

Victorious

AUTUMN 2011

MAGAZINE FOR FRIENDS AND ALUMNI OF VICTORIA UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON



Professor Sir Paul Callaghan:
2011 New Zealander of the Year
Building a bach for US Solar Decathlon
Questioning our criminal justice system



A touch of magic

Craig Anslow's PhD involved building "an iPad on steroids".

The multi-touch table with a 48-inch screen that he built from scratch allows a host of people to interact with the touch screen at any one time, unlike its smaller cousin. Two people could play air hockey, a family could complete a jigsaw puzzle together or it could be used by a team of software developers.

Beneath the screen, an infrared camera detects when someone is touching the screen and sends the information to the computer that drives the technology.

While there are many visual effects such as seemingly making water ripple on a table's surface or displaying a giant globe you can zoom in on, it's the business use of the technology that Craig is excited about.

"I'm interested in how software developers can use something like this to analyse and understand software," says Craig who researches human-computer interaction (HCI), a field within computer science.

He says that the ability of the touch table to support multiple users makes it ideal for software developers who typically work in teams.

"The software I am building allows people to interact with visualisations of how existing software is structured and has evolved over time. If, for example, you identify in the visualisations that one part of the software is considerably bigger than others, perhaps you could design that part better."

"The sheer size of most modern software makes this sort of analysis a challenge but that's where I think touch table technology comes in."

Craig is planning to test his software with groups of Computer Science students, recording on video how they interact with the touch table and work together on a timed project.

"The user studies will give us an insight into how effective this technology could be and how it can help software developers create even better touch table software."

Craig built his table from low cost materials with assistance from the workshop team in the School of Chemical and Physical Sciences, technical assistance from Owen Vallis and Jordan Hochenbaum within the New Zealand School of Music, financial assistance from TelstraClear and the Ministry of Science and Innovation, and a strategic research grant from the School of Engineering and Computer Science, where he's based.

From the Vice-Chancellor

The devastating earthquake in Canterbury earlier this year served as a humbling reminder that in time of need, New Zealand stands as one community. We all shared a sense of hopelessness and grief as we watched the events unfold in Christchurch and all felt the pull that we need to do something—anything—to help.

A number of our academic staff have been working to provide the public with accurate and factual analysis and information about the earthquakes. This public engagement is as important as the research that underpins it, as everyone struggles to understand how this happened to a city twice in just six months. Many other staff and students have also contributed, including a team from Vic Rescue who were deployed to the area, and Victoria Deaf Studies student Evelyn Pateman who provided sign language interpretation for the television coverage.

Another project I would like to mention is one set up by Professor Sir Paul Callaghan, 2011 New Zealander of the Year. He has appealed to the 85,000 Kiwis overseas who collectively owe \$2 billion in student loans, asking that they try to make payments to help New Zealand reduce its debt burden in this time of need.

It is projects like this which tap in to a spirit of community that show what a difference we can make if we work together. Professor Callaghan is asking that people spread the word. I hope you can help.

To our alumni and partners in Japan, we offer our support and best wishes as clean-up work continues following your own catastrophic earthquake and resulting tsunami.

In April, Victoria held its Distinguished Alumni Award Dinner to celebrate the best and brightest of our alumni. This year 400 alumni and guests gathered at the Wellington Town Hall to honour the impressive achievements of Rod Drury, Sir Thomas Gault, Piera McArthur, Kerry Prendergast, John Shewan and Taika Waititi.

This year's distinguished alumni winners all share the common attributes of a Victoria graduate: communication, critical and creative thinking and leadership. This was an excellent opportunity to reconnect with former graduates and to ensure our aim of instilling a lifelong sense of community is alive and well.

As we move into this new academic year I look forward to watching the progress of our newest undergraduates to see who will make an unexpected discovery, show outstanding leadership or bring a fresh perspective to an old problem and be part of our next generation of distinguished alumni.



Craig Anslow says his multi-touch table can be used to analyse and understand software.

Professor Pat Walsh, Vice-Chancellor

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Cover image: Professor Sir Paul Callaghan in his laboratory with three of the PhD students he supervises.

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Contents

2 Research and innovation

A look at the diverse range of research by our staff and students

7 Policy and planning

How Victoria is responding to decisions made in the tertiary sector

8 Learning @ Victoria

Showcasing learning and teaching at Victoria

11 Student Experience

Highlighting aspects of the student experience at Victoria

12 Alumni news

News from graduates and events of

interest to alumni and the University community

18 Gifting

Stories about those who have donated funding, resources and time to support the University

19 Off the press

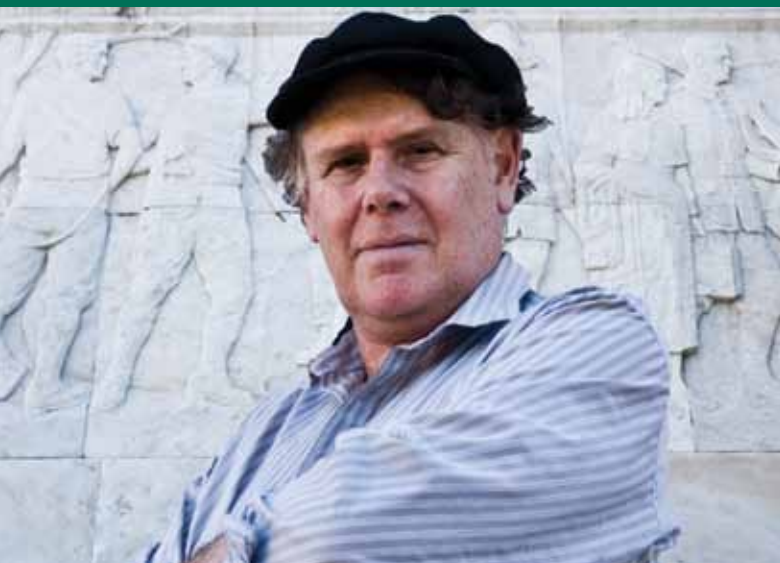
Reviews of recent publications by Victoria University Press

20 Town and gown

Where Victoria meets the community for activities, performances and the sharing of expertise



Great War poets meet in new book



World War One produced some of the most harrowing poetry of the 20th century, and a new book by Associate Professor Harry Ricketts explores the poets who created it.

Strange Meetings: The Poets of the Great War is a composite biography of a dozen WWI English war poets that takes the form of a series of meetings.

“The book is a group portrait of the poets who permanently changed the way we look at and write about war and whose presence and influence are still felt,” says Harry.

He says he wanted to present the poets in an unexpected way so readers might look at them differently.

“They have become quite iconic, making it difficult for people to read behind the myth.”

He says most of the meetings in the book actually took place.

“Rupert Brooke and Siegfried Sassoon did have breakfast together in July 1914, Siegfried Sassoon and Wilfred Owen did meet at the shell-shocked hospital Craiglockhart in autumn 1917,” says Harry.

“Some, however, were meetings of a less literal, more lateral kind, such as Edward Thomas reviewing Rupert Brooke’s posthumous collection 1914 and other poems in summer 1915; or Isaac Rosenberg and Robert Nichols appearing in the same volume of *Georgian Poetry* in 1917.”

He says WWI produced such remarkable poetry partly because it was the first war that included a large number of highly educated people who weren’t regular soldiers.

“They weren’t hardened to war—it’s not surprising that some of them had very extreme reactions to what happened to them and that they found their expression in some very memorable poems.”

Harry’s father was in the British army and served in WWII, making it a personal project for him.

“Another spur was two very committed teachers at school in the 1960s, who had great feeling for Owen’s poems at a time when such poetry was starting to become iconic.”

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Are endangered kiwi inbreeding?



One of the little spotted kiwi chicks that hatched around New Year’s Eve.
Photo: Andrew Digby

An already critically endangered species of kiwi may be even more at risk due to inbreeding.

Rowi, New Zealand’s rarest kiwi, have a population of only 350 and, like other endangered species, may suffer from what is known as inbreeding depression—a reduction in fitness among the offspring of closely related individuals.

Dr Kristina Ramstad from Victoria’s School of Biological Sciences has a three-year Ministry of Science and Innovation postdoctoral fellowship to investigate inbreeding in rowi.

“They’re an intense conservation concern because they are so rare. Within the small population of rowi, birds are showing poor breeding—a third of the birds don’t breed—and poor hatching success, and this may be due to inbreeding,” says Kristina.

