

VICTORIOUS

Issue 1, 2015



Multimillion
dollar boost
for research
excellence

Our distinguished
alumni

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Multimillion dollar boost
for research excellence



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Research and innovation

Victoria's academic staff are leaders in their fields of research expertise. If you have a project that requires the skills and knowledge of our staff, contact Professor Kate McGrath, Vice-Provost (Research).

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From the Vice-Chancellor

Learning and teaching, research and engaging with our communities are the three interconnected pillars on which Victoria rests. Research-enriched teaching benefits our communities and is fundamental to Victoria being a world-leading capital city university and one of the great global-civic universities.

This is articulated in our new Strategic Plan, which affirms our commitment to excellence across our research and learning and teaching, and outlines our focus on deepening both Victoria's engagement with alumni, benefactors and communities and our intellectual influence in the Asia-Pacific region.

The quality of research carried out at Victoria is regularly confirmed—in 2014, for example, Victoria secured 25 percent of all grants awarded through the Marsden Fund, which supports New Zealand's most talented researchers to explore ideas at the forefront of their disciplines. This represents a success rate per researcher and per research proposal far greater than any other university. Remarkably, in the humanities, Victoria staff were awarded eight of the nine Marsden proposals funded—an extraordinary achievement. Also last year, the external research revenue awarded to Victoria rose more than 25 percent from the previous year. Research revenue is one measure of research relevance—and it is perhaps not surprising that the researchers who are defining and answering the big questions of their academic discipline, or are addressing the most important issues of their community, attract more financial support.

You can read about the research that Marsden funding will support in this issue of *Victorious*. Many of the projects will contribute to resolving specific local, national and international challenges. This includes research into new vaccines, finding the facts on whether fair trade really does benefit small-scale growers and investigating the factors that create a rape culture. Other projects, such as work to better understand black holes, will continue to foster the strong culture of fundamental research that is central to Victoria's highly creative environment.

This issue of *Victorious* also reflects exciting work we are doing in partnership with businesses, governments and other research agencies. You can read about Victoria researchers' efforts to stem the spread of invasive ants in the Pacific region, a groundbreaking cancer treatment developed through a joint research venture and an innovative piece of software that is being used in top Hollywood films.

These are exciting times at Victoria. The latest QS World University Rankings by Subject place the University as one of the top 100 in the world in 11 subjects, which is an outstanding result. We are growing in size, capacity and influence and we have set ambitious goals in areas such as academic excellence, international standing, enrolment growth, intellectual influence and contribution to national and international challenges. The support and advice and connections we receive from our alumni, friends and supporters will be pivotal to that journey.

On that note, it gives me great pleasure to draw your attention to the winners of Victoria University Distinguished Alumni Awards in 2015. Victoria alumni succeed in every walk of life as you will see from the profiles of this year's Award recipients. We are proud to be honouring sporting icons and leaders in business, culture, religion and the arts. Our winners demonstrate the breadth of influence of our graduates and illustrate the positive way in which Victoria impacts on its home city, New Zealand and the wider world.

Professor Grant Guilford
Vice-Chancellor



Introducing Sir Neville

Chancellor Sir Neville Jordan's life has been full of adventure.

As well as a long career running and supporting technology start-ups to become internationally successful companies, Victoria's new chancellor has scuba dived under the ice in the Antarctic, hunted on horseback in the United Kingdom, covered thousands of kilometres in ocean yacht racing and driven a vintage car around the world.

His latest challenge—leading the University Council and supporting Victoria to achieve its ambitious goals—fits perfectly with his aspirations.

"I'm focused on keeping my life evenly balanced between business, recreation and good works—and the latter is Victoria," he says.

"I have a particular interest in supporting young people in tertiary education and have enjoyed a long association with Victoria—I did my engineering intermediate here, have worked with the Faculty of Engineering and the Classics and Art History programmes and advised the University on commercialising its research.

"During my time as president of the Royal Society, I also got to know many of Victoria's scientists. All those experiences gave me a very positive view of what the University is doing."

Sir Neville, an entrepreneur, investor and philanthropist, started his first year as Victoria's chancellor by receiving a knighthood in the New Year Honours for services to business, science and the community.

"That was very humbling. I grew up in a family with no telephone, no car or holidays away and started working in the local freezing works at age 13. Receiving a knighthood is beyond anything I could have dreamed about."

One of Sir Neville's early initiatives has been to ask all Victoria University councillors to join the New Zealand Institute of Directors (IoD), giving them access to professional development opportunities. This will include attending a special workshop, to be run by the IoD, on stewardship in a university environment.

"We expect this institution to be high performing. To set an example and to make sure the whole institution succeeds, we too need to be a high-performing council."

Ensuring there is wide recognition of Victoria's contribution to the capital city is another priority for Sir Neville.

"We are a major employer, a centre of intellectual influence and a significant contributor to the economy—Victoria has been putting large amounts into the region, currently in excess of \$1 billion a year, for a long time. What happens at Victoria impacts on the fortunes of Wellington."

One thing Sir Neville is thoroughly enjoying about his new role is being around students and the vibrant atmosphere at Victoria.

"Campus life is much richer than it used to be—there are so many facilities and things students can get involved in.

"It's also fast-paced. The environment for universities is changing rapidly—our task at Victoria is to constantly meet the demand for more knowledge and be resilient and adaptive."



Yellow crazy ants. Credit: Phil Lester

Dealing to pests in the Pacific

Having your home overrun by creepy crawlies is the stuff of nightmares, but ant invasions are a worrying reality for people in some parts of the Pacific. However, it's hoped a new initiative led by Victoria University scientists will help stop the pests in their tiny tracks.

Dr Monica Gruber has been researching invasive ants in the Pacific region since 2008, and is now heading a collaborative endeavour that aims to halt the spread of invasive species.

"The work had its genesis about 10 years ago when Professor Phil Lester [from Victoria University's School of Biological Sciences] was asked by villagers to help with infestations of yellow crazy ants on two of Tokelau's three atolls. Then, in 2011, we were told the ants had spread to the third atoll and were causing damage and disruption to the lives of local people. While doing some separate work in Kiribati, we discovered the yellow crazy ant there too."

Monica is now leading the charge on behalf of Tokelau and Kiribati and, in 2013, formed a non-profit entity, Pacific Biosecurity, within Victoria University's

commercialisation office, Viclink, which collaborates with a number of regional and in-country partners.

Based in Victoria's School of Biological Sciences, Pacific Biosecurity and its partners have been awarded a \$1.5 million contract by the New Zealand Aid Programme to improve resources for ant management and biosecurity across the Pacific.

Controlling yellow crazy ants in Tokelau and Kiribati is a major focus of the research programme and Monica and her colleague, Dr Allan Burne, will head to Kiribati this year to start working with local government on eradication of the ants there. "We'll also be generating awareness of what increases the potential for ant incursions, and what preventative measures people can take," Allan says.

Across the region, Pacific Biosecurity's

goal is to help prevent the spread of species like the little fire ant. "These tiny ants sting, and the effects of the ants can be serious when they are in high abundance," says Monica. "In some places, the ants have forced people off their land as they can't tend crops. Because they're found on both sides of the Pacific, we need to prevent their spread into the rest of the region."

"Prevention requires less effort and resources than eradication—which becomes impossible when these ants cover a large area. That's why we need to focus on biosecurity across the whole Pacific region to prevent the ants—and other invasive species—from spreading."

For more information about the initiative, go to www.pacificbiosecurity.org

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Swell of research success

Victoria is riding a wave of success, with 24 researchers receiving highly competitive Marsden Fund grants in 2014—the largest number ever for the University.

The grants, worth \$12 million combined, are administered by the Royal Society of New Zealand on behalf of the Government. Marsden is regarded as the hallmark of excellence for research in New Zealand, allowing the country's most talented researchers to explore groundbreaking ideas. Victoria researchers received 15 standard grants, as well as nine Fast-Start grants, which are allocated to up-and-coming researchers.

The awards continued a successful period of research at Victoria, with two academics, Professor Phil Lester and Professor Geoff Whittle, receiving highly sought-after James Cook Research Fellowships and 84 students being awarded PhDs in the December graduation ceremonies—also the most ever.

The following pages showcase Victoria's standard Marsden-funded research projects.



Uncovering New Zealand's 'secret world'

State surveillance of New Zealand citizens is increasingly in the spotlight, but little has been written about how and why intelligence gathering began and developed in Aotearoa.

Marsden funding of \$495,000 will change that, by enabling Richard Hill, Professor of New Zealand Studies at the Stout Research Centre, to produce a comprehensive history of covert intelligence gathering in New Zealand in the century after 1907, the year New Zealand joined the international security intelligence community.

New Zealand is currently the only Western country to have no academic study of the history of its security intelligence services.

The research to be carried out by Richard and his team will result in a book that will comprehensively analyse the 'secret world' in New Zealand, but leave

its readers to draw their own conclusions on ethical and other issues involved in covert surveillance.

Richard will be working with espionage expert Dr David Burke of Cambridge University, independent military historian David Filer and Dr Steven Loveridge of the Stout Research Centre.

He says although the researchers will not be able to view all the relevant documents that exist, he is confident they will have access to the core material needed to write an informed history.

As to whether the book will contain any startling revelations, Richard says he genuinely does not know.

"The fact that official agencies have

only recently begun to release documents on surveillance activities means that we are starting from quite a limited knowledge base. We will be seeking to uncover a number of activities and policies that we know a little about, their details languishing in files previously classified as 'top secret'.

"But, if overseas studies are any precedent, there will be activities that we don't know about. If we find some of these, as we expect, obviously they will be a revelation, as much to us as to our readers."

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Dr Bridget Stocker and Dr Mattie Timmer in their laboratory at Victoria.

Calling the shots

When Dr Bridget Stocker sent two internationally renowned scientists an email outlining her ideas, she was hardly expecting a reply. Little did she know she would soon be teaming up with them to tackle the task of developing more effective vaccines.

Bridget, a senior lecturer in Victoria's School of Chemical and Physical Sciences, will work with Professors Sho Yamasaki from Kyushu University in Japan and Katsumi Maenaka from Hokkaido University in Japan, as well as her partner and Victoria colleague Dr Mattie Timmer, on a Marsden-funded project worth \$705,000.

The Japanese scientists changed the immunisation game in 2013 when they determined the structure of a ground-breaking new receptor. This receptor can detect cells that have been damaged by disease and alerts the immune system.

Collaborating with these revolutionary

Japanese chemists occurred by chance, says Bridget.

"I noticed that they had cited some of our earlier studies in one of their papers, so I decided to send them an email about what we were doing and they were interested. They're exceptional scientists and to partner with them is exciting."

Together, the researchers will explore how the newly identified receptor can be used to guide the development of adjuvants—the part of a vaccine that enhances immunity.

Research with the receptor remains in its infancy, despite its tremendous potential to enhance vaccination against

a variety of diseases.

"Once Mattie and I have developed promising adjuvants with Professors Yamasaki and Maenaka, we will then explore the potential of these adjuvants in a vaccine against malaria with our long-term collaborator, Dr Faustin Kamena, from the Max Planck Institute in Berlin," says Bridget.

"We are starting with malaria as this is an area of expertise of our collaborator. However, our approach has the potential to work in vaccines for a broad range of viruses, fungi, parasites and bacteria."

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View of Transantarctic Mountains.
Credit: NASA, Michael Studinger

Moving mountains

At 3,500 kilometres, the Transantarctic Mountain range in Antarctica is the third longest on Earth. Yet, unlike the Andes and the Himalayas, it formed not by colliding tectonic plates, but by growing adjacent to a rift within a tectonic plate.

Professor Tim Stern, from the School of Geography, Environment and Earth Sciences, has been awarded Marsden funding of \$790,000 in collaboration with United States researchers to investigate the range's unique mechanisms, which have been a source of debate since the

scientists of Scott's expeditions first wrote about them in the 1900s.

