

VICTORIOUS

Issue 2, 2015



Teaching excellence:
changing lives

Climate change: the
challenge of our time

The challenge of our time

Initiatives to address climate change—the effects and the inertia.



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Prelude to a journey 1973

oil on board

Victoria University of Wellington Art Collection

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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

For Victoria, being a globally engaged civic university means drawing upon the advantages and responsibilities of being located in New Zealand's capital city, where our country's leaders are based.

Our staff and students have privileged access to political, public sector, legal, diplomatic, corporate and community organisations. We also have access to archives and national treasures, can readily take part in the debates that shape our country and are able to form valuable international connections. This helps us to create bridges between communities and to influence thinking in the wider world.

We recognise, however, that intellectual influence doesn't come as of right. It can be derived only from our strengths in the relevant academic disciplines and from effective engagement with local, national and regional concerns. It requires us to develop valued relationships with the public sector and the diplomatic community in Wellington while retaining the independence to speak truth to power.

The latter is important—this simple phrase captures our important role in civil society to inform debate through research, critical enquiry and intellectual independence. It also embodies the challenge of strengthening our relationships with the public sector and the diplomatic community while retaining the independence to engage critically with government in a non-partisan manner.

Flowing from our positioning as New Zealand's globally ranked capital city university, Victoria has chosen a cluster of related multidisciplinary research and teaching themes focused on societal outcomes. These themes, or areas of distinctiveness, reach across the University and provide strategic emphasis. They include:

- advancing better government
- cultivating creative capital
- spearheading our digital futures
- enabling our Asia-Pacific trading nation
- stimulating a design-led high-value manufacturing region
- enhancing the resilience and sustainability of our natural heritage and capital
- improving health and wellbeing in our communities
- enriching national culture, civil society and global citizenship.

There is more on the development of these themes later in this issue of *Victorious*, along with examples of Victoria academics using their expertise in our areas of strength to make important contributions to debate on matters of national and international interest. Key amongst these is our work on climate change, ahead of this year's all-important United Nations Climate Change Conference in Paris.

Our areas of emphasis reflect what Victoria is already very good at and also the priorities of our city and the wider Asia-Pacific region. Our focus is on employing our international leadership in these areas of emphasis for the benefit of our region, helping to bind the global to the local and the local to the global—as a great global-civic university should do.

Professor Grant Guilford
Vice-Chancellor



Māori in the military business

What started out as simple curiosity for senior lecturer Dr Maria Bargh has culminated in a new book on a highly secretive world—one that challenges perceptions around the economic contribution of Māori.

A Hidden Economy is the end product of Maria's research into private military organisations and, more specifically, the participation of Māori in this traditionally closed world.

"In the course of my day-to-day research, I kept hearing about Māori who were travelling to and from places like Iraq or Afghanistan in a capacity outside of a typical nation-based defence force," says Maria.

"This talk aroused my curiosity, but because of the highly specialised and secretive nature of this kind of work, I was a little nervous about exploring things further. This world is not particularly well documented for a reason. People don't tend to just voluntarily come forward."

Maria, however, started asking around to see if she could find anyone open to discussing their experience working in the private military.

"I was amazed by the response. In many respects I put this down to something very unique to the principles of kaupapa Māori. The way the network developed from my initial enquiries—often starting with women—meant the trust was already firmly in place by the time I reached the key individuals themselves.

"Because of this, the participants tended to speak very openly and frankly about their work in these organisations. This was great for the book, but it also meant I had a tremendous responsibility to them as individuals."

Maria believes the relatively high proportion of Māori entering private military organisations is partly a reflection of a large percentage of Māori in the New Zealand Defence Force, although they may not have been aware of the possibility of private sector work when they joined up.

It's also thought that the change of focus of the New Zealand Defence Force, to one of peacekeeping and support, has arguably made the private military more attractive for those seeking combat operations.

"Having said that, it's interesting to note that Māori in the private military are not seen as a warrior people with skills predominantly suited for frontline activities, as is often the perception in New Zealand," says Maria.

"They are simply referred to as Kiwis and very often picked for management positions.

"As such, the extent of Māori participation in the private military also presents a challenge to stereotypes that primarily consign Māori to farming, fishing and forestry."

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Bold vision for heritage precinct

Getting stuck into a real architectural issue in a real urban setting is an exciting opportunity for a group of Victoria students tasked with devising a creative upgrade of an inner-city heritage precinct in Wellington.

Students from two fourth-year classes at the School of Architecture are teaming up on what's called the Courtenay Place Project, in which they envisage what the popular bar and theatre district might look like in the not-too-distant future.

The students are tackling it within a spectrum—from reverent at one end to quite experimental at the other.

Each student has been allocated a building and asked to come up with a design that takes into account seismic resilience as well as refurbishment and regeneration.

The Courtenay Place Project builds on the success of work over the past three years by Victoria Architecture students to create redevelopment plans for Cuba Street and the suburb of Newtown.

Senior lecturer Simon Twose, who's the course coordinator for the architectural design side of the project, says while the proposed interventions need to respect the heritage values of the buildings and the surrounding area, the finished concepts will be far from conventional.

"The students are tackling it within a spectrum—from reverent at one end to quite experimental at the other—they're really pushing and pulling at the concept of heritage, so the final designs are likely to be quite provocative on a number of levels.

"Students tend to come up with ideas that aren't necessarily the same as those a practising architect might think of," says Simon. "Any way of rethinking how the city might operate is always helpful in stimulating debate and public thinking."

The project involves close collaboration with the Wellington City Council and Heritage New Zealand. Associate Professor Andrew Charleson, who's the



course coordinator for the integrated technologies aspect of the project, says it's a terrific partnership.

"The Council has provided the students with original building plans to work from, and it also funds engineering tutors to come and help the students achieve a higher quality of seismic retrofits for the Courtenay Place buildings."

Andrew says the students' reports outlining the retrofitting of each building, which have been guided by a chartered professional engineer, will be available to building owners via the Faculty of Architecture and Design Library. "The Council is very keen on the idea of this resource for building owners, as they'd

like to encourage owners to strengthen, rather than demolish, heritage buildings. These technical reports will hopefully give the owners confidence to proceed with seismic strengthening."

The project will culminate in a public exhibition of the designs. "The exhibition will include a scale model of the entire length of Courtenay Place showing the new architectural interventions," says Andrew. "It promises to be very dynamic."

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Playing to our strengths

We all want better government, but how do democracies like New Zealand tackle the practicalities of bringing about the change that is needed?

That's a challenge being addressed by Victoria as it explores initiatives under the theme 'advancing better government', one of eight areas of distinctiveness that capture

Victoria's areas of distinctiveness are multidisciplinary and university-wide. Under each theme there is a breadth of expertise and activity, an entrepreneurial spirit that comes from having the scale to be nimble and a shared vision about the role Victoria can play in Wellington, New Zealand and the Asia-Pacific.

The eight themes are:

- advancing better government
- cultivating creating capital
- spearheading our digital futures
- enabling our Asia-Pacific trading nation
- stimulating a design-led, high-value manufacturing region
- enhancing the resilience and sustainability of our natural heritage and capital
- improving health and well-being in our communities
- enriching national culture, civic society and global citizenship.

the University's strengths and draw upon its position as New Zealand's globally ranked capital city university.

"There are clear areas where government is crying out for the kind of robust, independent contributions academe can bring," says Professor Mark Hickford, Pro Vice-Chancellor and Dean of Law at Victoria and chair of the Advancing Better Government Steering Group.

One of those is researching evidence, or drilling down into the data, to understand how issues such as reducing harm or violence can be effectively addressed. The same approach can inform the design of better quality regulations.

"It's challenging to get beyond big data sets and understand sticky problems like, for example, family violence or the tail end of educational achievement, and what incentives will help to change behaviour or bring about preferred outcomes in practice," says Mark.

"The skills and expertise of academic researchers are ideally suited to identifying new sources of more subtle information to expand their existing knowledge and to doing the critical analysis that can help policy makers assess what's working and what's not."

The concept of stewardship, which is increasingly important in public institutions, is another area where academic analysis, critique and research may be effectively applied.

Mark says a key part of the alignment between Victoria and the advancing better government theme is the University's location near the heart of New Zealand's three branches of government—the legislature, the Supreme Court and the executive wing of government.

"We have constant interaction with government agencies, policy makers and influencers. We are well placed to interweave our teaching and research programmes with analysing and evaluating government, addressing big questions around the legitimacy and inclusiveness of government and its processes and focusing on accountability in the exercise of public power."

The 5-10-year vision, says Mark, is about expanding and strengthening Victoria's existing reputation and capabilities to position the University as New Zealand's universally recognised pre-eminent centre for expertise, insight and engagement in advancing better government.

In brief



Top honours

Professor Colin Wilson has received one of the highest international honours in science with his election as a fellow of the Royal Society of London.

The achievement recognises Colin's research into volcanoes and his world-class contributions to the understanding of explosive volcanic activity.

Founded in 1660, the Royal Society is a self-governing fellowship of many of the world's most eminent scientists, engineers and technologists and includes 80 Nobel Laureates.

Colin, who has been a professor of Volcanology in Victoria's School of Geography, Environment and Earth Sciences since 2009, says he is deeply honoured by the fellowship.