“We plan to use cutting-edge DNA technology to build a big family tree to see whether rowi are inbreeding and if this is related to their reproductive success. From that, conservation efforts will be designed to maximise genetic variation and long-term persistence of rowi.”

Next generation DNA sequencing technology will allow Kristina and her colleagues to find and compare more genes within rowi than have ever been compared in kiwi before. It will be the first time these methods have been applied to the conservation of kiwi and they’ll help with conservation efforts for all five species of kiwi.

“One of my PhD students, Helen Taylor, is researching little spotted kiwi using the same tools. This will make an interesting comparison to rowi because all little spotted kiwi populations live in predator-free sanctuaries and are growing.

“Excitingly, we had two little spotted kiwi chicks hatch around New Year’s Eve, the first of 2011. I’m hoping we’ll see a lot more of that for both little spotted kiwi and rowi,” says Kristina.

The project has been underway since last year and will provide significant information for Department of Conservation captive rearing and translocation programmes for kiwi.

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Putting a clean technology Kiwi bach on the world stage



An artists impression of the completed Meridian First Light house.

A Kiwi bach powered by the sun is one of only 20 entries worldwide and the first finalist ever from the Southern hemisphere to be selected for one of the most popular and highly anticipated design competitions.

Victoria University's entry in the prestigious United States Department of Energy Solar Decathlon 2011 gives New Zealand an unprecedented opportunity to showcase its best on a world stage. The Solar Decathlon competition challenges student teams to design, build and operate an attractive, affordable, net zero-energy house, powered entirely by solar energy.

Led by Victoria's School of Architecture, the team of more than 40 students from throughout the University are building the Meridian First Light house under supervision of staff and industry partners who are donating their time to the project.

Professor Diane Brand, Head of the School of Architecture, says, "The solar decathlon project is a fantastic teaching and learning opportunity for the University. It has given rise to innovative research projects within a number of disciplines."

The team are currently constructing the house in Wellington. It will then be shipped to Washington to take part in the competition, where the New Zealand team will compete against contestants from the US, China, Belgium and Canada.

To reach the finals, applications were evaluated by a panel of engineers, scientists and experts from the U.S. Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory. A panel of professionals from the American Institute of Architects, National Association of Home Builders, the US Green Building Council, building industry media and the Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers also evaluated conceptual designs.

The house has to be transportable and able to be assembled a number of times while maintaining a high level of accuracy: meaning the house needed to be prefabricated and modularised. The prefabricated solar house is the first of its kind to be built in New Zealand and has required unique products and solutions. The project has encouraged relationships between the University and a variety of companies who have donated their products and services to the Victoria team.

"We are incredibly lucky to have a number of top Kiwi companies sponsoring the project and to be able to test out their most energy efficient products before they are commercially available in New Zealand," says team member Nick Officer.

A number of New Zealand companies have come on board to develop inventive energy efficient products to help the house perform to its potential. Kiwi companies Fisher and Paykel, Eco Insulation and LEAP Ltd have all developed new products for the Meridian

First Light house.

The public will have the chance to see the technology in action at Wellington waterfront when the house is on display during May at Frank Kitts Park before being shipped to the US.

Visitors to the waterfront will have a chance to see energy efficient innovation in action when they visit the house. The team hopes the public will come away with an understanding of how to harness solar energy and the importance of using energy efficient technologies, both in building and operating their houses.

As well as showcasing efficient energies to the public, the assembly of the house on Frank Kitts Park will act as a practice run for the US competition, which begins in September 2011.

To find out more, and view an animated virtual walk through of the house, visit <http://firstlighthouse.ac.nz>

See the Meridian First Light house first-hand

When: 12 noon-4pm daily from 7-24 May
Where: Frank Kitts Park, Wellington waterfront

Getting closer to India



Dr Raja Mohan delivers his Kippenberger Lecture in Wellington.

The rise of Asia and changes in the global power balance have created an opportunity for New Zealand and India to come closer together, says this year's holder of the Sir Howard Kippenberger Chair of Strategic Studies.

Dr Raja Mohan, whose appointment reflected his internationally recognised expertise on South Asian and regional security issues, believes a coalition of big and small powers is needed to cope with the transformation of Asia and the world.

"India and New Zealand have drifted apart in recent decades. Beyond cricket and some remnants of commonwealth heritage, there is not much awareness here of what is happening in India.

"But there are things we share, including the Anglo-Saxon commitment to common law, entrepreneurial capitalism and a maritime orientation. As the world changes, there is much room for India and New Zealand to work together."

Dr Mohan says trade is just one area of common interest between India and New Zealand.

"We can also collaborate on security issues. Protecting sea routes is crucial for New Zealand, and the Indian Navy is playing a larger role in maritime security in the Western Pacific Ocean.

India takes its role as a peacekeeper very seriously."

Other potential areas for cooperation are maritime exercises and ensuring stability in the South Pacific region.

Established in 2006, the Kippenberger Chair honours the memory of one of New Zealand's most famous wartime commanders and a leading contributor to the study of our strategic engagement with the world.

During six weeks based at Victoria's Centre for Strategic Studies, Dr Mohan delivered research seminars and public lectures, including the annual Kippenberger Lecture in Wellington in February.

Titled *Clash of the Elephants*, Dr Mohan's lecture discussed Asia's changing identity and the re-emergence of India and China to positions they held two centuries ago, when they collectively

produced 45 percent of the world's wealth.

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Indigenous connections



The way indigenous people interact and influence each other is at the heart of Dr Alice Te Punga Somerville's working life.

Based at Te Kawa a Māui, the School of Māori Studies, Alice, whose tribal affiliations are Te Āti Awa, is a senior lecturer in Māori and Pacific writing in English, an occasional poet and an indigenous studies researcher.

She is the author of *Once Were Pacific*, soon to be published by the University of Minnesota Press, one of the world's foremost publishers of works on indigenous studies. Written with support from a Marsden Fast Start grant, the book examines the connections Māori writers and activists have with the Pacific.

"For example, there have always been Māori writers based in other parts of the Pacific. I'm looking at the views Māori share with other Pacific people and what it means to think about ourselves as a Pacific people."

She has two other books in the pipeline—one looking at historical encounters between indigenous groups and the other profiling "the books by Māori writers no one has ever heard of or read".

Alice has a long standing interest in what happens when Māori connect with other indigenous peoples. "There is a lot of focus on Māori/Pakeha relationships but I'm more interested in 'brown on brown' research. Engaging more broadly with indigenous stories gives a different perspective. It's also relevant as one in five Māori live outside New Zealand."

While completing her PhD at Cornell University in the United States, Alice met the founders of the Native American and Indigenous Studies Association (NAISA) and has attended all the meetings held by the group since 2007. A two-year term as a NAISA council member finishes in May 2011.

"Having a professional body has made this field of study more visible and given us all better access to resources and networks. You also get a very rich conversation when indigenous groups share their experiences."

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Is our criminal justice system failing victims?



Elisabeth McDonald (left) and Yvette Tinsley are examining alternatives to the current pre-trial and trial processes in sexual offence cases.

Complainants in rape cases in New Zealand can often feel like they are the ones on trial, which is the drive behind research currently being undertaken by a team of legal academics.

Associate Professor Elisabeth McDonald and Reader Yvette Tinsley from Victoria University and Professor Jeremy Finn from the University of Canterbury are investigating whether the current criminal justice system is failing victims of sexual offending. In late 2009, they were awarded \$85,000 by the New Zealand Law Foundation to examine alternatives to the current pre-trial and trial processes in sexual offence cases.

Their final recommendations are likely to be released in June this year, based on their in-depth investigation into what happens now in New Zealand and in various European and Commonwealth countries.

Currently in New Zealand the complainant often undergoes an intensive cross-examination.

“Complainants are asked to talk about difficult traumatic personal experiences and sometimes their sexual history, which they can find quite challenging,” says Elisabeth.

“One possible way of dealing with that is finding some other way of testing the evidence and not putting so much emphasis on cross-examination.”

“We traditionally view rigorous cross-examination as a way of getting to the truth,” adds Yvette. “Now we know that it might actually not help us get to the truth—it may just lead to inaccuracies in the witness’ testimony.”

Possible alternatives include making changes to the existing law of evidence; the creation of specialist tribunals or courts to hear sexual offence cases; and the adoption of investigative innovations from some overseas jurisdictions.

