

Victorious

SPRING 2011

MAGAZINE FOR FRIENDS AND ALUMNI OF VICTORIA UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON



**Tales of rescue from
the fields of France**

'Eco bling' not enough

Sweeping soundtrack for 'Pavlova Western'



Reaching for the stars

When and how did the first stars and galaxies form? Was Einstein right about gravity? Is there other intelligent life out there?

This time next year, Australia and New Zealand should know whether their bid for a \$3 billion telescope was successful or if rivals South Africa will host what is one of the world's biggest scientific projects—one designed to answer questions like these.

The Square Kilometre Array (SKA) telescope will be a radio telescope that is 50 times more powerful than current instruments. Three thousand dishes spread over a vast distance will combine into one giant radio antenna to observe the universe and explore its origins.

“Radio telescopes work by using radio waves to ‘see’ our universe, similar to the way we use ultrasound technology,” says astrophysicist Dr Melanie Johnston-Hollitt from the School of Chemical and Physical Sciences, who is leading efforts in New Zealand.

“The SKA will provide the opportunity to participate in a global mega-science project. We will not only answer questions about the universe, but also benefit from the spin-off technologies required to undertake a project of this scale.”

The SKA is a global collaboration of 20 countries with strong support from Europe, China, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa. It will be built in the southern hemisphere where the view of the galaxy is best and there is little radio interference.

Earlier this year, research efforts of the Australia-New Zealand SKA team were boosted with a donation of a high-performance computing facility from IBM.

Victoria University researchers and counterparts in Australia will use the computing facility to support the \$40 million Murchison Widefield Array (MWA) radio telescope, a ‘precursor’ SKA instrument in Western Australia.

“The supercomputer is a vital part of the MWA used to do the calibration and imaging of the raw data, and gives us massive data processing potential for our research. Ultimately, the SKA central computer will have the processing power of about one billion computers and will generate enough raw data to fill 15 million 64-gigabyte iPods every day.”

Melanie recently secured a grant of \$400,000 from the Ministry for Economic Development as well as funding from the University to officially join the MWA project. Victoria will be in partnership with organisations such as Harvard, MIT, the Raman Research Institute in Bangalore, Curtin University of Technology and ANU.

“This is the first time New Zealand researchers and students have had the opportunity to contribute directly to an official SKA ‘precursor’. It’s a significant step forward for both radio astronomy and the SKA bid.”

www.skatelescope.org



The Murchison Widefield Array near Perth. Photo: David Herne, International Centre for Radio Astronomy Research

From the Vice-Chancellor

Victoria University has a strong presence in the capital city and most people in Wellington will know somebody who works or studies at Victoria. Turn on the radio or pick up a paper and you are likely to find one of our academics talking about their research or contributing to debate on any number of topical issues.

Victoria's staff and students play an active role in the Wellington community and while we can sometimes take it for granted, the University is in itself an interesting destination. That's why, in cooperation with the Government's promotion arm, NZ 2011, we will be putting on tours of points of particular interest at Victoria during the festivities surrounding the Rugby World Cup.

In addition, residents and visitors alike will be able to enjoy *Lights over Victoria*, the projection of high-powered light beams from Victoria's Kelburn, Te Aro and Pipitea campuses. The tournament also gives us an excellent opportunity to bring together our many Wellington-based alumni.

The New Zealand School of Music is staging a number of concerts during Wellington's Festival coinciding with the first four weeks of the tournament, including Boris Pigovat's *Holocaust Requiem for Solo Viola and Orchestra*, a major undertaking in memory of Babiy Yar in Ukraine.

A university's success depends on sustaining and celebrating its connections and being part of a community of neighbours, scholars, alumni, researchers and industry.

Our efforts to build and engage with the wider community also extend to our work reconnecting with former students. This year we have a strong programme of alumni events and engagement opportunities here in New Zealand and throughout the world.

Our programme of regional public lectures, which began in 2008, is a great opportunity for our academic experts to engage with audiences throughout New Zealand on a personal level. Further afield, we have international and national partnerships that provide our academics and students the ability to work overseas, create connections and share knowledge.

We are proud to be a capital city university with links throughout the world. In amongst our own campus community of more than 22,000 students and 2,000 staff, there is much to be proud of and we look forward to showcasing some of what we do to an international audience—demonstrating that we are indeed a world-class organisation with world-class staff, students and connections.

Professor Pat Walsh, Vice-Chancellor



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Editor: Tania Guenter

Editorial Team: Guy Randall, Jeff Bell, Katherine Edmond, Jill Rodgers, Kate Arrowsmith, Stephen Garrett and Briony Pentecost.

To contact *Victorious* or to submit a story idea, email tania.guenter@vuw.ac.nz

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Angry wasps deal to competitors



Wasps and ants are known to compete for food, although some research suggests the ants may actually attract wasps. Credit: Julien Grangier

Wasps frustrated by having to compete with ants for food are picking the ants up, flying off and dropping them away from their meal.

It's the human equivalent of being thrown half the length of a rugby field. Although the ants are not physically hurt, they appear stunned by the drop and often do not return to the bait station.

Scientists at Victoria have identified this surprising and previously unknown behaviour by studying interactions between native ants and invasive wasps in South Island beech forests.

The wasp, *Vespula vulgaris*, is one of the world's 100 worst invasive species and reaches the highest known density in South Island beech forests. There, when competing for food, few animals can stand up to them, except native ants.

"Despite being 200 times smaller, the ants are able to hold their own by rushing at the wasps, spraying them with acid and biting them. That's why eventually the wasps get so angry they pick up the ant, take it away and return to eat the

food," says Dr Phil Lester from Victoria's School of Biological Sciences.

"The strategy works—it's giving the wasp access to resources it wouldn't otherwise have."

The research findings of Phil and his fellow researcher Dr Julien Grangier were published in the Royal Society journal *Biology Letters*, one of the world's leading publications in its field.

Other data gathered during the research suggest the ants may actually attract wasps.

"Wasps seem to hear ants 'talking,'" says Phil. "They have nerves in their antennae that pick up pheromones or communication chemicals given out by the ants. So it could be the foraging ants that bring wasps to the food."

The research suggests that the wasps' ability to adapt their behaviour according to the abundance and type of competitors could help explain why they are so widespread and invasive.

www.livescience.com/13486-ant-tossing-wasps.html

phil.lester@vuw.ac.nz
+64-4-463 5096

Robots with emotions



Dr Will Browne with some of his e-puck robots.

Although strong emotions might not help people make better decisions, it could be just what's needed for robots.

"We're trying to get robots to adjust their behaviour to different situations," says Dr Will Browne, Senior Lecturer in Victoria's School of Engineering and Computer Science.

"Robots are very good at learning a set task—pick something up, put it over there—but they don't adapt to changes very well. A robot vacuum cleaner might do a good job of vacuuming a tidy office, but a teenager's bedroom with clothes everywhere is a different challenge."

Will says that giving robots emotions is not about robots falling in love or experiencing mood swings, but about changing their reaction to a situation.

"Research indicates that there are two types of emotion—affective, which changes how you react to a situation, and phenomenological, which changes how you feel about a situation.

"With robots, we're focused on the affective change so the robot can change its behaviour, making it much more adaptable."

Will and his students are studying these concepts with 'e-puck' robots in mazes.

"For a robot stuck in a tight spot, the most effective thing to do might be to make sudden, random changes like driving hard backwards or sideways. You can see the changes in the robots—you can tell if one is 'angry', or that the one driving quickly and confidently to its goal looks 'happy'."

Will says the long-term aim is to give robots the adaptability to overcome many different challenges.

"Autonomous mobile robots can be used for searching environments too dangerous for humans, such as earthquake zones or other disasters.

"The robot needs to be able to navigate an unfamiliar environment without having seen it before—it's about giving them the adaptability to cope with the uncertainties in the world."

will.browne@vuw.ac.nz
+64-4-463 5233 ext 8489

‘Eco bling’ not enough



The changes needed before New Zealand is using its fair share of the earth's resources are far greater than most people realise, say two Victoria University sustainability researchers.

Robert and Brenda Vale, professors at Victoria University's School of Architecture, are partway through a three-year research project exploring what New Zealand would be like if communities and individuals reduced their footprint to a sustainable level. The research is funded by the Ministry of Science and Innovation.

The Vales use an internationally accepted technique called 'The Ecological Footprint', which measures the area of productive land and water the population needs to maintain its activities and absorb waste in a sustainable way. At current population levels, each person in the world needs 1.8 hectares.

Currently, New Zealanders use about five hectares each, Americans between eight and nine and Chinese around two. People in many other countries, like Indonesia and Vietnam, use just one.