"It's a wonderful group to be part of. Its fellowship has included people like Albert Einstein and Charles Darwin, so there is a sense of following in the footsteps of these and many other eminent scientists."

Listen to a recording of Colin's recent lecture 'The Forensics of Catastrophe' at <http://bit.ly/1KHT3Ym>

Revolutionising cell biology

A discovery by Dr Melanie McConnell and her colleagues at Victoria University and the Malaghan Institute of Medical Research has threatened to 'rewrite the textbooks'.

The researchers discovered that mitochondria, cell 'batteries', move between brain cells, debunking traditional assumptions that mitochondria are contained within a cell for the lifetime of that cell. Melanie says this significantly changes the way we think about neurodegenerative diseases like Alzheimer's, where injured brain cells die, and brain cancers, which actively resist attempts to kill them.

The Health Research Council of New Zealand has granted \$1 million for the next three-year research phase, in which Melanie will lead a small team of Victoria staff and PhD students.

"We hope to show that injury to cells increases transfer of mitochondria into the injured cells.

"This is only the first stage of a long-term project. Our ultimate goal is to hack the body's mitochondrial transfer system to manipulate cell survival in disease," she says.

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Wellington Mayor Celia Wade-Brown was among the international panel of speakers.

Political marketing scrutinised

Suffolk University's Ken Cosgrove intrigued world-leading political researchers and practitioners in Wellington with his comparison of sports and political marketing.

The politicians had a lot to learn, according to the professor of government, such as how to build party affinity despite an ever-changing line up of players.

The topics under discussion at Victoria Business School's 2015 Global Political Marketing and Management Conference demonstrated the calibre of the world-leading political researchers

and practitioners who had gathered from six countries to attend the Wellington conference.

Other hot points included whether the rise of Gen Y would see a fall in attack politics and how opposition parties could popularise policies through clever marketing.

Head of School of Marketing and International Business, and conference co-chair Dan Laufer said the conference was "globally significant" and he hoped ideas from it "will influence academics and practitioners all over the world".

A collective century of gender research



From left: Elisabeth McDonald, Dolores Janiewski, Allison Kirkman and Charlotte Macdonald.

“The story of pink-blouse as well as white-collar workers has become part of labour history”

It's a scholarly pursuit that has grown out of social justice concerns and which looks at traditional academic disciplines through a different critical lens.



Gender and women's issues cross a wide range of subject areas—something that's exemplified by four Victoria academics who between them have notched up 100 years of teaching and research in the field.

Associate Professors Allison Kirkman, Elisabeth McDonald and Dolores Janiewski, along with Professor Charlotte Macdonald, were presented with long service awards earlier this year, having each worked at Victoria for 25 years.

Across their respective fields—Allison in Sociology, Elisabeth in Law and Dolores and Charlotte in History—they have dedicated part of their academic work to gender and sexuality.

In her first ever meeting at Victoria's Law Faculty, Elisabeth proposed teaching a course on feminist legal theory. That idea was accepted and she hasn't looked back—Elisabeth has taught that subject for many years, as well as a course on law and sexuality, and has become a specialist in the prosecution of sexual violence.

“It seems like a long time to be teaching about this sort of thing, but I know my work on feminism and gender is certainly not finished. It would be nice if there was no need for it, but there is, especially in Law,” says Elisabeth.

Charlotte feels privileged to have had the opportunity to pursue a line of research she is deeply interested in. The History professor has specialised in asking questions of women and gender. These have taken her in many directions in her research and teaching—to nineteenth century domestic servants, to the letters and diaries written as vital lines of connection, to the modernist movements of sport and fitness for men and women in the 1930s–40s and most recently to the imperial soldiers and military culture of the mid-Victorian world.

“The study of History has vastly expanded over the past few decades,” she says. “No longer is it the preserve of the elite and the exceptional. The story of pink-blouse as well as white-collar workers has become part of labour history; colonial history now contains arguments about how masculinity shaped a settler society.”

Watching students discover the excitement of research and discovery has been a particular pleasure says Charlotte.

Dolores, Associate Professor in History, did her undergraduate study in the United States under Gerda Lerner, who is widely regarded as one of the founders of the field of women's history. That experience inspired Dolores to focus her research on American social and cultural history, including the way race divided black and white women, rather than gender uniting them.

“There's definitely been progress in terms of gender issues since I started out,” she says, “but more work remains to be done in this field. It's telling that students today are still very interested in issues of gender and sexuality, and I'm occasionally struck by the fact that more and more male students are choosing to study these topics too.”

Allison, who these days is Victoria's Vice-Provost (Academic and Equity), has an academic background in Sociology. Her recent research has focused on dying and death in New Zealand and how cultural ideas about gender differences in caring abilities has implications for women in the face of a looming dementia 'epidemic'.

Allison says the topic of gender was almost invisible when she started out, whereas it is now incorporated into a wide range of courses.

“It would be difficult in Sociology to have courses that didn't consider gender in some way, because it relates to almost everything—health, emotion, family, work, education. That's why I was able to start a sociology of gender course here at Victoria in 1992.

“A lot has changed in the past 25 years, but in some way those changes could be very easily lost—we can't sit back and get too complacent.”

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Changing lives

Give your best, and motivate your students to give you their best in return says award-winning teacher Professor Dale Carnegie.

It's a philosophy born of personal experience says Victoria's Dean of Engineering and a recent recipient of both a Victoria University Teaching Excellence and an Ako Aotearoa Tertiary Teaching Excellence award.

"Teaching can be life changing. Most of us have probably had horror experiences, teachers who have turned us off a subject and forever eliminated any desire to pursue it further. We may have also had those special teachers who took that extra interest, put the time in and motivated us to succeed."

University study confirmed to Dale that being student-centred is what makes the difference.

"I've been lectured by some of the best researchers in the world, but when they didn't give a toss about the people sitting in front of them the learning didn't happen."

"Every time I am with a student, I know I have the potential to devalue their efforts and ability, leaving them feeling inadequate. Or I can stop everything else I'm doing, listen, guide and encourage. There is no greater reward than imparting passion, knowledge and skills, so that your students feel they can achieve anything they set their mind to. This is my greatest joy and the reason I teach at a university."

As a result, Dale's students are among his biggest fans describing him as "the cool uncle you don't want to disappoint" who oozes "infectious enthusiasm" and has a style that is "engaging and full on" and "very passionate (slightly nuts)".

Dale's comfortable with being seen as a little crazy.

"I don't stand behind a lectern, I wander round all the time. You can tell if students are bored out of their tree, and if they are that's my fault—it means I'm boring."

"It's all about being interactive. My students know that if they yawn, they've just volunteered for the next question and that's the fun part too. Some come back to me years later and say 'I still can't yawn without thinking of you'."

In the three years Dale was Deputy Head of School for Engineering and Computer Science (before he took over as Head of School in 2012 and Dean in 2015), he led a national research programme to better understand what engineering students want. As a result, new papers have been introduced at Victoria and others redesigned.

"For example, our students were clear that they didn't relate to the first-year core Maths paper we were teaching. With colleagues in Mathematics and Statistics, we've since constructed courses that are aimed at engineering students—they have labs and robots are used to introduce mathematical concepts. It's made all the difference."

Dale's pleased at the acknowledgement his awards bring, as much for the Faculty of Engineering as for himself, but he's also a tad anxious.

"I absolutely love teaching and I do it almost by instinct—but all this attention on my teaching practice has made me a little nervous!"

Find out more about Dale's approach to teaching at <http://bit.ly/1iUWBax>

Surveying the damage

After spending several weeks living in a campervan in Hagley Park and voluntarily inspecting buildings following Christchurch's 6.3 magnitude earthquake, Victoria Building Science lecturer Geoff Thomas was asked to help with a formal survey of badly damaged houses in the city.

Overseen by BRANZ, an independent research and consulting company for the building industry, the assessment of randomly selected homes in Christchurch and Lyttelton identified design elements that are more likely to result in excessive damage during big shakes.

"One important finding was that pre-1980s homes received less damage—we'd expected the opposite to be true because after that period homes were built to a stricter standard in terms of bracing requirements. But those older homes tended to be more regular-shaped, and more likely to be single storey. They also had smaller windows with, consequently, larger amounts of wall available for bracing. So we found the more stringent requirements imposed on newer houses was offset by their more asymmetrical and multi-level designs."

Geoff says another finding that defied expectations was that hillside homes



suffered more damage for the same level of earthquake shaking than those on the flat did, despite the large amount of liquefaction on the level areas of Christchurch. "That's because houses built against a hill are often split-level and irregularly shaped, with large windows at the front and virtually none at the back—these factors mean the structures are prone to twisting in the event of a quake."

The study is believed to be the most systematic and detailed investigation that has been done on house damage from

earthquakes anywhere in the world.

Geoff employed fourth-year Building Science student Baek Kim to analyse some of the data, with help from Victoria's then-statistical consultant Dr Dalice Sim, to assist BRANZ in the statistical analysis of the large and comprehensive data set.

Read the report at <http://bit.ly/1MgZMgk>

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Saviour software



Zombie behaviour, particularly their flesh-eating ways, should be easier to predict by the end of the year, thanks to software being developed at Victoria that also has applications for very real diseases.