Inquisitorial-type procedures could see the investigation supervised by a judge rather than the prosecution; and the trial judge, rather than the parties, would determine what witnesses were called and how they were questioned.

“The wholesale adoption of inquisitorial procedures would be a very major change, but in the light of overseas experience suggesting some aspects of inquisitorial procedures may better safeguard the interests of victims and witnesses, the options should be investigated and evaluated,” says Elisabeth.

“With all the options we’re looking at, we are working through whether they actually can be translated into New Zealand’s justice system process and what would be needed to make it work.”

The researchers say their visit to Europe and the UK in June last year helped to develop a

comprehensive knowledge base that was previously unavailable.

“It was hard to find something descriptive written about how actual trial processes worked, and of course there’s the language barrier if you’re in a European country,” says Yvette. “In Denmark in particular they’d just had quite significant changes to their decision-making process and there wasn’t any published material about it.

“However, we found legal professionals who spoke excellent ‘legal’ English who could talk us through things and who could also give us personal perspective on what they saw as their issues.”

The researchers held a two-day workshop in Wellington in April with a range of interested parties—including judges, defence lawyers, Government agencies and community groups—to elicit feedback on various options they have been contemplating.

“The research is intended to stimulate debate within the community over the need for reform of the law,” says Yvette.

“We hope it will help shape the form of any proposals for law reform in this area.”

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Getting connected and staying connected



Computers in Homes participant Tala Nua learnt skills which enabled her to pursue her dream of becoming a teacher. Photo: Computers in Homes.

A project that started at Victoria is helping some of New Zealand's most disadvantaged families get access to digital skills vital for the modern world.

The project, Computers in Homes, was developed by a team including Barbara Craig from the Faculty of Education in 2000, and has grown into a national project managed by Victoria graduate Di Das.

The project gives computer and internet access to disadvantaged families, so that children have the same opportunities as those in more well-off areas.

Families who would not otherwise have the opportunity to connect to the online world are provided with a recycled computer, Internet access, training and technical support.

Barbara, who continues to work on the project in a research role, says it is even more vital than it was when it began 11 years ago.

"More and more of what children are being asked to do is web-based—so families who have a broadband connection give their children a huge head start over those who don't."

She says it has had real benefits for the families involved.

"Some of those early parents that were connected 10 years ago have come through Victoria and completed their degrees. When they began they had basic literacy skills, but now some of them have become teachers."

One of the people who has benefited is Tala Nua, who enrolled in Computers in Homes in 2001 after never having used a computer. Less than two years later she was computer-competent, had developed her language skills and learnt how to create her own CV. In 2006 she pursued her dream of becoming a teacher by embarking on a Diploma of Teaching in Early Childhood.

Barbara says the project has flow-on effects for the schools involved.

"The computer training helps to connect parents to the school, so they get involved in other ways. Many had negative schooling experiences themselves, but now confidently contribute to school and community life."

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Sport means "family and church"



Getting active: Dr Barrie Gordon is hoping his research will see more Pasifika people participating in sport and recreation. Photo: SPARC

Increased participation in sport by New Zealand's Pasifika communities is the goal of SPARC-funded research led by Dr Barrie Gordon from the Faculty of Education.

Pasifika researchers Pale Sauni and Clark Tuagalu have joined Barrie—who is a Senior Lecturer in Health and Physical Education at the School of Education Policy and Implementation—on a SPARC-funded research grant project. The project identifies barriers that limit participation, as well as enablers that encourage participation, in sport and recreation for these communities.

The findings and recommendations from the research will be used by Sport and Recreation New Zealand (SPARC) to help inform the design and development of policy and the implementation of programmes in the future.

The research involved a series of individual and focus group interviews with Pasifika living within two New Zealand communities, and was partly prompted by evidence that participation levels in sport may have been declining among Pacific adults and young people.

A key finding for the researchers was that the centrality of church and family in Pasifika life was just as central when it came to decisions

about sport and recreation.

"Palagi [European New Zealanders] often make decisions about participation on an individual basis, whereas it came through strongly that decisions by Pasifika people were made based on how it would impact on the family, community and church," says Barrie.

Pale says that previous research had not really considered the impact of the church when considering the factors that encourage Pasifika people to take up sport. "Recognising that is a real positive from this research."

Other key findings included the importance of developing programmes that made the participants feel culturally comfortable.

"Education programmes are successful when they are fronted by Pasifika people. We also heard how difficult it is to participate in a group where you are very much the minority and don't know the cultural rules."

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From the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Māori), Professor Piri Sciascia

Latest developments in Toi huarewa



Piki ake, kake ake i te Toi huarewa, te ara a Tawhaki i piki ai ki runga

Climb up, ascend by the suspended way, the pathway of Tawhaki when he ascended on high

Victoria's goal is to see its Māori students and staff standing strong in academia and making a positive contribution to Māoridom. Toi huarewa, our forum for Māori academic issues at Victoria, which I convene, has a focus on ensuring this happens.

In December last year a Toi huarewa Strategic Planning hui was held with about 35 of Victoria's Māori academic and general staff in attendance. As well as confirming Victoria's commitment to the Treaty of Waitangi, the hui confirmed Toi huarewa's Vision Statement:

To position Māori at Victoria University of Wellington as a dynamic influential force, producing inspiring, intellectually rigorous students, graduates and scholarship, within Māoridom, Aotearoa New Zealand and internationally.

There are a number of plans in place to ensure that we meet these aspirations.

Research initiatives

Our focus on Māori research has intensified, with a University-wide Māori Research Network led by Poukairangi Rangahau (Associate Dean, Research). It was launched by Dr Rawinia Higgins in December to highlight, share and support Māori-related research activity at Victoria. A research meeting was held at the end of last year for all staff conducting Māori-related research across campus. We also hold a Māori research symposium each year that brings together individual scholars and researchers from across the University.

Growing and supporting Māori postgraduate students

Toi huarewa is working with the Mai ki Poneke postgraduate network to grow and support Māori postgraduate students. In October, Mai ki Poneke hosted the annual national Māori PhD conference at Te Herenga Waka Marae. The conference brought together some 100 Māori PhD students from across the country to articulate their research. The conference aimed to draw out and share strategies for managing multidisciplinary research and cross-sector and cross-cultural collaboration.

Helping Māori students succeed

Retention and achievement rates of Victoria's 1,800 plus Māori students is a continuing focus. We have strong support for our Māori students on campus, including a week-long orientation and induction programme when they begin their studies at Victoria. We also offer ongoing support to Māori students through mentoring programmes such as Te Pūtahi Atawhai. Te Rōpū Āwhina (Āwhina), Victoria's on-campus kaupapa-based whānau for Māori and Pacific students in the Faculties of Science, Engineering, Architecture and Design is particularly dedicated to growing the numbers of postgraduate students in those disciplines. Through the Strengthening Pathways project we are funding a range of pilot activities across the University to determine key strategies to improve the success of Māori students.

Celebrating success

Toi huarewa celebrates the achievement of Māori students with Hui Whakapumau, a celebratory gathering during graduation of Māori graduands at Te Herenga Waka marae. This is followed by a Toi huarewa ceremony as part of the general graduation ceremonies. Toi huarewa also awards an Excellence Award to its top Māori graduate.

Arini Loader, one of last year's awardees who received an A+ for her Masters thesis, has returned to complete a PhD with the support of a Victoria scholarship.

Scholarships

There is a shift at the University towards providing more scholarships to students, and Toi huarewa is no exception, with an increased number of Māori scholarships this year. One of our aims is to partner with iwi on joint scholarships. Among our new scholarships is the Ahumairangi PhD scholarship, the first of which was awarded this year to the Māori fiction author, Tina Makereti. The scholarship will be awarded annually to encourage and support doctoral study by Māori students.

Another exciting new initiative is the Toi huarewa Visiting Indigenous Fellowship Scheme in collaboration with Victoria International. The aim of the scheme is to attract international indigenous scholars to Victoria for a short term and provide opportunities to build indigenous research capacity and enhance indigenous engagement and collaboration with Victoria's Māori research programme. The first scholarship winners arrive this year, with topics including co-management of natural resources and indigenous capitalism in tourism.

Supporting staff

Funding from Māori Academic Networks and Universities Across Aotearoa (MANUAO) has enabled us to offer a comprehensive Māori staff development programme, particularly to support research activity. Toi huarewa wants to see more Māori academic staff at Victoria and we are using our networks to encourage Māori applications for Victoria vacancies.