The Vales will be working with communities in Central Otago and Manukau to explore scenarios for reducing resource use, gauge attitudes and discuss how changes might be implemented.

They say a study carried out by Carmeny Field, a Masters student working with them, has

highlighted some of the changes that might be needed in the future. Among other things, Carmeny looked at the transport footprint of people living in Wellington in the 1950s compared to today's residents.

Brenda says the level of mobility people now expect to have is taxing on resources.

"Back in the 50s, people didn't travel much. They didn't fly, only used their car at the weekends and mostly walked, cycled and used public transport.

"And the interesting thing is that most of those interviewed thought life was pretty good back then. Having more doesn't necessarily make us better off."

Brenda says much more is needed than a bit of "eco bling".

"People think they can put a rainwater tank on their roof or install solar heating and then carry on their lifestyle as normal, but the changes required are much more far reaching than that."

Robert adds that New Zealand needs more visionary thinking.

"China, for example, is much further ahead than us in its thinking. They are connecting their cities with a network of high speed electric trains and building a high speed link to Europe, which will reduce the need to fly.

"It is more difficult for New Zealand because we are small and geographically isolated, but there is plenty we could do such as feeding ourselves,

generating our own power and growing biofuels. People aren't thinking long term and they need to be."

The Vales are using a ration book concept to get study participants thinking about the fair earth share principle.

"We're trying to get the idea across that there are limits and people will have to make choices in the future. We're not saying you can't drive or fly, but if you choose these activities, you'll need to reduce your footprint in other ways."

Ultimately the Vales aim to produce a tool that agencies can use to consult with communities about moving towards more equitable resource use.

The Vales have been researching and writing about sustainability for many years. They co-authored *The Autonomous House* as well as *Time to Eat the Dog*, a guide to sustainable living that showed the "paw print" of a large pet dog is twice that of a Land Cruiser driven 10,000 kilometres a year.

Robert says pet owners' outrage at the book's findings showed many people are not yet willing to debate resource allocation.

"People are still being told they can have everything. The most important thing is to realise that we have to make changes—then we can start talking about how to do that."

robert.vale@vuw.ac.nz
brenda.vale@vuw.ac.nz
 +64-4-463 6275

e-Learning the performing arts



One of the avatars used to teach students online.

Learning in dance and drama has traditionally involved face-to-face tuition, but that may change as a result of research into the potential of online specialists supporting classroom teachers.

Victoria's Faculty of Education research shows students may be able to learn just as effectively using technology and the expertise of online specialists.

An 18-month research project funded by the Teaching and Learning Research Initiative Fund involved designing and teaching dance and drama programmes to Years 6–8 students in North Island primary schools. The students followed specially designed web-based programmes and used a range of technology to record their work and interact with specialist online teachers.

One of the researchers, Delia Baskerville, a drama lecturer in Victoria's Faculty of Education, says the results were excellent. She confirms that arts e-learning has strong potential to support the work that teachers are doing in the classroom.

"It is a curriculum requirement that students in Years 1–8 are offered opportunities to learn the performing arts. But many teachers lack

confidence in this area and that is exacerbated by the fact that they receive very little tuition during teacher training to help them."

Drama students were invited to produce a character idea for a non-violent video game and design a voice for their avatar. Delia introduced herself through her own avatar and, as the voice coach, provided feedback on voice files uploaded into WeLCom, a virtual learning environment.

The benefits for students included improved technology skills, clearer and more effective use of their voice and more confidence to speak in front of others and share ideas in a group. "The teacher told us how motivated and excited the students were about the project, particularly boys."

She says e-learning in dance and drama is a great way to keep students engaged.

"In the 21st century, students can discover a lot about what they want to know—they can just tap into the internet pretty much wherever they are. Classroom learning has to be exciting and compelling to keep students wanting to be there."

delia.baskerville@vuw.ac.nz
+64-4-463 9639

Photographs— reminders of our mortality



Professor of Art History Geoffrey Batchen says it's time to rethink the significance of all those old photographs in family albums, in boxes under the bed—or posted on our Facebook page.

"Why is it that if our house is burning one of the few things we would run back to get is that old shoebox of photos we may not have looked at for 10 years? Given that 99.9 percent of photos are boring and repetitious—what is it about photography that we cling to with such tenacity?"

Geoffrey says photos offer a rich and untapped source of study for art historians. He has looked at thousands of photos, and taken a particular interest in snapshots where we see the photographer's shadow intruding into the image—such as the one pictured.

"The shadow stretches out from the bottom of the picture to touch the edge of the subject's foot, joining inside and outside, photographer, viewer and subject, in a single, continuous graphic trace," says Geoffrey.

"One of the things that makes even the most boring photograph a thing of fascination is our desire to transcend death, because the same photographic image that confirms the imminence of our death (by reminding us that we are getting older) also confirms the possibility of our transcending that death by leaving a trace in time.

"Such snapshots remind us that we primarily take photographs to stop time in its tracks and us with it."

As a consequence, Geoffrey argues, snapshots do much more than just record the appearance of loved ones.

"They call on our greatest fears and anxieties as mortal human beings. Our relationship to photography is vested not in its truth but in our desire to cheat death—against all logic we want to believe that the photograph can help us overcome our own mortality."

geoffrey.batchen@vuw.ac.nz
+64-4-463 9688

Sweeping soundtrack for 'Pavlova Western'



A scene from *Good For Nothing* featuring Isabella Montgomery (Inge Rademeyer) and The Man (Cohen Holloway).

A 'Pavlova Western' movie filmed in New Zealand has been given a sweeping soundtrack by Professor John Psathas from the New Zealand School of Music.

Dunedin director Mike Wallis used the landscapes of Central Otago and the Mackenzie Country as a stand-in for the old American West for his film *Good For Nothing*. The soundtrack for the film, which has received Hollywood accolades, was composed by John, with the recording of the score supported by a grant from Victoria University.

John says he fell in love with *Good For Nothing* after watching an early cut of the film and selected the project to be his first ever film score composition.

"This was the first film that I felt I could contribute to," he says. "We really wanted it to reflect the amazing landscape shots with quite epic, broad brushstrokes. I had some real space to stretch my wings in terms of music and that was really gratifying."

The score is performed by the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra (NZSO), making *Good For Nothing* the epitome of a New Zealand-made

production. "We wanted to get a gritty, dirty sound," says John. "It's an environment of dirty, unwashed men, so we made a decision to use no electronic music—we wanted to do it all acoustically."

It is not the first time John's talents have reached a large audience—he composed music for the opening and closing ceremonies of the 2004 Summer Olympics.

Director Mike Wallis says John has a passion for the art of cinematic scoring.

"He was genuinely excited about the chance to create a unique orchestral 'Pavlova Western' soundscape—one that embraces elements of the traditional Western score as well as using modern influences."

The film premiered at the Santa Barbara International Film Festival in January to sold-out screenings and positive reviews, including praise from high-profile critic Leonard Maltin, trade magazine *The Hollywood Reporter* and movie website *Ain't It Cool News*.

Producer and lead actress Inge Rademeyer says she has been blown away by the reaction to the film and its soundtrack.

"We're thrilled with the US audience response to the film and the music. To say the soundtrack has been very well received would be an understatement. During the Santa Barbara festival the main questions we had were 'Who did the music? It's amazing!' and 'Where can I buy the soundtrack?'"

One reviewer, Jim Svejda from Classical KUSC, America's largest classical music station, said of the score: "One of the principal glories of the film is the score by John Psathas, in which genuine sweep and poetry are combined with affectionate send-ups of Ennio Morricone. It would be a major achievement for an experienced film composer; as a first film score, it's little short of astonishing."

Theatrical releases of *Good For Nothing* are now looking likely in the USA, Europe, New Zealand and Australia.

John is currently mixing and mastering the original soundtrack of *Good For Nothing* for release on CD and for digital downloads.

www.goodfornothingmovie.com

john.psathas@nzsm.ac.nz
+64-4-463 8047

Tales of rescue from the fields of France



Keren Chiaroni

In September 1942 Mr and Mrs Arnold Gensor from Island Bay, Wellington, received a devastating telegram telling them their son Raymond was missing after his bomber was shot down in the north of France.

All they could do was wait.

Several months later, they received the miraculous news that Raymond was alive and well, thanks largely to the bravery and kindness of a number of French villagers who had assisted his escape through an area heavily populated by German forces.

Raymond Gensor's story makes up just one of the many that feature in Senior French Lecturer Dr Keren Chiaroni's recently published book *The Last of the Human Freedoms*. Based on letters, journals, military records and personal accounts, the book tells of a number of dramatic escapes by downed airmen made with the help of French citizens.

