strategy, which is explained in more detail by Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) Penny Boumelha on page 10.

I am confident that, when it comes to the next audit in four years' time, the panel will again be impressed by our continued commitment to ensuring that Victoria remains an institution of excellence.

Professor Pat Walsh, Vice-Chancellor

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The best of both worlds—where Victoria meets the community for activities, performances and the sharing of expertise



Poetry not lost in translation



The beauty of Italian poetry has not been lost in translation for Victoria University's Marco Sonzogni, winner of the prestigious Looren Translation Grant.

The Senior Lecturer in Italian in the School of Languages and Cultures was awarded one of Europe's top literary translation grants by Pro Helvetia (the Swiss Arts Council) in recognition

of his work, and on the merits of an ongoing project on the poetry of Swiss-Italian poet Oliver Scharpf.

"I was in a book shop in Italy last year hoping to find an emerging young poet—a fresh new voice. Almost by accident I came across a book by Oliver, a young man from Switzerland writing in Italian. It's a very interesting mix from a cultural viewpoint," says Marco.

"What really sold me on Scharpf's poetry was his style—unconventional short poems, like extended haikus. They are snapshots of reality processed through a very honest gaze. When you read his poems you can identify with them—you can feel the pulse of a life lived in full. I could also see that they would translate well into English."

Marco tracked Oliver down through social networking website Facebook, and sent him some of the poems translated into English, which the poet liked.

When Marco approached a book publisher with the idea of Oliver's works translated into English, the response was positive, and shortly afterwards he received the Looren Grant. Worth

around NZ\$10,000 it will allow him to spend four weeks in Looren, Switzerland, at the end of the year to complete his book.

Marco says translating poetry from Italian to English is not a simple mechanical process.

"You are translating from a Romance language into a Germanic one. Syntax and tone are different, there are particular turns of phrase, and even the use of punctuation is dissimilar, which all needs to be taken into account.

"The challenge will be to recreate in English the same vibrant energy that Oliver has managed to convey in his use of Italian."

Marco, who is hoping to have the book published in May 2010, says that some of the translations might end up being more fluid and accessible than the original, because of Oliver's particular style.

"His poems read like excerpts of oral conversations, loud thoughts transferred on to paper—one was written on the back of a pizza box. You get this freshness, and as a poet myself I always look for fresh ways of using language."

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Mimicking nature to help patients



Kate McGrath's research mimics a natural process that could assist in wound care and medical implants.

She is researching how organisms grow their hard tissue, with potential applications in organ implants and helping tissue regrow.

"Hard tissue is basically skeletons, teeth and shells. They're made from inorganic materials

like silica or calcium carbonate and formed by a natural process called biomineralisation," says Kate, an Associate Professor in the School of Chemical and Physical Sciences.

"We're essentially trying to copy what nature does very successfully.

"The work we're doing could help create more biocompatible implants. Rather than a piece of steel in your hip, we're trying to synthesise a material that would more naturally interact with your body, avoid harsh rubbing against bone and not be as heavy.

"By learning how organisms grow their hard tissue we can use a similar process to make an inorganic material that works well with the organic. It will be stronger, tougher and fracture resistant."

Another potential application of her research is in materials science, particularly the semi-conducting materials used in electronics and optics.

"These materials have great chemical attributes but are often brittle and hard to work with. If you could synthesise them, using the methods that organisms use, then you could have a material that keeps those attributes and is physically strong."

The University has recognised the potential in the biomineralisation project, funding a full-time post-doctoral researcher for three years to help advance commercialisation efforts.

Kate, who recently won the New Zealand Association of Scientists' Research Medal, is working with Viclink, the University's commercialisation arm, to advance her research. The biomineralisation project already has three companies interested in working to develop the technology and a provisional patent.

Successful Viclink projects return a third of profits to the researcher, one-third to their school and one-third to the University.

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Composing online with eMotif

It's how many famous musicians got started: beaver away in their bedrooms and garages, producing music that would one day change the face of music.

Now young musicians all over New Zealand are getting the same chance, thanks to an internet-based musical tutorial created by Dr Jan Bolton, Senior Lecturer in Music at Victoria's Faculty of Education.

Called eMotif, the program encourages Years 7 and 8 students to write their own music and record their compositions on the Apple software GarageBand.

It has been rolled out to 10 schools across the North Island, and Jan estimates that around 250 students have used eMotif to express their creativity through music.

"I'm delighted that students are able to have an accessible, easy-to-use outlet in which they can make music," says Jan.

eMotif had its beginnings a few years ago, when Jan realised there were substantial gaps and barriers to arts learning in primary schools.

"I realised many New Zealand children were missing out on learning music because primary school teachers often lacked the expertise to include composing or playing instruments as part of classroom activities."

The solution was to develop a virtual mentor who could teach music at a distance and online.

Jan took up the challenge as part of her PhD study at Melbourne's Deakin University, which she completed last year.

Her research found that eMotif was a practical way of engaging both students and teachers with music composition and recording, by giving them the tools and advice needed to create music.

The program allows students to upload their compositions to a portal where they are downloaded either by Jan or a postgraduate music student. Jan then leaves text or voice-recorded feedback for the student to download the next time he or she logs in.

eMotif works for a variety of musical instrument players, but also caters for students who do not play an instrument.

"GarageBand provides access to existing loops and the ability to manipulate these, combined with easy keyboard input of students' own ideas," she says.

So far, feedback from students and staff has been very positive.

"Students like eMotif because it lets them experiment with a wide range of musical genres, including popular genres they know and like. And teachers have welcomed the program because it is a way to deliver curriculum requirements, which is not always easy for teachers who may lack specialist musical expertise."

Jan is currently working on a Teaching and Learning Research Initiative (TLRI) project to research eMotif's application in dance and drama education, and believes the program could easily make the transition.

It has also generated interest in Australia, and Jan believes there is definite potential to roll out the program internationally.

"It's a way of engaging students with music that they may have been missing out on, and that's a universal issue."

Juggling a full-time lecturing position with maintaining eMotif is a 24/7 job, admits Jan.

"It does make for a huge workload. But I believe in the potential of this program and am keen to see where we can take it."

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Marsden success for Victoria

How coral reefs will respond to global warming, developing an early warning system for volcanic activity, and a study of European expansion over the last 500 years are among Victoria research projects funded in recent Marsden grants.

In 2009 Victoria received 16 research grants in one of the University's most successful years in the competitive Marsden Fund.

Dr Simon Davy's research into why some corals bleach in warming seas and others do not will provide insights into how corals respond to global warming. His grant of \$960,000 was Victoria's largest ever.

Coral reefs worldwide are in decline and one of the greatest threats is climate change, which results in rising sea temperatures and ocean acidification.

"We're at the stage where most reefs will either be extinct in 50–100 years or will suffer a huge loss of species diversity. Coral bleaching in response to global warming is a big reason for that," says Simon, from Victoria's Centre for Marine Environmental & Economic Research.

Most coral is naturally brown but bleaching causes it to appear white. However, bleaching causes more than just a surface difference.

"Bleaching is the result of a loss of algae within the coral, which the coral needs to survive.

"After bleaching, all you're left with is the coral's tissue and skeleton. The algae are symbiotic microorganisms that live inside the coral and produce essential things for the coral like sugars."

Simon and his team will study why some corals bleach and some don't.

"We're looking specifically at what antioxidants within corals do to help them withstand stresses resulting from global warming.

"One of the exciting things about this project is that it's part of a worldwide effort. I helped organise a recent cross-disciplinary conference of marine and cell biologists and we're working towards common goals to help the world's marine environment."