"Firstly, we'll lay out seismographs to analyse how earthquakes are affected by the mountains' structure," says Tim.

"We'll also use explosions to create sound waves that will provide an image of the structure 50 kilometres below the Earth's surface. This will give an idea of how these mountains uplifted and what has sustained them for the past 50 million years."

Painting China modern

Until the twentieth century, there were no words for 'art' or 'fine art' in the Chinese language. However, by the third decade of the twentieth century, a total transformation had occurred. Although changes in the concept and practice of art are considered an essential part of China's path towards modernity, an illustration of the events leading to 'modern art' is

absent from the country's written history.

Marsden funding of \$495,000 will support Yiyan Wang, Professor of Chinese in the School of Languages and Cultures, to produce the first book on the debate over art, modernity and nationhood during the last years of imperial China and the beginning decades of the Republican era (1900–1930).



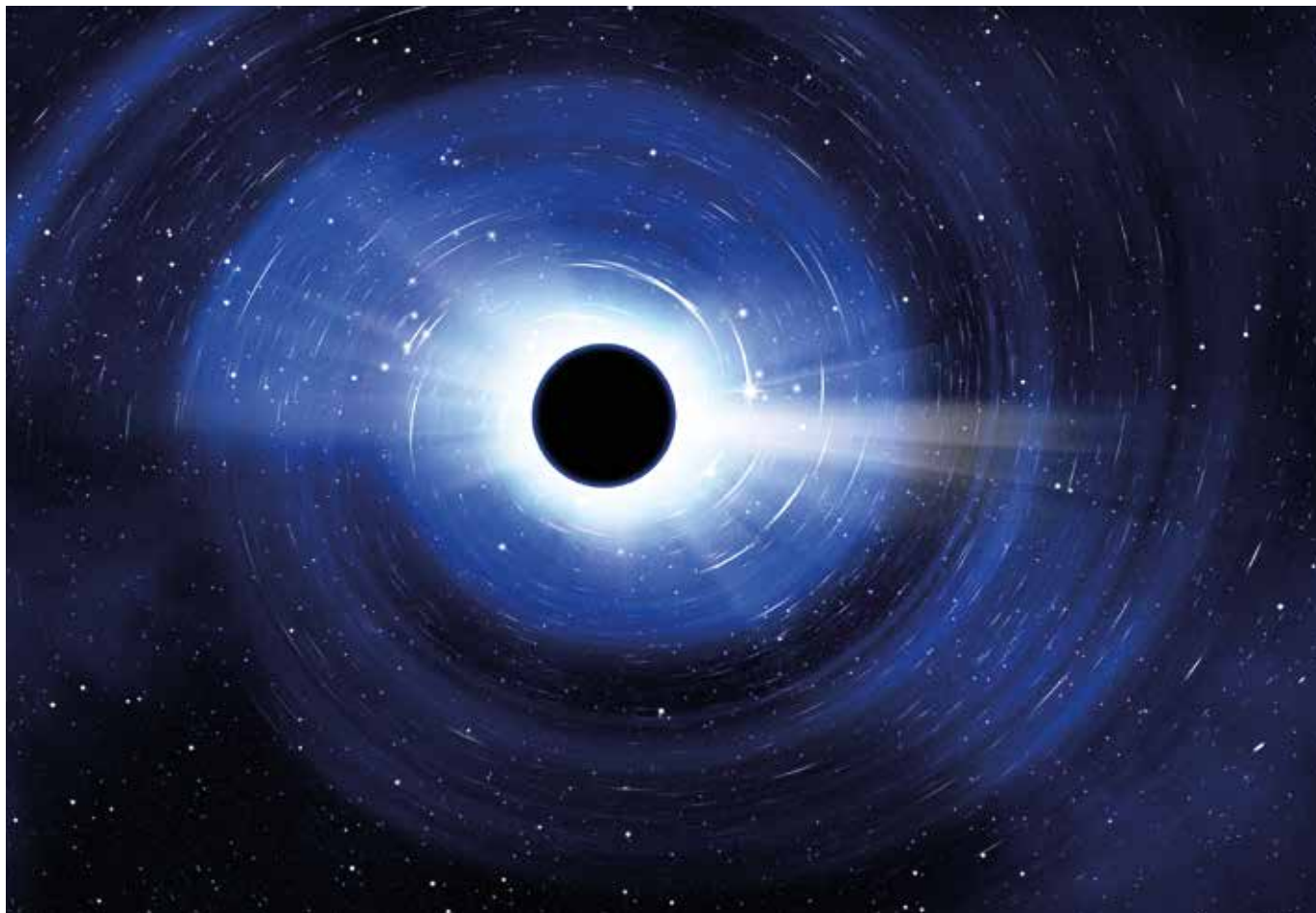
Filling in the gaps

Unlike a video camera, the human brain cannot record a perfect replica of an event. Instead, we remember events by reconstructing them, often filling in gaps with information drawn from general knowledge and past experiences.

Dr Deirdre Brown, from the School of Psychology, will lead a \$585,000 Marsden-funded study to test whether young children reconstruct memories in the same way as older children and adults. Her co-researchers are Professor

Michael Lamb, from Cambridge University, and Professor Charles Brainerd, from Cornell University.

"When children are maltreated, their testimony about what happened is critical for decisions regarding prosecution and care and protection," says Deirdre. "This research will contribute to our understanding of how reliable young children's evidence may be."



Shedding light on black holes

The mathematics and physics underlying black holes is both elegant and excruciatingly technical.

In trying to explain quantum aspects of black holes—regions of space where gravity is so strong, even light becomes trapped—scientists have spent many years trying to merge quantum physics with Einstein’s ideas on gravity.

Professor Matt Visser, from the School of Mathematics, Statistics and Operations Research, has been awarded \$538,000 of Marsden funding to explore the ‘borderlands’ between gravity and quantum physics.

In 1974, famed physicist Stephen Hawking predicted that black holes aren’t entirely black—they slowly leak radiation, causing them to shrink and eventually evaporate, taking everything inside with it.

But even after 40 years of research, the details of the final stages of this

process, when the black hole has become relatively small, continue to generate much heated debate and confusion among scientists.

As black holes get smaller, they also get hotter, Matt explains. “In the last few seconds, 300 tonnes of matter is converted to heat and light, which is a big explosion by human standards.”

Matt, who is a world-renowned expert on the theory of gravitation, will use the funding to research where exactly the Hawking radiation—which is predicted to cause black hole evaporation—is created.

For decades, many scientists believed that the slight differences in ways of defining a black hole were irrelevant, says Matt. But it now appears that the precise

technical definition is critically important, as advocated by Hawking. Matt will use a new approach that depends on these subtle differences.

He will also look at thermodynamics, the branch of physics concerned with heat and temperature, providing a careful reanalysis of differences and similarities between black hole and ordinary thermodynamics.

“My contribution is very much on the theoretical side. I’ll be doing a calculation that gets other experts looking in the right direction, which could lead to a better understanding of quantum mechanics and general relativity.”

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Soldiers at Albert Barracks, Auckland, 1860s. Credit: 3-137-26a, Sir George Grey Special Collections, Auckland Libraries

Beyond the battlefields

War in the nineteenth century had a dramatic and lasting effect on New Zealand.

Professor of History Charlotte Macdonald's Marsden-funded study considers the impact of the army and navy on New Zealand's social landscape, economy and culture. It will also examine how armed services formed part of the

wider life of the British Empire in the Victorian era.

Awarded \$540,000, Charlotte will delve into the experiences of 12,000 soldiers and sailors stationed in New Zealand during the 1860s. In doing so, she will

connect the local world at the time to contrasting parts of the globe in which 'redcoats' and 'bluejackets', soldiers and sailors, were recognised emblems of a British presence.



All but forgotten

William Colenso (1811–1899), a Cornish missionary to New Zealand, made significant contributions to Māori, Pākehā and imperial history but much of his work has since been underestimated, dismissed or forgotten. A \$540,000 Marsden-funded project at Victoria may well change that.

Dr Sydney Shep, director of the Waitē-ata Press, will identify and analyse Colenso's published writings and

letter correspondence to understand his extensive local and international connections. Using a variety of digital history tools and techniques, the study will bring scattered resources together for the first time.

The project aims to promote widespread recognition of Colenso and contribute to our understanding of New Zealand's place in the Victorian world and the world's place in Victorian New Zealand.



Barriers to change

When news broke of the ‘roast busters’ sex scandal in 2013, people were shocked and outraged. Questions were raised about why the voices of the young women involved were not heard and acted upon.

The case, which involved young men allegedly trying to intoxicate underage girls to rape them, became the latest in a series of controversies over police responses to reports of sexual violence. The issues raised provide a platform for a \$610,000 Marsden-funded study by Dr Jan Jordan, deputy director of the Institute of Criminology at Victoria University.

“This case, and the debates it prompted, highlighted once again the ways in which sexual violence is often misunderstood, trivialised or the victims blamed for its occurrence,” says Jan.

Estimates suggest only 10 percent of rape victims report the offence and, for most who do, their case progresses no further than the police reporting stage.

“My aim is to connect police decision-making to a changing social and cultural environment, exploring why women who are raped still often have to fight to be believed and have their cases fully investigated.”

Using results of her PhD study in the 1990s, combined with media analysis, Jan will assess how depictions of women and rape have changed since the 1970s—when speaking out about rape and protests against pornography sought to end the silencing and objectification of women.

Jan will review police rape investigation files in 2013 to identify why some cases proceeded to court and others didn’t, and she’ll compare these results with her earlier analysis.

She also will examine changes in how women have been depicted in

pornography as well as in women’s magazines, and the shifts in newspaper reporting of rape cases during the years 1973 to 2013.

“Some people think we now live in a world of gender equality, where rape victims are always believed and offenders always convicted, so these studies, across time, will help provide an evidence base for assessing such assertions.”

Using this integrated approach, Jan hopes to identify why the barriers to effective rape reform persist, identify the changes necessary to make arrest, prosecution and conviction for rape more likely, and contribute, ultimately, to the prevention of sexual violence in our communities.

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Challenging rape mythology

Despite reform of law and process over many decades, adult rape complainants’ experience of the criminal justice system has not improved.

Complainants still report being re-traumatised by questioning during court trials. According to Victoria researchers

Associate Professors Dr Ann Weatherall (Psychology) and Elisabeth McDonald (Law), such questioning operates to reinforce contestable views about female sexuality and intimate relationships.

With the aim of proposing new ways of testing evidence in a courtroom setting, the

pair will use Marsden funding of \$540,000 to document and analyse current practices using a range of innovative interdisciplinary methodologies. They say they may finally be able to recommend changes that will address long-standing concerns.



Competition of Roman politics

Before they were ruled by emperors, Romans conducted annual elections at which they picked an elite group of the privileged social class to govern their city and command their armies.

Professor Jeff Tatum, from the School of Art History, Classics and Religious Studies, has received a Marsden Fund grant of \$275,000 to provide the first comprehensive investigation of the ideologies underlying campaigning in republican Rome (509–48

BCE). This society remains a model for contemporary constitutional theorists and political philosophers and was central to the thinking of the American founding fathers when they drafted the United States Constitution.

Jeff's study will look at the practices, techniques, sentiments and prejudices that shaped the results of Roman elections, as well as the role money played in winning elections.

Piecing together a polar puzzle

The extent of sea ice in Antarctica is confusing climate scientists—why is ice decreasing in Antarctica's Amundsen Sea, yet increasing in its neighbour the Ross Sea? And why is sea ice increasing overall, despite a warming earth?

Dr James Renwick, a professor in Physical Geography, has been awarded \$800,000 of Marsden funding to defrost the mystery behind these opposing trends.

In collaboration with Dr Sam Dean from the National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research, and drawing on advice from New Zealand and international experts, James will forecast the future size of sea ice by using computer-based analysis and modelling, and examining how waves, winds, heat and seasonal fluctuations affect sea ice levels.