We also encourage all staff to explore Māori interests and opportunities in research activity and curricular. To ensure Māori content material is incorporated into courses where possible it is important that we have staff who can deliver this content appropriately. Meegan Hall, Toi huarewa's Poukairangi Ako (Associate Dean, Learning and Teaching) has prepared a resource for staff entitled 'Teaching Māori Content'. The document offers strategies and approaches for use by non-Māori academics to become more effective teachers of Māori content.

With engaged staff and students supported all the way to be the best they can be, I believe Toi huarewa is well on the path to achieving its vision. Mauriora.

A nationwide first for business and accounting



Left to right: Bob Buckle, Pro Vice-Chancellor and Dean of Commerce; Professor Tony van Zijl, Director Academic Programmes, Commerce and Administration; and Ian Eggleton, Head of the School of Accounting and Commercial Law.

With a prestigious international accreditation under its belt, Victoria's Faculty of Commerce and Administration has achieved a nationwide first—AACSB accreditation in both business and accounting.

At the beginning of the year, the Faculty gained accreditation from the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) for its business and accounting programmes. Obtaining the dual accreditation is a first amongst New Zealand universities—only 1 percent of the 12,000 university business schools worldwide hold both accreditations, including just two others in Australasia.

John Shewan, Chairman of PricewaterhouseCoopers and Chair of the Advisory Board to the Faculty, says that the effects of these accreditations could be far-reaching for the Faculty.

“Gaining accreditation is a rigorous process and it looks impressive on students’ CVs. When business, government or professional accounting firms recruit new staff they can be sure that students from an AACSB accredited institution have come through a high quality programme.

“It is also likely to mean that more international students will consider Victoria as a place to study.”

Professor Bob Buckle, Pro Vice-Chancellor and Dean of Commerce, adds that the accreditations reflect the Faculty’s strategic focus, as well as the quality and relevance of its programmes and the quality of its staff and students, which had to measure up to high international standards.

“This doesn’t mean we can now just sit back and relax—we will be regularly monitored and accreditation requires us to make ongoing improvements.”

Some of the Faculty’s strengths that received particular praise from the AACSB Board were its focus on quality and close connections with the capital city.

Founded in 1916, AACSB International is the longest serving and largest global accrediting body for business schools that offer undergraduate, master’s and doctoral degrees in business and accounting.

www.aacsb.edu/accreditation

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New Māori and Pacific Library space



In Pacific mythology, Chief Tinirau invited a neighbouring chief, Kae, to perform the naming rights for his newborn son. After the ceremony he ferried Kae home on the back of his pet whale Tutunui, which Kae killed and fed to his people. Tinirau sent some women to perform at Kae’s village to capture Kae, recognisable by the gap between his teeth. The story illustrates aspects of the complex relationship people of the Pacific had with whales—as friends, guardians and food.

Victoria’s Māori and Pacific space and collection, Te Taratara a Kae, which opened last year on the ground floor of the Kelburn campus library, is named after this story, which has many versions throughout the Pacific.

“We wanted a name with mutual Māori and Pasifika origins,” says David Kukutai Jones. David is the Pou Whakaapa or Māori and Pacific Subject Librarian whose role involves developing and maintaining the collection and running workshops and tutorials in the space.

“One of the purposes of this space is to create more of a sense that we are a library situated in the Pacific—hence its prominent position,” adds Rachel Esson, Head of Research and Learning Services.

Te Taratara a Kae was also established to improve use and access to Māori and Pacific resources by holding relevant material in one place. The books are clearly identified by a specially designed spine label.

One of the star attractions is a giant designer rug by artist Avis Higgs, which came about through student feedback.

“Students just love being able to sit on the floor,” says David. “I’m sure for many it’s their favourite place in the library.”

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Online library access now available to alumni

Access is now available to selected online library resources as part of the range of services offered to Victoria alumni.

Please contact Database and Research Administrator Claire Angliss (claire.angliss@vuw.ac.nz) to find out how to take advantage of this service.

DIY computer games

Students learn how to create their own computer game in a new cross-disciplinary course, successfully piloted last year, which includes input from local games industry professionals.

'Advanced Computer Game Design', is open to students studying either computer science or design, with tutors and lecturers from both disciplines.

Wellington gaming company Sidhe Interactive provides hands-on sessions throughout the course, and this year other local game developers will also contribute.

"We wanted to set up an experience that mirrors industry practice; this is essentially achieved by the cross-disciplinary nature of this course," says Media Programme Director Doug Easterly.

"However, in academia, we have the flexibility to experiment and push beyond the status quo, in ways that are too risky for companies to do. In that respect, our industry collaborators are quite keen to see the concluding games, as most deliver something laudably inventive."

As well as looking at the theoretical side of video games, students create their own concept briefs and production schedule and are divided into teams to produce a game demonstration.

One of the students on last year's course was Richard Roberts, who says the course enabled him to play with ideas he had wanted to explore since he was a child. "It was great to be exposed to the process of things like making characters, exploring narratives and storytelling. The course really supports those individuals who have something exciting that they want to research or explore."



2010 Advanced Computer Game Design student Chris Chui's character design for his project 'Reactionary Evolution'.

International postgraduate student Keaton Johnstone completed the course last year and is the primary tutor for the paper this year.

"In the end, it was quite something to be able to see the game we made running, with people playing it, with a continuous thought of 'hey... I made that!' But it gets even better when you see that person smile, laugh or grin at solving one of the puzzles, and think to yourself 'hey... I made that too!'"

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'Welly' win for top teacher



"I love to captivate students' interest in science, to excite their curiosity," says Dr Gillian Turner, one of Victoria's top teachers, chief judge of the regional science fair and popular science author.

Last year, Gillian, who has been at Victoria since 1982, was awarded the Education category 'Welly' (Wellingtonian of the Year Award) for inspiring generations of scientists through science fairs, teaching, student advice, outreach and through her new book.

The physicist and geophysicist has coordinated judging of the NIWA Wellington Science and Technology Fair for almost a decade. She has also

contributed to the Royal Society of New Zealand's annual nationwide 'Realise the Dream' event for students who have achieved excellence in research.

"The idea behind science fairs is to encourage children to do their own science. Children are ingenious at experimenting, discovering and working things out," says Gillian.

"Many who have been involved in science fairs go on to pursue their passions at university. Students come up to me and say what a wonderful start it was, which is most rewarding to hear."

Gillian's talents were recognised in 2002 with a Victoria Innovation in Teaching Award and five years later with a Teaching Excellence Award.

Her popular science book *North Pole, South Pole: the epic quest to solve the great mystery of Earth's magnetism*, published by Awa Press last June, opened up a whole new audience of 'students'.

"The book relates the steps of discovery towards our modern day understanding of the source of Earth's magnetic field," says Gillian of the book that was last week shortlisted for the Royal Society's science book prize.

The story has also been retold in an educational graphic novel for children with illustrations by brothers Dennis and Alan Poole, soon to be published by South Pacific Press.

"My hope is that it will inspire students of all ages to discover more about the universe around them and to have fun with science."

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Local examples to inspire students



Tony Hooper was delighted when he was asked to produce a New Zealand edition of the popular American text *Using MIS*. For a while his students had been telling him how hard it was to relate to overseas content in their Management Information System (MIS) textbook.

“Take Boeing’s big factory in Seattle. Many first-year New Zealand students don’t know where Seattle is, and cannot conceive of how large the Boeing operation is,” says the Senior Lecturer.

The American version of *Using MIS* has long been a course book for students at Victoria’s School of Information Management but Tony says many of them struggled to connect with the business references and cultural idioms used as examples.

In 2007, Tony contributed to a booklet of New Zealand case studies to go with the original American text, and a year later, publishers Pearson Education suggested he compile a complete New Zealand edition of *Using MIS*.

Hundreds of hours of research and writing have gone into the work, which Tony co-authored with David Kroenke, the original author of the highly regarded US textbook.

Material has been contributed by local academics and uses examples of Kiwi

businesses, such as tour company Kiwi Experience, and New Zealand business personalities, like Sam Morgan of Trade Me, to complement the text.

Teachers can also access additional support material online.

Tony says much of the material available to academics teaching in New Zealand universities is sourced from other countries and it’s exciting to have a locally developed resource.

“It’s also lovely to have a book with your name on the cover.”

Tony, who is South African born, sees exciting potential to replicate the New Zealand initiative in other parts of the world.