Designed by Bachelor of Engineering Honours student Jacob Duligall, the software simulates the spread of 'zombieism' through a virtual city, turning everyday citizens going about their

business into highly motivated gourmands with a penchant for human brain.

Rather than preparing for the unlikely event of an actual zombie outbreak, the intention is to use the zombie-apocalypse model to create simulations that show how contagions such as the common cold, influenza or even Ebola, might spread.

"My focus is on enabling the system to deal with a wider range of diseases,"

says Jacob. "Essentially, it's a matter of modifying the code to specify how the zombies will behave and how the disease is passed on.

"The objective is to create software that might better assist health services in preparing for serious contagious diseases."

The project also entails incorporating real locations into the simulation.

"By bringing in actual maps we can run the simulator for practically any town or city anywhere in the world to see how a zombie attack would play out."

Jacob's supervisor, Dr Roman Klapaukh, says he wanted to challenge Jacob to build a system from scratch and develop something that could be grasped outside of a purely academic environment.

"Zombies may not be real, but contagious disease is," says Roman. "By the end of the project, Jacob will have a solid piece of work for his portfolio."

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Research hits the mark

The commercial impact university research can have is powerfully illustrated by the fruits of an idea that traces its roots back to a conversation at Victoria between two of New Zealand's most respected scientists.

Magritek, a fast-growing Wellington-based high-value manufacturing company, was founded in 2004 by a team led by the late Professor Sir Paul Callaghan, which was determined to deliver returns to New Zealand from its science.

The establishment of the company has its seeds in a conversation from 2001 between Sir Paul, who had taken up a position at Victoria to progress the pioneering work in nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) spectroscopy he had been doing at Massey University, and Victoria alumnus Alan MacDiarmid, who had won a Nobel Prize in 2000 for his discoveries around plastics that conduct electricity.

Sir Paul led a successful bid to establish a centre of research excellence based at Victoria which would focus on high-quality research in materials science and nanotechnology. Alan agreed to give his name to what became known as the MacDiarmid Institute for Advanced Materials and Nanotechnology. Magritek, a joint spin-out company of Victoria and Massey Universities, was the vehicle for commercialising the world-class science Sir Paul's team was doing and delivering benefit to the New Zealand economy.

"Magritek has been a brilliant success," says Ian McIntosh, associate director research development at Victoria. "Prior to it being established, New Zealand had no high-value manufacturing business in NMR. Now we do."

Magritek sells globally, has doubled revenue in each of the last two years, has operations in the United States, Germany

and New Zealand and has distributors around the world. It is enjoying strong sales for its product 'Spinsolve', a bench-top scanner that uses NMR technology to identify and quantify the chemicals in a liquid sample.

Dr Robin Dykstra, a co-founder of Magritek and the company's chief technology officer, says Magritek and Victoria have had a good partnership from day one.

"As we get bigger the university involvement gets smaller. It's like a child growing up, becoming independent and leaving home. But we still have that heritage and recognise that there's no way we could have started without the universities, which took a punt to get Magritek going.

"In the early days Victoria University resources were really important to us—not just the money but also access to equipment and services."

In addition, says Magritek CEO Andrew Coy, a former student of Sir Paul's, Magritek has continued to use intellectual property (IP) created at Victoria and "has employed a steady stream of graduates from Massey and Victoria".

Robin Dykstra says government funding for science research has also been crucial to Magritek's success.

"That's what helped create the skill set in the first place and it has continued to help with intellectual property development and building supporting infrastructure. Although we are less dependent on it now, it

still supports high-risk scientific research that we wouldn't do at Magritek.

"We give full credit," says Ian McIntosh, "to public funding for supporting the development of the outstanding skill base that Magritek is founded on. This is why it is so important to maintain a well-functioning science funding system.

"We must support the areas where New Zealand is world-class. We know for sure you will never establish a successful start-up based on average science."

Visit <http://bit.ly/1eBsX0h> to hear Andrew Coy reflect on the team that founded Magritek winning the 2010 Prime Minister's Science Prize.

➔ www.magritek.com



In brief



Excellence rewarded

Seventeen of Victoria's outstanding academics were honoured at an event at Parliament in July.

Teaching Awards were presented to Dr James McKinnon and Dr Ross Woods and Teaching Excellence Awards to Professor Dale Carnegie, Dr Sally Hill, Dr Rob Keyzers, Dr Azra Moeed and Lisa Terreni.

Early Career Research Awards were presented to Dr Sasha Calhoun, Inbal Megiddo and Dr Franck Natali and Research Excellence Awards to Associate Professor Simon Davy, Dr Gina Grimshaw, Associate Professor Kate Hunter, Associate Professor Paul Jose, Professor Miriam Lips, Professor John Pratt and Dr Sydney Shep.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Grant Guilford described the teaching award recipients as, "people who have gone above and beyond the call of duty and made a lasting impact on the lives of students at Victoria".

Victoria researchers, Professor Guilford said, "continue to lead national and international thinking on significant issues facing our communities. From understanding the impacts of climate change to addressing the challenges of building a well-functioning society, Victoria is committed to harnessing the creativity of our brightest minds."

Read more about the award recipients at <http://bit.ly/1EKBICK>

Rebooting Futurism

Futurism—an avant-garde artistic movement that was a major inspiration for New Zealand artist Len Lye—came to life at a day-long event at Victoria.

'Rebooting Futurism' explored the legacies of the movement 100 years after the launch of the Futurist Synthetic Theatre manifesto of 1915 says James McKinnon, senior lecturer in the School of English, Film, Theatre, and Media Studies.

"One of their predictions was the reduction of an evening's culture into two minutes—today's Snapchat is a very contemporary take on this.

"The futurists defined art as action, as a force for transforming the world, not escaping from it or making it look pretty. They were notoriously antagonistic, and counted it as a win if they started a riot, because they wanted to provoke all citizens into political action. They loathed apathy and complacency."

There is a resurgence of interest globally in Futurism, which began as an Italian literary movement and grew to embrace painting, sculpture, photography and architecture.



Launch of new Māori resource

A new bilingual tool, unlike anything else produced in New Zealand, was unveiled at an interactive launch held by Victoria's Faculty of Law at the start of Māori Language Week.

It's called the Legal Māori Resource Hub but, says senior lecturer Māmari Stephens (nō Te Rarawa me Ngāti Pākehā), its application is much wider than law.

"Although it is skewed towards the law, it's not just a way to become familiar with legal terms. It's easy to move between and explore different resources—you can see patterns as to how words are used."

The Hub can be used to browse contemporary and historical Māori language texts, look up word meanings, test new or old Māori words against an enormous document bank and consult a dictionary of Māori legal terms.

The Hub is the latest output of Te Kaupapa Reo-a-Ture (the Legal Māori Project), released in association with the New Zealand Law Foundation, Victoria's Office of Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Māori) and staff and students at Victoria's Faculty of Law.

Explore the Hub at www.legalmaori.net

The challenge

Victoria University is leading research and debate on understanding climate change. Victoria is doing to better inform organisations and individuals to help them take po top of mind ahead of the 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Paris



Professor Tim Naish

Director, Antarctic Research Centre

Climate change is a global problem, and the world's nations have agreed global warming must be limited to less than 2°C to avoid its most serious consequences. To achieve this target, global emissions of carbon dioxide need to be reduced to zero before the end of this century. Therein lies the challenge of our time.

As New Zealand considers its contribution to emissions reduction, it's important to remember that if we miss the 2°C target we may be determining the shape of our planet's coastlines for centuries to come. We need to be asking questions such as the following: How much sea-level rise, along with the other negative impacts of climate change like droughts and floods, are we prepared to commit future generations to? What will be the real social and economic cost to New Zealand? What role should we expect our government to play in the guardianship of Aotearoa? The longer-term impacts and costs of climate change must be given equal weight with shorter-term issues as we consider our commitment to the Paris negotiations.

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Catherine Iorns

Senior lecturer, School of Law

Top of my mind is the need to take climate change more seriously, plan for it and incorporate it into our laws and policies and, especially, our decision-making procedures. New Zealand has laws and policies where decision-makers have been expressly forbidden from taking into account future climate change in their decisions. We are treating our natural environment as a sewer and overloading it with the side effects of our activities. We should change our laws to make people account and pay for all the environmental costs of their activities. Most of these changes wouldn't just help to prevent climate change problems, but would improve other environmental issues as well. I'd like to see all countries in Paris agreeing on, and starting to work towards, concrete goals that would actually prevent the worst effects of climate change. High on my action list is preventing and reversing deforestation: plants reduce carbon dioxide levels in our air, plus we get other ecosystem co-benefits while preventing biodiversity losses at the same time.

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Professor Dave Frame

Director, New Zealand Climate Change Research Institute

Wishing away the politics is pointless. Political will follows possibility, not the other way around. Countries know they need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. They all face incentives not to do so, but instead to free ride on the efforts of others. The way to change that is to reduce the costs of mitigation so that the world's peoples feel that the costs of changing to a low-carbon economy are low enough to bear. Technology is fundamental to this, since the surest way to eliminate emissions is to make non-emitting technologies preferable on price grounds. Normalising the expectation that carbon dioxide emissions will become unacceptable over time is also important. But as the international relations scholar Kenneth Waltz put it, "necessities do not create possibilities". What we need to do is create the possibility of a low carbon world, not to remind people of its necessity.