Credit: Alison Kohout



Understanding investment behaviour

How, when and why do firms invest? Graeme Guthrie, Professor of Economics and Finance, will investigate these questions as part of a \$400,000 Marsden-funded study to advance our understanding of firms' investment behaviour.

Graeme will apply a theoretical framework, called real-options analysis, to find out how firms' behaviour is

affected by the economic environment in which they operate. He will examine how uncertainty about the future affects behaviour, and the interactions between firms and their competitors. This will include considering the impact of short, sharp economics shocks as well as small, long-lasting shocks.

Tools of the trade

Whether you really are supporting small-scale producers and farm workers in developing countries when you opt to buy fairtrade products is coming under scrutiny in a Victoria-led study.



Human Geography and Development Studies Professor Warwick Murray has been awarded Marsden funding of \$710,000 to examine the ethics of fair and organic trade and investigate the extent to which farmers and labourers actually benefit from consumers' support.

Warwick says there is a growing body of research into fairtrade and organic production but very little of it has critically compared the industry by countries, industry sectors and types of trade.

"We are addressing a number of ethical

questions, including whether fairtrade and organic labelling is accurate or, in some cases, has become something of a marketing exercise."

Warwick is collaborating with Victoria colleague Professor John Overton, along with Professor Jonathan Barton and Associate Professor Johannes Rehner from the Pontifical Catholic University of Chile, to compare and contrast fruit, fish and wine industry sectors in five countries: Argentina, Chile, Australia, South Africa and New Zealand.

Warwick says that, although the fairtrade and organic movement has delivered benefits in terms of development gains and greater global awareness, there is a question mark over whether the power and profits are distributed evenly. Recent research from Victoria in locations including East Timor, Argentina and Indonesia suggests that this is not always the case.

"If there is a concentration of wealth at the top of the chain, away from small growers and rural labourers, this completely contradicts the supposed equitable aims of fairtrade."

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Educating for emigration?



Education is widely regarded as a one-way ticket out of poverty. However, educated people in developing countries often go further, packing their bags and taking their newfound skills overseas.

Addressing this paradox is the focus of a research project led by

Professor John Overton from the School of Geography, Environment and Earth Sciences and supported by \$710,000 of Marsden funding.

In collaboration with Professor Warwick Murray and Dr Alan Gamlen, John will explore the effect of education on migration in the Pacific Islands, by comparing different education strategies with levels of migration.

"Some countries are providing their citizens with skills that enable them to hop

on a plane and work in a foreign city such as Auckland or Sydney, earn money and send it back home to their families," says John.

"That may be a good outcome for many but there is concern that this has become the dominant education strategy. For some people and some communities, that's not necessarily the best way forward."

There are alternative approaches that may encourage local development, says John. "What is often being lost in the Pacific is education that addresses the particular needs and world views of rural communities. In places like the Solomon Islands, there are rural

training centres that are locally focused and largely locally run, so learnings are appropriate to the needs of their community."

It is hoped the research will help to guide decisions around education policies in the future. "We're not looking at specific curricula and what subjects get taught," says John, "but we will be talking to communities to see what has worked and what hasn't, and how local people define their development needs."

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Victoria University postgraduate students prepare seismometers for deployment in specially dug holes in the coast-to-coast project.
Credit: Margaret Low, GNS Science

An explosive discovery

Underground dynamite explosions have helped a Victoria-led team of researchers to uncover secrets from deep underneath the Earth's surface, as reported in the 5 February 2015 edition of the prestigious international scientific journal *Nature*.

A series of controlled detonations were set off on a long line between the Wairarapa and Kapiti coasts. These allowed Victoria researchers Professors Tim Stern and Martha Savage, and Drs Simon Lamb and Rupert Sutherland—along with scientists from GNS Science and universities in the United States and Japan—to measure the seismic waves that bounced off the bottom of the Pacific tectonic plate, about 100 kilometres underneath the Wellington region.

The reflected waves gave them an unusually clear picture of the base of the plate and revealed previously unknown information that tectonic plates move

around by gliding on a thin layer of 'soft' rock, which acts as a lubricant.

Tim says prior to this experiment, scientists had relied on seismic data recorded from earthquakes—seismic waves that are low in frequency and don't produce a very clear image. "By generating our own seismic waves using higher frequency dynamite shots we were able to gain a much clearer view of what appears to be a channel around 10 kilometres thick of fluid-rich, weak rock at the base of the plate.

"The weak, slippery base we discovered shows how tectonic plates can be pushed and pulled around without strong resistance from the mantle below," Tim

explains. "Understanding this boundary between the base of cold, rigid tectonic plates and the underlying hot mantle underneath is central to our knowledge of plate tectonics and the very formation and evolution of our planet."

Staff within the Institute of Geophysics are involved in a wide range of research related to crustal structure and plate tectonic research in the south-west Pacific. These include projects in New Guinea, the Lord Howe Rise, the Alpine Fault, the Taupo Volcanic Zone, central Otago and the Transantarctic Mountains.

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Who's in my room?

In this ongoing series, we ask an outstanding graduate to return to their old room at their former hall of residence and share stories with the current resident.

We met with international physicist and engineer, Professor Michael Kelly, who holds an honorary doctorate from Victoria and is noted for his electronics research. The foundations of Michael's distinguished career were laid at Victoria, where he was a student from 1967 to 1971. He graduated with a Master of Science with distinction in Mathematics and moved to the University of Cambridge where he was awarded a PhD in 1974 and a Doctor of Science in 1993. In 2003, he was appointed as the Prince Philip Professor of Technology in the department of engineering at the University of Cambridge.

This year his old room at Weir House is occupied by Sofia Albiston-Murray, who is studying toward a Bachelor of Arts majoring in Classical Studies and History.

Professor Michael Kelly

What is it like to be back at Weir and to see your old room?

Rather strange. I have been back as far as the entrance but not come in. I was one of the first people to live in E34, it's quite uncanny to see the room again.

What was student life like in the halls?

I didn't know anybody here when I arrived, so I made many new friends. It was good fun. In my first year, my room looked over the city—I remember people were always lobbing water bombs and things down at the cable car. I also remember the beds being rock hard.

Do you stay in touch with friends you made at Weir?

In my first year, I shared a room with a Vietnamese student with whom I've kept in touch. He went back to Vietnam and he and my mother wrote regularly. She stopped writing when the communists took over South Vietnam and about two years later, she received a letter—he'd escaped with his wife and young son. He now lives and thrives in San Francisco.

What do you remember about your room?

I was doing really well in early exams, so I think that's why I was given the L-shaped room, which is a little bigger. I woke up one night and it sounded as though there was a heavy storm outside. I flicked the light on and somebody had stuck a fire hose through the louvres. Water was shooting across the room and all my clothes and belongings got soaked, but my bed was round the corner! I think it was to have a go at me for working too hard. I've got my suspicions about who did it.

Did you get up to any antics?

Somebody was away for the weekend and a group of us got lots and lots of paper and screwed it up into tight balls. We stuck it through the louvres until their room was full.

There also used to be a prize during capping week for the most imaginative object that appeared in the Plaza, which is now the Hub. A whole group of us from Weir took our beds over there and called it the Weir House night shelter. We didn't win: the people who won had commandeered a fire engine and parked it there. They used the hose to give our night shelter a good soaking.

What type of student were you?

I was an unmitigated swot and known for it. I did math Honours, then the following year I did a crash Master's course in eight months—those two years were the hardest I have ever worked in my life.

What's your favourite story about E34?

A chap came into my room on a Saturday night to see what I was doing. He'd double-booked himself and was supposed to be babysitting the Vice-Chancellor's 12-year-old girl and 10-year-old boy. I was 19 at the time. I minded the kids a few times and 22 years later was reintroduced to the girl. A few months later, we got married.

How did you spend your spare time?

I didn't have much spare time, but I did enjoy listening to classical music. I was also very involved in the Catholic Society. I was chair of the Maths and Physics Society in my Honours year. That was about the only socialising I did.

What's your advice for new students?

I would tell them what I tell my daughter—work hard and you will always be in a position to set your own agenda.

Sofia Albiston-Murray

Is this your first time out of home?

It's my first time leaving home, but not moving cities. I moved from Christchurch to Auckland when I was 12.

Why Wellington?

Wellington is a cool, funky, artsy place. Since I'm doing a BA, it seems fitting.

Why did you choose to do a Bachelor of Arts?

I've always enjoyed social sciences and English, so wanted to continue with what I like and what I'm good at. I'm not exactly sure what I want to do yet, but I'll go with it and see where it takes me. So far I'm really enjoying what I'm studying.

What type of student are you?

I like a balance. I set myself a goal to do well, that's really important to me. My schedule isn't too bad, which is great, because I have plenty of readings and assignments to keep me busy.

What do you get up to in your spare time?

At the moment I'm all about exploring Wellington. It's great having the cable car right there, and I work in a store 100 metres away from the bottom, which is handy. I'm keen to get involved in some arts groups, but haven't had time yet.

Is university what you were expecting?

More or less—it's interesting to go from being entirely directed to having to do your own study. I've been changing my courses around a bit—yesterday I enrolled in a religious studies paper that there's an assignment due for tomorrow. It's busy, but I'm enjoying it.

What do you think about staying in the former room of a prominent physicist?

I hadn't really given any thought to previous tenants, but thinking about how many people have stayed in 'my' room is interesting.

Are you enjoying Weir House?

Yes, I've already made lots of new friends. Weir is really open and friendly. Everyone leaves their doors open and is keen for a chat. I've also been surprised by how many people I've seen here who I knew from primary school in Christchurch—it makes you realise how small New Zealand is.

Celebrating our best Distinguished Alumni Award winners

A select group of six outstanding alumni, who exemplify Victoria University's tradition of excellence, will be honoured at a Distinguished Alumni Awards dinner in June.

The recipients of the 2015 Awards are Olympian Ian Ferguson, businessman and sports administrator Alan Isaac, Penny Jamieson, the first woman in the world to be ordained a diocesan bishop of the Anglican Church, curator and artist Helen Kedgley, Māori leader and social and political analyst Tamati Kruger and entrepreneur Derek Handley (recipient of this year's Young Alumni Award).

Victoria University Chancellor, Sir Neville Jordan, says the Awards recognise and celebrate the exceptional achievements of this year's Award

recipients and the contribution they have made—and continue to make—in many spheres of activity and endeavour.

"This year's recipients demonstrate the breadth of influence of our graduates—Victoria alumni succeed in every walk of life," says Sir Neville.

"Presenting these Awards is an opportunity to recognise and reflect on the positive way in which Victoria graduates impact not only on the fortunes of New Zealand's capital city, but also their influence nationally and internationally.

"The quality of a university graduate is the foremost indicator of the quality of the university. We are proud and honoured to be acknowledging these civic-minded graduates, and the contribution Victoria has made to their chosen paths."

The winners will be presented with their awards at a gala dinner at Shed 6 on Wednesday 17 June 2015. Members of the public are welcome to attend. Tickets are available from www.victoria.ac.nz/alumni-awards

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Ian Ferguson, MBE

Ian Ferguson (BCA (Accounting), 1977), is New Zealand's most successful Olympian. He has competed in five Olympic Games and, in winning four gold medals and one silver, he claimed a record unsurpassed in New Zealand sports history. At the same time he competed in numerous world kayaking championships, securing another two golds and one silver.

He has been awarded the titles of New Zealand Sportsman of the Year and New Zealand Olympian of the Century, was inducted into the New Zealand Sports Hall of Fame and is a Member of the British Empire for services to canoeing.

Ian has demonstrated that achieving

sporting greatness does not need to be at the expense of higher education. He successfully attained a university degree whilst pursuing a world title and has since built a highly successful business, Ferg's Kayaks, capitalising on his business education at Victoria.

Throughout his career, Ian has shared his knowledge, experience and love of kayaking and surf life saving with the next generation of talent, as coach, manager and mentor to high performance training squads and in numerous administrative roles. He has remained resolutely New Zealand-based, to the sport's great benefit.