When Raymond parachuted from his damaged plane and landed in the farmlands of France, he survived his parachute jump, but with a badly injured leg. Equipped only with a silk map and a few basic French phrases, he was forced to seek his way across the French countryside to seek safety while risking capture by the Germans. He was eventually given shelter by a couple who put him in contact with agents from one of the major escape routes in France, the O'Leary Line.

Author Keren Chiaroni says the generosity of the couple was typical of many of the French families she encountered during her research. "Despite their poverty of means, and a fragile sense of security—the husband had recently

escaped from a concentration camp—they offered shelter, food and smiles."

What followed were weeks of nerve-racking waiting, and periods of intense danger for Raymond, who was given false documentation, and assisted by a number of French civilians on his dangerous escape to safety, which included crossing the treacherous Pyrenees.

Raymond eventually returned to the fighting and was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross. It was a feat made possible in no small part by the bravery of the French civilians who helped him on his way—civilians who are finally being recognised in Keren's book.

Keren decided to write the book after meeting Nadia, the daughter of Yvette and Emil Patris, who had rescued young Kiwi pilot John Sanderson when his plane was shot down in 1944. Her parents sheltered the injured pilot and sought treatment for his injuries.

However, the local doctor betrayed them to the Gestapo, and John was sent to a prisoner of war camp. The repercussions for the French family were much more devastating. The Gestapo arrived at the Patris house in the middle of the night. Interrogation, beating and imprisonment followed. Emil Patris died en-route to Dachau concentration camp. His wife, Yvette, was eventually released.

Keren travelled to France to learn more of Sanderson's story and soon more stories emerged both of airman in occupied France and of the local resistance instrumental in assisting them.

"I realised the Sanderson story was part of a much bigger picture. That was a reminder that I needed to go to the places where these things had happened."

Keren's extensive research over five years took her to many locations in France and New Zealand, where she interviewed surviving members of the families whose stories are told in the book. She was also able to access archival resources in both public and private collections.

She says the research was an education in the diversity of human nature.

"I learned of different kinds of stories and different kinds of people—there are always profiteers in wartime who betrayed others, but there were others who performed astonishing acts of compassion and bravery.

"It was also a discovery for me that history comes alive in engagement with people. History is a story of the choices people make and the impact that has on others."

A strong motivation was to tell the stories of those who hadn't been recognised in official war histories.

"The richly textured histories that affect us the most are often about people whose names we never know. This is a way of foregrounding those people, because they deserve it. They were as brave as many of the main players who did get their names recorded."

The title of book, *The Last of the Human Freedoms*, comes from a quotation by Viktor Frankl, a Jewish doctor and Holocaust survivor. Frankl thought that what defines humans is their power to choose their attitudes even when all has been taken away from them.

"The last of the human freedoms is the freedom to choose one's attitude," says Keren.

"Frankl had a fiery will to live with dignity and compassion—I thought that best encapsulated the kinds of choices and attitudes of those people I was writing about."

keren.chiaroni@vuw.ac.nz
+64-4-463 5798

ÉTAT FRANÇAIS 10750
 DÉPARTEMENT de Haute Garonne
 COMMUNE de Rieux
 CARTE D'IDENTITÉ
 DE CITOYEN FRANÇAIS

Nom: Maes
 Prénoms: Raymond Jules
 Profession: agriculteur
 Né le: 13 novembre 1916
 à: Berques
 département: Nord
 domicile: Rieux, Haute Garonne

SIGNALEMENT

Taille: 190 cm
 Cheveux: châtains
 Moustache: grise
 Yeux: gris
 Signes Particuliers: aucun

Nez: droit, rectiligne
 Forme générale du visage: ovale
 Teint: clair

Empreinte digitale: Pouce droit.
 Signature du Titulaire: A. Rieux
 le 17 OCT 1941
 LE: Roger de T... (Cachet)

Raymond's fake ID. Credit: Air Force Museum of New Zealand, photographed by Matthew O'Sullivan.

Recherches des AVIATEURS ANGLAIS

En leur adressant l'appel ci-après le SOUS-PREFET de St-O... invite ses Administrés à lui donner la plus large publicité. Il leur rappelle en outre que des instructions antérieures rendent toute complicité passible de LA PEINE DE MORT. Il compte sur leur sagesse et sur leur conscience.

Le Sous-Prefet,
L. SEGUY.

Le 17 Septembre 1942, vers 1 h. 30 du matin, un bombardier Anglais est contraint d'atterrir au hameau de Neuville, commune d'ALQUINES.

Des cinq hommes de l'équipage, un a été pris et les quatre autres sont en fuite. C'est pourquoi je vous prie d'adresser un appel urgent à la Population pour l'inviter à collaborer à la recherche des fugitifs. L'assurance est donnée que toute personne qui adressera à la Kommandantur des renseignements susceptibles de permettre l'arrestation de ces aviateurs, **pourra désigner pour chaque fugitif arrêté, un PRISONNIER de GUERRE Français qui sera rapidement libéré.** La discrétion la plus absolue est assurée.

Par contre la Population doit se rappeler des sanctions graves qu'envisagent ceux qui favorisent l'ennemi. Les noms des fugitifs sont les suivants :

- 1° SQUADRON LEADER Barnard.
- 2° PILOT-Officer R. E. Gleuser.
- 3° FI. SERGANT BUCKELL.
- 4° SERGANT FORSTER.

SIGNE HAUPTMANN und Kreiskommandant
GOTTWALD.

Paris Wanted poster. Credit: Air Force Museum of New Zealand, photographed by Matthew O'Sullivan.

Wartime French dictionary.

Flight Sergeant John Sanderson in 1943, London. Courtesy of Adrienne Williams.

Raymond's Tiki. Credit: Air Force Museum of New Zealand, photographed by Matthew O'Sullivan.

Revealing Wellington's earthquake risk



Some of the project team preparing the seismometers before they are deployed in the field. Credit: Margaret Low, GNS Science

Detonating 500 kilogram loads of dynamite in deep bore holes from Kapiti to Martinborough has helped scientists map Wellington's earthquake risk.

The explosive charges were set off to mimic an earthquake with 1,200 portable seismographs recording the impact. These 'mini earthquake recorders' were buried at approximately 100 metre intervals along a 100 kilometre line between the Wairarapa and Kapiti coasts and recorded the sound waves reflected back from rock deep in the earth.

"The data will contribute to building a high resolution 3D image, similar to a CAT scan, of the rock structures and the tectonic plate boundary beneath the lower North Island," says Professor Tim Stern, from Victoria's School of Geography, Environment and Earth Sciences.

"The seismographs will tell us about the thickness and mechanical state of rock units down to depths of 50 kilometres or more."

The three-week project earlier this year involved scientists from Victoria University, GNS Science, Tokyo University and the University of Southern California.

Tim, who is currently on a Royal Society James Cook Fellowship, says the project is one of the largest of its kind to be carried out in New Zealand and will be the first time the boundary zone of the two tectonic plates under the Wellington region has been studied in such detail.

He says the goal is to learn more about the risks from earthquakes through improved knowledge of the structure of the earth's crust in the Wellington area, which has several fault lines.

The field trials are phase two of a project called SAHKE (Seismic Array Hikurangi Experiment) that began in 2009. Scientists will combine and analyse the data from both phases of SAHKE, with first results expected by the end of the year.

"Gaining a deeper understanding of the earth's crust beneath Wellington will help improve the design of buildings and infrastructure."

tim.stern@vuw.ac.nz
+64-4-463 5112

Change by design

What if sheep were equipped with GPS devices so that we could track where they are at any time? Or if we could monitor a sheep's entire lifespan and lineage, as well as its veterinary treatments and when it has been shorn? Or if sheep were used as mobile weather stations?

As part of her research, Dr Anne Galloway from the Faculty of Architecture and Design designs imaginary scenarios for issues that are out for public consultation or that are of public interest, in order to provoke debate and enhance the consultation process.

For instance, next year, the Government is planning to make the electronic tagging of cattle mandatory for the purpose of collecting biosecurity data—when the animals are born, sold and when they go to slaughter. However, there has been little opportunity for producers and consumers to publicly debate the merit of this programme.

"If we are tracking these animals anyway, could we use existing technologies to do other things as well?" asks Anne.