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of our time

and how we can best respond to it. The following pages highlight some of the work positive action. To begin, Victoria academics and student representatives share what is (30 November–11 December).



Associate Professor Marc Wilson

School of Psychology

One thing that fascinates me about climate change is the gap between the expert consensus that anthropogenic climate change is real, and the fact that only 60 percent of the public agrees. As a psychological researcher, this tells me that climate change belief is not just about the science—other factors come into play.

In New Zealand, education and income are both unrelated to climate change belief, but one's political orientation is a factor and women are three times more likely than men to be climate change believers.

A question we should ask ourselves is: Even if climate change is not real, wouldn't we still be making our world a better place by paying more attention to maintaining our environment?

Personally, I'd love to see our politicians acknowledge the scientific consensus, because that would legitimise the use of the many mitigation strategies that we know can work and make New Zealand a better place.



Stephanie Gregor and Anya Maule

Students from Gecko, Victoria's
student environmental group

It's important to look at how interconnected issues of climate are with many other issues facing our planet, including gender, race, socio-economic standing and ability. Community is also important. Without support networks it is easy to be overwhelmed by the sheer scale of the problem. Time to relax and recover is vital—action for the climate should not come at the cost of our own personal and collective wellbeing. New Zealand needs to ramp up its commitment to global change on this issue, and back that up with concrete targets coupled with plans to meet those targets. At previous United Nations Climate Change conferences, New Zealand has received the 'fossil of the day' award for 'actively hampering international progress'. That is irresponsible, embarrassing and shows an incredible lack of foresight. This global problem requires a global solution, and we need to play a strong role in implementing that solution.



Dr Maibritt Pedersen Zari

Senior lecturer, School of
Architecture

New Zealand should be taking immediate and more widespread action on climate change, both in terms of adapting to the impacts of it and mitigating greenhouse gas emissions. We need stronger political leadership in this area—it will be easier for society if politicians make the tough and unpopular decisions that will drive the behavioural change that farming, industry, business and citizens need to make. Immediate things New Zealand could be doing are growing more food within our cities, increasing subsidies for solar hot water heating and solar power generation and initiating extensive and heavily-subsidised public transport networks in major cities and towns. At a global level, the imperative that businesses must continually expand and increase profits is directly implicated in climate change itself. This notion is also partly responsible for the widespread inequality that makes effective and fast action to address climate change so difficult to achieve.

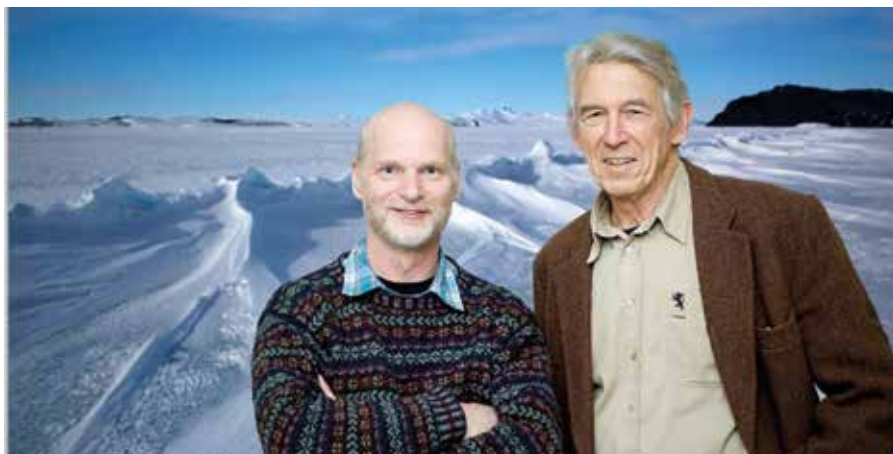
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Taking climate change to the classroom

Helping young people deal with the challenge of climate change has been the goal of a recent project to take an award-winning documentary about global warming into New Zealand schools.



Thin Ice—The Inside Story of Climate Change is a collaboration between scientists at Victoria and Oxford Universities, and is produced by DOX Productions in London. A shorter version of the film, broadcast earlier this year on more than 100 public television stations across the United States, was shown to over 1,200 people at seven Auckland secondary schools in September. The school tour received support from the Tindall Foundation.

Thin Ice follows Simon Lamb, an associate professor in Victoria's School of Geography, Environment and Earth Sciences (the film's co-director/photographer), on a personal journey of discovery as he meets and interviews scientists working at the front line of climate change research around the world.

One of the film's executive producers, Emeritus Professor Peter Barrett, from

Victoria's Antarctic Research Centre, says the aim of the *Thin Ice* school tour was to allow top climate scientists to speak directly to young people in a clear and engaging way, along with some time afterwards to talk about useful ways of responding to the issue.

Each school screening was followed by a discussion, with panelists including Simon Lamb, members of youth-led climate change group Generation Zero and school representatives. All schools will benefit from receiving a teacher's guide to the film produced by Terry Burrell, head of science at Wellington's Onslow College.

Peter says: "It's young people who will have to bear the brunt of the effects of global warming. Our film makes the essentials clear and credible so they can be confident of what needs to be done."

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Legal protection for climate-affected states

How the legal identity and autonomy of nations can be protected when rising sea levels inevitably force their populations to move is being investigated by Alberto Costi, an associate professor at Victoria's School of Law.



Alberto says it's a matter of when, not if, climate change forces the displacement of citizens in low-lying atoll nations in the Pacific.

"I want to look at possible solutions for states that face losing part or all of their territory—can they retain some kind of 'international legal personality' in the

event of the translocation of their people? The answer to this question potentially has a massive impact on the rights of those citizens—if these states disappear then they don't have any political voice, and their nationals may only be protected as a 'minority' if living elsewhere."

Alberto says while the idea of a state-within-a-state might be ideal for those displaced people, it's highly unlikely to find support among host countries.

"For a small nation such as Tokelau, for example, it might seem an obvious solution to bring them all to New Zealand, where a large number of Tokelauan people already live. But this would be short-sighted—we don't want culture and language, often connected with their ancestral land, to disappear, so assimilation should not be the end result.

"When these people need to move, countries such as New Zealand and Australia have to be politically and legally ready to welcome them. It raises questions about what the obligations are on neighbouring states, which face an influx of migrants from the Pacific. So decisions need to be made now to establish some principles not just to protect the sovereignty of the climate-affected states, but also to prepare those states that may have a duty to assist them."

Alberto is hopeful his analysis will provide a legal framework that will contribute to political negotiations in international and regional fora around large-scale translocations in the future.

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Pacific pays the price for climate change

The Pacific region is more vulnerable to variations in climate patterns than anywhere else in the world. So what economic toll will changes such as rising sea levels have on our closest neighbours?

Professor Ilan Noy, Chair in the Economics of Disasters at Victoria's School of Economics and Finance, is calculating the future costs of climate change-related disasters to developing nations in the South Pacific.

"Climatic disasters like storms, droughts, excess rainfall and excessive temperatures are especially problematic for atoll nations like Tuvalu, Kiribati and the Marshall Islands—rising sea levels will hit them harder than anywhere else."

Ilan says the financial toll of sudden-onset events is already high for these countries.

"They're spending a lot of money on recovery, and are also very reliant on the international community for help—that's where New Zealand has an important role. But the questions for the long term are: What is a sustainable path for the Pacific in terms of dealing with these disasters, and how are they going to pay for it?"

"The bulk of financial assistance has always come after the event—if there's a big cyclone, countries like New Zealand and Australia will send help. But, instead of spending most of our efforts in recovery, we should be spending more on prevention and mitigation."

Ilan is working with the Asian Development Bank and the World Bank on the research, and is using data collected by the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat on disasters in the region. He also has a PhD student, Tauisi Taupo, looking at the vulnerability of Tuvalu.

Ilan suggests better early warning systems are a logical first step for lessening the impact of weather-related disasters. "You get a few days warning for a cyclone, but you might only get minutes or hours if a tsunami's on its way," he says. "We need better ways of getting tsunami warnings to remote communities and we need more robust lifelines in a disaster, such as supplies of food and water."

He says cyclone shelters are another way of lessening the impact on people of climate-related disasters.

"This is undoubtedly a problem that goes wider than the Pacific countries that are worst affected. Pacific nations might bear the burden of climate change but it's certainly not their doing. The onus is on us all."

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Poverty linked to climate change in Tuvalu

Tauisi Taupo's doctoral research is focused on the impact of climate change on poverty levels in his low-lying home country of Tuvalu.

"The last three household surveys I've done show poverty is increasing and more households are settling in disaster-prone areas, such as flood zones," says Tauisi. "Taking into account variable factors such as a household's proximity to the shore and its elevation, there's a clear link between a growth in poverty and increasing frequency of—and vulnerability to—climate-related weather events."

Tauisi says around 40 percent of households in Tuvalu were affected by Tropical Cyclone Pam, which hit Vanuatu earlier this year, despite Tuvalu being around 1,500 kilometres off the cyclone's path.

The cost of the cyclone for Tuvalu has been estimated at around a quarter of the nation's annual GDP.

"It wasn't just the wind, but the big surges that were generated that did the damage. If the path of a cyclone of the same magnitude was any closer, I'd estimate that 100 percent of homes would be affected because there's no safe ground—Tuvalu is highly vulnerable."