Photo supplied

Derek Handley

Derek Handley is a New Zealand entrepreneur and founding CEO of The B Team, which he helped set up alongside Sir Richard Branson and Jochen Zeitz. The B Team is a global leadership collective aimed at making business work better for people and the planet to meet the challenges of the twenty-first century, and comprises 16 iconic members such as Sir Richard, Arianna Huffington, Ratan Tata and Professor Muhammad Yunus.

He is also a committed astronaut-in-waiting with Virgin Galactic; an adjunct executive professor at AUT University in Auckland; chair and co-founder of NZAX-listed B-Corp Snakk Media; a board director at Sky Television; and a New Zealand Arts Foundation Trustee.

Derek started The Hyperfactory in 2001, one of the first strategic and technology houses in the world specialising in helping Fortune 500 brands navigate the mobile world. It was cited as *Entrepreneur* magazine's 'Top 100 brightest ideas of 2010' and Brandweek's '10 biggest ideas of 2008', and was acquired by Meredith Corporation in 2010. During these years, he was named a Sir Peter Blake Trust Leader, KEA World Class New Zealander, New Zealand Herald Business Leader of the Year and New Zealand Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year.

He released his first book, *Heart to Start*, in 2013, on the entrepreneurial journey and pursuing personal purpose.



Photo supplied

Alan Isaac, CNZM

Alan Isaac (BCA, 1974) is a successful businessman and sports administrator.

He became a partner of accounting firm KPMG in his mid-twenties and went on to hold the roles of managing partner, chairman and chief executive officer. In total, Alan spent 35 years at the firm. During his time there, he became known for his work as a company receiver and for achieving favourable outcomes for corporates facing significant financial difficulties.

In parallel with his accounting career, Alan found time to pursue his sporting interests—playing age-grade representative cricket and rugby and captaining Wellington B in cricket for three

years. He has held administrative roles for the Wellington Cricket Association, was chair of New Zealand Cricket and both vice-president and president of the International Cricket Council.

Alan has also served on the SPARC Board, the New Zealand Golf Board and the Board of Rugby New Zealand 2011 Limited. He has also held—and continues to hold—a number of governance roles in business, health and community organisations.

In the 2013 New Year Honours, Alan was made a Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit for services to cricket and business.



The Rt Rev Dr Penelope (Penny) Jamieson, DCNZM

Penny Jamieson (PhD, 1976) was the first woman in the world to be ordained a diocesan bishop of the Anglican Church.

After completing an Honours degree at Edinburgh University, she moved to New Zealand where she lectured in linguistics at Victoria University. Her doctoral thesis on the experiences of young Tokelauan children learning English as their second language, was written while she held a J.R. McKenzie Fellowship with the New Zealand Council for Educational Research. She worked with the then Inner City Ministry, helping to establish a home tutor programme to teach English to refugees and immigrants, mainly women, who were unable to attend language classes.

During this time, she developed a vocation, completed a Bachelor of Divinity extramurally from Otago University and was ordained into the

priesthood in 1983. She served as a curate at St James' Anglican Church in Lower Hutt and Vicar of Karori West with Makara in the Wellington Diocese before being ordained a bishop of the Anglican Diocese of Dunedin. She contributed widely, in writing and speech, to debate within the Anglican Communion about the ordination of women to the Episcopate. Penny retired in 2004 and returned to Lower Hutt.

She has published an account of those years, *Living at the Edge: Sacrament and Solidarity in Leadership*, which explores her experiences as a woman in a powerful position within a patriarchal institution.

In the 2004 Queen's Birthday Honours, Penny became a Distinguished Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit for services to the community.



Helen Kedgley

Helen Kedgley (BA in Political Science, 1969) is one of New Zealand's most creative and outstanding curators and art museum directors and a strong advocate for Māori, Pasifika and indigenous art.

Helen has worked at Pataka Art Museum in Porirua since its inception in 1998, most recently as its director. During that time, she has curated over 80 exhibitions of Māori, Pacific Island and contemporary New Zealand art, many of which have toured nationally and internationally, including *Toi Māori—The Eternal Thread*, which toured throughout the United States.

Since she took on the role of director in 2013, Pataka has enjoyed record visitor numbers, surpassing all other metropolitan galleries in the Wellington region.

A graduate of Victoria University, Massey University, the Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Beaux Arts and Ecole du Louvre in Paris, Helen has considerable international experience in the arts. International museum work includes the Science Museum, Oxford, England and The National Gallery of Zimbabwe. As a painter, Helen has participated in numerous exhibitions in France, England, India and Zimbabwe. She is a member of Victoria University's Advisory Group for the Museum and Heritage Studies programme, a board member of the Wellington Sculpture Trust and was a member of the Creative New Zealand Arts Council (2010–2014). She has been invited to judge numerous art awards both in New Zealand and overseas.



Photo supplied

Tamati Kruger

Tamati Kruger (BA (Hons) in Māori Studies, 1978) is a Māori advocate and social and political analyst who has dedicated his career to the development of his iwi.

From the Ngāti Kōura, Ngāti Rongo and Te Urewera hapū of Tūhoe, Tamati was instrumental in securing the largest Treaty of Waitangi settlement to date (\$450 million) for the Central North Island Iwi Collective. He is now a director of CNI Holdings, representing Tūhoe.

More recently, Tamati was chief negotiator of the Tūhoe-Te Urewera Treaty of Waitangi Settlement, which lasted six years from 2009 to 2014. The landmark settlement included a Crown apology for historical grievances, a social

service management plan for the Tūhoe rohe and a financial and commercial redress package totalling \$170 million. The settlement also included legislative changes to transfer Te Urewera National Park to its own separate legal entity, looked after by the Te Urewera Board, of which Tamati is chair.

Tamati's contribution is not limited to his tribe. He chaired the Second Ministerial Māori Taskforce on Whānau Violence and developed the Mauri Ora Framework and was awarded the Kahukura award in 2013 in recognition of this work. He was a finalist in the 2012 New Zealander of the Year awards and was the Supreme Winner of the Marae Investigates Māori of the Year in 2014.



Impact in Auckland

New premises in the heart of Auckland's CBD provide a springboard for Victoria University to share its expertise in New Zealand's fastest growing city.

Situated in the Barfoot & Thompson building on Kitchener Street, just blocks away from Queen Street and the Sky Tower, Victoria's new space boasts state-of-the-art teaching and meeting spaces.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Grant Guilford says Auckland is increasingly important to Victoria for a range of reasons.

"Both the number of Auckland students studying at Victoria and the number of alumni living and working in Auckland are growing.

"There is also expanding demand from people working in Auckland who want to take advantage of our world-leading expertise in areas such as advancing better government, enriching national culture and civil society, architecture and design-led innovation, digital futures and engineering and enhancing the resilience and sustainability of our natural heritage."

Victoria already offers two programmes from Victoria Business School's School of Information Management—a Master of Information Studies and a Master of Information Management—in Auckland, which both combine distance learning and intensive on-site teaching sessions, mostly led by Wellington-based lecturers.

Planning is underway for Victoria's School

of Government, the only school of its kind in New Zealand, to offer some of its sought after programmes in Auckland from 2016.

Grant says Victoria also has research and consultancy capability that can help Auckland achieve some of its aspirational goals and resolve some of its well-documented issues.

"Victoria has much to contribute to Auckland as it pursues transformational shifts to achieve its long-term goals. At the same time, Auckland has a role to play in

contributing to Victoria's growth in size, reputation and influence."

Victoria's Auckland school liaison team will be based at the new premises, which will also be used for events, meetings and seminars.

"The premises give us an excellent base from which we can deepen our engagement with alumni, benefactors and communities and better share Victoria's expertise with local government agencies and businesses," says Grant.



At the launch of the new Auckland premises. From left: Chancellor Sir Neville Jordan, Len Brown, Mayor of Auckland, Annemarie de Castro, Director, Human Resources, Vice-Chancellor Professor Grant Guilford

Maurice Gee, warts and all

A major literary biography about one of New Zealand's most celebrated writers will be published by Victoria University Press in winter this year.

Maurice Gee: Life and Work has taken biographer Rachel Barrowman the best part of 10 years to complete. She says she knew from the outset it would be a big job, given the length and productivity of Maurice's writing career, which has spanned some 50 years and 33 books.

The biography interweaves the story of Maurice's literature with his life, so alongside the research and interviews with him, Rachel read each of his books two or three times. She says she was aiming for the themes to emerge from her narrative, rather than direct them.

"Dedicated readers of Maurice Gee's work know that his fiction draws heavily on his childhood and family history. With Maurice, the connections between his writing and life are pervasive, subtle and important."

Maurice had turned down approaches from other biographers in the past. Some friends had suggested to him that someone would eventually write a biography and it was better coming from a trusted source. He had read and liked Rachel's award-winning biography of R.A.K. Mason, and in 2006, contacted her to gauge her interest. Successful preliminary discussions followed and Rachel subsequently received the prestigious Michael King Fellowship



Maurice Gee in his writing room at home in Nelson, 1983. Photographer unknown.
Credit: George Griffiths collection P99-054, Hocken Collections, University of Otago

from Creative New Zealand to write the biography.

"Maurice said from the start that he didn't like the term 'authorised biography' and said it was to be my book, that he wouldn't interfere. As far as he was concerned there was no point in doing a biography if it wasn't to be 'warts and all'."

Rachel says that there are some surprises in the biography.

"There's a lot that Maurice hasn't spoken or written about before, but you'll have to read the book to find out."

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A+ report card for Victoria

Victoria University passed with flying colours in the most recent academic audit conducted by the Academic Quality Agency (AQA).

The University was commended for a large number of initiatives, particularly those focusing on Māori and Pasifika students.

"We are delighted that the panel found so many areas of commendation and are particularly pleased that they singled out our ongoing commitment to working with our students to ensure they achieve at the highest levels, academically and personally," Vice-Chancellor Professor Grant Guilford says.

The audit panel was particularly impressed by Victoria's "active commitment to Māori and to Pasifika

students and their communities".

Overall, the University received 12 commendations from the panel, covering areas such as commitment to teaching excellence, the strength of its strategic planning, engagement and partnership with students and its focus on retention and academic frameworks.

"The panel endorsed Victoria's focus on working with our students to develop the University's strategic plan, graduate profile and learning partnership, and was impressed with the comprehensive set of resources and material we use to support

academic achievement," says Grant.

The AQA was established in 1993 to monitor and advise on academic quality and standards. The process of audit requires an initial self-review, then a panel visits the University and conducts interviews. Around 120 staff and students were interviewed during the audit.

The report commends good practice and makes recommendations intended to assist universities in their own programmes of continuous improvement.

To read the report, go to www.victoria.ac.nz/academic-audit

Alumni events

Over the past few months, alumni events have been held in Bangkok, Beijing, Ha Noi, Ho Chi Minh City, Hong Kong, Jakarta and Shanghai. Young alumni in Wellington were also invited to a special screening of *Thin Ice*, a documentary about the world's changing climate. Guest speakers, Associate Professor Nancy Bertler and Professor Lionel Carter from Victoria's Antarctic Research Centre, talked about the film and answered questions afterwards. To view more photos of alumni at these events or to find out about upcoming events in Southeast Asia, the United Kingdom, the United States and Australia, go to www.victoria.ac.nz/alumniandfriends



In Bangkok, the alumni event was co-hosted by the New Zealand Ambassador, His Excellency Reuben Levermore. More than 70 alumni and friends gathered for the event.

From left: Anuwat Pue-On, Satapong Soontarak. Vice-Chancellor Professor Grant Guilford, Pratak Simapichaicheth, Precha Phonprasert



The alumni function in Ha Noi was held at the residence of the New Zealand Ambassador, His Excellency Haïke Manning.



Alumni function in Ha Noi.

From left: Thi Van Thanh Pham, Pro Vice-Chancellor (International Engagement) Professor Rob Rabel, Quang Nguyen



The alumni function in Ho Chi Minh City attracted almost 70 alumni and friends.