Anne's current work, funded through a Marsden Fast Start grant, explores ways of communicating effectively with a variety of audiences. Based on



Kotahitanga Farm livestock entrance—a speculative urban merino farm design. Credit: Hamish McPhail and Peggy Russell

feedback from woolgrowers, industry and government, she has worked with architecture and design students to develop videos about the New Zealand merino wool brand and visual mock-ups for an urban merino farm that demonstrates the potential of new technologies and data visualisation.

"My agenda is basically democratic and educational. I want an active, participatory government and for people to understand new technologies and how they get used.

"A basic criterion for success to me would be if my work led someone to understand or think about technology or farming differently.

"If somebody says they were then able to act on that knowledge in a particular way and do something for their community or change the way that industry did something or that policy was made, that would be even better."

www.designculturelab.org

anne.galloway@vuw.ac.nz
+64-4-463 6230

From the Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Pasifika), Associate Professor Hon Luamanuvao Winnie Laban

Specifically Pacific—Pasifika at Vic



Last year Victoria University took an unprecedented step by creating the role of Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Pasifika). I am privileged to be the first appointee to that position, which is unique among New Zealand universities, and I'm excited about working with others to make a difference for our Pacific people.

Pacific people make up more than 7 percent of the New Zealand population and more than 60 percent are New Zealand born. Last year, 1,154 Pasifika students were enrolled at Victoria.

Unfortunately, national statistics show that Pasifika students aren't doing as well as European and Asian students in tertiary education. We have some wonderful success stories, many through Victoria—which has seen a marked increase in Pasifika enrolments over the last decade—but our challenge is to work across the University to grow Pasifika numbers and encourage current students to continue studying and complete their degrees successfully.

The Government's Tertiary Education Strategy notes that, while the last five years have seen a greater proportion of Pasifika people in tertiary education studying at Bachelor level or above, they are still over represented in lower-level study. Completion rates for Pasifika students are also lower than for any other group.

Victoria is looking at ways to increase the number of Pasifika students achieving at higher levels, and to boost numbers in faculties with low Pasifika representation.

Victoria—the university of choice

We want Victoria University to be the university of choice for Pasifika staff and students. We already have good programmes in place—including the Outreach programme in local secondary schools which helps Pasifika students prepare for university, our student learning support and mentoring programmes and scholarships and financial assistance for those experiencing hardship.

We also have a programme where tutors are appointed to assist Māori and Pacific students in faculties. Meeting the tutors recently made a strong impression on me, as it was clear that not only are they working alongside students

who are not doing well in particular courses and supporting them to lift their grades, they are also learning from them about Pasifika culture. That is the environment we seek to foster at Victoria—one of family and community where people can come together and share and learn from each other. We are working to create an environment that not only nurtures and supports diversity and belonging, but also supports all groups such as Pasifika to paddle their canoe equally to reach their destination: in this case, graduation. This statement is summed up in the Tongan metaphor “Takana enau fohe”.

New initiatives

Our Pasifika team in the Academic Office has been working with Victoria's Research Office to initiate a Pasifika Researchers' Network, which had its inaugural meeting in July, attended by 60 people. Our academics who are undertaking research in the Pacific get together to network and share ideas, and look at ways of working more effectively across disciplines. The network helps us identify what research is being carried out by Victoria in the Pacific region, and what the gaps might be.

“We are working to create an environment that not only nurtures and supports diversity and belonging, but also supports all groups such as Pasifika to paddle their canoe equally to reach their destination: in this case, graduation.”

One of the first things I did when I arrived at Victoria was to commission an exploratory research project, which is currently being completed, to help our understanding of the triggers for success and failure of Pasifika students. This research and an advisory committee consisting of one representative from each faculty was set up in consultation with each of the Pro Vice-Chancellors (PVCs). We want to continue this work with our PVCs and our Central Service Units to identify some clear actions from this research and other information we have gathered.

I meet regularly with PVCs and others from within the faculties and Heads of Central Service Units to consult about data and the current status of our Pasifika students. This helps us understand what support is in place.

We are currently developing a university-wide Pasifika strategy in partnership with faculties

and Central Service Units that will complement each of the University's eight strategic goals. The Pasifika student success plan will be our first outcome from this work.

A wealth of opportunities

The dearth of Pacific people with PhDs is a challenge when looking at increasing academic Pasifika staff at Victoria. Pacific people can make a positive contribution to the world of knowledge and their languages and cultures. They also bring invaluable links to our University. I am encouraged by the initiative of our Pro Vice-Chancellor (Education), Professor Dugald Scott, who recently established three new assistant lectureship roles to tutor, lecture part time and study for their PhDs or Master's, which I hope will attract more Pasifika applications. This is a first step in looking at ways to build Pacific research capacity at Victoria.

In June, we launched a new website, Pasifika at Vic (www.victoria.ac.nz/vicpasifika). We are proud of this website which includes Pasifika events, profiles of current students and alumni, and information on support and activities for Pasifika students. It is a point of entry that is designed to connect Victoria with prospective and current Pasifika students, as well as alumni—in New Zealand, our Pacific region and abroad—and it will keep our community up to date with the latest Pasifika-related news at Victoria.

The lead designer of the website, Fa'asalele Malo, of Malo Architecture, who graduated from Victoria in 2004 with a Bachelor of Architecture (Hons), introduced the website at our launch, which was attended by Pasifika media and a number of Pacific Island High Commissioners. There were also speeches by Victoria alumna Priscilla Va'a-Agius, now intermediate counsel for Wellington firm Pacific Law, and Pala Molisa, now a lecturer at the School of Accounting and Commercial Law.

These outstanding alumni are shining examples of what our Pasifika students can achieve and together we at Victoria will continue to navigate greater numbers of Pasifika students and more shining examples each year. It is good that we in New Zealand can continue to celebrate our Pacific identity and nationhood. “Takana enau fohe.”

M&M sorter showcases engineering graduates' skills



Dayna-Maree Kivell demonstrates her M&M sorter.
Credit: The Dominion Post

A machine that automatically sorts M&M chocolates into their different colours is the brainchild of one of Victoria's first Engineering graduates.

Dayna-Maree Kivell built the M&M sorter for her final-year project and graduated in May with her classmates—the first graduates of the Bachelor of Engineering.

The M&M sorter can recognise each of the six colours in a packet of M&Ms. A sensor identifies the colour by scanning the amount of red, green and blue in each chocolate. It then drops the M&Ms into different containers for each colour.

“It determines the colour very quickly,” says Dayna-Maree. “After that, a turntable at the bottom rotates to allow the machine to drop the M&Ms in the relevant container. It all takes about five seconds.

“The idea was to simulate an industrial process—a car assembly plant for example—by using a programmable logic controller. We chose a sorting process and decided on the M&Ms because they demonstrated this process very visually.

As well as being a handy late night snack, going through packets of M&Ms revealed something interesting.

“There aren't very many yellows—they're definitely the rarest,” says Dayna-Maree.

Victoria began teaching the four-year Bachelor of Engineering degree in 2007, building on the University's existing expertise from the previous offerings of the Bachelor of Information Technology and Bachelor of Science and Technology.

The Engineering programme focuses on the digital technology that drives the modern world, from electronics to communications to software.

Of the graduating students, around half are currently working in the industry and the other half has gone on to further study.

Dayna-Maree is now doing her Master's in Engineering and is working on developing materials and devices that can be used in ultrasound applications, such as medical ultrasound imaging.

www.victoria.ac.nz/be

Cultural histories mapped

Māori cultural and social history is being mapped in an online project that is firing the imaginations of Te Kawa a Māui/Māori Studies students.

Since 2010, students have been developing an electronic cultural atlas of their research. The project has introduced about 300 students to mapping technology such as Google Earth.

The Te Kawa a Māui Atlas includes geo-biographies of key historical figures in Māoridom, an interactive map of pā sites in Wellington and a time-map of protest occupations, amongst others.

Information on the site is layered—for example, one layer will talk about history of the area, one will talk about songs, another Māori court issues, or the archaeology of the region—and all of that information can be linked in dynamic ways.

One of the leaders of the project, Ocean Mercier, says the atlas has a central purpose—to engage students in interesting research.

“The amount of work they have put into their projects is testament to how much they are enjoying it. Many of them are blown away by what you can do and what you can represent with the mapping software.”



Science and Indigenous Knowledge students learnt about Māori heritage sites in Wellington by co-producing a map of sites while learning to use Google Earth.

Ocean says it makes sense to map Māori histories in such a way.

“A lot of Māori stories are embedded in the landscape anyway, so it makes sense to use a landscape-based tool to tell those stories. It's about retelling them in a dynamic visual environment.”

Head of School Peter Adds says the atlas, which he hopes will eventually reach an international audience, is showing some positive signs of addressing issues of Māori retention and success rates.