The Kiwi version of *Using MIS* is being used in 2011 in first-year Information Systems classes, at both Victoria and Canterbury universities.

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Enhancing New Zealand’s clinical research



Cancer specialist Dr Ziad Thotathil is developing his clinical research skills with a course taught at Victoria University.

The oncologist from Waikato District Health Board is a student in the Postgraduate Diploma in Clinical Research, launched in partnership with Capital & Coast District Health Board (C&CDHB) last year.

The distance course is taught mostly online and by teleconferencing. Ziad learns from Victoria

academics as well as clinicians from C&CDHB and the Medical Research Institute of New Zealand (MRINZ).

“I’ve been involved in clinical trials before but only on the periphery, not as a principal investigator. The course is helping to give me greater in-depth knowledge to develop clinical trials of my own,” says Ziad.

The doctor, who was born in Sri Lanka and practised in India and Kuwait before coming to

New Zealand, is particularly interested in helping patients with lung cancer.

“A large number of patients develop tumours straight to the brain. Some can be operated on, but in other cases operating is not possible. I’m interested in using stereotactic radiotherapy, a non-invasive treatment that directs highly-focused beams of radiation on tumours that can’t be removed surgically.”

The course can be completed part-time over two to four years and covers ethics, statistics and other aspects of preparing clinical trials.

Programme Director Dr Jeremy Krebs says that increasing clinical research capability in New Zealand is a core aim.

“The diploma is a unique bridging qualification and we’ve got students from a very wide range of backgrounds on the course—nurses, doctors and dentists, for example. It’s important to have a good clinical research base because you can’t always simply extrapolate data from international studies.”

“The best thing is that people can do the diploma part-time while working in the health sector—they are able to draw from their own experiences and apply new skills as they go.”

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Victoria representation at international environmental summit



Sam presents to Summit delegates. Photo: World Student Environmental Network

‘Glocal’ behaviour—thinking globally and acting locally—was a term Sam Lusk came to know inside out at the third annual World Student Environmental Summit (WSES) that was held last year in Tübingen, Germany.

Sam represented Victoria as part of his participation in the Victoria International Leadership Programme (VILP), a free and optional programme focused on global leadership and intercultural understanding. He joined 65 students from 25 nations of all continents at the Summit, which provided a platform for considering appropriate initiatives to achieve a more sustainable and resilient future.

The delegation heard speeches from renowned national and international experts of science, economy, politics and civil society. Discussion that ensued resulted in a report outlining the delegates’ collective vision for university leadership and politicians to foster responsible global citizenship.

“I felt extremely privileged to be representing Victoria University and the environmental measures and initiatives that have come out of our institution, such as the Meridian First Light house and our strong environmental science programme,” says Sam.

“Of course there are still further measures we can take to progress into a more sustainable and environmentally sound institution—and my role was to inform the University of the Summit’s recommendations.”

Conclusions reached at the conference included: the need to establish binding international agreements to integrate sustainability into global society; providing financial incentives for technology research and development; providing clear information to consumers on environmental impacts of products and services; finding ways to foster corporate social responsibility; and integrating sustainable development into all aspects of educational curricula at every level.

Since it was established in 2008, the VILP has attracted more than 1,000 registrations. 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, learning another language, studying a semester abroad on a Vic OE or attending international forums on issues of global importance.

<http://2010wses.org/>

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Marae’s 25th anniversary



This year, Victoria’s marae celebrates the 25th year of its impressively carved meeting house, Te Tumu Herenga Waka.

The University will mark the milestone with a series of events—memorial lectures, public seminars, special dinners and other celebrations—leading up to the 6 December anniversary.

Te Ripowai Higgins, Marae Manager, says that Te Herenga Waka marae is an important part of the life of Victoria.

“It plays a vital role in supporting students and staff as a tūrangawaewae, a ‘home away from home’. Our door is always open and we look forward to seeing many alumni and friends of Victoria celebrate this special anniversary.”

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Student Union Building refurbished

Victoria’s Student Union Building has been extensively refurbished to offer an even better experience for students.

The upgraded building has improved club facilities, a new café and bar—the Hunter Lounge—with space for gigs for up to 1,000 people, a student media centre with student magazine Salient and the VBC (Victoria Broadcasting Club) radio station, as well as a dedicated area for student health, counselling and the physiotherapy service.

The Victoria University of Wellington Students’ Association (VUWSA) and the VUWSA Trust have worked closely with the University on the refurbishment, part of the Campus Hub project to transform Kelburn Campus. The VUWSA Trust provided all the funding for the club spaces and the Hunter Lounge.

Graduation—celebrating our success



Mayor Celia Wade-Brown addresses graduands at Civic Square. Left of Celia: Chancellor Ian McKinnon and Pro-Chancellor Helen Sutch.

At Victoria's May Graduation, Honorary Doctorates will be granted to Dr Bob Buckley, world-leading physicist and manager of Industrial Research Limited's (IRL) Superconductivity and Energy Group; and acclaimed pianist Michael Houstoun.

More than 2,300 students will graduate in the upcoming May ceremonies.

Last December, 69 PhD students—a record number for Victoria—were among the almost 1,000 students who graduated, including the first ever PhD graduates from the New Zealand School of Music and Faculty of



Students take part in the parade on Lambton Quay.

Engineering. Vice-Chancellor Pat Walsh says the high number reflects Victoria's growing postgraduate programme, as the University becomes more research-intensive.

"This is the most doctorates we've awarded at any graduation. During the past five years, the number of postgraduate students at Victoria has increased more than 50 percent."

Honorary Doctorates were granted to New Zealand physicist Professor Sir Paul Callaghan and international expert on the Irish diaspora, Professor Donald Akenson.

Distinction against the odds

Jason Morris faces more challenges than the average Victoria student—but with a Master's degree now to his name he has come through with flying colours.

Blind since birth, Jason completed his Master's in Classics last year, and is now on the verge of a stellar career in academia. Jason achieved a Distinction for his thesis *The Groma and the Gladius: Roman Surveyors in the Later Republic*. He was also awarded the Alexander Scobie Prize by Victoria in recognition of his work—all of which was achieved with his significant disability.

Originally from the US, Jason is hoping to further his study in either New Zealand or England having flourished at Victoria—with a little help from his loyal Guide Dog Vinny, as well as staff at the School of Classics, including his supervisors Art Pomeroy and Matthew Trundle.

"Nothing I have done in the last 10 years has been as enjoyable or rewarding as writing my Master's thesis at Victoria. Not only have I discovered that I am capable of doing original quality research on the ancient world, I have discovered that I love helping others to understand and appreciate the wonders of Ancient History," says Jason, who is believed to be the first international student who is blind to complete a Master's at Victoria.

Born in Pittsburgh Pennsylvania, Jason studied Classics at Dickinson College in Carlisle Pennsylvania, before working as a research assistant and Disability Interface Adviser at the University of North Carolina (UNC). In 2004, he began work as an independent international research consultant.

In 2008, Art Pomeroy and Mathew Trundle offered Jason the opportunity to write a Master's thesis on Roman History at Victoria, and Jason and Vinny made the move to Wellington.



Jason Morris got through his studies with a little help from his loyal Guide Dog Vinny. Photo: Hannah Webling.

Jason gives huge credit for his success to his supervisors, as well as disability support worker Tania Hayes. "The staff and students at Victoria have been fantastic," he says.

Jason is currently waiting to hear the results of an application for PhD study at Leicester University in England.

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Inspirational Graduation speech

At December Graduation last year, Professor Sir Paul Callaghan (who was also honoured as 2011 New Zealander of the Year in February) received an Honorary Doctorate from Victoria University. Below are excerpts from his moving speech.

... When I was 12 my father finally gave up coming to watch me play [rugby] because, as he said, “he found it too humiliating”. My rugby coach once called our team together and said, pointing at me, “this is the worst rugby player I have ever seen in my life, but because he always comes to practice, I will give him a game on Saturday ahead of those of you who don’t”. That actually made me feel quite proud.

Later when I went to secondary school I discovered middle distance running and rowing, both of which I was quite good at, and I discovered Maths and Physics which I loved.

... So my first lesson is this: Never worry about the things you are not good at. Discover what you are good at and do that, and do it with commitment. But always respect those whose talents are different from your own.

... After my graduation, I won a scholarship that took me to Oxford University to work on a doctorate in physics ... I worked in a beautiful field of research ... [with] the grand name of “nuclear orientation”.