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Learning, motivation and the NCEA



Students at Waihi College, Waikato.

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 Faculty of Education and Professor John McClure from the School of Psychology in a major report for the Ministry of Education.

The four-year research project investigated how various design aspects of the NCEA were related to student motivation and higher achievement in secondary school—and has led to some major changes in the NCEA.

The research followed 6,000 Years 10–13 students at 20 New Zealand secondary schools. Parent and student focus groups provided additional perspectives on the issues raised in the analysis of student achievement and motivation.

"The research revealed the value of a concise, predictive measure of student motivation in relationship to the NCEA early in secondary school to support interventions that can enhance motivation towards higher achievement," says Luanna, who is Director of Victoria's Jessie Hetherington Centre for Educational Research.

"Earlier phases of our research led to the introduction of the NCEA Merit and Excellence certificate endorsements two years ago. After their introduction, we found that the endorsements supported Doing My Best rather than Doing Just Enough approaches to learning, at all levels of achievement—not only for high-achieving students. Students who said the endorsements mattered to them showed more positive motivation and achievement than those who said they didn't matter."

Results also showed that students who did small amounts of part-time work, sport or other extracurricular activities showed higher motivation and achievement patterns than students who did not participate in these activities, or who spent more than 10 hours a week on extracurricular activities.

Luanna says the results are an excellent example of how Victoria University research is leading to improvements in the education system.

"Because of these findings, the Government has decided to improve student motivation by rewarding those who excel in specific subjects. From 2012, pupils who reach Merit or Excellence in specific subjects will receive subject endorsements on their NCEA results."

A summary of the findings is available from www.educationcounts.govt.nz/publications/schooling/49344

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Tracking the progress of rail



Did the 2002–8 re-nationalisation of New Zealand railways represent the end of a failed experiment in privatisation and herald the renaissance of an essential infrastructure?

Or was it a misguided attempt to stem the inevitable decline of a 19th century technology that has only a limited place in a modern New Zealand transportation network?

New research by the New Zealand Institute for the Study of Competition and Regulation (ISCR) examines the economic viability, structure and role of New Zealand's rail network since 1863—and suggests that the present system is not sustainable.

Researcher Dave Heatley says rail in New Zealand has become increasingly economically unviable over time.

“Rail is a capital-intensive business, and any owner will require a return on that investment that is at least as great as any other alternative use for the funds tied up. Rail simply hasn't met this test for decades, regardless of whether it has been privately or publicly owned.”

Rail has had a chequered history in New Zealand since the first railway was opened in 1863. By 1878, the first commission of enquiry was being held into why railways were doing so badly.

By the 1930s, a slew of government regulation was trying to keep rail on track as it faced new competition from cars and trucks. But it continued to operate at a significant financial loss.

“Government sold it in 1993, in the hope that privatisation would improve its efficiency. While there were some improvements in revenues over operating costs, the problem of recovering capital costs remained.”

After a short period of operating surpluses, the rail operating company struck financial difficulties in the early 2000s. Between 2002 and 2004, the Government repurchased the rail track network and transferred it to the state-owned enterprise ONTRACK. In 2008, the remaining rail assets and operating business were repurchased and renamed KiwiRail.

Dave says the ISCR's research shows the strategic reasons for the Government's repurchase of rail are weak. No substantial improvement in economic performance or environmental sustainability has occurred since the tracks were repurchased in 2002, and there is little evidence to suggest that a government repurchase of the operating company will change the outlook.

“To maintain railways as they are will require substantial taxpayer subsidies into the future—the projected loss this year on operations alone is \$90 million. You have to weigh that up against other social factors and challenges for the New Zealand economy—\$90 million could buy an awful lot of hip operations, for example.”

He says closure of at least part of the rail network appears socially desirable, if not inevitable. The challenge for rail's owners, whether it be the Government or private enterprise, is to find a viable subset of the current rail network.

“Substantially rationalising it to those parts that are able to cover their capital costs seems to be the only way to make it self-sustaining. Line closures and land sales could potentially fund upgrading of the core network to 21st century standards. The potential economic and environmental benefits of rail are most likely to be realised in this scenario.

“Long-term financial sustainability will most likely come from focusing on those areas and industries where rail has natural advantages—such as the more densely-populated upper half of the North Island, urban passenger transport, and moving bulky cargoes such as coal and manufactured dairy products.”

Dave says there are some essential reasons why rail hasn't been economical in New Zealand.

“We are a tiny country with a small population, we are very well serviced by ports and we don't have an extensive hinterland or huge export volumes like the United States or China.”

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www.iscr.org.nz

→ 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. Email: charles.daugherty@vuw.ac.nz Tel: +64-4-463 5572.





An eye for crime

It might sound like something out of television programme *CSI*, but Dr Matthew Gerrie's innovative research with eyetracking technology could have far-reaching effects for the eyewitness identification of offenders.

The School of Psychology Research Fellow, whose work won him a top spot in the 2009 MacDiarmid Young Scientist of the Year Awards, uses infrared eyetracking techniques to record eye movement patterns during police line-ups.

Matthew says his research could help to improve the accuracy of eyewitness decision-making processes.

"The research applies psychological science to understand eyewitness behaviour during the identification process," says Matthew.

Photographic line-ups are the most common method of testing eyewitness memory for offenders and involve a witness choosing a person from a line-up, in much the same way a person chooses an option from a multiple-choice question.

"When people choose the correct answer from a multiple-choice question or from a line-up, it's assumed that they relied on memory to make the choice. But people can make a choice not by relying on memory, but by relying on a process of elimination," says Matthew.

Problems arise when witnesses rely on the processes of elimination, which can lead to misidentifications.

"When a witness used elimination, it was more likely that an innocent person was misidentified."

In Matthew's experiments, witnesses viewed a photograph of an offender, or a simulated crime. Witnesses were then asked to identify the offender from line-ups with and without the offender present.

"Throughout the experiments, witnesses' eye movements were measured with the eyetracker to observe their decision processes."

Matthew found that witnesses scanned the faces in the line-up, and often compared faces in an effort to make a selection. His research showed that the more witnesses compared faces in the line-up, the less accurate their identification.

"Witnesses often chose an innocent person from the line-up, especially when the actual offender was not present in the line-up."

Matthew says his research has important implications for the way in which eyewitness identification procedures are carried out. Ultimately, he hopes his findings will be used to inform policy and law makers about how to best test eyewitness memory.

Matthew, who completed his PhD at Victoria in 2007, has long harboured a fascination with the fallibility of human memory.

"My interest stems from how people falsely remember particular events which they have never experienced. It's a fascinating area of research and, within the criminal justice context, has major implications for innocent

people who find themselves wrongly accused of a crime."

Interest in this area led Matthew to help establish the Innocence Project New Zealand (IPNZ) with Dr Maryanne Garry from Victoria's School of Psychology. IPNZ is an offshoot of the global organisation which investigates and helps to overturn wrongful convictions.