“Research on student retention and success suggests that if you engage students in research early, it can address that issue of keeping them in study. It's early days, but the atlas project is certainly working on an engagement level.”

The project has been supported by Victoria's Teaching and Learning Fund 2010, and by the Summer Scholars scheme.

ocean.mercier@vuw.ac.nz
+64-4-463 7457

Writing fiction from a place of truth



David Vann in his short story masterclass.

The best fiction writing comes from a place of psychological truth, and often cuts close to the writer's own painful experiences, says American writer David Vann.

"To be a writer, you basically have to give up any sense of shame. You have to be willing to sacrifice things close to you. It's much harder to write something that is detached from your own experience."

It's a message he has stressed with the students who take his short story masterclass at Victoria's International Institute of Modern Letters.

"New Zealand culture is more reticent than American culture. Americans are famous for telling you their life story in the first 20 minutes. Writing stuff that is close to the bone probably comes easier in that context."

David's *Legend of a Suicide*, a book of stories set around his father's suicide, won awards in the USA, France and Spain, and has appeared on 40 'Best Books of the Year' lists worldwide. Since it was published in 2008, his writing career has gone from strength to strength.

He is hoping to help New Zealand writers gain the same sense of satisfaction he has achieved by turning the thing they love into a career—but is well aware of the challenges involved.

"Writing careers really go up and down—there is a lot of luck involved. You have to do something else for a job to support yourself."

Each of his masterclasses—which he describes as full of "future superstars"—workshops two of the student's own short stories.

"We are really trying to understand how we can make the work as good as possible—polished and publishable, but also ambitious and fully developed."

Despite the cultural difference, he has been amazed by the writing talent in New Zealand, which he calls his home for six months of the year.

David is on a Guggenheim Fellowship for the next year, but hopes to return to Victoria in 2013.

modernletters@vuw.ac.nz

Inside the Dragon's Den



IRL Chief Executive Shaun Coffey (foreground) announces Resene as the winner of 'What's Your Problem New Zealand?' with Prime Minister's Science Adviser Professor Sir Peter Gluckman. Credit: Alan Wright, Shiny Blue Orb

It's the final day of Industrial Research Limited's (IRL) Leadership Development Programme (LDP) and stomachs are churning as teams of four prepare to enter the Dragon's Den.

After four days of leadership training, the staff of the Crown Research Institute are ready to present their ideas to their chief executive and a panel of experts. Who will make the best impression?

Developed in partnership with Victoria Management School, the LDP was implemented in late 2008 and has become an integral part of the company. To date, around 100 of IRL's 300 staff have been on the programme, which requires them to dream up innovative ideas for the company.

"The best way to develop leadership skills is to come up with an idea, take it forward and see if people will follow—not just to follow leadership theory," says Stephen Cummings, Head of Victoria Management School and creator of the programme.

This concept reflects Chief Executive Shaun Coffey's own philosophy of leading from the middle. His staff are encouraged to develop ideas, based on the theoretical frameworks, guidance and thinking time they receive on the LDP.

It's a philosophy that has paid off. For instance, one highly successful idea generated from the programme has been 'What's Your Problem New Zealand?', in which IRL offered \$1 million of free research to the New Zealand company with the most interesting problem. As a result, the winning company Resene is working with IRL to create paint made from sustainable materials.

Stephen Cummings says buy-in from the Chief Executive is essential for the success of the programme. "Having Shaun speak to staff at the beginning and the awareness he'll be on the panel at the end creates a sense of urgency. There's enough tension to make it real, but not so much that jobs are on the line."

"The LDP has fostered risk-taking behaviour in an autonomous and responsible way," says Shaun.

"It has helped to unleash the creativity inherent in our staff in a way that has led to sustained performance."

stephen.cummings@vuw.ac.nz
+64-4-463 6931

Connecting across time and cultures



While most students were sleeping, at 1am Claudia Ducrot was only just logging in to her computer to meet with fellow students from around the world.

As part of her third-year paper IBUS 306 Experiencing Management Across Cultures, Claudia was required to take part in an international competition that involved leading a global virtual team to come up with a business concept proposal within three weeks.

In the lead-up to the competition, known as the Global Enterprise Experience (GEE), run in partnership with external provider Te Kaihau Ltd, she studied cross-cultural communication and techniques for managing a global team online.

Claudia's team members were from Colombia, Malaysia, Nigeria and Pakistan, which meant juggling five different time zones.

"At the 'ideas' stage we met online regularly and discussed our thoughts, and as we got to know each other better the ideas just kept bouncing off each other," says Claudia.

"What was cool was that even though we were all so different in terms of culture and language, we were all able to think together for a united goal."

This year's topic was the development of a profitable product or service to foster indigenous development. Claudia's team's proposal of a mangrove beekeeping venture among the Wayuu community on Colombia-Venezuelan peninsula was the winning entry out of 69 teams, and received \$7,000 in prize money, donated by ANZ through the Victoria University Foundation.

The plan involved releasing bees to collect pollen from black mangrove trees and exporting the organic honey produced to the European Union, which has the highest demand for organic honey in the world.

"Learning through doing is what makes the GEE project so worthwhile," says Claudia.

"And afterwards we write a journal reflecting on our experience and on the research articles we have read, which makes us work out how to handle it better next time."

www.victoria.ac.nz/smib/courses/IBUS-306.aspx

Forty years of shaping legal minds

In 1971, email was invented, New Zealand announced its withdrawal of troops from Vietnam, women were granted the right to vote in Switzerland—and Professor David McLauchlan joined Victoria's Faculty of Law.

Forty years on, David, who became a professor at age 33, is still going strong. "I am still thoroughly enjoying my writing and teaching, and hope to reach half a century," he says.

A function was held in June to launch a special edition of the *Victoria University of Wellington Law Review*, dedicated to David's substantial contribution to the law. Among the 100-plus attendees were the Chief Justice and several Justices of the Supreme Court and Court of Appeal.

David is widely respected, having been voted Best Lecturer at the Faculty of Law several times. He has also received university awards for excellence in teaching and research.

Former student Hon Simon Power, Minister of Justice, spoke at the launch, fondly recalling David's classes and their lasting impact. "I remember him focusing for weeks on one point—a habit I also now employ with officials, driving them crazy with questions about a clause, a word or a description."



Left to right: Professor David McLauchlan, the Right Honourable Justice Sir Peter Blanchard, Minister of Justice Hon Simon Power and Vice-Chancellor Professor Pat Walsh.

The Right Honourable Justice Sir Peter Blanchard, who has been on the receiving end of some of David's critiques of judgments, commented, "Anyone researching David's writings would be struck by both the quantity and quality of them and would realise just what an influence he has had both in New Zealand and elsewhere on development in his specialist subject, contract law."

As well as more than 100 legal articles, David has

written two textbooks that have been widely cited—*The Parol Evidence Rule* published in 1976 and *The Contractual Remedies Act 1979*, written with Francis Dawson.

Still an active researcher, he says, "I live by this guiding principle from Harold J Berman—'If a scholar is not a teacher his scholarship will be sterile. If a teacher is not a scholar his teaching will be superficial!'"

david.mclauchlan@vu.ac.nz
+64-4-463 6352

Hooking them on the game



Creating games with strong storylines, quirky characters and offbeat humour helps you stand out in the cut-throat game developing business, says alumnus Tristan Clark.

He should know—at just 27, Tristan is one half of an independent game development company, Launching Pad Games, that is enjoying a rush of critical acclaim for one of its latest creations, *Scarlett and the Spark of Life*.

The game, which can be played on an iPhone or iPod Touch, follows the adventures of a sassy, crowbar-wielding princess and her grumpy mechanical horse. It has had consistently good reviews and has been featured on Apple's 'What's Hot' list.

Tristan has a BA(Hons) in English Literature and says a love of words and stories—and his university training in dissecting them—is proving invaluable.

"We want to create worlds, characters and narratives that people fall in love with. Being able to use what I learned at university is fantastic."

Tristan dabbled in journalism after graduating from Victoria but eventually plucked up the courage to pursue his passion for gaming.

"Having never specialised in one particular discipline, like coding or art, I knew I'd have a hard time getting a job at a pre-established game studio. I've had to carve out my own unique space in the industry."

Tristan started by producing a downloadable PC game with help from an animator he met online. He made a prototype and found a publisher but things really took off when he met business partner Tim Knauf—another English Literature graduate—several years ago.

Tristan says having to learn about marketing and dealing with the isolation that goes with being a two-man company have been challenging experiences.