Having finished my doctorate, I then had to decide what job to take on ... I wanted to come back to New Zealand, and I was offered a job at Massey University where there were just a few staff teaching elementary physics in a chemistry department.

But a wonderful thing happened. The only way I could see to do research there was to be a physicist playing in the garden of chemistry ... so, because I was playing in the chemists’ garden, I decided to learn about molecules, and the best method in the world to study molecules is nuclear magnetic resonance. My chemist friends let me use their magnetic resonance spectrometer and I decided to make some extra attachments that would allow me to measure molecular motions. Amazingly, the equipment worked really well and I could not have been more lucky. The field I had stumbled on grew in importance, carrying me along on the wave. Meantime, nuclear orientation stagnated. By changing fields I had struck it rich in scientific terms.

... So that’s my second lesson. See the opportunities in new directions. “If you do not change direction, you may end up where you are heading.” [Lao Tze]

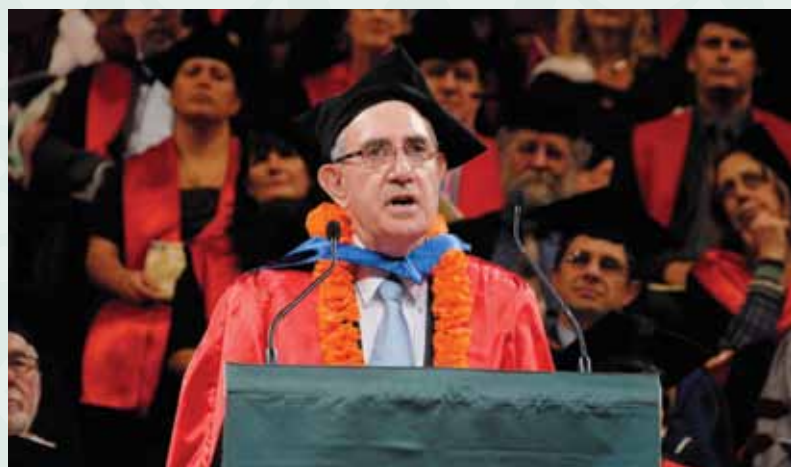
During my time as a physics researcher and university teacher I have had many graduate students ...

quite early on I learned that these apprentices often wanted to do their research quite differently from my expectations ... and mostly they would surprise me with their success and so, I learned to learn from my own students.

And as we combined our different skills our scientific work grew even more successful. My students became my collaborators.

In 2004, a group of us, including two of my then students, Mark Hunter and Robin Dykstra, along with ex-student Craig Eccles, decided to start a company and export specialised nuclear magnetic resonance instruments to the world. Another ex-student, Andrew Coy, who had some business flair, offered to run the company, which we called Magritek. The team was recognised with the Prime Minister’s science prize last month.

And so here is my third lesson. Never underestimate the capacity of those younger than you to surprise you with their talent, learn from



them, and always revel in the opportunity to combine talents to build a team.

Two years ago I had surgery for colon cancer, and if I had been like most people in that situation, I should have been completely cured. But, as it turned out, I was in an unlucky minority and the cancer spread. In February this year I discovered I had a rare form of metastatic cancer that was incurable, with a median survival measured in months.

But I am a scientist and so I know a little about statistics. When it comes to survival statistics the distribution has to be what is called “right skewed”. That’s because the lower bound is fixed at zero years while the upper bound can, in principle, extend for decades. Hence, a few can survive several years even if the median survival is six months. Well, here I am, 10 months later, and apparently hale and hearty, though I must admit I’ve had some pretty drastic chemotherapy and quite aggressive further surgery to keep me in that right skew of the distribution.

What I was brutally reminded of in February was that I was mortal, as we all are, for death is the one certainty we all face, and its time of coming is unknowable. The lesson for me was that I had to know how to live my life accepting death, while at the same time living optimistically.

So how do we live our life, wherever we are situated on life’s survival curve? You will not be surprised when I tell you that for me, the answer lies in a paradox.

That paradox is “To live each day as though it were our last, and at the same time, to live as though we will live forever.”

... And what is the single word that expresses the tension of this paradox? Buddhists would probably call it *mindfulness*. Christians would probably call it *love*. And though I have no religious belief, I’m happy with those words.

What really counts in life is love, to do the work that you love, to find the partner you love, to act always with love, wasting not a moment in anger or hostility. The prospect of death makes each living moment vital, each action significant, each spoken word of immense importance.

In every human culture, in every language, in every religion, in every secular ideal, this mindfulness is present.

Let me give an example, in just one of its many forms, and so beautifully expressed in German.

“Der weg ist das ziel.” The journey is the destination.

You are at a waypoint on your life’s journey. Make every step count.

Celebrating our Distinguished Alumni

Five hundred guests attended a special dinner at Wellington Town Hall to celebrate our 2011 Distinguished Alumni Award winners on 14 April. These awards recognise the outstanding contribution of Victoria alumni to their profession, community or country. Recipients epitomise the attributes of a Victoria University graduate—leadership, creative and critical thinking and communication skills.

Photography by Woolf



Clockwise from left: Ian McKinnon, Professor Pat Walsh and award winners Kerry Prendergast, Taika Waititi, Sir Thomas Gault, Piera McArthur, John Shewan, Rod Drury.



Guests at dinner tables in the Wellington Town Hall.



Left to right: Suzanne Joyce, Hon Steven Joyce, Professor Pat Walsh.



Left to right: Dr Alice Te Punga Somerville, Dr Ocean Mercier, Terese McLeod, Chelsea Winstanley, Taika Waititi, Robin Cohen, Dennis Welch.



Left to right: Pippi Shewan, Brian Roche, Maree Roche, Shelli Shewan.



Left to right: Sir Thomas Gault, Lady Gault, Graham Malaghan, Jenny McKinnon, Ian McKinnon.

Planting a new passion



Mei Lin with her primary MSc supervisor Emeritus Professor Phil Garnock-Jones from the School of Biological Sciences. Photo: Michael Frank.

Mei Lin Tay didn't spend much time outdoors while growing up in Malaysia, but that all changed as a result of field work carried out while completing her Master of Science at Victoria.

The 25-year-old Victoria alumna's thesis was on the evolution of New Zealand Plantago, small wind-pollinated plants which thrive in many different habitats but are most familiar as an introduced lawn weed.

Mei Lin's studies for her MSc in Ecology took her all over New Zealand, including trips into alpine areas where species of Plantago flourish.

"I didn't get out of Kuala Lumpur much as a child—if you go into the forest in Malaysia you'd probably be bitten by a poisonous snake! What I love about New Zealand is that it's so peaceful—you can go virtually anywhere and nothing can harm you."

Mei Lin is now a lover of the outdoors, regularly going tramping and having learnt to scuba dive. But her work has also had wider

benefits, bringing new understanding about how plants travel from one place to another.

She found that Plantago has invaded New Zealand at least three times from Australia with the founder species each time diverging into several new species.

Crossing the Tasman so often is unusual for our flora and Mei Lin believes it could be the result of Plantago having sticky seeds and being light and mobile.

"It's interesting to understand how plants are dispersed. We look at the movement of animals and people so why not plants? It helps us understand the world better."

After completing her Masters, Mei Lin joined the business world for a year before returning to science.

She is now with AgResearch in Palmerston North finding out more about our ecology by investigating the genes that regulate growth in plants and researching drought resistance in rye grass.

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Opening up a world of information

Technologist and Victoria alumnus Nat Torkington is a revolutionary at heart. He wants to change the way public data is used, opening it up to people at the grassroots.

Only minutes after the Christchurch earthquake on 22 February, he helped create the Christchurch Recovery Map website (<http://eq.org.nz>) listing community information such as which ATMs weren't working or where people could get water.

Nat's other projects include helpful websites like www.fixmystreet.co.nz, where you can report problems such as burst water mains, graffiti or unlit streetlights that are then sent directly to the relevant body—the local council, Transit or another organisation.

"We use public data to improve engagement between government and the public, making government more transparent and making data available for people to use," he says.

He also runs an annual 'unconference' called Kiwi Foo Camp. "I select interesting people and they build their own conference over a weekend. It's fun and fruitful." Participants

have included neuroscientists, politicians and, of course, technologists.

Nat returned to New Zealand six years ago and set out to bring "Silicon Valley's sense that anything's possible" to New Zealand.