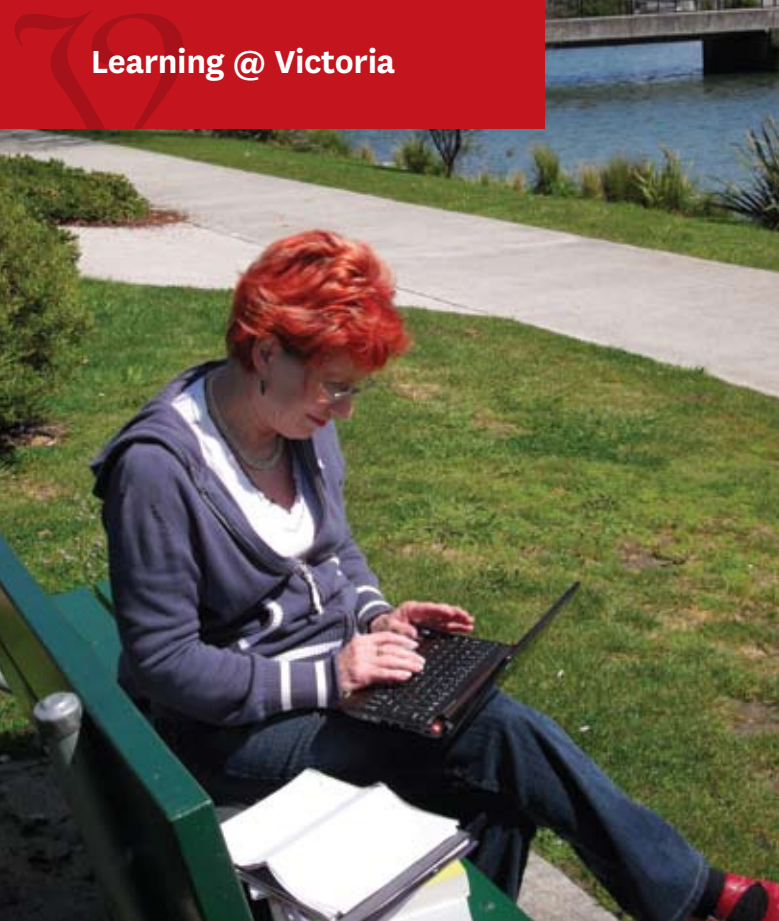
"It's a joint venture between Victoria and Otago Universities, and works with cases where offenders have been wrongly convicted. Sometimes, these wrongful convictions are caused by inaccurate eyewitness identifications."

Matthew, whose work is supported by a Marsden Research Grant, says his current research could contribute to a new policy for reliable identification procedures.

"I've already had contact with the New Zealand Police to train detectives on issues surrounding eyewitness memory and eyewitness identification. I'm confident that my research could be successfully applied in offshore markets."

In August, Matthew's work was recognised when he won the Science and Our Society category of the MacDiarmid Young Scientist Awards. He hopes to finish his research by the end of 2012.

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Learning from a distance

Ever wanted to rewind the words of a lecturer, in order to fully grasp what they are saying? With distance learning this can be done with the simple click of a mouse.

The School of Marketing and International Business delivers its marketing distance courses entirely by interactive DVD, including short tailored video lectures—methodology that is still unique in New Zealand. “Students are able to carry their lecturer with them, via the DVD, as all their content is on there—the video lectures, their lecture notes, additional readings and interactive exercises,” says Rochelle Savage, Distance Learning Manager for the School of Marketing and International Business.

Students are also supported by tutors and a lecturer through Blackboard, an electronic environment which facilitates flexible learning, with features such as discussion boards and online tests.

The course is particularly suitable for people with busy lives.

“There are a number of people in full-time work who want to upskill, but are unable to take time off for lectures, or parents with young children who want to study for a career,” says Dr Aaron Gazley, lecturer for several of the distance courses.

“If a distance student has access to a computer and a spare 10 minutes they can watch a video lecture, or they could fit several into their lunch break.”

International Marketing and Business has offered distance learning courses since 2004. So far almost 400 students have taken up the option, some from as far afield as The Netherlands and China.

The courses are almost exactly the same as on-campus versions—right down to the assignments, textbooks used, course content and end of year exams, which follow the University timetable.

www.victoria.ac.nz/smib/study/distance

Improving health with IT



Errors in information technology (IT) in the health sector, unlike in other areas where IT plays a major role, can prove fatal.

“If a bank puts money in the wrong person’s account it can usually be fixed—but when you make a mistake in health it can be a matter of life and death,” says Professor Rowena Cullen from Victoria’s School of Information Management.

In her inaugural professorial lecture on 13 October, Rowena outlined the impact that IT has had in the health sector, and its potential to increase productivity and make significant reductions in the rates of medical error in health care delivery.

She also noted that despite a very substantial investment in health IT in New Zealand and other countries ‘we have not made the gains we hoped for’.

Rowena says it is often the implementation at fault, not the technology.

“In the UK, the national IT health programme is very centralised and top-down and is widely acknowledged to have been a disaster. In New Zealand, the system is much more devolved—giving a lot of autonomy to bodies like DHBs—yet there have still been problems.”

Health and Disabilities Commissioner Ron Paterson has calculated that one in 200 patients suffer an ‘adverse event’ in New Zealand hospitals, and that one in 25 of these events result in serious and irreversible harm. These events range from medication errors to the use of wrong procedures and the treatment of the wrong patient.

Rowena’s own analysis suggests that in 50 percent of case reports issued in the past two years by the Health and Disabilities Commissioner, the root cause of the ‘adverse event’ being investigated is a failure in the communication of critical patient information.

“As a country we need to make better use of information systems and adopt well-developed international standards, ensuring they are complied with, to achieve coordination of care,” says Rowena.

Rowena argues that open standards, open architecture, open source software and open access to information are the ways to overcome the silos in which the New Zealand health care system currently operates.

“Adoption of these principles, which are implicit in many of the recommendations of a recent Ministerial Review, is critical to ensuring the exchange of information necessary to improve the quality, safety, productivity and sustainability of our health care system.”

The video of Professor Cullen’s address is available from

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Growing future leaders

The chance to rub shoulders with some of New Zealand's top business and political leaders was an 'eye-opener' for Indonesian international student Bayu Nugraha.

As part of the Victoria International Leadership Programme (VILP), Bayu represented Victoria University at the New Zealand APEC Voices of the Future 2009 conference, which he describes as an 'impressive and long-lasting experience'.

In August, VILP won an International Education Excellence Award for 'Innovation in an International Programme', which was presented at Education New Zealand's conference on international education.

"We were delighted to have been acknowledged for our programme, which offers students a broad global perspective," says Pro Vice-Chancellor (International) Professor Rob Rabel.

"This is the first programme of its kind in New Zealand and has already proved really popular with our students."

This year students have taken part in activities as diverse as teaching English to Burmese refugees in Thailand over the summer break, attending a World Student Environmental Summit in Canada, as well as the APEC conference that Bayu attended.

The VILP programme is open to both domestic and international students at no additional cost. It aims to enhance leadership skills, international knowledge and cultural awareness, as well as encourage interaction between international and domestic students, and across the various university faculties.



VILP participants Teresa Edge (left) and Hannah van Voorthuysen representing New Zealand at the World Student Environment Summit (WSES) at University of Victoria, British Columbia, Canada.

Participants attend lectures and activities outside of their normal course load. In addition, they are expected to participate in hands-on activities such as volunteer service with an international or cross-cultural dimension, and international forums on issues of global importance.

Upon completion of the VILP (which normally runs the length of a full degree programme) participation is noted on the students' academic record. A tailored version of the programme is also available to Study Abroad and Exchange students.

More than 750 students have participated in the programme since its launch in October 2008. Of those, 20 percent were international students.

www.victoria.ac.nz/vilp

Reliving the fall of the wall

John Leslie was there the day the Berlin Wall came down.

This year the Victoria University Political Science lecturer helped bring a major conference to New Zealand commemorating the 20th anniversary of one of history's defining moments.