"Game developers aren't always known for being sociable, but it's vital to get out there and meet other people doing the same things as you. It's all about making connections, no matter what industry you are in."

tristan@launchingpadgames.com
+ 64-27-363 4883

Royal wedding trumpeters

Moments after Prince William and Kate Middleton took their vows in Westminster Abbey, a trumpet fanfare rang out with two Victoria alumni part of the pomp and ceremony.

Corporal Hamish Dean and Senior Aircraftman Michael McGowan are part of the Royal Air Force fanfare team that played at the royal wedding in April.

The eight-member group performed the specially composed piece *Valiant and Brave*, named for the motto of the RAF's 22 Squadron in which Prince William serves as a search and rescue pilot in North Wales.

"Knowing that Prince William was serving in the RAF, we hoped that our team would have some kind of involvement—and as members of the fanfare team we had our fingers crossed that it would be us that would be chosen," says Hamish.

Michael says that playing at the service was the highlight of their careers.

"It was a truly amazing experience—the sense of anticipation built and built until the day itself. It was wonderful to be a part of history and to perform with the world watching.

"Most of us didn't expect to be so moved by the occasion but once we blew the first phrase of the piece, we all relaxed and really enjoyed it," says Michael.

Michael and Hamish have known each other since studying music together at Victoria. Michael began studying in 1998; Hamish had started two years before. In 2004, Hamish left New Zealand to join the Central Band of the RAF with Michael following suit two years later.



Alumni Hamish Dean (left) and Michael McGowan. Credit: RAF Central Band

Michael's wife Miriam studied at Victoria too, graduating with a Bachelor of Laws and a Bachelor of Music. She is also in the RAF Central Band and played with the band outside Horse Guards as Prince William and Kate Middleton made their separate ways to Westminster before leaving the Abbey as the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge.

Overseas alumni events

Vice-Chancellor Professor Pat Walsh hosted three very successful alumni events while in Asia on business earlier this year.

Ambassador of New Zealand in Beijing His Excellency Carl Worker and Consul-General in Hong Kong Adele Bryant generously offered their official residences to welcome Victoria alumni who were clearly delighted to meet with fellow alumni as well as diplomatic officials and Victoria staff.

The New Zealand Central facility in downtown Shanghai, New Zealand business hub and home of the New Zealand consulate and other government agencies also provided an excellent venue for alumni to catch up—and even included a tui recording in the lift.



Guest speaker and Principal of Wigram Capital Advisors in Beijing Rodney Jones chats with Pro Vice-Chancellor (International) Professor Rob Rabel.



New Zealand Ambassador in Beijing His Excellency Carl Worker and Vice-Chancellor Professor Pat Walsh greet alumni Peng Geng and Ken Zhang at the Ambassador's Residence.



Nearly 70 alumni, including international MBA graduates, gathered at the stunning residence of the Consul-General Adele Bryant in Hong Kong.



John and Ivy Lees, Daniel Martin and Rosie McKenzie, and Warwick Haldane enjoy catching up in Hong Kong on the balcony over a wine.



Zhengping Song and Chris Bentley swap stories at the alumni event at New Zealand Central in the heart of Shanghai.



Pyong-Mun Yun and wife Elaine are entertained by alumnus Jordon Lee in Shanghai.

Sweet smell of success



Photo supplied by Chris Yu

Rather than the smell of an oily rag, alumnus Chris Yu's business is run off the scent of high end perfumes.

Chris, who is based in the UK, runs United Perfumes, a manufacturing and licensing business for perfumes, candles and lotions.

"Licensing is a big deal for the fashion industry," says Chris. "Fashion houses can produce a perfume without having to actually make it themselves—Calvin Klein, for example, licenses their name to companies like Unilever."

United Perfumes holds global licences for a number of exclusive brands, including Italian design company Fornasetti. Chris set up the company with business partner Laurent Delafon in 2007 after selling their previous business Saint-Germain, which they'd run for seven years, employing a staff of 50.

"Saint-Germain distributed Diptyque fragrances and candles in the UK and Ireland so we had good knowledge of the industry. Fortunately we sold it just before the markets crashed—lots of people doing similar things have gone under.

"But it's been good timing to grow United Perfumes. People are buying 'little luxuries'—champagne sales are up, lipsticks are selling well and perfumes and scented candles are in high demand," says Chris.

Chris grew up in retail, working after school and in university holidays at his family's chain of Hutt Cameras stores. After graduating from Victoria with a Bachelor of Commerce in 1997 and a law degree in 1999, he worked at PricewaterhouseCoopers in Wellington before heading to London and bank Credit Suisse First Boston.

"At the bank, I did some work for luxury brands and came into contact with lots of their team and retailers throughout the UK.

"Since that introduction to the world of fashion, our own businesses have focused on the top end of the market with clients like Tom Ford, Karl Lagerfeld and P Diddy. Our products are differentiated by their distribution so they are fairly rare and exclusive."

www.united-perfumes.com

Upcoming alumni events

Tue 23 Aug	Wellington, for graduates of 1970–90, hosted at Parliament by Hon Chris Finlayson
Fri 16 Sep	Melbourne, Australia
Fri 23 Sep	Auckland
Mon 26 Sep	Jakarta, Indonesia
Tue 27 Sep	Bangkok, Thailand
Thu 29 Sep	Hanoi, Vietnam
Thu 29 Sep	Washington DC, United States
Sat 1 Oct	Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
Sun 2 Oct	Wellington, pre-All Black match

For more information, go to www.victoria.ac.nz/alumni

International alumni groups

Victoria has alumni groups in Beijing, Germany, Hong Kong, Kuala Lumpur, Melbourne, New York, Shanghai and Singapore.

For contact details, go to www.victoria.ac.nz/alumni

FIND US ON facebook

We invite you to join our new alumni Facebook page. The page will be updated regularly so you can keep in touch with the University, other alumni and the latest events. Simply search on Facebook for 'Victoria University of Wellington Alumni'.

The University also has a Facebook page—'Victoria University of Wellington'.

Send us your email address

Do you receive our alumni e-newsletter every few months? If not, it's because we don't have your email address. Email us at alumni@vuw.ac.nz to get connected and receive invitations to our events.

Leading the geothermal field



Photo supplied by Dr Malcolm Grant

When Dr Malcolm Grant started his research career, his employers decided he should focus on geothermal energy. It turned out to be an inspired move.

Malcolm, an independent geothermal expert, has had his career achievements honoured by the Geothermal Resources Council which presented him with its national award in 2010—the Henry J Ramey, Jr. Geothermal Reservoir Engineering Award.

Based in the United States, the Council is one of the world's leading geothermal research associations, with members in more than 30 countries.

Malcolm is highly regarded for co-authoring a book, first published in 1982, that has become a standard text for students and practitioners. He is also widely respected for his work in interpreting measurements taken in geothermal wells.

Malcolm gained Honours degrees in Physics and Mathematics at Victoria and a PhD in Applied Mathematics at the prestigious Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

He then joined the DSIR, the forerunner of New Zealand's Crown research institutes, and was given a role combining data interpretation with theoretical work in the geothermal research team.

"I like to bury myself in data and work out what it means, and that was just what was needed in the geothermal area at that time."

After a restructuring of the science sector in the early 1990s, Malcolm became the first head of NIWA (the National Institute for Water and Atmospheric Research) and led the organisation for three years. He attributes the appointment to being one of relatively few scientists at the time who were comfortable with a commercial focus.

"I've always thought what we did should be useful and have an end purpose."

Malcolm says the development of better instruments that can work reliably at high temperatures as well as improved computer simulation are contributing to a "solid future" for the geothermal industry.

mkgrant@farmside.co.nz

Alumni appointed to the bench

Victoria congratulates three alumni recently appointed as judges—barristers Stephen Kós and Christopher Toogood were appointed to the High Court, and Justice John Richard Wild was appointed to the Court of Appeal.



Justice Kós. Credit: Pat Shepherd

Justice Kós

Stephen Kós QC has been appointed a High Court judge, sitting in Wellington.

Justice Kós graduated with a Bachelor of Laws (First Class Honours) in 1981, winning the Chapman Tripp Centenary Prize for his graduating year. In 1985 he graduated with a Master of Laws from Cambridge.

He founded Stout Street Chambers in 2007 and was appointed Queen's Counsel the same year. At the time of his judicial appointment he was Pro-Chancellor of Massey University and Chairman of the NZX Disciplinary Tribunal. He remains an honorary lecturer in law at Victoria.



Justice Toogood. Credit: Manukau Courier

Justice Toogood

Christopher Holden Toogood QC has been appointed a High Court judge, sitting in Auckland.