Ho Chi Minh City function.

From left: Long Ly, Linh Nguyen, Thi Xuan Hang Tran, Anh Khanh Minh Le



Almost 70 alumni and friends attended the alumni function in Indonesia, Jakarta, co-hosted by the New Zealand Ambassador, His Excellency David Taylor.

From left: Ovy Rianintya, Aswidiyo Nedwika, Rara Sekar Larasati, Yuanindita Ingardya (Ardya)

Working with royalty

Jason Knauf BA *Well*, MSc Pol Com *LSE*

Communications secretary to the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge and Prince Harry



What kind of work have you been doing since you graduated in 2004?

I worked in the Beehive for four years as a press secretary and communications

adviser in the fifth Labour Government.

After moving to the United Kingdom to complete my Master's, I spent 18 months as a press secretary for the UK Treasury before moving to the Royal Bank of Scotland, where I became the director of Corporate Affairs.

I'm now the communications secretary to the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge and Prince Harry. This involves advising Their Royal Highnesses on all aspects of their communication with the public, including serving as their primary spokesman to the media.

A week into the job I flew to Asia to support the Duke on his tour of Japan and China. The trip included meetings with the Chinese President and Japanese Prime Minister and Emperor—it was quite an induction to the new role!

What have been the highlights of your career to date?

I feel incredibly lucky to have started my career alongside great political leaders. One highlight was working with Michael

Cullen as he transformed the Treaty of Waitangi settlements process and made historic decisions such as buying back the railways.

Working for the UK Treasury at the peak of the financial crisis was an unsettling time, but certainly a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

What has remained with you since your time at Victoria?

My Honours year was one of the best years of my life—I worked incredibly hard but had a great time. During that year, I wrote four 10,000 word essays and it's still the hardest thing I've ever done. When I'm feeling overwhelmed, I remind myself nothing will ever be that hard again!

Where did you typically hang out both on and off campus?

I mostly lived on Salamanca Road—it was great and really handy for getting to class. My flat was bigger than anywhere I've lived in London so far!

Celebrating a 100-year legacy

Te Kōkī New Zealand School of Music (NZSM) is marking what would have been New Zealand composer Douglas Lilburn's 100-year birthday with a year of celebration.

Douglas, who taught at the then School of Music from 1947 until his retirement in 1980, is regarded as the grandfather of New Zealand composition.

He profoundly influenced the landscape of New Zealand music, says senior lecturer in Composition, Michael Norris.

"Douglas is a role model for many New Zealand composers, not only in the way he sustained a career as a composer in a small country, but also in the way he was open to different musical languages—as witnessed by his own embracing of the electronic medium in the 1960s."

At the first event of the year, NZSM director, Euan Murdoch, opened the newly refurbished electro-acoustic

Lilburn Studios in a ribbon-cutting ceremony in late April. The studios continue to be a fundamental part of the composition programme at NZSM.

"Douglas made Victoria University a mecca for New Zealand composers—creating a legacy that can still be seen in the School today," says Euan.

"His legacy of musical openness and inquiry can be found in the strong interdisciplinary composition programme at NZSM, which produces many composers who are proficient in both instrumental composition and music technology."

The launch was followed by a concert in the Adam Concert Room, which featured a reading from NZSM's

Dr Robert Hoskins' book, *Douglas Lilburn: Memories of Early Years and Other Writings* and performances of Douglas Lilburn's music.

Throughout the year, the NZSM Orchestra will perform Douglas' music at concerts and students from Victoria's Sonic Arts programme will present his electronic music.

NZSM's Wai-te-ata Music Press, New Zealand's longest-running publisher of New Zealand sheet music, which Douglas founded, will also launch new editions of some of his previously unpublished scores.

For more information about the events, go to

www.nzsm.ac.nz/events/lilburn-100

Winning entrepreneur

Rebecca Milne BA BCA *Well*

Partner and chief operator at the Aera Foundation



Photo supplied

What kind of work have you been doing since you graduated in 2012?

After graduating, I joined the Advisory team at Ernst & Young, where I worked with a range of public and private clients

on engagements ranging from investment support to current state and future state analysis.

After being recruited through The Shoulder Tap campaign—run by New Zealand entrepreneur Derek Handley—I am now joint partner and chief operator at Aera Foundation, a venture production studio advancing groundbreaking philanthropic and business models that unite profit and purpose.

What was the most useful thing you learnt at Victoria?

I learnt to always challenge and question my views, as well as the views of others. I learnt that broadening your views, and learning about others through discussion and debate, is one of the most interesting things in life.

Where did you typically hang out both on and off campus?

I hung out at the Pipitea campus or in cafés around the city. Wellington has an amazing central hub that has an

incredible café culture, great restaurants and good night life!

Have you kept any connections with Victoria?

I gave a guest lecture through Ernst & Young for a Management 101 class last year. I'm looking forward to being involved in speaking to students involved in the Victoria International Leadership Programme this year.

What are some of your favourite memories?

The friends I made, falling in love with Wellington and taking papers that opened my eyes to things that I had never thought about. Being a student during the rugby world cup also created many good memories!

One of the best experiences was the opportunity to go on exchange to Sweden. Being thrust out of my comfort zone and into a new environment helped me grow massively.

Putting a new spin on a University sporting tradition

The gentle thwack of leather on willow has echoed across Kelburn Park since 1906, and it's hoped a fresh game plan will see Victoria University's cricket club reach a double century at least.

Victoria's is the oldest university cricket club in New Zealand and has produced representative players such as Bruce Murray and John Reid and, more recently, Matthew Bell and Heath Davis.

But because people's fascination with cricket can be as fickle as the fortunes of the Black Caps, moves are afoot to maintain player numbers and ensure the club will keep churning out cricketing greats into the future.

Andrew Lamb, the club's coach and manager, says they are hoping to accommodate younger cricketers. "We've never had a junior team before—that would really help increase the number of local players we have, and would boost numbers over all."

Current premier-side captain, James

Boyle, a former Victoria student, says the club has a special place in Wellington's cricket history. "It's got amazing grounds—Kelburn Park is probably the best venue in Wellington after the Basin Reserve.

"One of the unique things about our club is that we get a lot of players from out of town, so being a member is a great way to meet new people."

Harry Ricketts, a Victoria English professor and "cricket tragic", played for the club for 25 years, on and off, starting as his team's youngest player and finishing as its oldest. "I've played for various teams in England and Hong Kong but Victoria University was by far the most friendly and supportive club. You get to know your teammates pretty



Cricket club members Todd Beehre (batting) and Daniel Norman (bowling) in action.

well over a period of time and you really develop a strong bond and friendship with some of these big personalities through that shared experience."

✉ vucc@gmail.com
 ➡ www.sportsground.co.nz/vucricquet/106326/

Celebration time at Victoria

Social events and a variety of activities are planned to celebrate some of Victoria University's significant milestones this year. These include 100 years of adult education, 30 years of Linguistics being offered as a major and anniversary events for the School of Government.

Centenary of adult education

It is 100 years since Victoria University introduced adult education. The first three courses, set up to extend the opportunity for education to the wider public, focused on economics, English and electricity (a relatively new technology at the time) and were run in association with the Workers Education Association. Today, Victoria's Centre for Lifelong Learning provides more than 200 short courses a year for professional development and personal interest as well as study tours and field trips, with subjects ranging from the ancient world and creative writing to minute taking and leadership.

The centre will be holding events throughout the year to celebrate its centennial, along with monthly competitions for customers. Keep an eye on the websites: www.victoria.ac.nz/conted and www.victoria.ac.nz/profdev

Three decades of Linguistics

Victoria was the first university in New Zealand to offer Linguistics as a major, 30 years ago.

All Linguistics graduates have been invited to attend a reunion event to celebrate on 10 July. Among those in attendance will be Professor Deborah Cameron, Victoria's Ian Gordon Fellow for 2015, who is internationally renowned for her work on feminist linguistics, and who will give two public lectures the week after the anniversary event. The final of the inaugural secondary school New Zealand Linguistics Olympiad will be held on the afternoon of the anniversary event. Contestants in the competition, which involves all universities that teach linguistics, will be asked to solve logical problems involving language. To find out more about the anniversary event, go to www.victoria.ac.nz/lals

Celebrating Wellington's 150th birthday

Victoria University has been an important part of Wellington for well over 100 years. To help celebrate the capital's 150th birthday, Victoria is showcasing some of its staff and students' expertise at various locations around the city during

the weekend of 25–26 July. This includes interactive displays of student work, talks and performances by Te Kōkī New Zealand School of Music students. For details, go to

www.victoria.ac.nz/wgtn-birthday

School of Government anniversary celebrations

To coincide with Wellington's 150th anniversary celebrations, the School of Government is hosting a 'Homecoming' day of activities on Friday 25 July at the Pipitea campus to celebrate the achievements and contribution of its alumni who have studied Public Policy, Public Management and Public Administration. This year marks the 40th anniversary of the Master of Public Policy degree, which replaced the former Diploma of Public Administration; the 17th anniversary of the Master of Public Management programme; and the 13th birthday of the Australia and New Zealand School of Government (ANZSOG) Masters of Public Administration (Executive).



From fire attendant to judge

Jeremy Fordham LLB *Well*
Retired judge



Why did you choose Victoria?

I came to Victoria from Britain rather by accident. I was a junior deck officer at the New Zealand Shipping Company but

knew that I didn't want to do that forever. In those days it was so easy to get into university. I received provisional admission, which really meant if you survived a year, you could continue studying.

Where did you live while you were studying and what was it like?

I lived in a fire station up in Northland, where I would get paid five shillings an hour to attend fires around Wellington. I was one of four men and we would all take it in turns to sleep in the on-call room. If the phone rang, I would have to wake everyone. It wasn't a good job the night before an exam, but that was the luck of the draw.

What have you done since graduating?

Looking back I've lived a bit of a gypsy life, but I've enjoyed it.

I practised law in Wellington for a while, but after getting married my wife and

I moved to London. We later moved to the Pacific Islands for five years, where I worked as a senior magistrate, managing and touring a legal system over two million square miles, which was mostly ocean.

Once finishing up there, we could have either returned to New Zealand or gone back to London. For better or for worse, I went back to being a barrister in London, where I went on to work as one of the London metropolitan magistrates and a circuit judge until pension age.

What I've always enjoyed about my profession is not so much the academic or legal side of it, but the trial work—that's what it's all about.

What has stayed with you since you left Victoria?

I value enormously the spirit of tolerance. Everyone was very tolerant of me during my studies. You've always got to respect another point of view—you may be wrong, and they might be right.

Bright spark

Melissa Clark-Reynolds BA(Hons) *Well*, MCRP *Rutgers*
Entrepreneur

What kind of work have you been doing since you graduated?

After leaving Victoria I worked for a while, before heading to the United States to do my Master's. Since then I have pretty much been a technology entrepreneur or CEO. I'm working now as a professional company director.

Some highlights of my career include getting to see my former company—Fusion, a private accident compensation insurer—grow from nothing to over \$100m in revenue in nine weeks and then going on to sell it to Southern Cross Insurance. Other highlights include training with Al Gore to present his slideshow from The Inconvenient Truth and getting the Lightning Lab business accelerator off the ground in Wellington.

All of this success would not have been possible without the help of a team!

Describe your student experience at Victoria.

I completed my high school education at 15 years old, and was denied entry to Victoria, as at the time the University didn't enrol students under 16 for degree programmes. So I studied at Massey in Palmerston North until I could enrol at Victoria.

My favourite memories involve friends as well as student politics. The 1981 tour was a massive year and its influence on me and my friends can still be felt. I was really proud to have been active in the anti-tour movement.

What has stayed with you since you left Victoria?

I don't think it matters what you study, but it's important to do something you really, really love and find fascinating. The most useful courses to me have been those which enrich my life, such as film,



Photo supplied

classics and anthropology. I use those, plus statistics, every day.