"New Zealand's very small and can move quickly. If you have the ear of the right 5 people, if 200 people agree with you, things will change," says Nat.

Nat's first taste of the world of the Internet was at Victoria where he majored in Computer Science.

"I was one of the first in my year to get access to the Internet. I took to it like a duck to water and spent my university holidays writing programmes.

"I ended up establishing the University's first campus-wide information system and found myself teaching academics and secretaries to use our cutting-edge tools to build web pages. It was a great lesson: the technology effort is all for naught if people can't use it."

<http://nathan.torkington.com>



Sir Paul's appeal to international alumni

New Zealander of the Year Professor Sir Paul Callaghan is asking expat alumni to make a significant contribution to the Christchurch earthquake recovery mission by paying back their student loans.

In a letter to graduates living overseas, Sir Paul notes the massive financial aid needed to recover from the disaster, and asks the more than 85,000 New Zealanders with student loans living abroad to provide a huge financial boost to the recovery. He particularly appeals to the 35,000 Kiwis abroad who are behind in their repayments.

The open letter launched the HEKE (Heroic Educated Kiwi Expatriates) project in late March. In te reo, heke means "to reduce".

New Zealand graduates living abroad have a median debt of \$17,900—a total debt of over \$2 billion.

"That represents nearly 30 percent of the \$7 billion that New Zealand taxpayers will have to contribute through the Government's contribution to the rebuilding," says the

distinguished physicist, who was knighted in 2009.

Sir Paul says such repayments would not only help New Zealand recover from the disaster, they would make good financial sense to the students.

"What is remarkable about all of you is that you are earning an income in foreign currency, and if you were to start repaying or to accelerate your loan repayment rate, you would not only save yourself interest, but you would be acting heroically to help save your country," says Sir Paul in the letter.

The letter appeals to an expat sense of patriotism and asks graduates to consider the value of their New Zealand education to their present employment abroad.

"If only a few respond, the effect will be significant, but if most of you do, then you will make history and your contribution will be the stuff of legend," says Sir Paul.

To find out more about the HEKE project and to get involved, visit www.heke.ac.nz, or find HEKE on Facebook at www.facebook.com/hekeproject



The HEKE logo.

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Taking Kiwi café culture to London



Industrial design and motor racing are not obvious training grounds for running award-winning cafés, but Tubbs Wanigasekera says both disciplines have proved invaluable in his business.

Tubbs heads Sacred café, which has six locations in Central London with plans to open a seventh in September 2011 at the gateway to the main 2012 Olympic Games venue. For the past four years, *Time Out London* has voted Sacred one of the city's top five cafés.

Tubbs graduated from Victoria in Industrial Design in 1994. He was snapped up by Fisher & Paykel Appliances and became leader of the design team in Dunedin that was responsible for the iconic dish drawer.

Tubbs moved to London to work for design companies and pursue his love of motor racing. In total, Tubbs completed 12 seasons on the racing circuit, including competing in the 1996 Wellington Street race and later becoming commercial director of the British Touring Car Championship MG Rover Motorsport team and Team Honda Sport.

Tubbs and Matthew Clark created Sacred in 2005 to bring the New Zealand café experience to Londoners.

"My product design background really helps in creating café spaces, and the discipline and team dynamics of motor racing stand me in good stead for running a sizeable business," says Tubbs.

A Kiwi flavour is central to the brand and New Zealanders make up at least half of the company's staff.

"Kiwis have a great attitude, they're friendly and they treat customers well."

Tubbs remains firmly connected to New Zealand, supporting other Kiwis to establish businesses in the UK in his role as a Kiwi Expat Association (KEA) Advisory Board member.

"I also tell those young Kiwis working for me while doing their OE during a study break to make sure they go back and finish their degree. It really sets you up in life."

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Fascination with China



Fran Mackay (fourth from left) and Austrade colleagues preparing for the Shanghai Expo. Photo: Anna Willett.

A fascination with the Mandarin language, Chinese culture and China's economic potential led English Literature and Chinese graduate Fran Mackay to a career in Shanghai.

"I began studying Chinese when China was still climbing the world's economic ladder. I knew that it would become an important player on the world stage and I wanted to be a part of that," says Fran.

"English Literature provides an essential backbone for communication that can be applied in day-to-day life and within a business framework. The skills I developed in research, analysis and concise reporting are tools that are applicable across many professions.

"Mandarin is the gateway to understanding China. No matter how well-versed you are in business, accounting or marketing, I don't believe you can understand or conduct business with another country unless you are speaking the same language."

Fran went on to study advanced Mandarin at Fudan University in Shanghai and from there on was hooked.

"Shanghai got under my skin. There is an unwavering grittiness and pace of life to the city which I find addictive. There is always something new around the corner.

"I had known since arriving that I wanted to be involved with the World Expo, so after completing my Mandarin qualification at Fudan in 2007, I was on the lookout for work."

Fran took on the role of Business Development Manager at Austrade and worked with a small team managing its business programme in the Australian pavilion at the World Expo site. Austrade's business programme included more than 32 events that spanned 10 industries.

Fran plans to stay in Shanghai for another year and is looking to undertake a Master's in International Business at the University of Amsterdam. She is interested in learning more about doing business in China from a European perspective.

"New Zealand and Holland have comparable trading relationships with China in regards to their size, and Holland has a long export history. It will also be great to study with fellow students from across the globe."

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International Victoria alumni group contacts

Contact the following people about staying in touch with your local alumni

Singapore
Kuala Lumpur
Shanghai
Beijing
Germany
Hong Kong
Vietnam
New York

David Tan
Leo Ann-Mean
John (Shijun) Li
Yang Gang
Christian Probst
Jeremy Cheng
Van Anh Pham Nguyen
James Genever

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Bequest supports students at Weir



Ian Longstaff, from a photo of the 1954 Weir House Committee.

An alumnus who looked back fondly on his time at hall of residence Weir House left a bequest in his will to support future generations of residents.

Ian Longstaff's legacy after he died last year ensured that the Weir House Alumni Scholarship he set up in 2004 continued for the benefit of students around New Zealand. Writing of his life, Ian noted: "These years in Weir I value very highly for the fine people I met there and friendships that have lasted through the years."

The scholarship, established through the Victoria University Foundation, assists first-year students with accommodation costs, particularly those who might otherwise not be able to consider study at Victoria for financial reasons.

Hannah Borgas, a second year Biomedical Science student from Te Kuiti and the 2010 recipient of the Scholarship, describes the scholarship as a "blessing".

"I'd saved throughout my life because Mum and Dad weren't in the position to fund my living

expenses, but the scholarship just helped so much," says Hannah.

"I really appreciate Ian Longstaff's generosity and loved my time at Weir House."

Ian, who had a physical disability from birth, stayed at the hall of residence for four years in the 1950s. Malcolm McCaw, who was at Weir House with Ian, remembers a lively and likeable young man.

"He was very much a part of life at Weir House whether we were playing cards or out supporting the Hall's rugby team. We all made some wonderful long-term friendships."

Ian was a member of the Weir House committee in 1953 and 1954 and also coxed the Victoria University eight rowing team. He graduated with a Bachelor of Commerce and went on to become a chartered accountant. Despite his disability, Ian led a full and active life, enjoying boating and sailing in his free time.

New Chair in Business in Asia

Pick up the newspaper or chat to a business colleague and the subject of the booming Asian economies is bound to come up. Yet there are significant challenges to increasing New Zealand business success in the region.

Professor Bob Buckle, Pro-Vice Chancellor and Dean of Commerce, says that the Bank of New Zealand Chair in Business in Asia—established through the Victoria University Foundation—will help address this.

"The emergence of Asia is bringing the centre of global economic activity significantly closer to New Zealand. The Chair will conduct research and offer insight to help businesses understand the issues and engage more successfully in the Asian markets."

Stephen Mockett, Chief Operating Officer at the Bank of New Zealand, says the Bank is proud to support this initiative to facilitate business success.

"By bringing together the academic expertise of Victoria University, policy and regulatory knowledge of government organisations and



Stephen Mockett (left) with Vice-Chancellor Professor Pat Walsh.

our business experience, the Chair will help open new doors for New Zealand business."

The Chair is also supported by the Ministry of

Foreign Affairs and Trade, the Ministry of Economic Development and New Zealand Trade and Enterprise.

Off the Press

Their Faces Were Shining and *New Zealand As It Might Have Been 2* are two works recently published by Victoria University Press (VUP) and are reviewed for *Victorious* by Briony Pentecost.