Justice Toogood graduated from Victoria in 1972 and was admitted as a barrister and solicitor the following year.

After 18 years as a litigation lawyer, he joined the independent bar in 1990 and was appointed Queen's Counsel in 1999. He specialised in civil and commercial litigation, employment, sports and criminal law. He also served as an arbitrator and mediator in employment and other civil disputes.



Justice Wild. Credit: Photography by Woolf

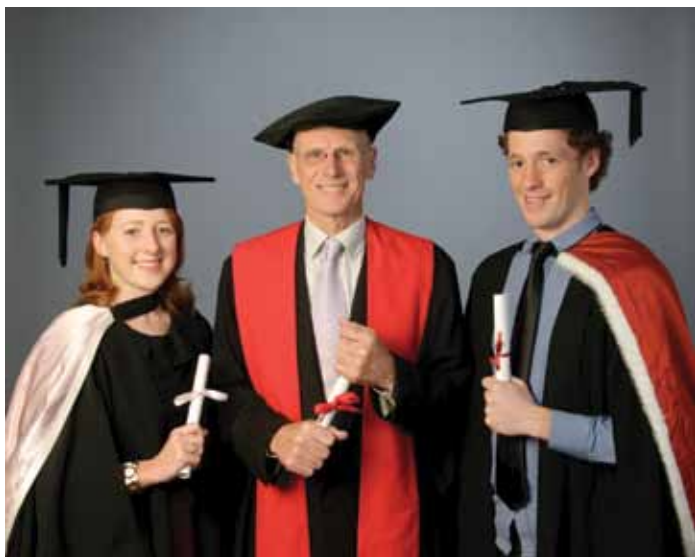
Justice Wild

Justice John Richard Wild, a High Court judge since 1998, has been appointed to the Court of Appeal.

He graduated from Victoria in 1968 and was admitted to the bar in 1969. After three years with Bell Gully, he commenced practice as a barrister in Wellington in 1976. He was appointed Queen's Counsel in 1993. He has been an author of *McGechan on Procedure* since its publication in 1985.

From 1992 to 1998 he was a member of the Council of the New Zealand Bar Association and served as President in 1998.

A family affair



Left to right: Sarah Palmer, Michael Reid, Hamish Palmer. Credit: Photography by Woolf

Graduation is often a family affair but the term took on new meaning at Victoria's May celebrations when two siblings and their father all received degrees.

It went from youngest to oldest with 23-year-old Hamish Palmer graduating at the first ceremony with a Bachelor of Design. The next day, his 25-year-old sister Sarah Palmer received her BA(Hons) in Sociology while their father, Michael Reid, was presented with a PhD in Public Policy at the final ceremony.

"We had a lot of café celebrations that week," says Michael, who is Manager of Governance for Local Government New Zealand.

The trio lived and studied together for most of the past four years although they were all at different campuses—Hamish at Te Aro, Sarah at Kelburn and Michael based in Rutherford House.

Studying at the same time meant competition to get on the computer, and academic topics sometimes dominated dinnertime conversation, but it also brought benefits.

"I had this idea that if I was sitting down writing, Hamish and Sarah would do the same," says Michael.

The other member of the household—Ruth Palmer—also passed on good habits that she learnt during her study for a Master's in Public Policy from Victoria in the 1990s.

Michael's PhD research examined options for strengthening community governance in New Zealand. It took him six years to complete, during which time he had to begin kidney dialysis. "The last stretch felt like climbing Mount Everest."

Michael says studying is probably over for him. Instead, he's working on a book that will introduce policy in local government to tertiary students.

Sarah's taking time off but says she may return to Victoria and Hamish is even more definite. "I want to work in website design for a few years but seeing Dad get his PhD has inspired me to eventually go back and get my Master's."

mike.reid@lgnz.co.nz
palmer.sarah24@gmail.com
palmer.hamish@gmail.com

Honouring two of New Zealand's leading lights

Victoria conferred honorary degrees on one of New Zealand's finest musicians and a world-leading physicist at the May graduation ceremonies.

Michael Houstoun

Michael Houstoun is an acclaimed musician, with an unmatched record in international competition, having placed at three of the world's most distinguished piano competitions.

He has performed regularly with every professional ensemble in New Zealand, and frequently appears with smaller ensembles around the country.



Credit: Photography by Woolf

In 2008 he was awarded a Lilburn Trust Award for his services to New Zealand music.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Pat Walsh says Michael Houstoun's services to New Zealand music have enriched our musical culture.

"Through his commitment to live and work in New Zealand he has contributed substantially to raising the standard of expectations for classical performance, and helped to establish an international standard of musical excellence in New Zealand, which is being built on by the New Zealand School of Music."

Bob Buckley

World-leading physicist and manager of Industrial Research Limited's (IRL) Superconductivity and Energy Group Dr Bob Buckley has led IRL's research into the synthesis, discovery and application of high

temperature superconductor (HTS) materials and managed their commercialisation.



Credit: Photography by Woolf

HTS technology underpins new developments that allow the transmission of electricity without resistance or loss of energy. This enables the manufacture of lighter, smaller and more efficient electrical equipment than can be achieved with existing copper wire technology.

Professor Pat Walsh says that Dr Buckley is at the forefront of the industry, playing a key role in developing New Zealand's strategy for capturing the benefits of HTS discoveries.

In 2004 he was awarded the Royal Society of New Zealand's prestigious technology honour, the Pickering Medal, in 2009 he won Wellingtonian of the Year in the Science and Technology category and in 2010 he was jointly awarded the inaugural Prime Minister's Science Prize.

New Visiting Fellow programme in Economics



Victoria University alumnus Professor Stephen Turnovsky has made a substantial donation to establish a Visiting Scholar Programme at Victoria's School of Economics and Finance.

A distinguished international scholar and researcher in economics, Stephen completed a Bachelor of Arts in Mathematics at Victoria in 1962 and a Master of Arts with First Class Honours in Mathematics in 1963 before completing a PhD in Economics at Harvard.

"I have been fortunate to have a successful career and for that I owe a great debt to Victoria for the start that it gave me," Professor Turnovsky says.

"Much of my career has involved joint work, which is how the economics profession has been evolving over the past 20 years or so—and which I personally have found very rewarding. Part of my motivation is to facilitate that kind of development at Victoria.

"My hope is that Victoria will bring out interesting scholars from abroad resulting in some productive interactions, including collaborative research."

Professor Morris Altman, Head of the School of Economics and Finance, is excited about the research that will come out of the new programme. "The programme will contribute to the enrichment and intensity of research activity in our school," he says.

The programme has been established through the Victoria University Foundation. The first scholar will take up the position in mid-2012 for a period of one to two months. Funding will cover return airfares, accommodation and other expenses.

Professor Turnovsky has held academic appointments in the United States, Canada and Australia, as well as working extensively in a number of other countries. He currently holds the Castor Chair of Economics at the University of Washington in Seattle, where he has been for the past 24 years. His research focuses on the application of mathematical models and methods to the analysis of economic problems, particularly the dynamic aspects.

Contributing to finance policy



Left to right: Peter Hughes, Chief Executive, Ministry of Social Development; John Shewan, Chairman, PricewaterhouseCoopers; Professor Pat Walsh, Vice-Chancellor; Andrew Kibblewhite, Deputy Chief Executive, the Treasury; Bob Russell, Commissioner, Inland Revenue Department.

What are the financial implications of an ageing population? Is government expenditure on welfare sustainable? And what does global public debt mean for New Zealand?

A new Chair in Public Finance at Victoria will consider these issues and more. Established through the Victoria University Foundation, the position is based in the Faculty of Commerce and Administration.

"The new Chair will reinforce the links between research and public policy by focusing on critical fiscal policy issues facing New Zealand," says Professor Bob Buckle, Pro Vice-Chancellor of the Faculty.

Along with research to generate a greater understanding of public finance, the Chair will undertake teaching within the Faculty and work with academics at Victoria and other universities in New Zealand as well as internationally.

"We have recently seen significant public contribution through the Tax Working Group, which combined Victoria's expertise through the Centre of Accounting, Governance and Taxation Research with that of the Treasury and the Inland Revenue Department, and through university staff participation on government advisory groups.

"I hope that the Chair in Public Finance can also make a significant contribution to public debate and discussion, and to rigorous academic research that can inform government policy."

The Ministry for Social Development, the Treasury, the Inland Revenue Department and PricewaterhouseCoopers are sponsoring partners of the Chair.

Peter Hughes, Chief Executive of the Ministry of Social Development, says that the Chair will address some big challenges facing New Zealand in the coming years.