Europe 1989–2009: Reunited and Revitalised—an international conference jointly coordinated by Victoria University—brought an array of perspectives on the events of 1989 and their aftermath.

In a series of public lectures and conferences, former British Member of Parliament (1979 to 1992) and the European Union's External Relations Commissioner Lord Christopher Patten, among others, recounted their experiences of the end of the Cold War and the subsequent reunification of Europe.

John says the conference, held in November, was a major coup for Victoria, lifting its profile as an institution of teaching, learning and research excellence.

In November 1989 John was a 23-year-old working as a television news producer for NBC Nightly News in East Germany.

"For me the night of the 9th of November was incredible, probably the greatest experience of my life."

On that historic night John helped prepare the stage for Tom Brokaw to give his live broadcast at Brandenburg Gate near the Berlin Wall where a huge crowd had gathered. He recalls those events.

"Sitting on top of the wall was a young woman with an umbrella over her shoulder. From the Eastern side police were shooting a water cannon at her. The water cannon hit the umbrella and spun, causing the water to shoot up into these huge theatrical lights. It looked like a firework pinwheel."

He says the moment symbolised the collapse of communist rule in Europe.

"These people were defying state authority on a wall that had killed at least 1,000 people over the years. On that night the wall was a prop for a giant street party—not for the Communist Party any more."



"It also marked the end of the Cold War, the end of a power structure where the international system was divided between the US and the Soviet Union. It changed the face of human history."

John is Victoria's representative on the Executive Board of the New Zealand European Union Centres Network. At Victoria he teaches courses on post-war Europe and the European Union.

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FROM THE DEPUTY VICE-CHANCELLOR (ACADEMIC) PROFESSOR PENNY BOUMELHA:

Raising the bar for learning and teaching

At Victoria, we recognise that the design of our programmes, the quality of our teaching, the experience of our students, and the outcomes for our graduates are the cornerstone of our contribution to the building of New Zealand's national productivity and capability. They also play a critical role in forming and maintaining our international reputation.

Excellence in learning and teaching is identified as one of the University's core institutional values and is one of the eight key goals of our Strategic Plan.

In the last few years, the University has made major progress with curriculum review. The report *Pathways to Success* (2007) set up a framework for reforms in the undergraduate programme, designed to achieve four goals: greater transparency and consistency in the structure and outcomes of degree programmes; clearer communication to students about pathway options; defining and fostering good practice in teaching and learning; and establishing evaluation measures to help us monitor whether the changes are helping towards our goals. In this context, some of the University's core degrees—including the Bachelor of Commerce and Administration (BCA), Bachelor of Science (BSc), Bachelor of Architecture (BArch; now the Bachelor of Architectural Studies (BAS)) and Bachelor of Arts (BA)—have been restructured. Recent developments in the university sectors in Europe, Asia and Australasia suggest a perceived need to reassess the balance between generalist education and professional specialisation at the undergraduate level. Consistent with this, Victoria's curriculum reforms have aimed to broaden undergraduate education; for example, by allowing a major to be included from a degree offered by another faculty.

The new Victoria University Learning and Teaching Strategy 2010–2014 aims to build on that momentum by turning our collective attention to other aspects of the learning and teaching roles of the University, and by setting them in the context of the broader student experience. Working with others across the University, I have been developing this Strategy, bearing in mind our goals of providing a vibrant and student-focused learning environment, keeping abreast of

international paradigms and practices, and ensuring that our educational planning and decision-making are based on good evidence.

One of the key objectives of this new Strategy is to establish a shared sense of a distinctive vision for the education and experience that Victoria has to offer. In focusing on the needs of our students, we set out to draw on the special qualities of Victoria: its strong culture of research-led teaching, its engagement with the professional, employer and other communities of Wellington and beyond, and its tradition of innovation. We recognise the importance of links between what students learn in the classroom and all the other aspects of their experience here, so we will also be working to make sure that our administrative and support services are as approachable and student-focused as we can make them.

A second key objective of the new Strategy is to show how much we value and support good practice in learning and teaching by such means as making use of the skills of our outstanding teaching staff through induction, mentoring and peer review programmes; improving feedback to students on the use we make of student evaluations; and celebrating the educational achievements of our students, graduates and staff.

Other overarching objectives are to make sure that our degrees and teaching are informed by current research and scholarship, and are relevant and accessible for students; and to foster and actively value the stimulating cultural diversity of the University community through our curricula and teaching practices.

The new Teaching and Learning Strategy outlines and exemplifies Victoria's commitment to high standards of learning and teaching. Learning is a never-ending process, and we will set out to learn from one another by sharing our most innovative ideas and our best practices.

Close-up with Victoria's \$2 million 'microscope'

Analysing extreme close-ups of geological samples with a new \$2 million electron microprobe will help researchers to understand when volcanoes might erupt.

The electron probe microanalyser (EPMA) is the newest in New Zealand and replaces one in Victoria's School of Geography, Geology and Earth Sciences that was almost 30 years old.

Leading volcanologist Professor Colin Wilson and his students are analysing rock

samples from volcanic eruptions to enhance our understanding of what causes eruptions and when they might happen.

"We're aiming to get to the stage where we can understand what happens in the build-up to an eruption."

The EPMA focuses a beam of electrons on a sample to get high resolution images and x-rays, which are used to determine what elements the sample is made up of.

Researchers can now 'zoom in' to half a micron—one two-thousandth of a millimetre.

"Technological advances are enabling us to get more and more detailed pictures of smaller and smaller areas," says Colin.

"I can analyse a piece of crystal in pumice and tell what was happening beneath the earth's surface by how the crystal has formed. It's much like growth rings in trees, which also act as a time marker.

"The EPMA and other equipment in the geochemistry lab help combine field research and analytical lab work. You get the best of both worlds.

"The EPMA is also used for important palaeoclimate research—to examine how our climate has changed over time. It's a great example of how analyses on a smaller and smaller scale are being used to answer bigger and bigger questions."

Victoria makes the instrument available for commercial work of Crown Research Institutes and other tertiary institutions.

The lab will be named the R. H. Clark Electron Microprobe Facility in honour of Bob Clark, a former professor and Head of Geology who established the Cotton Building, set up Victoria's internationally recognised Antarctic research programme and expanded Victoria's Earth Sciences programme.

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Montana win for Māori land history



A study of the buying and selling of Māori land has seen Associate Professor Richard Boast scoop a Montana Book Award.

His work, *Buying the Land, Selling the Land*, a study of Crown Māori land policy and practice from 1865 to 1929, won the history category, one of eight categories in New Zealand's premier literary honours.

"It's something of a reaction to the 'Crown-has-been-very-naughty' school of New Zealand history. Alienation of land requires two parties, a buyer and a seller," says Richard, who teaches property law, legal history, and energy and resources law.

"You've got to understand the motives of the Crown, as well as try to gauge the social and economic effects of purchasing on Māori people."

Richard argues that it is important to recognise that government purchasing of Māori land was, in its own way, driven by genuine, if blinkered, idealism.

"It's a tragic story in a way. Māori sold their land to the Crown out of sheer poverty. Land was their only asset and often their only real chance of obtaining capital.

"The Crown was driven by protecting the 'everyman' by buying land as cheaply as possible to give people a chance of owning their own little corner.

"A lot of the politicians involved in all this, for example John Ballance, were actually quite radical. They didn't want a repeat of what had happened in Britain, where the land was owned by a few and everyone else leased.

"But the Crown was so wrapped in its own views, however idealistic and egalitarian, that it couldn't see things from a Māori perspective."