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



Their Faces Were Shining

By Tim Wilson

In his debut novel, Tim Wilson, a man New Zealanders might associate more with the tag ‘foreign correspondent’ than ‘writer of fiction’, has turned his keen observational eye on the dynamics of family and faith. *Their Faces Were Shining* is a tight post-modern tale of life for those left behind following The Rapture, the ascension of the chosen to be with Christ.

At times aloof, but ultimately with a warm heart and ample comedy, this is a novel that deftly amalgamates the minutiae of the lives of its characters with a cataclysmic event. In Wilson’s novel, however, The Rapture is also catalytic. It figures as a dynamic backdrop—an interesting scenario into which a skilled author might drop interesting characters, allowing the reader to observe as they muddle through.

It is gripping and grim, but also humorous, thanks largely to Hope, middle-aged, a devout Christian, and, much to her astonishment, left behind. She is a vivid narrative voice, slightly off the wall, but endearing if irritating in her sincerity.

Wilson has been commended for his capturing of the spirit of mass hysteria, and indeed he does this well. The interplay of personal and crowd heightens both the tension and veracity of the novel, and creates a reading experience akin to observing disaster as it unfolds, somewhere else.

Initially I found *Their Faces Were Shining* a little difficult to engage with. However, the wit, social commentary and characterisation, coupled with near cinematic prose quickly had me over this early hurdle, and make it well worth a look.



New Zealand As It Might Have Been 2

Edited by Stephen Levine

“17 possible pasts, leading to 17 unique and different New Zealands” concludes the back cover blurb of *New Zealand As It Might Have Been 2*. This is a revealing collection that educates as well as entertains, as that which is not serves only to highlight what was and what is. From the formative stages of nationhood, to current questions about MMP, from Hone Heke, to Katherine Mansfield to Sir Edmund Hillary, from suffrage to ANZAC to the Foreshore and Seabed Act, history is held up for examination. For every possibility, there is a path untravelled. Counterfactuals travel the path of the ‘what if’, for example, what might have been the social and cultural ramifications if Hillary hadn’t conquered Everest? And why does it matter that he did?

Counterfactuals can address dissatisfactions with, or regret, about the past. Equally, they can be a celebration of all that has been achieved, a celebration of nationhood and culture. This collection performs both roles as the focus falls on New Zealand political affairs, culture and identity. It examines warfare, colonisation, moments of surprising and contentious politics, before delving deeper into the decisions of individuals who took the world, and New Zealand pride, by storm. The culminating section of counterfactuals continues this investigation of culture, considering two important ‘firsts’: women gaining the vote in 1893, and Hillary climbing Everest.

While some authors render these speculative histories with more skill than others, and some are definitely more imagined than analytical, the tantalising offer of possibility overrides any discrepancy in flair or factual coherence.



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Theatrical tour in Europe



Allan Henry and Bronwyn Tweddle in *Skin Tight*.
Photo: Lucia Marneanu.

Two plays, three countries, four cities, five venues.

After an 18-month gestation, Bronwyn Tweddle, Senior Lecturer in Victoria's Theatre programme, took two New Zealand plays on the road in Europe late last year. Audiences got a taste of Gary Henderson's works *Skin Tight* and *Mo & Jess Kill Susie* performed by a bicultural company of four Māori and three Pakeha. The tour spanned St Vith (Belgium), Essen and Gelsenkirchen (Germany) and Cluj-Napoca (Romania), at professional theatres and

universities that Bronwyn has developed partnerships with over the last five years.

While on tour, Bronwyn was an official member of the 'expert panel' at the TheaterFest festival in Belgium and taught for a week at the Theatre Faculty Cluj-Napoca. She also ran audience discussions and school workshops alongside the performances, including offering opportunities to learn about Māori culture. Her project was funded by the University Research Fund.

The Commons Project



Campbell Kneale and Alan Courtis, *James Smith Car Park*, Wakefield Street, February 2011. Photo: Dan Lucka.

Over the summer months the Adam Art Gallery presented 'The Commons Project', a series of sound art performances seeking to establish an experience of 'common ground' in Wellington city. Musicians were invited to play an array of sounds at city sites that were either unfamiliar or that tested expectations of where one might hear sounds performed.

The performances included an occupation of the James Smith Car Park, drawing attention to the site's ambient sounds, and a musical parade that perambulated the city streets from the gallery to the Embassy cinema. The selected spaces for these performances reflected on what is private and what is public, with art acting as a link between the two.

www.adamartgallery.org.nz

Vietnamese learn sustainable tourism



Chris Knowles, Manager of Mistletoe Bay Eco Village in the Marlborough Sounds, talks to delegates.
Photo: Christian Schott.

Victoria was the university of choice for Vietnamese government officials to learn about sustainable tourism in New Zealand late last year. Victoria Management School's Tourism Management programme worked with Victoria Professional and Executive Development to develop a customised two-week course for 25 Directors and Vice-Directors of the Provincial Tourism Departments in Vietnam.

Sponsored by the Vietnamese Government's Programme 165, the programme included lectures and guest speakers from the University, as well as private, non-government organisations and government sectors; in addition to field trips. Discussions are in process about making the course an annual event.

www.victoria.ac.nz/pedshortcourses/customised.aspx

Towards a new conservation ethic



Conference participants in Whakatane.

Ideas for a new conservation ethic were on the agenda at 'Sharing Power: A New Vision for Development', a unique international conference organised by Aroha Mead, Senior Lecturer in Māori Business from Victoria Management School. The four-day conference was held in Whakatane this year and was attended by 200 participants from 43 countries.

The conference focused on the need for policy and decision makers in governments and corporations to accommodate a greater level of inclusion of indigenous peoples and all citizens in national and international policies on the management and governance of bio-cultural resources.

Among the participants were scientists, economists, indigenous leaders, environmentalists, academics, policymakers in national governments and international agencies.

www.sharingpower.org



Hermione (Amy Usherwood), Polixenes (Tom Clarke) and Leontes (Jonathan Price). Photo: Summer Shakespeare.

Shakespeare's *The Winter's Tale* shines in the Botanic Gardens

Victoria student and aspiring thespian Jonathan Price says playing a tyrannical king in a Shakespearean tragicomedy, with a kiwi twist, was a considerable challenge.

Jonathan played King Leontes, who rapidly descends into a state of irreconcilable jealousy and paranoia when he suspects an affair between his wife Hermione (played by Amy Usherwood) and his friend King Polixenes of Bohemia (Tom Clarke).

"It's probably the most serious role I've ever done," says Jonathan.

"He's just shrouded by jealousy, and the problem is he has the power to follow through with his paranoia."

Jonathan was among a group of Victoria students and alumni, along with graduates from Toi Whakaari and Sydney's National Institute of Dramatic Art, who performed in the Victoria University of Wellington 2011 Summer Shakespeare season *The Winter's Tale*, a tragicomedy embroidered with romance and brought to life in front of an audience on picnic blankets at the Botanical Gardens' Sound Shell in February.

Known for quite possibly William Shakespeare's most famous stage direction 'Exit, pursued by a bear', the play was directed by Lori Leigh and explored prophecies, romance, drama, comedy, and (of course) wild bears through the lens of rural New Zealand, bringing pastoral and theatrical magic to true blue 'sheep country' in an exciting new viewing of Shakespeare's classic tale.

Director Lori Leigh says that her production took its lead from

Shakespeare and explored folklore and fairy tale and also the "here and now" of 2011 New Zealand.

Reviews of the play praised the quirky Kiwi take on a Shakespeare classic.

"Beautifully brought together in an ethereal and moving final scene, *The Winter's Tale* is an unlikely, but wonderful marriage between rural Kiwi humour and enthralling Shakespearean tragedy," said student magazine *Salient*'s Laurel Carmichael.

"From the finest costuming details to the haunting music provided by just one guitar and drum kit, every aspect of the performance is polished without being overwrought. This year's Summer Shakespeare has succeeded in making one of Shakespeare's "problem plays" accessible and highly entertaining," wrote Carmichael.

The Winter's Tale was sponsored by Victoria University through the student services levy. A small part of the levy is reserved each year to support selected student initiatives that help students to develop skills in leadership, communication, and critical and creative thinking.

The first Summer Shakespeare was in 1983. Since then, the productions have become known for their energetic large-casts and their festive approach to the plays.

www.summershakespeare.co.nz



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