"The state of public finances affects all New Zealanders, and joining up academia with the private sector and public sector gives us the best chance of addressing the really hard problems," says Peter, who in September will become Head of Victoria's School of Government.

"Improving our understanding of the distributional impacts of different types of taxes, public spending and welfare policies is vital if we are to develop and implement policies to make a real difference in the lives of New Zealanders."

Off the Press

The Best of Best New Zealand Poems and *The Hill of Wool* 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



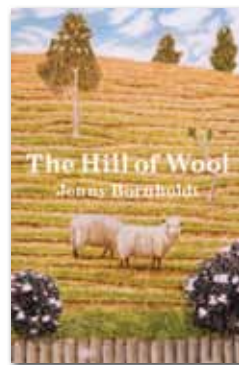
The Best of Best New Zealand Poems

Edited by Bill Manhire and Damien Wilkins

Each year, for the past 10 years, 25 poems by New Zealand poets have been selected by a guest editor and anthologised online in the steadily growing collection *Best New Zealand Poems*. Edited by Bill Manhire and Damien Wilkins, *The Best of Best New Zealand Poems* has drawn from this pool, becoming an essential who's who of contemporary New Zealand poetry (and how very nice it is too, having all these best poems not only in one place, but in one ink-and-paper volume). The 65 poems, each by a different poet, are prefaced by a witty and insightful introduction from Damien Wilkins (fittingly concluded with a poem by Bill Manhire). A comprehensive notes section completes the anthology, with a brief biography for each of the featured poets, along with a short passage detailing the inspiration for, or explanation of, their poem.

Arranged alphabetically by poet, *The Best of Best New Zealand Poems* surveys the exciting depth of poetry in New Zealand during the first decade of the 21st century, but might serve equally to introduce poets, or indeed poetry itself, to the uninitiated. Turning the pages of this anthology is a thoroughly rewarding reading experience. Familiar names are encountered, favourite poems are once again delighted in, overlooked faces are pulled from the crowd and new introductions are made. There is nothing dry or academic here; this is a lively, colourful and celebratory anthology.

www.nzetc.org/iiml/bestnzpoems



The Hill of Wool

By Jenny Bornholdt

The Hill of Wool is the latest offering from Jenny Bornholdt, written while she was Writer in Residence at Victoria University last year. It is in many ways a departure from the six long poems of her previous collection *The Rocky Shore*, which won the Montana New Zealand Book Award for Poetry in 2009.

This is a cohesive collection which features variation in both tone and form—each poem is elegant, but not necessarily composed in the long, languid lines which so characterised the poems in *The Rocky Shore*. Here, a choppiness and brevity are equally salient, and equally compelling. There are many poems which are reminiscent of childhood rhyme and song, and the chiming language and charming cadence work to emphasise changing understandings of the world, or a changing world. This all begins to sound very serious, and to imply this is a collection devoid of levity would be a huge injustice. Bornholdt possesses a wry observational humour which rests comfortably beside, and often within, poems that are more solemn (but never grim) in tone.

The Hill of Wool is concerned with memory, reflecting on events and, on occasion, memory itself. The collection is a softly-spoken series of recollections, offering the reader small windows into the life and thought process of the poet. These are windows sometimes tinted by nostalgia, and at other times by a sombre awareness of the passage of time.



Briony Pentecost describes herself as an avid reader and writer. She is currently completing a Master of Arts (MA) in Creative Writing at Victoria.

Free-floating planets discovered

Large planets drifting through space were once the stuff of science fiction, but a Victoria professor is part of a Kiwi-led international team that has discovered their existence.

Victoria astrophysicist Professor Denis Sullivan says, unlike previously known planets, these Jupiter-sized objects do not orbit stars. Instead, they move freely through the galaxy.

"Free floating planets emit negligible light so you can't see them like you can stars. Also, there are no nearby stars to produce reflected light," says Professor Sullivan.

"To find the planets, we used a technique called gravitational microlensing that observes how light from a background star bends in the gravitational field of a massive object in the foreground, like these planets."

The research, which was published in the prestigious journal, *Nature*, was carried out by a New Zealand/Japanese collaboration of astronomers known as MOA—"Microlensing Observations in Astrophysics"—together with another collaboration based in Chile. The team involved researchers from Massey, Auckland, Canterbury and Victoria Universities, and from Japan and the United States.

Download a PDF here: <http://bit.ly/qk3auW>



Artist's impression of a free floating planet.
Image: Ian Bond

Head of School becomes Productivity Commissioner



Former Head of Victoria Management School Professor Sally Davenport (pictured above) has been appointed one of the commissioners of the Productivity Commission, a new government agency.

Pro Vice-Chancellor and Dean of Commerce Professor Bob Buckle says Sally will be a great asset for the Commission.

"Sally's impressive record of research, teaching and leadership in the fields of commercialisation of scientific research, innovation and productivity position her well for this role. Her appointment will also further strengthen the deep links that exist between the University and the public policy community."

The Commission's first task is to investigate housing affordability.

It's Kiwi as, eh?



Why is it not wrong to be doubly negative? Where does the 'f-word' come from? Do New Zealanders mangle the English language? We use it every day, but what is language and are there rights and wrongs about its use? Four leading Victoria linguists, Professors Laurie Bauer and Janet Holmes, Associate Professor Paul Warren and Dr Dianne Bardsley, tackle the common-place and quirky questions that arise from New Zealand English in a new book, *Q & Eh: Questions and Answers on Language with a Kiwi Twist*, recently published by Random House. The book is a revised version of the popular language columns they write for *The Dominion Post*.

Smarter software



One of James Noble's students, Craig Anslow, has developed a multi-touch table to analyse software, helping to create better systems.

Victoria scientists are combining their expertise with collaborators at universities around New Zealand to come up with faster, more flexible and more affordable ways of developing software.

They are researching the Agile approach, which involves self-organising teams that develop software in close collaboration with customers, conducting testing along the way.

"It's a contrast to traditional approaches where as much as half the effort can go into planning, detailed documentation and formal sign off. But although Agile is popular, many aspects have not been researched until now," says Professor James Noble from Victoria's School of Engineering and Computer Science.

The four-year project is funded by the Ministry of Science and Innovation and has input from a range of industry partners.



From the series 'Behind Closed Doors', 2011. Credit: Neil Pardington

Opening the door to Wellington's private collections

Behind the doors of Wellington homes are art collections that could rival any show a museum could put together—and the latest exhibition at the Adam Art Gallery takes these works out of people's personal spaces and onto the gallery walls.

'Behind Closed Doors' showcases works from private Wellington collections from 1946 to the present day, with pieces ranging from paintings by renowned artists Toss Wollaston and Colin McCahon, to seldom-seen works by Michael Smither and Rita Angus, to provocative multimedia artworks by Peter Robinson and Ronnie van Hout.

The exhibition is the result of six months' 'detective work' by curator and Gallery Director Christina Barton, who visited the homes of Wellington collectors from a wide range of age groups and personal means.

"It's been a great privilege to go into people's homes and have them very generously show me their work. It's not often a complete stranger comes to your home—and I've ended up in some quite intimate spaces," says Christina.

"I have learnt that everyone lives with their collection differently—in a sense a person's private collection is a reflection of them as a person.

"I've been to places where pieces are hung floor to ceiling on every available space—collecting becomes an obsession for many people."

Christina says she was surprised at the scale of many of the pieces people had in their homes.

"I had assumed that private collections would be inherently conservative, but I found some incredibly adventurous collectors who were buying art at the cutting edge of practice—pieces that are not necessarily easily accommodated."

The exhibition is complemented by a book documenting a selection of the works as they appear at home, with photographs by leading New Zealand photographer Neil Pardington and text by art historian Lara Strongman.

"The book is an intimate alternative to the exhibition—which is a conventional, institutional hang of New Zealand art, where the owners will not be acknowledged—and highlights how differently the same work can appear in different contexts."

Alongside 'Behind Closed Doors' the Adam Art Gallery is staging a changing programme of projects titled 'in camera: a project series around and about collecting', which will explore other personal acts of collecting.

For more information on the exhibition and the gallery's public programme, visit www.victoria.ac.nz/adamartgallery



Get behind tomorrow's best.

It's amazing what someone can achieve when they are given the opportunity. Making a gift or leaving a bequest to Victoria will help the next generation fulfil their potential, whether that is through research, a new scholarship or a donation to be used where it is needed most.

Gifts of any size are highly valued—to find out more, contact Diana Meads in confidence at diana.meads@vuw.ac.nz, by mail to Victoria University Foundation, PO Box 600, Wellington 6140, New Zealand or by calling 0800 842 4438.

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



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