As well as teaching at the School of Law, Richard practises in the area of Māori and Treaty litigation. He has been involved in the Waitangi Tribunal and this year he was on the panel that reviewed the Foreshore and Seabed Act. He was recently promoted to Professor, which will take effect from 1 January 2010.

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An artist's impression of the redeveloped Kelburn Campus Quad.

Extreme makeover for Kelburn Campus

The University has been working with students to transform the Kelburn Campus.

The Campus Hub project is being jointly funded by the University and the Victoria University of Wellington Students' Association Trust.

The project will redevelop the Quad with social and study spaces, refurbish and upgrade the Library and improve flow between buildings, creating a central heart.

The Student Trust has committed to making a \$12 million contribution, the largest grant the University has ever received. It is estimated that the project will cost \$65 million over eight years.

Chair of the Student Trust, Alistair Shaw, says that the spirit of cooperation has ensured the needs of students have been central to the redevelopment planning process.

"The vision we have for Kelburn Campus has come out of the very positive relationship we have with the University.

"Students have been involved in all aspects of developing the project. We've felt listened to and we've helped shape the plans for the campus."

Vice-Chancellor Professor Pat Walsh is also pleased with the working relationship that has developed.

"That the University and Trust have committed to the project over the long term speaks volumes about the faith they have in where the University is going and in our strong working relationship.

"The investment will benefit future generations of students studying at Victoria through improved facilities and a vibrant central heart."

Research in 2005 by the Student Trust and the University showed that students wanted the Quad redeveloped as the number one priority. Since then, students have been involved and engaged in redeveloping the campus.

The Student Trust exists to provide funding support to major projects that benefit the students of Wellington.

"The Campus Hub project will be an exciting focus for the Student Trust in the coming years, and because we're working so closely with the University there are other exciting projects in the pipeline," says Alistair.

"We are keen to get additional trustees on board. The current trustees contribute a wealth of skills but we are particularly interested in new trustees who would bring commercial and legal skills to our work."

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Who's New



Dr Robert Ayson

Dr Robert Ayson, BSocSci(Hons) (Waikato), MA (ANU), PhD (London), has been appointed Professor of Strategic Studies and Director of the Centre for Strategic Studies, commencing on 11 January 2010.

The new professorial position was created on the recommendation of a recent review by an expert panel chaired by Victoria's Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), and also including the Secretaries of Foreign Affairs and Defence.

Robert has been working as Senior Fellow and Director of Studies, Graduate Studies in Strategy and Defence, at the

Australian National University, where he taught Strategic Concepts. His research interests centre on the relationship between strategic ideas and strategic policy. He is an authority on the Nobel Prize-winning work of the American strategic theorist Thomas Schelling, and is currently undertaking a study of Hedley Bull's strategic thinking. He is also a Chief Investigator for Australia's Nuclear Choices, an Australian Research Council Linkage Project. Robert has also written on security issues involving Asia's great powers, Australian strategic policy towards Asia and the future of the nuclear non-proliferation regime.

New Master of Accounting

Aspiring accountants will now be able to step into the profession with as little as 16 months of postgraduate study, with a Master of Professional Accounting (MPA) from Victoria University.

Victoria is the first university in New Zealand to offer an MPA—and as of March 2010 the first intake of students will begin studying.

“There is a shortage of accounting graduates, both in New Zealand and internationally,” says MPA Director Christopher Cripps from Victoria’s School of Accounting and Commercial Law.

“Our new Master’s programme fills this gap—and what’s more, it welcomes graduates from any discipline, which is ideal for professional people seeking a career change.”

The MPA provides students with the skills and understanding required of accounting professionals, and has been accredited by the New Zealand Institute of Chartered Accountants and CPA Australia.

“Our academic staff are leaders in the public and private sectors, and with their first-hand knowledge of the industry will equip graduates for leadership roles in the profession,” says Christopher.

Students can study full-time over four trimesters for 16 months, or part-time if desired. There are two intakes each year, in February/March and November.



Celebrating at the MPA launch. Left to right: Professor Bob Buckle, Pro Vice-Chancellor and Dean of the Faculty of Commerce and Administration; Elizabeth Leuchars, Events and Relationships Executive, New Zealand Branch, CPA Australia; Terry McLaughlin, Chief Executive, New Zealand Institute of Chartered Accountants; Professor Keitha Dunstan, Head of the School of Accounting and Commercial Law; John Shewan, Chairman, PricewaterhouseCoopers New Zealand; and Bruce Bennett, General Manager—Admissions, Standards and Quality Assurance, New Zealand Institute of Chartered Accountants.

Victoria in the regions



Psychologist Dr Marc Wilson, who spoke on the connections between personality and lifestyle preferences in New Plymouth this year.

Victoria has been taking its knowledge to the provinces this year.

Audiences from centres including New Plymouth, Napier and Nelson have turned out in droves to hear Victoria University public lectures on subjects as diverse as gravity, psychology and the preservation of heritage materials.

Two lectures were held in 2008, which showed that there was an appetite for more.

One particularly well attended lecture this year was psychologist Dr Marc Wilson’s talk on ‘Personality—What your toothpaste says about you!’, which showed the links between personality and preferences in diet, drink and political views.

For the last three events of 2009, the Faculty of Science has been joined by speakers from other areas of the University, such as the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences and the Faculty of Commerce and Administration.

Associate Professor Gerald Smith, who specialises in the preservation of heritage materials, in particular Māori tāonga, spoke at the Suter Gallery in Nelson about his work, following an art history lecture from Adam Art Gallery Director Tina Barton on the same night.

Lectures were also held in Tauranga on globalisation and the economic, environmental and social crises facing the world, as well as one on the growth of India and China. In November, there was a further double bill in Nelson on the architecture of the Beehive followed by a talk on MMP.

“The lectures have been focused on science but we’re broadening that to include other faculties, and it’s definitely something we’ll look to do again next year,” says David Bibby, Pro Vice-Chancellor and Dean of Science, who initiated the lectures.

“One of Victoria’s strategic goals is public contribution and enriching culture and society. We thought this was a great way to initiate and participate in debate and dialogue in provincial centres.”

Designer of dreams



Nothing seems impossible for School of Design graduate Brad Knewstubb.

From designing a micro wind turbine system which converts ice into water for mountaineers, to transforming a theatre into a reproduction of space mission control, to starring in a recruitment ad for Victoria University, he takes it all in his stride.

Since graduating in 2006 with First Class Honours in Industrial Design and being voted Most Outstanding Industrial Design Student of the Year, Brad's success has continued.

In 2007, he won a Red Dot International Design award for Hydra, his collapsible micro wind turbine, designed to provide power to polar and alpine adventurers—a design he worked on in his Honours year.

In 2006–7 he worked for Catalyst Studios as a 3D modeller, designer and editor, and was a tutor and research assistant at Victoria University in 2008.

During this time he began co-creating *Apollo 13: Mission Control*, which won Most Original Play of the Year at the 2008 Chapman Tripp Theatre Awards and earned Brad a nomination for Set

Design of the Year. *Apollo* is a unique and interactive theatre experience which enables the audience to become part of the mission control team. Self-confessed 'space nut' Brad designed the mission control interior, as well as all the marketing material used in the show and the interactive programmes used by the audience.

The show extended its season in Wellington, has gone on to a season in Auckland, and has been booked for a season at the Sydney Opera House's Studio theatre next March.

Brad is now living in Auckland and working on a new show, this time based on *The Great Escape*.

"What I liked about Victoria was that there weren't a lot of restrictions... nothing was considered far-fetched," says Brad. "I learnt to push boundaries and trust my instincts."