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A game changer

Regardless of any agreements made by global leaders in Paris this year, the world will be impacted by changes in the climate.



From left: Judy Lawrence (New Zealand Climate Change Research Institute), Nigel Taptiklis (Wellington City Council), Lisa McLean (Wellington Region Emergency Management Office), Richie Singleton (Greater Wellington Regional Council) and David Chittenden (Ministry for the Environment).

In New Zealand, local and central government are getting a chance to experience plausible climate change scenarios using a simulation game designed to challenge their policy choices.

Sustainable Delta Game, first developed at Deltares, an applied research institute in the Netherlands, has been tailored for a New Zealand setting in a project led by Judy Lawrence from Victoria's New Zealand Climate Change

Research Institute, in collaboration with Dr Marjolijn Haasnoot at Deltares.

"We've included New Zealand precipitation, drought and sea level rise scenarios. We've also styled it visually to reflect our landscape and redesigned the policy responses so they are consistent with our institutional settings," says Judy.

In the game, users experience making decisions under conditions of uncertainty and change by developing management

plans for river catchments or coastal areas. They then watch what happens over the next 100 years, implementing actions based on environmental, economic and social changes that are signalled and feedback on the effectiveness and costs of their decisions.

"A key factor in this game is unpredictability. Although we know that sea levels are rising and flood and storm frequency and intensity are changing, we do not know with certainty by how much, the rate of change and its magnitude," says Judy.

"We are finding that users change their behaviour during the game to make decisions that have more built-in flexibility so they are better prepared to adapt to changes as they occur in the future."

Developed with additional funding from Greater Wellington Regional Council, Wellington City Council, Tasman District Council and the Ministry for the Environment, the game has already been used for long-term decision-making for flood management in the Hutt Valley and will soon be available for use around the country.

Find out more about the game at: <http://bit.ly/deltagame>

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Accounting for carbon emissions

Although traditionally associated with numbers and finance, accounting also has a role to play in a lower-carbon future, according to Victoria research.

Dr Binh Bui from the School of Accounting and Commercial Law is investigating how many organisations make adjustments to their accounting systems to allow for carbon issues, how they do it and whether accounting can help reduce carbon emissions.

Binh says she wanted to find out how both private and public sector organisations across a range of industries were responding to regulations around climate change.

"It's clear that accounting does have an important role—in response to stricter environmental regulations, organisations need to change their accounting systems

to measure, report and manage their carbon emissions levels. However, there's a certain amount of suspicion that organisations can use accounting as 'greenwashing'—reporting on emissions without actually doing anything about it.

"So there are two sides, but underlying both is the belief that we need a fundamental, over-arching accounting framework to move corporations towards a lower-carbon future.

"Whether an organisation is actively trying to reduce emissions depends on the certainty of policies and regulations being set at a government level. That's true not just in New Zealand but around

the world—organisations don't want to invest in something only for the rules to change and they end up wasting money."

Binh wants to also look into the prevalence of carbon assurance, and whether organisations see any benefits from that process.

"Carbon assurance is certainly not as straightforward as a financial audit—this area is traditionally an environmental science, which you physically have to measure. I'm keen to see how accounting expertise can be applied to help increase the transparency of carbon reporting."

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Victoria University alumni Lisa McLaren and James Young-Drew will be representing the voice of New Zealand youth at the 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Paris.

Youth shout out on climate change

Avid climate change activist James Young-Drew pauses momentarily when asked if young people actually care about climate change.

“Young people care about a lot of things like health, their livelihood, the national economy. These are the very things climate change will impact upon.

“Very few people understand the enormity of the problem,” he says.

James and fellow Victoria University graduate Lisa McLaren, who will lead an eight-person New Zealand Youth Delegation (NZYD) to the 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Paris, are two people who do understand the magnitude of climate change, and the urgent need to do something about it.

An independent organisation that

represents and promotes issues facing young New Zealanders, NZYD’s message in Paris will be as much for the New Zealand Government as the leaders of other nations.

The delegates will be advocating for a commitment to effective climate change action—for undertaking solutions that are both pragmatic and equitable.

Lisa says many countries, especially in the Pacific, are already experiencing the effects of climate change. “The world needs countries like New Zealand to show ambition and leadership. The cost of further delaying climate change action is

too great, financially, environmentally and socially.”

But James and Lisa believe their own Government’s policy is falling short.

“We feel the New Zealand Government’s emission targets are disappointing and don’t meet international expectations,” James says.

Throughout the conference, NZYD will be paying close attention to discussions and keeping their supporters, allied organisations and media in New Zealand up to date with action on the ground in Paris.



Big dreams pay off

When 18-year-old Shivali Gulab started at Victoria University, she had big dreams. But even she couldn't have foreseen that within two decades she'd be working in New York as chief executive of a biotech company chasing a cure for cancer.

"I always knew I wanted to be involved in commercialising scientific discoveries. I didn't know what my role would be, but my dream was to play a part in the translation of science to real-world applications," she says.

Shivali pursued her passion by studying degrees in science and technology and business, majoring in Chemical Products and Processes, Management and Marketing, before completing a PhD in Chemistry in 2007.

"Victoria was my home away from home for nearly a decade. I even met my husband, Shahir Daud, there while completing my PhD. We'd keep seeing each other around campus and eventually had the nerve to talk to each other. We just had our 10-year wedding anniversary."

The newly-capped Dr Gulab began her career as a postdoctoral scientist at the Ferrier Research Institute, which at the time was the Carbohydrate Chemistry Group at Industrial Research Limited (IRL).

"My studies were a great fit. Having the background in business gave me the confidence to pursue opportunities at

IRL, while also working on science at the bench."

Shivali's confidence paid off, earning her a position at the interface with Ferrier's research partners and clients as well as managing the group's intellectual property portfolio.

This role took her to New York City, where she's been based for nearly five years.

"I originally came over as a visiting scientist to work in one of our key collaborator's laboratory. With the support of my boss, Professor Richard Furneaux, I was able to transition into a fully-fledged business development role based in the United States," says Shivali.

"It has been an inspiring and career-changing period for me. New Zealand will always be home, but the East Coast has a booming biotechnology and pharmaceutical market and is providing an amazing growth opportunity for our intellectual property."

Ferrier is going from strength to strength—its research portfolio has blossomed in the last couple of years

and a recent collaborative agreement with the Malaghan Institute of Medical Research, based at Victoria, has led to the establishment of Avalia Immunotherapies, where Shivali is CEO.

"We've developed a platform to treat cancer using immunotherapy, which activates a patient's own immune system to attack cancer cells," says Shivali. "My job is to progress our lead vaccine candidate into human clinical trials and ultimately grow Avalia into a successful New Zealand biotechnology company."

Having spent a number of years working as a scientist herself, Shivali hopes to bring a unique perspective to the company, which has offices in both New York and Wellington.

"I pride myself in finding ways to turn opportunities into outcomes, and I'm driven by my passion for science and the people and institutes involved in the company," she says. "We have incredible science happening in New Zealand and it is a privilege to play a role in it."

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Solving a surfing puzzle

The frustration of having to wait around for a lift to the beach while the best waves were breaking without him sowed the first seeds of creativity for Victoria University Design student and social surfer Max Robotham.

Ever since his days as a young surfer in Whakatane, Max's love of the sport has been compromised by the unhappy marriage of surfboard dimensions and transport options.

"Due to the size, shape and weight of my surfboard, I was forced to wait for my parents to get home from work to get a ride to the beach," says Max. "The situation didn't improve after moving to university either. It's tricky taking a surfboard on a bus."

All this inconvenience culminated in Max's innovative idea of using 3D-printing technology to make a customisable jigsaw surfboard—the Jigsaw.

After telescopic, folding and collapsing options were considered and rejected, Max came up with the idea of interlocking parts. He then set about a design process that included cardboard prototypes, followed by a 3D-printed scale model.

"From the model, I was able to pinpoint what was and wasn't working with the design. After many more variations and scale tests, I was ready to start printing the final prototype."

A somewhat nervous friend was the first to test the seaworthiness of the Jigsaw. Sadly, an unhelpful wave, along with a bolt that adjusts the tautness of the steel cable



running around the inside edge of the board being loose, saw the invention come apart, necessitating a hasty collection of the 48 interlocking pieces.

"After retrieving and reassembling the board, I made sure to tighten the bolts fully. The next 'field trial' was a success!"

Max hopes to develop the Jigsaw

further by incorporating its development into his studies and exploring commercialisation possibilities.

Watch a short video of Max talking about his design at <http://bit.ly/1KNM40r>

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The business of risk

Victoria has become the first university in the country to offer an undergraduate degree majoring in Actuarial Science.

Head of the School of Mathematics, Statistics and Operations Research Dr Peter Donelan says in many countries there is a need for professionals who can analyse, measure and manage risk.

"We live in a world that is increasingly conscious of risk, whether from natural hazards such as earthquakes and storms, personal factors relating to health, disease and lifestyle or uncertainty in financial markets, investments and asset management.

"There's a growing demand for actuarial skills, not just across the traditional fields

of insurance and finance, but in areas such as government, education, health and software development," he says.

The Actuarial Science degree combines a selection of academic papers from Victoria Business School and the Faculty of Science to offer students a streamlined path to develop the necessary skills and knowledge to enter the industry.