Image from the third *Hobbit* film. ©2014 Warner Bros. Entertainment Inc. and Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Pictures Inc.

Reaching for the sky

Andrew Chalmers is only one year into his PhD in Computer Graphics but already his work is being used to help create top Hollywood films.

Andrew's Honours practicum took him to Weta Digital, where he was tasked with creating a program to help find the right sky shot to go with a scene. After his practicum was complete, Weta kept Andrew on for a summer internship.

The result of his work at Weta is a program called Sky Browser, which allows a designer to search through a database of different sky images to find one that best fits the mood or atmosphere of a scene. Different sky options can be searched, based on a range of factors including texture and colour.

Andrew was credited in the third *Hobbit* film for his work on Sky Browser. Weta has now integrated Sky Browser into its core system.

When his internship finished, Andrew began a PhD at Victoria. One of the first things he did was to turn the work he had done on Sky Browser into a research paper, co-authored with artists and researchers from Weta Digital. He then published and presented the paper at Pacific Graphics, a

top tier international conference that took place in Seoul, South Korea.

beginning a Bachelor of Science, majoring in Computer Science in his second year.

“In my third year, the Computer Graphics course became available and I was hooked. I just kept going after that.”

Andrew was pleased to be able to present part of his work so early in his PhD research.

“It was great to be able to learn from others working in the same area and a really good opportunity to collaborate and share ideas. It was nerve-wracking presenting, but the response was really good.”

Andrew's PhD research follows on from the work he did on Sky Browser, but focuses on how the sky lights a scene, particularly the computer-generated characters within it.

When Andrew started at Victoria he was studying toward a Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy. However, a desire to get into video game development led him to also

Computer graphics is still in the early stages at Victoria and the development of the programme coincided with Andrew's study goals.

“In my third year, the Computer Graphics course became available and I was hooked. I just kept going after that.”

For now, Andrew's focus is on his research but he's keeping an open mind about the future.

“Originally I thought of working for a company as a game developer but as I learn I realise I already know enough to be able to do it by myself if I wanted.”

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Multilingual Masterchef

Students get cooking and talking in an annual multilingual food competition organised by Victoria's School of Languages and Cultures.

Last year's Multilingual Masterchef involved about 70 language students working in teams to prepare a meal of either dumplings or ravioli. The rule—to communicate only in the language they were learning.

Students of Chinese, Japanese, German and Italian participated, with their cooking judged by a panel that included Wellington chefs Roberto Giorgioni of Bongusto and Vicky Ha of House of Dumplings.

The students' fluency in language was also assessed, says Dr Marco Sonzogno, a senior lecturer in the School of Languages and Cultures.

"One of the things our students would like to do more of is to have opportunities outside the classroom to practise their language," he says. "This event is ideal because they're cooking, and their minds

are on the cooking, but at the same time they're using the language. You think of the traditional oral exam—people coming up with a five- to 10-minute presentation, and the anxiety, then the questions, then the marking. The students are doing the same thing here but their minds are on something else."

Representatives of the Chinese, Japanese, German and Italian embassies in Wellington attended the event. There are plans to include students of additional languages in the competition next year.

The Victoria initiative has gone international in other ways, with Dr Francesca Calamita, who earned her PhD in Italian at Victoria, successfully introducing the concept to her students of Italian at the University of Virginia in the United States.



To view a video of the competition, go to www.youtube.com/watch?v=KmolEPdCXmA

Socially accountable

As a child in Vanuatu, Pala Molisa was dragged along by his parents to protests about gender justice or conferences on Pacific development. That early exposure to social issues has left a lasting impression on the Victoria lecturer.

Pala, who teaches in the School of Accounting and Commercial Law at Victoria Business School, is focusing his research on the little-known area of social and critical accounting.

"It's about trying to come up with alternative reporting systems, so you're looking at things like social or environmental impacts, instead of just financial figures. It's about questioning the status quo."

Pala graduated last year with a PhD that looked at the role accounting plays in producing social inequality and ecological unsustainability. "A lot of people think of accounting as this technical, value-free and pretty neutral discipline—just numbers. But the whole point of critical accounting scholarship is to say those numbers have important social and political functions, and very important social and ecological consequences."

He says his most important influences were his parents, especially his mother.

"Mum and Dad were both part of the independence movement in Vanuatu against British and French colonialism—Vanuatu became independent in 1980. Mum was also a feminist and women's rights activist, and she was a poet too. So I grew up in a very politicised environment, which has stayed with me, and I consider myself very lucky for that exposure."

It's not just education that Pala values—he's a successful sportsman too, having represented Vanuatu in weightlifting at the Commonwealth Games.

"I think it's important to have that balance in life, and to have a sense of obligation to the communities that helped you to become who you are: for me that's my family, the Pasifika and Māori communities and the academic community, in particular."

His postdoctoral research will expand on his PhD work, focusing on gender justice in the sex industry, the impact of



prison growth on social inequality and how accounting intersects with wider systems of power such as neo-liberal capitalism.

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Boys washing kava root before the men chop it finely (Hog Harbour village, East Santo, Vanuatu). Photo supplied

Memories of an attack

Professor Miriam Meyerhoff from Victoria's School of Linguistics and Applied Language Studies has heard some surprising and gripping stories while researching sociolinguistics in Vanuatu.

Oral histories provide perfect data for a sociolinguist, she says.

"When people are engaged in relating a story, they give you natural vernacular."

For most of the past 20 years, she has focused on the local Creole language, which is spoken across Vanuatu. But since 2011, she has been studying one of the other 104 languages of Vanuatu, Nkep, assisted by funding from the Endangered Languages Project in the United Kingdom.

It was in this pursuit that she sat down one day to record a story from local woman Janet Nial, who said, "I want to tell you what happened during the Rebellion."

Janet told how, 21 days after the declaration of independence in Vanuatu, rebels had visited her village, Hog Harbour, on the island of Santo, in retaliation for some earlier violence, and then used four machine guns to fire on the village for an hour.

Miriam says she had not heard the story before.

"The story had never been properly documented in any histories of Vanuatu."

The villagers asked her to record the story on a DVD, an initially daunting task as she didn't have the resources. However, she made approaches to several people and put together a production team. They included a director and videographer with National Geographic experience, Steve Talley, editor Gloriana Roebeck and Pop-Up Workshop and RPM Pictures in Auckland.

Under the direction of Manasseh Vocor, Sapu Warput and the community at Hog Harbour, they made a 40-minute film that records people's memories of the attack, acts of heroism, violence and a reconciliation afterwards.

The film includes re-enactments from people who were there in 1980, young people in the village today and the Vanuatu Mobile Force (army), who play the rebels with their machine guns.

The film, called *Heher hür nyesi cei netvoocvooc* (*Days of Struggle, Days of Hope*) was played to the village on 21 August 2014. Traditionally, the day has become a day of rest and remembrance for the village.

Several hundred people packed the village nakamal (meeting house) for the viewing, the Vanuatu Mobile Force marching band put on their most spectacular show and the day was rounded out with blessings and shared food. "People said it was the best 21st of August they'd ever had," says Miriam.

Although no one was killed in the attack, it was a terrifying experience for those there who had to flee for their lives and hide in caves and in the bush. The attack finished only when one of the rebels was wounded by a shot from a defending villager. A villager was also wounded.

The village holds the film's copyright. On her next visit to Hog Harbour, Miriam will explore with the villagers whether it can be distributed to a wider audience.

She says the film was a career highlight.

"The project pulled so many people together. I think I'm more proud of this than anything I've ever done."

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Historical treasure trove

It might just be Victoria's best kept secret and is most definitely a bibliophile's dream.

The J.C. Beaglehole Room in the Kelburn Library has some fascinating and varied collections of rare books, New Zealand historical material, Victoria history, posters, pamphlets, periodicals, newspapers and more. As well as exploring diverse aspects of New Zealand history and literature, there's also a collection of items that represent the

history of printing across cultures.

The collections include 16,000 rare books, periodicals and papers, 800 books printed before 1820, early New Zealand newspapers published before 1875 and copies of *The Spike*, the Victoria student magazine published from 1902 to 1949.

The J.C. Beaglehole Room is open to the public. Although material can't

be taken out, it can be used for private research. Seminars are run throughout the year on subjects related to the collections.

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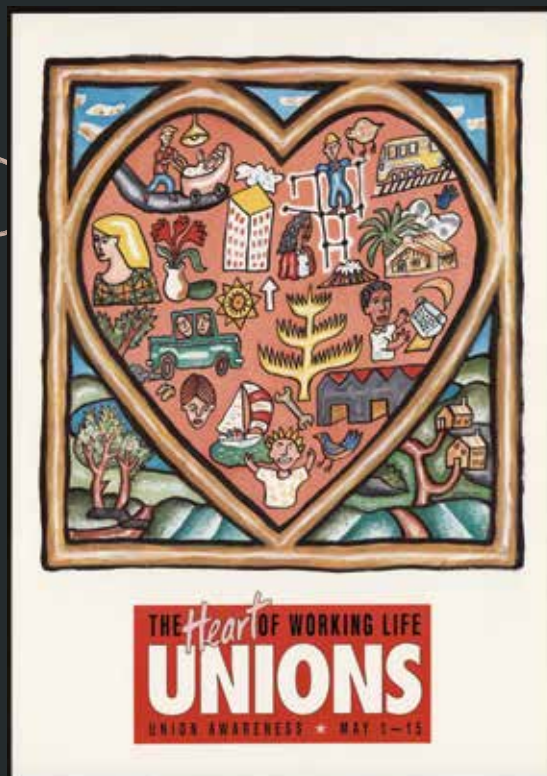
➡ <http://library.victoria.ac.nz/jc-beaglehole>

The Dan Long Union Library Poster Collection is part of the Dan Long Union Library, named after Dan Long who was General Secretary of the New Zealand Public Service Association (PSA) from 1960 to 1976. The library, which was donated to Victoria by the PSA in 1999, has around 400 posters produced by various unions and other groups from the 1960s to the 1990s.



The J.C. Beaglehole Room has over 100 books, magazines, images, newspapers and other material from World War I. *New Zealand at the Front* (1917) contains writing and illustrations from the men of the New Zealand Division fighting in France.

The Print Cultures collection celebrates print throughout history and across cultures. The oldest item in the collection is this example of hieroglyphics on papyrus, dating from 1320–1200 BC.





Letters of nineteenth century Māori women

Thousands of letters written in the Māori language in the nineteenth century are held in public collections in New Zealand and overseas but relatively few of these are identified as being written by Māori women.

Dr Arini Loader, from Victoria's School of History, Philosophy, Political Science and International Relations, has been studying just over a dozen letters written by women in te reo Māori between 1848 and 1853, held in the Sir George Grey Special Collections in the Auckland Public Library.

During this time, Ruta Te Rauparaha and Pipi Te Whiwhi corresponded with Lady Eliza Grey and her husband Sir George Grey, who was the Governor of New Zealand at the time.

Ruta was the daughter of Tāwhiri, a rangatira of the Ngāti Whakarete hapū of Ngāti Raukawa, and was married to Tāmihana Te Rauparaha, a prominent Ngāti Toa rangatira and son of the renowned Te Rauparaha.

Pipi similarly came from illustrious genealogical lines, being the daughter of Kiriwera and a sister of Tāmihana's mother Te Ākau. Pipi was married to Henare Mātene Te Whiwhi, another important Ngāti Raukawa rangatira and contemporary of Tāmihana.

The women's letters reveal their close friendships and affection for each other, using the vernacular of the times, Arini says.

"Their close association was enabled by their shared position as women who were married to men of high social and political status. They entered their marriages with social standing of their own."

Some of the letters make reference to the intense loneliness felt by the

women while their husbands were away on frequently long and dangerous journeys. The letters also include coded references to pregnancy in the style of the time—wives were simply 'mate' or 'unwell'. Other letters convey the joy of receiving a letter—in Ruta's case, from her husband Tāmihana while he was away visiting England.