The Hackman collective, which Brad runs with three friends, works on a variety of creative projects from the theatre shows to products with a vintage design influence, which he says 'turn daydreams into reality'.

The goal for Brad is to keep creating, in whatever form it takes.

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Bringing new life to old buildings



A career of restoring heritage buildings has seen Gina Jones rewarded for her contribution to the building industry.

Victoria alumna Gina Jones was awarded the prestigious New Zealand Institute of Building Medal for her contribution to the building industry since 1986, a medal which is only awarded once every two years.

Gina is the second woman to win the medal since its inception in 1984. The first was the late Professor Helen Tippet, former Dean of Architecture at Victoria University, and Gina's mentor.

"Helen Tippet was a great role model and I was privileged to have her guide me. The reason I joined the New Zealand Institute of Building was because of her. She was involved in establishing the Institute and was one of the foundation members."

Gina studied at Victoria University in the early '80s and has been passionately involved in Wellington's heritage for more than 25 years.

One special memory for her is working as part of the team that refurbished the University's Hunter Building.

"It was wonderful to help restore the Hunter Building, especially as it was derelict at the time. It's a beautiful, beautiful building."

In 1995, she founded Accent Architects and has developed the practice, undertaking many heritage projects in Wellington and nationwide, including heritage buildings in the Wairarapa and art deco projects in the Hawke's Bay.

"Heritage projects is one of our specialties. I enjoy putting new life into old buildings and it's a very rewarding area in which to work.

"You have to do research to find out what the original architect was trying to do, because at the end of the day it's their legacy. You then balance what's best for the building with the needs of current users."

Gina was also joint winner of the National Association of Women in Construction's Helen Tippet Memorial Award, which recognises women who made a significant contribution to the building industry between 1996 and 2006.

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Āwhina turns 10



Alumna Juscinta Grace (in red) with some of Āwhina's latest scholarship winners.

Returning to Victoria for Āwhina's 10th birthday, alumna Juscinta Grace was proud of how Āwhina had advanced in a decade.

"When I first started, Āwhina was a small group, a new kaupapa starting out. Now there are so many staff and students involved."

Originally a Faculty of Science initiative to produce more Māori and Pacific scientists and technologists, Te Rōpū Āwhina is now the on-campus whānau for students in the Faculties of Science, Engineering, and Architecture and Design, with 594 members (96 mentors and 498 mentees).

Juscinta, of Ngāti Porou and Niuean descent, was involved in Āwhina's early whānau classes and mentoring, and later tutored Faculty of Science staff and students in te reo Māori.

"There's an expectation that you'll help new people as you grow. The whānau concept is what makes Āwhina such a success."

"My sister-in-law, Kiri, was a mentor when Āwhina began in 1999 and got me involved when I arrived at Victoria in 2000."

Juscinta completed a BSc in Ecology and Biodiversity and a BA with Honours in Māori Studies and Te Reo Māori, and is now a senior policy analyst at Te Puni Kōkiri, the Ministry for Māori Development. Her role involves an ongoing relationship with Āwhina.

"Last year our team worked with Āwhina to produce a booklet celebrating stories of Māori in science, which was launched at Āwhina's 'Whānau in Science' event at Parliament. I was also lucky to take part in Āwhina's summer science wānanga at Pukemokimoki Marae in Napier."

Since 1999, Āwhina has helped produce a Māori academic science staff member and students have won \$4.6 million of scholarships, \$4.1 million of which was nationally contested. A total of 691 students have completed their degrees, including seven with PhDs.

Āwhina also has 71 postgraduate students and 22 of the 40 Māori and Pacific PhD enrolments at Victoria.

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Living a childhood dream

'Get better work stories' runs the tagline for the New Zealand Police's latest recruitment campaign.

Spend time with 24-year-old Constable Rachel Shore and you'll certainly hear evidence of this. From dealing with drunk drivers or cases of family violence to chasing burglars, Rachel has done it all.

She's only been a policewoman for three years, but the Victoria alumna—also the University's first Community Constable—says there is 'nothing else in the world she would rather do'.

"The real attraction with this job is that you have no idea what the day is going to bring. I love that variety."

Born and bred in the capital, Rachel admits her career 'light-bulb moment' happened when she was eight years old and a policeman visited her Girl Guide meeting to talk about his job.

"I realised that was what I wanted to do with my life."

Her first taste of Police life came when she was 15 and started working during school holidays at Police National HQ. She completed a BA in Criminology at Victoria, and with the ink barely dry on her degree, headed to the Royal New Zealand Police College in Porirua.

Postings so far have included Wellington's Traffic Alcohol Group and general duty stints at Lower Hutt and Wainuiomata Police Stations. She now works at Wellington Central Police Station as Community Constable in the Wellington Community Engagement Group, where her two main clients are Massey and Victoria Universities.

"It's largely a liaison and education role, so I am the Police's first point of contact for students who need help or advice."

This includes regular visits to the campus and halls of residence to encourage students to stay safe in the city, as well as providing prevention tips to help reduce the incidence of sexual assaults, robberies and brushes with the law.

Rachel is currently doing a paper in management to make her more eligible for senior positions.

"One day, my plan is to move into the Criminal Investigation Bureau where I can get involved in serious crime investigations like homicides and organised crime."

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Best of both worlds



Talented pianist Mary Gow was born into a musical family.

Her family tree includes two grandmothers who were accomplished pianists, and a great uncle who was a well-known Wellington organist.

“Medicine was my first choice of career, but there was a subject clash so I decided to go with music, as it was the skill that came easiest to me,” says Mary.

She completed her BA at Victoria in 1972, before going on to complete a Bachelor of Music in Piano Performance. During this time, Mary also went about collecting letters behind her name (FTCL and LRSM).

In 1980, her talent was noticed by the Dutch Minister of Culture in Belgium, who awarded her a scholarship to study at the Royal Brussels Conservatory—and she has based herself in Brussels ever since.

These days the keen golfer and jogger spends her waking hours preparing chamber music concerts, playing for a number of choirs (including the Carols for Christmas Choir, the large International Choir in Brussels, and the St Andrews Church of Scotland Choir) and singing with the Brussels Choral Society. Freelance piano work and teaching students also help to pay the bills.

Since 2006, Mary and her pharmacist husband have divided their time between the Belgian capital and Paekakariki, north of Wellington, where she founded the annual Mulled Wine Chamber Music Concert Series. So far 10 concerts have been staged, featuring musicians such as Diedre Irons and many members of the NZSO. Virtuoso pianist Michael Houstoun will feature twice in the 2010 season.

Also in 2006, Mary started a programme with the New Zealand School of Music (NZSM) at Victoria to bring recently graduated NZSM pianists to Brussels to teach her students while she is in Paekakariki.

“The NZSM student assumes my role as pianist, accompanist, teacher and music educator. They have my apartment and teach from January until July, which gives them valuable exposure to the European music scene, something that is essential to every musician.”

So far two NZSM students have taken up the working scholarship.

“It is my chance to give back so much to Victoria University, which formed me and gave me so much,” says Mary.

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Victoria's latest Hunter Fellows



Left to right: Hunter Fellows Russell Marshall, Rosemary Bradford and David Carson-Parker.

One of the country's most committed arts supporters, a former New Zealand High Commissioner and Victoria University Chancellor, and a dedicated fundraiser have been awarded 2009 Hunter Fellowships.

David Carson-Parker, Russell Marshall and Rosemary Bradford were recognised for their contribution to Victoria University at a ceremony in October.