Professor Bob Buckle, Pro Vice-Chancellor and Dean of Commerce, says the programme has been designed with extensive industry input. "The New Zealand Society of Actuaries and

individuals in the industry have lent their expertise to help shape the programme so it instils students with the right mix of skills, theory and practical experience.

"One of the other great things about the programme is it provides opportunities for students to connect directly with leading members of the profession and, from there, develop links with potential employers."

Find out more at <http://bit.ly/1MZ8Nw4>

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How far is too far?

If someone is arrested for an imprisonable offence, should police have the authority to decide whether a DNA sample should be taken? Should they be allowed to use reasonable force to obtain it, and what happens to the data?

These are questions Victoria's Dr Nessa Lynch believes need wider discussion. To contribute to that debate, the School of Law senior lecturer and University of Edinburgh's Dr Liz Campbell have spent three years analysing and critiquing the state's power to obtain and retain DNA from those suspected of crime.

It's been 20 years since New Zealand's Criminal Investigations (Bodily Samples) Act was enacted, and Nessa says despite extensive, and rather piecemeal, reform the legislation is yet to undergo adequate scrutiny through public consultation or formal review.

She says, although the forensic use of DNA is a valuable crime-fighting tool, public safety must be balanced with privacy rights.

In their book to be released later this year, *The Collection and Retention of DNA from Suspects in New Zealand*, Nessa and Liz raise several areas of concern to do with New Zealand's legislation.

Top of the list is reform that has led to the transferral of authority from the courts to the police. "Over the last decade, the power has been with the police, making them both investigator and decision-maker. This leads to concerns about transparency and objectivity," says Nessa.



Other reforms have led to a longer list of crimes for which police can demand DNA samples, and extending the scope to include minors in some circumstances.

"About 3.5 percent of the population is in the DNA databank, which internationally is quite high.

"What we really wanted to do was

explore this under-researched topic, which has implications for all New Zealanders," says Nessa.

Nessa and Liz's research was funded by the Law Foundation of New Zealand.

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Online on the ice

What better setting for a course about Antarctica than the continent itself?

That was the thinking of Dr Rebecca Priestley who, along with her colleague Dr Cliff Atkins, visited Antarctica to gather material for a six-week Victoria University Continuing Education course called Antarctica Online.

With support from Antarctica New Zealand, the two senior lecturers from the Faculty of Science spent 10 days filming lectures around Scott Base, McMurdo Station and Ross Island's historic huts, and three days at an Antarctic Research Centre field camp in the Friis Hills, an area within the Transantarctic Mountains.

The result is a series of visually

appealing lectures, making for a more engaging means of teaching than typical online lectures.

As well as filming lectures for their own modules—Antarctic Science History and Geology and Paleoclimate—Rebecca and Cliff also filmed material for a third module, Constructing Antarctica, led by Dr Rhian Salmon, also from the Faculty of Science, and Dr Leon Gurevitch from the School of Design.

"Antarctica is a great case study for talking about issues in science," says Rebecca. "By using Antarctica as a kind of backdrop, students get a better general understanding of the relationships



between scientists and other groups, such as policymakers, journalists and artists."

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Finding our place amongst the world disorder

Thitinan Pongsudhirak is an expert in big-picture issues—geopolitics, economics, international relations and security.



During his eight-week tour of New Zealand as the 2015 Sir Howard Kippenberger Visiting Chair, the internationally regarded analyst and commentator had much to say on what New Zealand was doing right, and wrong, as an Asia-Pacific nation.

His public lecture at Victoria “Global Disorder and Asia-Pacific Consequences: A Southeast Asia View”, acknowledged New Zealand’s geographical position as “a footnote to the world map”. But Dr Pongsudhirak says New Zealand should not distance itself from global happenings, no matter how changeable they are.

He says there has been an unravelling of global order since World War II. “The power structure has changed. Countries that were nowhere to be seen in 1945—China, India, Indonesia—are now triumphing.

“Right now, the United Nations system is out of sync. The World Trade Organisation negotiation rounds are increasingly infrequent, the global financial trading system is frequently in crisis and the European Union has reached its peak.”

He says there is also unrelenting instability in the Middle East, and the relative decline of the United States to further fuel disorder.

Asia, on the other hand, is burgeoning.

“Asia has an unprecedented chance to reshape world order. The global systems are no longer acceptable to the emerging powers. They’re looking for more space. If the world doesn’t make room, they’ll make their own rules.

“Look at China. It has proposed the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank. It’s a new strategy for financing infrastructure development across Asia, initially worth US\$50 billion, with more than 50 countries already having joined.”

So where is New Zealand in all of this?

Dr Pongsudhirak says New Zealand’s Asia-Pacific political strategy is trade and prosperity focused. He warns we need to consider longer-term geopolitical dynamics and have a more comprehensive approach that is

responsive to the disordered and highly changeable global system. That means not relying too much on China for trade. “You can’t assume that China is going to stay upright forever, you need a plan B.”

Overall, he’s impressed with New Zealand. “You’re doing very well, but you need to be disciplined to keep it up. You need to be vigilant for your economic and fiscal immunity. You need to stay tuned in to what’s happening in the world.”

Dr Pongsudhirak is an associate professor in the Department of International Relations and director of the Institute of Security and International Studies at Bangkok’s Chulalongkorn University. He has published widely on Thai politics and political economy, and on the geopolitical dynamics and comparative politics of Southeast Asia and ASEAN. He is a highly sought-after analyst, commentator and public speaker.

The Kippenberger Chair, now in its seventh year, is coordinated by Victoria’s Centre for Strategic Studies in honour of the eminent scholar, soldier and strategist Major-General Sir Howard Kippenberger.



Rise in global rankings a win

Victoria University's standing as a research intensive university at the forefront of arts and humanities scholarship has again been confirmed with the release of the QS World University rankings.

Victoria moves to an overall rank of 229th equal out of more than 3,500 universities surveyed, up an impressive 46 places over its position in 2014. Of particular note is the University's results in the arts and humanities where Victoria also increased its performance and now ranks 59th in the world.

In other notable results, Victoria achieved a 72nd equal ranking for social sciences and management. Victoria's high-performing Law Faculty is currently ranked 45th in the world.

"Our global standing has increased thanks to our academic reputation and the research of our staff, both areas where we have performed strongly in the past year. We also welcome the change in the QS methodology

which provides a fairer comparison of universities' research impact," says Vice-Chancellor Professor Grant Guilford. "The outstanding reputation of our academics and the quality of our research is vital to our success.

"Being a globally ranked capital city university is not only important for our region, it is also essential for New Zealand. Victoria holds an unparalleled position as the university that can lead New Zealand's thinking on major issues. Our location in the capital city is critical to this."

He says Victoria's success in arts and humanities adds significant value to Wellington and is complemented by a strong track record in science and engineering.

"Wellington is of course New Zealand's creative capital, and cultivation of creative capital is tightly bound with the identity of Wellington and of Victoria University. Having a university that is ranked 59th in the world in this area is a remarkable achievement.

"This also translates into the value we offer our arts students who receive fundamental insights and multiple perspectives about cultures, societies and languages—all particularly important in the contemporary world.

"A commitment to excellence underpins everything we do at Victoria, from our research, learning and teaching, to the contribution we make to our communities."

In brief

Double delight

Victoria's Kelburn campus came alive to the sound of opera in August, when Te Kōkī New Zealand School of Music (NZSM) staged a brilliant double bill at the Memorial Theatre.

The enchanting production of *Dido and Aeneas* by Henry Purcell, and Ravel's *L'Enfant et les Sortilèges* featured a number of New Zealand's finest emerging young singers accompanied by the NZSM orchestra.

The production was directed by alumna and Fulbright scholar Frances Moore, who was assistant director of the last opera the

NZSM put on in 2013, Verdi's *Il Corsaro*.

"I loved working with the young singers," Frances says, "and tried to make it really relevant to them."

Frances has since established her own company—Unstuck Opera—that "uses more of a theatre model, with a smaller cast of four or five singers, a one-hour performance and more intimate settings, such as in the open or in art galleries. I want to broaden out what opera can be," she says.

View highlights of the opera at <http://bit.ly/1WrLsWj>



A carnival of comedy

A vow by a king and his cohorts to swear off women and devote themselves to scholarly pursuits goes comprehensively—and hilariously—off the rails in the next production by the Summer Shakespeare Trust.

The Trust's 2016 production, which is sponsored by Victoria, is one of William Shakespeare's most lyrical plays, *Love's Labours Lost*. The annual outdoor theatre event will be performed in Wellington's Botanic Gardens and Gladstone Vineyard in the Wairarapa in February next year.

Love's Labours Lost is one of Shakespeare's earliest forays into

comedy. Production manager Neal Barber promises a carnival atmosphere with all the sound and spectacle of an Elizabethan fair.

"Along with excellent acting and singing, there'll also be a performance of some authentic early English music," says Neal.

Directing the show will be Ania Upstill, the artistic director of Wellington-based Shakespearean company, Lord Lackbeards—who has recently returned from an internship at the famed Globe Theatre in London.

» www.summershakespeare.co.nz

Conflict—a contemporary conversation

Victoria academics have been drawing crowds at the National Library, as they present lectures on the theme of conflict—its nature, causes, effects and possible resolutions.