Arini says her research has highlighted how much more there is to explore and the importance of more people learning Māori in order to be able to read such letters.

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Real-world experience

A Wellington business is planning to implement a branding concept suggested by a Victoria marketing student for a class assignment.



Student Kallie French with Alison Macaulay, business partner and daughter of Margaret Macaulay.

Eat.co.nz, a company that delivers fresh home-cooked meals to people's doors, was one of eight Wellington businesses that provided real-life experience for 249 third-year students completing a Strategic Marketing Management paper. The students' brief was to work with a business to create a strategic marketing analysis and a plan looking to the future.

'Eat Together' is the brand suggested by student Kallie French, which would involve cooking meals for families of up

to five rather than the usual single-serve options, encouraging families to eat together at the table.

"I love the name and the idea, which will help us tap into a different market," says Margaret Macaulay, managing director of eat.co.nz, who plans to launch the new product in the next few months.

For the assignment, which is likely to become an annual course requirement, students were divided into groups and allocated a business with which to work.

Business representatives came to a tutorial at the University to talk about their strategic issues, enabling students to ask questions. Once the students had completed their strategy, they made formal presentations to their business.

"In a business school, I think it's incredibly important to students to have some real-world experience, which is why we chose to use actual companies," says the course coordinator, Dr Janine Williams.

"Students I talked to said they learned so much and enjoyed the practical application. They found it challenging, but more engaging and rewarding because they were dealing with real issues and constraints."

Cath Randall, from Grow Wellington, helped Janine to identify businesses to participate in the project, and says feedback was positive.

"Not only did the students benefit, many of the businesses remarked on how impressed they were by the students' insights and ideas," she says. "This kind of experience is invaluable for students before they enter the workforce."

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App to discover Wellington treasure

A team of three former Victoria students is \$10,000 richer after taking out the top prize in a competition to create a mobile app that will enhance students' experience of the capital city.

The Cap App Challenge was developed by Creative HQ on behalf of Victoria University, and attracted a strong field of competitors. The top six finalists presented to a panel of judges in a Dragons' Den-style event that took place at Victoria on 5 March.

Victoria graduate George Feast-Parker, former student Katherine Anderson and current part-time Law student Gabrielle Young came first with their app, Sesame.

The team describes its app as a real-world treasure map. First users would be able to pinpoint places on a map of Wellington that they want people to visit. Once the second users, typically friends,

arrive at the location, they would be able to view messages, songs, videos or other content left by the first user.

"Sesame encourages students to get outside and explore all the amazing things Wellington has to offer, while providing an opportunity to share and receive meaningful content in a unique way," team members explained in their presentation.

The winning trio met and came up with the idea for Sesame while taking part in a nine-week intensive software development course. Since then, they have all found jobs in the technology sector.

Along with the overall award, two other

teams were awarded \$2,500 each.

George Nelson and Marcus Jackson received the Design Award with their app, XP, which matches students with potential internships and work-related opportunities.

The People's Choice Award went to Flora Lu and Ekta Nathu for their app, Cofi, which shows users which Wellington cafés have the best coffee and wifi access.

Along with the cash prize there is also the potential for teams to work with Victoria to develop their application.

The overall winners are already working on an online prototype of Sesame.

A unique bequest

A baroque violin made in 1760—when Mozart was only four years old—is among a collection of instruments gifted to Te Kōkī New Zealand School of Music (NZSM) by the late musician, John David North.

The bequest also includes two violins and several bows of German origin for viola and violin, which will be used by specialist students and staff at NZSM, as well as a substantial amount of money.

John first started playing the violin at nine years old and was taught by his grandfather, Joseph North, who, at the time, was leader of the Zelman Orchestra, which later became the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra.

In 1965, John took up a violin position in the New Zealand Broadcasting Corporation Symphony Orchestra, where he developed an interest in the viola, which he felt was better suited to his long arms and broad fingers.

John took leave from the orchestra to resume his studies, and he graduated with a Bachelor of Music from the then Victoria School of Music in 1972.

During his studies, he formed a quartet led by Peter Walls (first violin), now Victoria Pro-Chancellor and Emeritus Professor; Allan Maret (second violin), now University of Sydney's Emeritus Professor; and Sue Alexander (cello).

Peter remembers John with great affection. "He was a larger than life guy."

John returned home to Australia and played with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra for 28 years, becoming leader of the viola section. He alternated playing two Australian violas, one made by renowned violin maker Lloyd Adams in 1933 and the other by Mark Pengilly in 1995.

John often remarked that he was supremely privileged to earn a living from his 'hobby', says his niece, Jo Clay.

"John enjoyed his time in New Zealand and always spoke of it fondly."

Successful Wellington lawyer leaves lasting legacy



A former Wellington coroner, who survived the rigours of war-torn Germany as a teenager, has left a generous bequest to Victoria University.

The funds gifted by Erika Kremic are untied, allowing the University to decide where they would best be used.

Erika arrived in New Zealand as a displaced refugee in 1950, under the resettlement scheme for displaced persons with her husband, Todor Kremic, a Yugoslav former prisoner of war.

Originally enrolling in science at the University of Münster, Erika was able to complete only one year of study before war broke out. She joined the Women's Land Army, which replaced men in the agriculture sector who were called up to the military.

After settling in New Zealand, Erika worked in various clerical jobs for over a decade, until one of her former teachers in Germany questioned why she wasn't doing more with her talents. Erika began studying law part time at Victoria and was admitted to the bar in 1966. She was made a partner of Tripe Matthews Feist in 1974 and remained there until her retirement in 1987.

In 1988, Erika was appointed by the then Minister of Justice, Sir Geoffrey Palmer, as the Wellington Coroner.

At the time, Sir Geoffrey said that he knew she would make an understanding coroner. "She never spoke of her wartime experiences. She was a person who had seen it all in her youth."

She remained Coroner until her retirement in 1997.

As a coroner, she is best remembered for the 1997 warning she gave to the Wellington City Council about the perils of not checking on elderly tenants living in Council flats.

Erika was an advocate for women advancing their education and careers and was known for encouraging colleagues in their efforts.



As seen at Victoria



Sculpture installed

A new sculpture, called Toss, by well-known artist Neil Dawson, was installed by crane in the Hunter Courtyard in December. In the shape of a trencher, the special headgear that is worn at graduation ceremonies, the sculpture appears suspended as if thrown into the air in celebration. The sculpture was gifted to the University by Gillian and Dr Roderick Deane.



New hall

Victoria's newest student accommodation complex was officially opened by Chancellor Sir Neville Jordan in February. Situated in Boulcott Street, Katharine Jermyn Hall is a 390-bed facility. The former office block is a fully catered hall that will primarily accommodate domestic first-year students. Each of the 14 floors of the Hall has communal facilities and bedrooms that are fully furnished and heated and many also have stunning views of the city. The Hall is named after a former staff member who made a major contribution to Victoria over 40 years.



From left: Victoria University of Wellington Students' Association (VUWSA) President Rick Zwan; Nicola Young, Wellington City Councillor, Lambton Ward; and Chancellor Sir Neville Jordan standing in one of the bedrooms at Katharine Jermyn Hall.



OWeek

During Orientation Week (OWeek), Victoria University Students' Association (VUWSA) teamed up with the University to put on a huge range of events, from the annual Toga Party and Campus Carnivals to international music shows and comedy nights. Events included The Big Play Out, a fun day of live music, free food, sports, giveaways and more.

Vanuatu fundraiser

'Young Life', one of Vanuatu's most acclaimed reggae bands, played at the University for a benefit concert for Vanuatu in March, following the damage caused by Cyclone Pam. The concert, along with other fundraising initiatives, was organised by staff and students.



Open day

More than 1,000 visitors came to the Victoria University Coastal Ecology Laboratory's open day in March. People of all ages were entertained with interactive activities and displays.

Celebrating success

Just under 1,250 students celebrated many years of hard work, dedication and achievement at December graduation.

A total of 1,350 qualifications were awarded to 1,248 students, including 84 PhDs.

Victoria awarded an honorary Doctor of Literature to Dr Noel Barnard, a world authority in the field of early Chinese history

and archaeology (profiled on the following page). Professor John Psathas (pictured below with Vice-Chancellor Professor Grant Guilford and the then Chancellor Ian McKinnon) from Te Kōki New Zealand School of Music was admitted to the degree of Doctor of Music for the immense body of work he has contributed to his field.



Honorary doctorate—Dr Noel Barnard

A world authority in the field of early Chinese history and archaeology, Dr Noel Barnard, received the honorary degree of Doctor of Literature at Victoria's December graduation.

The 92-year-old travelled to Wellington from his Canberra home especially for the graduation ceremony.

Noel completed his undergraduate studies in History and Geography at Victoria University. He then moved to Sydney and was awarded one of the first PhD scholarships offered by the Australian National University (ANU), specialising in Chinese studies. He went on to become the university's first graduate in Chinese history and subsequently enjoyed a highly successful academic career at ANU for more than 50 years.

Over the years, Noel has become internationally renowned for his knowledge of early Chinese history and archaeology, in particular metallurgy. His focus has been on the interpretation of inscriptions, especially those found on the bronze vessels of the Zhou dynasty (110–221 BCE).

He has published more than 70 research articles and papers, including 13 publications of monograph or book size. In 1970, in recognition of the extensive contribution he has made to his field, he was elected Fellow of the Australian Academy of Humanities. Noel's forthcoming book *Inscriptions of Chin and the San-Chin, Chung-shan and Yen* represents the culmination of seven decades of research.



Dr Noel Barnard receives his honorary doctorate from the then Chancellor Ian McKinnon.

Third generation to cross the stage

Kuratapirangi Higgins (Ngāi Tūhoe) followed in the footsteps of her mother and grandmother as she walked across the stage to collect a Tohu Māoritanga/ Diploma in Māoritanga during graduation in December.

Kuratapirangi had not considered studying the Tohu programme before it was recommended by her mother, Professor Rawinia Higgins—Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Māori Research) and Head of School at Victoria's Te Kawa a Maui. She admits she was initially reluctant, “not because I wasn’t interested in Māori Studies, I just wanted to do something different from my mum and grandmother because I knew people would expect more out of me if I followed in their footsteps. But the programme has taught me so much, I’ve really enjoyed it.”

The Tohu Māoritanga programme is designed to provide students with a foundation in Māori language, culture and society, as well as giving them the academic study skills required at tertiary level. It provides a pathway into a Bachelor of Arts and other undergraduate programmes.



From left: Te Ripowai Higgins, Kuratapirangi Higgins and Professor Rawinia Higgins

Looking back, Kura is pleased she listened to her mum and has enjoyed studying in a place she says has always felt like home—Te Herenga Waka Marae.

When Kura was two she moved to Wellington to live with her grandparents, while her mother was working and finishing her PhD at the University of Otago. Every day after Kōhanga reo and

school, she would wait at the marae for her grandmother to finish work. Te Ripowai is the taurima/manager of Te Herenga Waka Marae.

“Between both my mum and grandmother, I’ve basically got my own personal library on campus and they know all the right people to talk to when I need help!”



Brent Wong, *Misconception*, 1969, acrylic on board, on loan to Victoria University of Wellington Art Collection from the artist.

Insights into the University's art collection

The Adam Art Gallery treated visitors to seldom-seen gems and new acquisitions from Victoria University's art collection at a recent exhibition.

The exhibition offered fresh insights into selected works from the collection, which numbers more than 550 items in total. It included Brent Wong's surreal late 1960s paintings of empty New Zealand landscapes, in which strange geometrical forms impossibly appear, paired with a new generation of artists—Gavin Hipkins, Peter Trevelyan, Shaun Waugh and Kate

Woods—whose works were borrowed especially for the occasion.

Also on display was a range of works by Māori, Pākehā and Pasifika artists who explore the rich cultural traditions and complex cross-cultural histories that have shaped New Zealand. This section was inspired by *The Feilding Panel*, a carved artwork that was gifted to the University in 2013.