“The awarding of a Hunter Fellowship is the way the University acknowledges the outstanding contributions of certain individuals to those goals pursued by the University,” says Victoria University Vice-Chancellor Professor Pat Walsh.

David Carson-Parker has made a significant contribution to the Victoria University MA in Creative Writing. He has funded the David Carson-Parker Embassy Prize in Scriptwriting since 2002 and is a dedicated supporter of musical and literary activities and events associated with the University.

Along with Bill Sheat, David was responsible for saving and restoring the Embassy Theatre, providing a permanent home for the Wellington Film Festival, which is an important event for Film students.

In addition to a career in politics, Russell Marshall has maintained close links with Victoria University and, as a Chancellor, made a substantial contribution to its governance.

Russell was a member of the University Council elected by the Court of Convocation from the beginning of 1995 until January 2002. During this period, he held the offices of Pro-Chancellor in 1998 and 1999 and Chancellor from January 2000 until January 2002.

Rosemary Bradford joined the Board of Trustees of the Victoria University Foundation in September 2005, where she remained until her retirement in December 2008.

During this period, she hosted many Foundation Board meetings and after her retirement became a Friend of the Foundation, continuing to play a key part in the Foundation's fundraising endeavours by identifying fundraising opportunities.

The Hunter Fellowships were instituted by the University Council in 2003. They recognise people who have made a substantial contribution to the advancement of Victoria University through a variety of activities relevant to the University's strategic directions and interests.

Transforming youth health



From a young age, Gill Alcorn wanted to work in a helping career, where she could make a difference to people's lives.

Now clinical leader of Lower Hutt youth health service VIBE, she is in the ideal position to help young people.

"I love the energy of young people, their vision and capacity—it's exciting to help them make the right links to realise their potential," says Gill.

In her early career she worked as a school health nurse at Naenae College for 10 years and during this time gained a Diploma in Secondary Teaching. Prior to leaving the College she combined the roles of primary health care delivery and health teaching as Head of Health within the school.

In 2002, she graduated with a Master of Arts (Applied) in Nursing from Victoria, and went on to be a nurse practitioner in youth health, one of only four such specialists in New Zealand, leading on to her current position at VIBE.

VIBE is funded by the Hutt Valley District Health Board and the Ministry of Social Development, and has 8,000 young people aged between 10 and 24 on its books, as well as peer support workers who also fit into this demographic.

"We deal with young people's issues, from asthma to mental health," says Gill. "We also have social support and youth transition services within VIBE, which support youth development and assist young people into the workforce."

Another hat Gill wears is as Secretary of the Society of Youth Health Professionals Aotearoa New Zealand, set up two years ago to support effective practice in the sector.

Her expertise in youth health was recently acknowledged with a Fulbright Travelling Award, which has provided her with funding to present her work at a nurse-managed health conference in the United States.

So what is the next step in Gill's busy career?

"I would like to continue supporting upcoming youth health nurses and Nurse Practitioners—the opportunity to mentor the next layer of this still emerging specialty is immensely satisfying."

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Bringing the family together



The international MBA alumni family in Hong Kong has been reunited, thanks to a group of former students who have started their own alumni association. More than 60 alumni and current students attended an inauguration ceremony in Hong Kong in August, where they were addressed by Victoria graduate Holly Warren, Vice-Consul, New Zealand Consulate General Hong Kong, and received full endorsement from Victoria University. The association aims to connect the education and business worlds of Hong Kong and New Zealand. A number of activities and educational public seminars are planned for the coming year, as well as an annual dinner.

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Earth Sciences reunion



Earth Sciences at Victoria is now in its 100th year, and in August the University celebrated this milestone with a weekend of activities for alumni. A school visit, field trip and dinner marked the occasion. The Victoria Staff Club purchased a specially commissioned painting of four influential professors from the School of Geography, Environment and Earth Sciences—Bob Clark, Sir Charles Cotton, Frank Evison and Harold Wellman. The painting was unveiled by Paul Cotton and Lyn Clark at the dinner, which was attended by more than 145 people.

www.victoria.ac.nz/geo

Memorial Theatre upgrade

A facelift for the Memorial Theatre this year has increased usage of the space, as it is now able to accommodate lectures as well as performances. Environmentally sustainable design has been used where possible and the upgrade includes a state-of-the-art ventilation and cooling system, wheelchair access down to the front auditorium level and foldaway writing tablets for lectures. The venue is available for University groups and for hire.

A warm response to climate change



A quarter of a million dollars from economist turned motorbike adventurer and philanthropist Dr Gareth Morgan will aid scientific study of Antarctic climate change.

The Morgan Family Charitable Foundation has donated \$250,000 to Victoria's Antarctic Research Centre (ARC) through the Victoria University Foundation.

The grant will support research projects which focus on understanding Antarctica's climate history and processes, and their influence on the global climate system.

Over two years the grant will fund initiatives including a Research Fellowship on ice sheets and sea levels, which will improve understanding of how ice sheets are likely to contribute to rising sea levels and the potential effect this could have in the southwest Pacific region.

Gareth says as he studied the climate change debate it became clear that good scientific research was critical to ongoing understanding of the global warming issue and its risks.

"Given the estimates of anthropogenic contributions to climate change remain subject to some uncertainty, and given that policy responses cannot wait until we have absolute certainty, it is imperative that the science continues to narrow it down to minimise the chances of inappropriate and costly policy responses," Gareth says.

Professor Peter Barrett from the ARC says, "We already have a strong ice modelling group with international connections, so we think enhancing our knowledge of sea level rise as a consequence of ice melt is a logical next step.

"It's great to have the support of the Morgan family to enable us to do this."

A Victoria alumnus, Gareth this year received a Victoria Distinguished Alumni Award, and became involved with the ARC while researching and writing his latest book *Poles Apart: Beyond the Shouting, Who's Right about Climate Change?*

Victoria professors Lionel Carter and Dave Lowe also played a key role in explaining climate science to Gareth and co-author John McCrystal.

Thanks to all donors

In August, the 2009 Alumni Appeal was sent to all alumni aged between 40 and 75 in New Zealand and overseas, excluding those in the United States. A separate appeal to US-based alumni will be launched at a later date. We have been very pleased with the response from our alumni and thank all those who have donated to student scholarships or the Victoria Trust Fund. The Alumni Appeal will be repeated on an annual basis.

Acknowledging Ian Borrin



Retired District Court judge and Victoria alumnus Ian Borrin had a room in Victoria University's Law Library named after him this year, to honour his ongoing, generous support of the Faculty of Law. He also recently committed to a significant bequest for a Visiting Fellow in the School of Law.

Are your affairs in order?

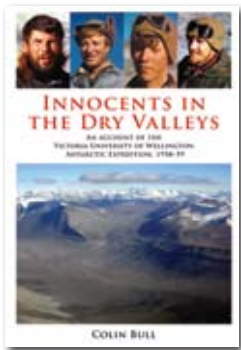
As a service to Victoria alumni, the Victoria University Foundation has prepared a 'Statement of Affairs' booklet in which alumni may record their legal, financial and personal information, thereby helping family members in the event of illness or incapacity, and assisting executors in the administration of an estate.

The booklet is available for \$20 (including postage and packaging) within New Zealand and \$25 for overseas mailing. Order online at www.victoria.ac.nz/foundation or contact Deborah O'Sullivan on 0800 842 4438.

Off the Press

Innocents in the Dry Valleys: An Account of the Victoria University of Wellington Antarctic Expedition, 1958-59 and *The Lustre Jug* are two works recently published by Victoria University Press (VUP) and reviewed for *Victorious* by Sarah Jane Barnett.