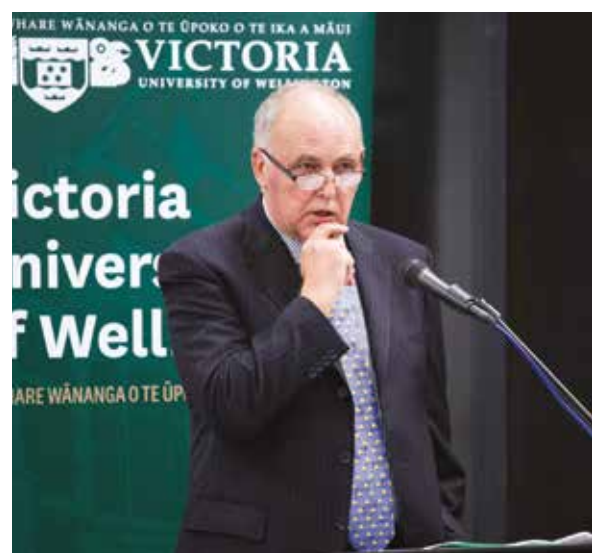
As part of a flourishing partnership between Victoria and the National Library, the University has provided speakers, and the Library the forum, for a contemporary conversation around conflict to mark 100 years since the outbreak of World War I.

In recent months, 12 Victoria experts have spoken on topics such as why

New Zealand commits to conflict, the deployment of New Zealand troops to Iraq, the evolution of Sino-Indian rivalry, cyber warfare, the link between patriotism and war and French propaganda books for children during World War I.

"This is an excellent example of how Victoria works with national institutions to lead public engagement on matters of national and international significance," Vice-Chancellor Professor Grant Guilford says.

Recordings of the lectures are available at <http://natlib.govt.nz/blog>



Legacies of war

Among the platoons of books being published about World War I, a new anthology stands out by presenting a much broader picture of New Zealand's involvement in war.



Harry Ricketts and Gavin McLean (foreground).

The Penguin Book of New Zealand War Writing, edited by Victoria English professor Harry Ricketts and Wellington historian Gavin McLean, spans the different hostilities New Zealand has been involved in, from first encounters between Māori and Europeans to the nineteenth century New Zealand wars, and from the two world wars to present-day conflicts.

Harry says the emphasis is as much on writing as on war. Consequently, the book concentrates on published rather than unpublished work, and features poetry and extracts from plays, novels, short stories and young adult fiction, as well as historical accounts. "It's got an extremely broad sweep. The idea was to juxtapose historical accounts with literary representations to create an almost kaleidoscopic version of events."

Many of New Zealand's most famous writers such as Maurice Gee, Janet Frame, Witi Ihimaera, Margaret Mahy, Allen Curnow, Katherine Mansfield, Dan Davin, Robin Hyde, James K. Baxter and Hone Tuwhare are included in the book.

"Where we could we wanted to use

the work of well-known writers because, although they are often not thought of as 'war writers', they tend to be the ones who have written best about war."

Many of the authors have a strong connection to Victoria University. "Some of the historians—such as James Belich, Jock Phillips and Chris Pugsley—have taught or done research at Victoria. A songwriter we've featured, Harold Gretton, was a student here in the 1930s."

Another writer and poet, Les Cleveland, who fought in World War II, was for many years a much-admired lecturer in the Political Science department. "He wrote a fascinating book called *Dark Laughter: War in Song and Popular Culture*, about the songs sung by the troops and how these acted as a kind of psychological defence mechanism, turning the horrors of war into a ribald comedy and carnival grotesque. We have included several slices of this more irreverent material."

For more information about *The Penguin Book of New Zealand War Writing*, go to www.penguin.co.nz

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How our film industry flourishes

How a relatively small country like New Zealand has been able to achieve notable international success for its feature film industry has been examined by a Victoria PhD student.

Natàlia Ferrer Roca—a Catalan from Girona, near Barcelona—began her thesis, "Small Country, Big Films: An Analysis of the New Zealand Feature Film Industry (2002–2012)", after travelling to New Zealand with her German partner who was starting a job here.

Natàlia analysed the New Zealand film industry using a three-tier approach: films that have significant New Zealand content, are low budget and need financial support, such as *Boy* and *Sione's Wedding*; middle-tier films that are official co-productions with the

New Zealand Government and offshore investors, such as *Whale Rider* and *The World's Fastest Indian*; and large-budget, commercially driven productions, primarily financed by overseas companies and attracted to New Zealand by financial incentives. This top tier includes *The Lord of the Rings* and *The Hobbit* trilogies.

"I looked at the benefits of each tier and how they relate to each other, and concluded that all three are important. The top tier is an attractive one for the Government to be involved in, as it promotes New Zealand as a destination.

However, the top tier wouldn't exist if it wasn't for the other tiers that have been developed over the past 30 years.

"Film is a tough industry, and particularly challenging for New Zealand with its geographical remoteness and small population. Economies of scale are very important and so are the connections between the different tiers.

"I found New Zealand is best advised to maintain and nurture all three tiers of feature productions, because they depend on and complement each other."

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James K. Baxter and Dr John Weir.

A million words from one of the best

A 50-year-long labour of love comes to fruition for its editor, Dr John Weir, with the publication of four volumes containing over one million words by one of New Zealand's most celebrated writers.

Research for *James K. Baxter: Complete Prose* began in 1965 when John produced a bibliography of Baxter's poetry and prose. Through a shared interest in literature and religion, Baxter and he became close friends and confidants. His determination to edit the prose came while en route to Baxter's funeral in Jerusalem (on the Whanganui River) with a mutual friend and Baxter's biographer, Frank McKay, one hot day in 1972.

"Frank was so overwhelmed by sadness that he drove much of the way with the heater on. The extra heat may have helped me focus on how I could contribute to the publication and promotion of the writing of a remarkably talented friend who had died young."

Through his previous research, John knew that little of Baxter's writing was published in book form. Although primarily known as a poet, Baxter was

also a prolific prose writer.

Three of the volumes of *Complete Prose* contain all of Baxter's published and unpublished prose: a novel, short stories, numerous articles, book reviews, letters to editors, prayers, reflections, biographical accounts and more. The fourth volume contains a 150-page biography of Baxter, written by John, with notes and sources for Baxter's prose.

John says the prose tells the reader much about Baxter as a person.

"The quality which he regarded as most essential in writing was honesty. He doesn't gild the lily. So his prose tells us that he was an honest man, a conflicted man, a man who felt a compulsive obligation to help people who were being trodden underfoot by the industrial, political and social juggernauts of our times. And it reveals that his preferences and prejudices were lifelong—the

opinions and values which he held as a young man in his late teens and twenties weren't greatly different (though less urgently expressed) than those he held late in life."

When asked to single out a favourite period of Baxter's prose writing, John points to the writing done at Jerusalem.

"These are powerful prose narratives, usually written as the basis of a talk to some group or other. At times the power of the narrative and exhortation seems as great and as profound as anything I have read in English literature."

John says it is satisfying to have completed *Complete Prose* but his focus on Baxter continues with his work on the complete poems, of which he estimates Baxter wrote 3,000.

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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.

First-year Science student Olivia Stroeven and Commerce graduate of 1987 Fiona Wilson discovered they had more in common than living in the same room at Victoria House: both were the first in their families to attend university. Fiona is proud to say that her two siblings, and more recently her son, have followed her footsteps all the way to Victoria. Despite now living in Auckland, where she is managing director of a Māori accountancy firm, Fiona retains a strong affection for Wellington: “I stayed in Wellington for 32 years. Wellington is home for me.” Olivia grew up in Auckland, but has fallen in love with Wellington’s vibrant creative scene.

Olivia gave Fiona a guided tour of Victoria House and settled down for a chat in the room they have both called home. Watch the full story at <http://bit.ly/1MySROK>

Fiona Wilson

What was your first impression walking into your old room?

I remember the room being small, but this seems quite big. It's much more nicely decorated compared to what I had. I had it pretty boring. Enough room for a mattress on the floor. I was at my cousin's 50th recently and he said he remembers coming to visit and sleeping on this floor.

What was the highlight of staying at Victoria House?

Vic House was just so handy for everything. The University, the gym, those Dixon Street steps to get to town—they were a bit of challenge—and we used to go to that dairy on the corner. The location was just perfect, and being in a hall of residence I got to meet lots of friendly people, who I'm still friends with.

What was on your walls?

ABBA, the Bee Gees, there were some pop stars, but mostly family photos. I was pretty much a homebody.

What are some of your favourite memories about Victoria University?

I'm a sporty person, so I remember Victoria in terms of sport. There were competitions between the halls in soccer and netball. I went to the university games, the Easter tourney, for basketball and netball, and managed to get into the New Zealand University team. I got my University Blue Award for basketball the same year as my brother got his for rugby.

What advice do you have for Olivia?

Make the most of your first year, in terms of making friends, study buddies and socialising yourself and to the environment of Wellington. It's a great opportunity to stay in a hostel. It gives you chances to expand your networks. I went straight into flatting after Vic House, so that first year is a chance to find out who you can live with, without actually living with them. It's a good stepping stone to flatting.

What is it like to be in your old room and meeting Olivia?