Works gifted to Victoria University in 2010 by art historian Gordon H. Brown from his personal collection were shown with a selection of his own drawings and paintings from the 1950s and 1960s. Gordon was renowned as Colin McCahon's biographer and as co-author, with Hamish Keith, of the landmark book *Introduction to New Zealand Painting*, published in 1969. It is less well known that he was also an accomplished artist and a keen collector.

To learn more about the collection, including videos, go to www.adamartgallery.org.nz/collection

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Collaborating to treat cancer

A novel way of treating cancer using immunotherapy has been discovered in a joint research venture between Victoria University and the Malaghan Institute of Medical Research, and is on track to being tested on cancer patients.

The director of Victoria's Ferrier Research Institute, Professor Richard Furneaux, says the technology has been patented after successful laboratory trials, and a company called Avalia Immunotherapies has been established to further develop the groundbreaking treatment and progress it to clinical trials.

The discovery, which has been led by Ferrier's Dr Gavin Painter and Dr Ian Hermans from Malaghan, works as a therapeutic vaccine, activating the patient's own immune response to attack cancer cells in a patient's system.

Gavin says the prospect of the treatment moving into the human trial stage is extremely exciting. "We're very driven by practical outcomes—taking the research from the lab into the real world. Establishing Avalia means we can do that as well as potentially license intellectual property from external providers that might complement our work."

Support for Avalia Immunotherapies has come from New Zealand investment firm Powerhouse Ventures, the New Zealand Venture Investment Fund, the Callaghan Innovation technology-focused incubator programme, the Kiwi Innovation Network (KiwiNet) and Victoria University's commercialisation office Viclink.



Dr Gavin Painter (left) and Professor Richard Furneaux at the Ferrier Research Institute.

Victoria has formalised its relationship with Malaghan, recently signing a collaborative research agreement for chemical immunology. "It's an area of medical research where Ferrier's high-skill organic and medical chemistry work perfectly alongside Malaghan's leading-edge work in immunology," says Richard.

Richard says the potential benefits of the therapy are huge, not only for cancer patients but also for the Wellington research community. "This is the first of what we

hope is a birth of a biomedical initiative for the Wellington region—there's fantastic biomedical infrastructure here, from research facilities to the excellent district health boards. We're hoping Wellington will become as well known for its biomedical research as it is for its film industry."

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Designing close to home

A house left abandoned by well-known Lyttelton artist Bill Hammond was the initial inspiration for a Victoria Architecture student's award-winning work.

Tom Dobinson won the New Zealand Institute of Architects' Graphisoft Student Design Award last year for a presentation of some of the work he'd been doing for his Master's. Winning the prestigious award was a nice and "somewhat unexpected" way to round off his final year of studies, he says.

Tom's thesis explored how architecture might respond to a place, focusing on his home town of Lyttelton. His winning project focused on redesigning

the wharf—an area that is currently restricted—to enable public access to the waterfront.

"Seeing Hammond's abandoned house led me to an interest in his paintings," says Tom. "There was bush growing in the house as well as outside—he wasn't just living in a box—and that made me think about how I'd design a house for him."

Tom became interested in Hammond's Placemaker series, where he sees the birds in the paintings as representing Lyttelton residents and the sheer clifftops reflecting the town's separation from the port. Tom's own thesis in turn responds to the environment of Lyttelton but from

an architectural point of view.

In the final round of the competition, four finalists from three of New Zealand's schools of architecture—the University of Auckland, UNITEC and Victoria—presented their work to a panel of judges. The judges complimented Tom's clearly and legibly presented work. "[It] reveals a talent for analysis, skill in assembly and a deep interest in the social and architectural condition of Lyttelton," they said.

Tom's prize included a \$5,000 scholarship and a trip to Australia.

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Mentoring session with student team Hatcher. From left: Michael Elwood-Smith (mentor), Tom Numan, Emily Sullivan (entrepreneurship manager), Joshua Brake, Connor Finlayson and Danesh Abeyratne. Missing: Sam Etheridge.

Bootcamp builds entrepreneurs

From aiding medical professionals to pinpoint difficult veins to making unique packaging for boutique food and beverage companies, an intensive 14-week summer programme helps Victoria students turn their ideas into viable businesses.

The annual Victoria Entrepreneur Bootcamp is run by Victoria University and Viclink, the University's commercialisation office, in partnership with co-working and innovation network The BizDojo. The core programme is delivered by Wellington business incubator Creative HQ. It includes interactive workshops and lectures, access to mentors and an opportunity to present to a range of people from Wellington's innovation community, including potential investors.

Successful applicants participate in the programme at no charge, with six teams taking part last summer.

Viclink's entrepreneurship manager, Emily Sullivan, says the programme aims to infect participants with the entrepreneurial bug. "The skills they learn will be useful to them

over their entire working career. We want them to know what's possible and have the confidence to try new things without being afraid of failure."

Kah Chan, a senior lecturer from Victoria's School of Design, and Alan Hucks from Creative HQ, were the original brains behind the Bootcamp, which was piloted in 2011 and has grown and developed since then.

"This programme offers a fresh alternative to the traditional paths a graduate may take," Kah says.

Bootcamp participant Christina Leef says the programme taught her how to bring her business ideas to life. "Ultimately, all the information, mentors and networks that we were exposed to have been invaluable," she says.

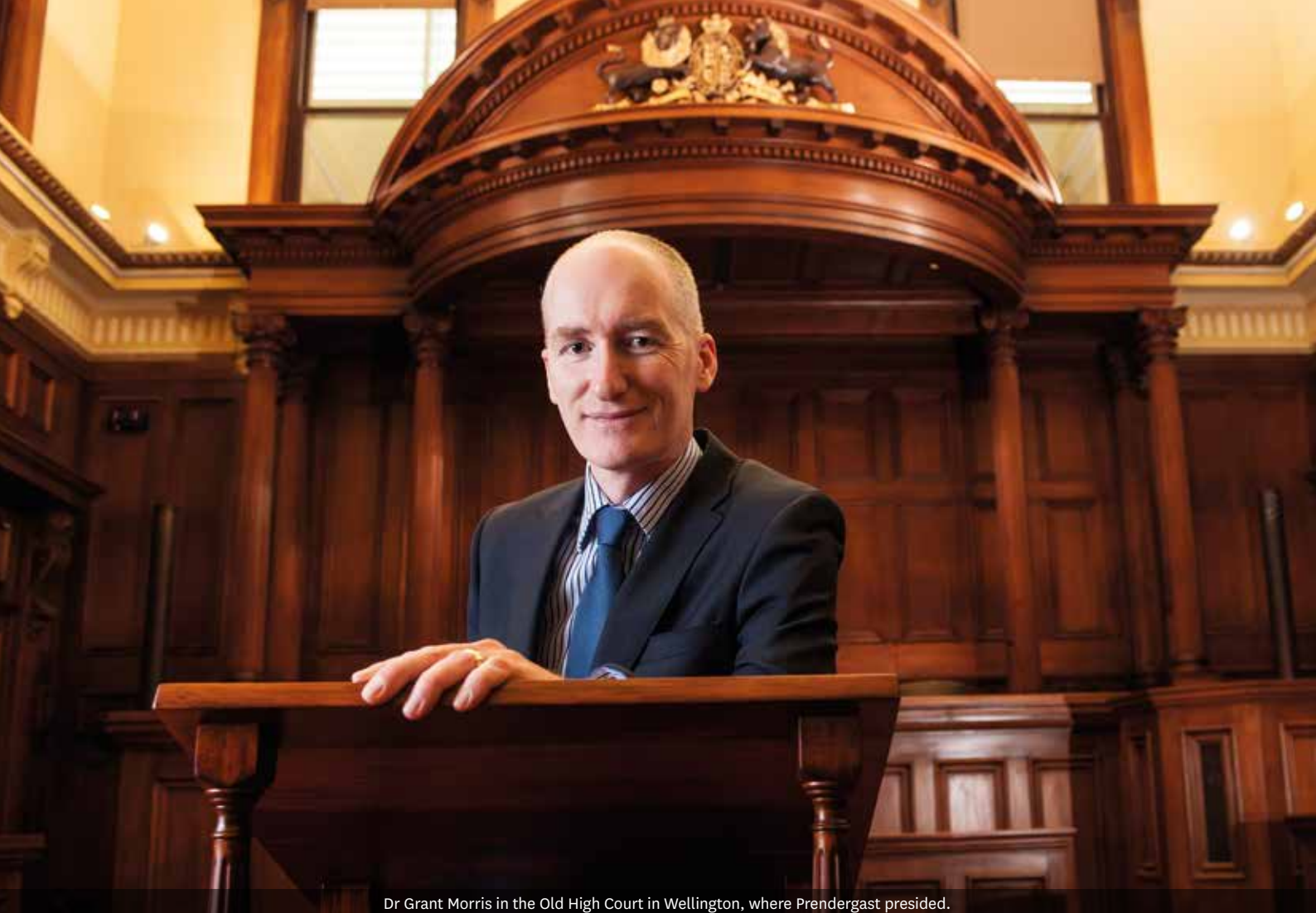
Support is provided after Bootcamp for

the teams that go on to develop their own businesses. One of the startups to come out of the programme is Swibo. Made up of design and engineering graduates, the team's core product is a lightweight balance board with a smartphone dock for playing games created by Swibo that put the fun back into doing at-home physiotherapy exercises.

"The exciting thing about Bootcamp is learning to build something from the ground up," says team member Ben Dunn, "and then to actually be able to live off the company we've built."

To watch a video about the Victoria Entrepreneur Bootcamp, go to www.youtube.com/watch?v=RWyWmhof7w

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Dr Grant Morris in the Old High Court in Wellington, where Prendergast presided.

Founding father or legal villain?

An 1877 ruling that the Treaty of Waitangi was a “simple nullity” signed by “primitive barbarians”, by our Chief Justice at the time, has had far-reaching consequences for subsequent Treaty claims.

New Zealand’s second-longest serving Chief Justice, James Prendergast, comes under scrutiny in the biography *Prendergast: Legal Villain?*, by Grant Morris, a senior lecturer at Victoria’s Faculty of Law. Grant assesses Prendergast’s career and finds that although he had been considered a pillar of the community while he was alive, people don’t view him as favourably today.

“That’s an interesting thing about history—do you judge a figure on the basis of when he or she lived and morals at that time or do you judge them in hindsight? Prendergast is a founding father, there’s no getting around that. But he’s also someone who had a profoundly negative effect on Māori society because of the decisions he made,” says Grant.

The “simple nullity” event refers to the case that *Wi Parata*, a Māori Member of

Parliament and a Ngāti Toa chief, took to the Supreme Court in an attempt to recover entrusted land for his tribe.

The judgment by Prendergast and his fellow judge William Richmond ventured beyond the facts of the case to pass judgment on the Treaty of Waitangi.

“The judges used the *Wi Parata* decision as an effective vehicle for enshrining Eurocentric, imperialist views in law,” says Grant. “To justify the view that New Zealand was acquired by occupation and discovery and that the Crown could unilaterally extinguish native title, the judges somehow had to dispose of the Treaty. Their judgment, which was that Māori had no recognisable system of government or customary law, and therefore no sovereignty to cede, became the most notorious example of legal reasoning in New Zealand history. Its effect was to minimise the role of the

Treaty and to emphasise that the Treaty in itself had no binding force.”

In the biography, which is published by Victoria University Press, Grant leaves the readers to make up their own minds about whether Prendergast is in fact a legal villain, also pointing out many of his achievements. “As Chief Justice, he was a very good administrator of the legal system, for instance, and he did make some major contributions to the New Zealand legal system.”

Reactions to the biography have been diverse, says Grant, and can reflect the political outlook of the commentator, revealing the controversy that still surrounds Prendergast today.

“Some say I should have condemned Prendergast more—others think I’ve been too hard on him!”

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Thomas Gaynor, Victoria graduate
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