Details of forthcoming publications by VUP can be read at www.victoria.ac.nz/vup



Innocents in the Dry Valleys: An Account of the Victoria University of Wellington Antarctic Expedition, 1958-59

By Colin Bull

When imagining a present day Antarctic expedition you may conjure up an international team of specialists with expensive scientific equipment. The 1958-59 expedition by physicist Colin Bull, biologist Dick Barwick and geology students Barrie McLelvey and Peter Webb was a different adventure altogether. The four scientists spent two months surveying the Dry Valleys of Victoria Land, Antarctica, using borrowed equipment, gifted food and their own optimism. *Innocents in the Dry Valleys* describes their experiences from battles with bureaucracy at Scott Base to the hundreds of kilometres they covered in the unrelenting, sand-filled wind. While Bull gives a detailed account of the scientific studies his writing remains humorous and reflective. Recalled in the language and upbeat mood of the '50s, the narrative covers Christmas tent-style, and the creative problem of naming mountains. The voices of his teammates pop up with editorial interjections and the many photographs show a spare and expansive landscape. Their expedition was one of the first in a long tradition at Victoria University and while the book describes the start of this legacy, it also shows how the Antarctic touched the lives of these four men. The book would be of special interest to field scientists and Antarctica buffs.



The Lustre Jug

By Bernadette Hall

The Lustre Jug is Hall's ninth collection of poetry and was inspired by her time spent in Ireland while completing the Rathcoola Fellowship. This inquisitive and warm book feels like a homecoming for Hall, who has Irish heritage. The poems are full of the Irish language, religion and history, as well as mossy landscapes of rain, rust, hedgerows and foxes. When the poem 'The Stone Wall' states 'it is just as they told us / everything is seeking attachment', it feels like Hall is talking about the pull of her ancestry. Just as a lustreware glaze will shine differently when you turn it in your hand, so do Hall's poems. She is both the outsider looking at Ireland's history and the woman with Irish blood drinking stout in the pub. This duality is mirrored in the way the book is split into two parts. While the first half of the book is set in Ireland the second half features poems set in Australia, the 'continent that's shaped / like an angelfish'. These poems talk about the Australian landscape, writing, family and friends, and eventually drift back to New Zealand. This fantastic collection highlights Hall's confident voice and light touch. The poems are surprised by the world, speak plainly, use lush language and are steely, funny and full of the kindness and pleasure that comes from valuing simple things.



Sarah Jane Barnett is an IT professional and writer in Wellington. Her work has appeared in a range of literary journals such as *Landfall*, *Sport*, *Takahe* and *JAAM* and in the e-zines *Blackmail Press*, *Snorkel* and *Turbine*. Sarah has a Master's in Creative Writing from Victoria University and is currently finishing her first book of poetry. Her poem 'The Drop Distance' was selected for the collection *Best New Zealand Poems 2007*.

Developing marine science



Victoria is working with other universities to help develop and retain skilled marine scientists.

A domestic and international shortage of qualified marine scientists poses a serious problem for New Zealand's industries such as aquaculture and fisheries, as well as for organisations such as crown research institutes and government agencies.

Victoria, Auckland and Otago Universities have received \$1.4 million over three years from the Tertiary Education Commission (TEC) to develop a new national marine science programme.

The programme will harness the strengths of the country's major marine science universities in two new courses and aim to train and retain scientists.

The three universities will work with industry to ensure that marine science graduates have the appropriate skills and knowledge base for the continued growth and sustainability of the country's marine industries.

Victoria's programme is led by Dr Jonathan Gardner, Director of the Centre for Marine Environmental & Economic Research.

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Taxing issues



Against the backdrop of a challenging economic and fiscal environment, and tax reviews overseas, a tax working group has been set up to consider the medium-term direction of the current tax system. Victoria University's Centre for Accounting, Governance and Taxation Research, in partnership with the Treasury and Inland Revenue, has brought together individuals from the private sector and academia, as well as tax policy officials from the Treasury and Inland Revenue, to look at a variety of policy options. The structure of personal income tax, corporate tax, GST and the integrity of the tax system are just some of the topics on the agenda. Summaries of the workshops are online, and will provide a context for a tax conference to be hosted by Victoria University in early December 2009. Professor Bob Buckle, Pro Vice-Chancellor and Dean of Commerce at Victoria University, is Chair of the group.

www.victoria.ac.nz/taxworkinggroup

Roundtable discussion



A new initiative is bringing together a broad range of researchers, educators and non-government organisations for Sexuality Education Roundtable discussions three times a year. One of the initiators of the meeting, Victoria University PhD candidate Brian King from the School of Linguistics and Applied Language Studies, says its aim is to foster networks for interdisciplinary research. "Collaboration is important if we want to see research results implemented in communities," says Brian.

"Our meetings so far have seen an enthusiastic response towards developing a nationwide focus and a collective vision for sexuality education in New Zealand."

Other key players include Intersex Awareness New Zealand and the New Zealand Health Education Association.

<http://sexedroundtable.wetpaint.com>

Taking tuatara on the road



School teacher Louisa Paul from Nelson recently visited Victoria's School of Biological Sciences as a Teacher Fellow of the Royal Society of New Zealand, to learn about the School's tuatara research. Using this knowledge, she has prepared a conservation education package for the Spinyback Tuatara Education and Conservation Trust, to be used in schools by the kaitiaki (guardians) of these ancient reptiles—the Ngāti Koata iwi. Louisa's input has been pivotal in the development of a presentation that includes a live tuatara, soon to be trialled in Nelson, to educate school children about science and the conservation of the tuatara.

www.tuataratrust.co.nz



Off the Wall—The Adam Art Gallery celebrates 10 years

To mark the occasion of the Adam Art Gallery's first 10 years, eight artists were invited to spend 10 days working directly on the walls of the gallery.

Their works provided a context for the Gallery's 10th birthday party on 19 September 2009.

The gallery doors opened to the public on the first day the artists started work, allowing visitors to see the works progress. The exhibition provided a fascinating opportunity to see how artists respond to a space and go about realising their work within the tight constraints of a particular timeframe and an actual context.

Adam Art Gallery Director Christina Barton says *Wall Works* amplified the gallery to produce a vibrant, thought-provoking, and at times unexpected experience.

"The exhibition provided an opportunity to celebrate the Gallery's history without dwelling on our past; the temporal projects and their relationship to the site presented instances of the mobility and responsiveness to which the Adam Art Gallery aspires."

In keeping with the format of the *Wall Works* exhibition, students from the New Zealand School of Music were invited to produce a new sound installation between the two sets of sliding doors at the entrance of the gallery.

The Gallery officially celebrated its birthday with a party featuring the performance collective of Bek Coogan and Torben Tilly, along with acts by Double Ya D.

The Gallery was also filled with specially commissioned temporary structures designed and built by Interior Architecture students from Victoria's School of Architecture.

The Adam Art Gallery opened on 21 September 1999 as a result of a major fundraising effort led by the Victoria University of Wellington Foundation as part of the University's centennial celebrations and galvanised by a major gift from Wellington art patrons Denis and Verna Adam, through the Adam Foundation, and after whom the gallery is named.

The Adam Art Gallery is a purpose-built gallery based at Victoria's Kelburn Campus. It is a forum for critical thinking about art and its histories as well as the professional structure within which the Victoria University Art Collection is managed. For more information visit www.adamartgallery.org.nz



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For more information visit www.victoria.ac.nz/foundation