I stayed in Wellington for 32 years more, and I've only recently gone to Auckland. Wellington is home for me and this is the first of my homes here. It's funny looking back, because you're always looking forwards. You've got to know where you come from. This is not one of those places that I thought I needed to know where I came from, but it is. I feel a bit of a closeness now, knowing that Olivia's here.

Olivia Stroeven

What are you studying?

I'm in my first year of my Bachelor of Science, majoring in Psychology and Criminology.

Was the room what you were expecting?

When I walked in for the first time, it was so bare—it really made it feel like a fresh start.

Why did you choose Victoria University?

Since I was 14, I always knew I would move out of home as soon as possible, as I am so independent. When I was about 16, I discovered the artiness and vibrancy of Wellington, and when I finally decided what I wanted to do with my life, I found out how well Victoria was rated for its humanities and social sciences and everything just fell into place.

How does it feel knowing your room once belonged to someone who's gone on to have a highly successful career?

It makes me feel like university isn't as never-ending as I thought it was going to be. And everything I'm doing now is going to lead somewhere, hopefully to do something good in this world. Also, I feel quite proud of her because we are connected in this random way.

Why did you want to stay at Victoria House?

Literally only because it had a cat. I have been known to be a crazy cat lady by many.

What's the best thing about the hall?

The people! I've met a lot of great people here, as well as the wonderful residential advisers and support staff.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

Eating at every possible establishment in Wellington.

What is it like meeting Fiona?

It's awesome. It's nice to know there's life after university.



Victoria University's Coastal Ecology Laboratory was practically Alan's second home, where he kept marine specimens, maintained equipment and conducted his own research.

The extraordinary life of Alan Hoverd

Piecing together dozens of skeletons, helping to design and build the Coastal Ecology Laboratory, rounding up 15,000 rogue bees—Alan Hoverd's 50 years with Victoria University could never be described as ordinary.

But after five decades he's ready to hang up his lab coat and farewell the university that gave him many skills, experiences, friends, memories and tasks that he says ranged "from the sublime to the ridiculous".

It was a very different era when Alan arrived at Victoria as a 16-year-old in 1965. He walked out of Wellington Boys' College straight into Victoria's Zoology Department as the University's first technical trainee.

From his second day, when he found the laboratory's human skeleton sitting in his chair wearing his lab coat, it was apparent that this was no average working environment.

The young Alan kept undergraduate laboratories in top condition, looked after the two tuatara and in-house rodents and prepared fish, rats and other animals for class dissections.

As the 'general dogsbody', he also made coffee for the technicians' morning tea. This meant boiling water in the billy that rested on an asbestos mat over a Bunsen burner. He always washed the billy thoroughly beforehand, as it was likely he'd

boiled items like cats' heads in it earlier, while preparing teaching specimens.

Alan had always shown an artistic talent, and in an age where publications relied on hand-drawn images, his skills were soon put to good use. He drew and painted illustrations that were used as teaching aids, and many others were published in local and international books and journals.

Early in his career, Alan was afforded extra training opportunities in glassblowing, metalwork and histology, as well as time to study at Wellington Polytechnic, and then London University College on a Queen Elizabeth II Scholarship, while working at the Central Veterinary Centre in Surrey.

He rose through the ranks, becoming a technical team leader who manages staff servicing undergraduate teaching laboratories and coordinates the technical side of things, to keep things running smoothly. He is also involved on a few University committees.

The animal skeletons he has worked on—sharks, orangutans and rodents

among them—are testament to some of his many skills. Armed with surgical instruments and taxidermy books, Alan pieced skeletons together, bone by bone, for research and teaching. "One time, an iguana skeleton arrived in a shoe box from Australia, in hundreds of pieces. Needless to say it was a challenge to get that accurate ... and to this day I have no idea if the vertebrae are entirely in the right sequence."

As a founding member of the University's civil defence team, he was involved in setting up a flying fox for a training exercise in 1979, which whizzed from the Easterfield building rooftop to the Rankine Brown building.

His ability to find unusual tasks has not waned in his later years. In January this year, he was a key player in rounding up and relocating 15,000 bees that had found a home in the walls of a University building.

Despite this, Alan feels he is now ready to step back from Victoria. "I'll miss the students and my colleagues and all the interesting and highly qualified individuals, but I think 50 years is a good innings."

Who's protecting your online reputation?

Defamation laws have protected the reputations of individuals for centuries. But those laws have yet to fully adapt to the changing way we publish and consume information online and the increased harm caused by online defamation.

School of Accounting and Commercial Law Associate Professor Susan Corbett says, while it's accepted that the writer and publisher of defamatory material—online or otherwise—are liable for defamation, the responsibility of search engine providers is unknown territory.

In a recent research paper, Susan proposes search engine providers are liable, but says there is a valid defence if they can prove they tried to remove or limit defamatory material from search results.

Search engine providers have argued that links to websites and their corresponding snippets are determined by algorithms, in response to a customer's search. Because search engines rely on automated processes, providers say they are not 'publishers' of defamatory material.

Overseas, this defence has received a mixed response from courts, while the High Court of New Zealand has warned the issue requires further consideration.

Susan says the element of control should be the primary determining principle of whether a search engine provider is liable for defamation.



"An online intermediary that is able to remove postings from its platform must do so if it is aware of potentially defamatory material. Should it choose not to remove the material, it will be liable for publishing."

She argues against search engine providers' main line of defence by pointing out there are technologies available that enable them to moderate content.

"Behind every computer algorithm is a computer programmer who writes them. Therefore algorithms are not objective. Although it might not be possible to moderate

every decision made by an algorithm, they could be designed to recognise values such as hate speech and ridicule. Once websites with such content are highlighted, a human moderator could then intervene."

She recognises these moderating technologies aren't the perfect solution. "Although the search process would be slowed, it may at least offer some degree of protection to that most valuable of our properties—reputation."

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Going forward with Google

Victoria University has further solidified its place at the forefront of research in one of the most innovative emerging technology areas—software defined networks (SDN).

After forming a software defined networks research group in 2014, Victoria's School of Engineering and Computer Science has gone on to sign a three-year research agreement with Google to embark on SDN development, maintenance and teaching.

Traditionally, networking hardware is manufactured with specific software in mind, but standardising the way that software interacts with hardware allows developers the freedom to go beyond what is standard in the field.

"This means software developers can write programs for their own specific networking needs, and they are less restricted by the set-up of the hardware, which is more conducive to innovation," says senior lecturer Dr Ian Welch.

"The flexibility of SDN technology

means network modifications can be made more readily, and system threats dealt with rapidly and effectively. Even better, we can make networks more reliable by applying well-understood techniques from software engineering, such as unit testing and formal methods. Overall, this makes for a commercially nimble, cost-effective solution because it allows maximisation of the use of bandwidth and is potentially more secure and reliable than existing technologies."

According to Google's representative software engineer at Victoria, Josh Bailey, companies such as Google, Facebook or Amazon wouldn't be in business without the vital role of network engineers.

"SDN is set to revolutionise things further by allowing better management of

things such as cloud services, big data and consumer-interfacing technology, and it provides attractive options for scaling up business operations," says Josh.

"This means SDN technology is set to be a growth industry and a serious option for any student considering network engineering."

The three-year research agreement with Google provides a platform for Victoria to grow its profile in SDN teaching and research, with the goals of bringing more students into this emerging field and partnering with other academic and commercial organisations.

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As seen at Victoria



Victoria celebrates a capital city birthday

Thousands of people turned out to enjoy events, displays and performances put on by Victoria to celebrate 150 years of Wellington as New Zealand's capital.

The diverse attractions included a poetry reading by seven Wellington poets and a showcase of robots, virtual reality technology and 3D printers, a lecture by

former prime minister Sir Geoffrey Palmer on how Wellington was chosen to be New Zealand's capital and performances at Parliament by Te Kōhī New Zealand School of Music students.

View some of the highlights at <http://bit.ly/1WNIQ51>

Looking good

An artist's impression gives a glimpse of how Victoria will look from Kelburn Parade in 2017. The new science building will add 12,000m² of science teaching, research and laboratory facilities to Kelburn campus.



From left: Vice-Chancellor Grant Guilford, Professor Rawinia Higgins and Professor Jennifer Windsor, Pro Vice-Chancellor and Dean of Humanities and Social Sciences.

Nurturing te reo

The fact that only one in five Māori can speak te reo shows the danger of the language being lost, Professor Rawinia Higgins told a capacity audience at her inaugural lecture on Victoria's Te Herenga Waka Marae on the Kelburn campus.

She says if the language is to be revitalised, it must be adopted by the nation.

Watch Rawinia's inaugural lecture at <http://bit.ly/1j98qml>



Who will be the biggest loser?

Victoria student Bethany Paterson is behind a battle taking place between halls of residence Weir House and Te Puni Village, to see who can save the most power this year.

Her goal is to get students thinking about their everyday energy use and show how collective action can help to change behaviour.

Read more about her project at <http://bit.ly/1Mf7atw>

A job well done

Nearly 2,500 students celebrated many years of hard work and dedication in May when they crossed the stage during six graduation ceremonies held by Victoria.

Chancellor Sir Neville Jordan said: "As alumni of New Zealand's globally ranked capital city University, I know that this week's cohort of Victoria graduates will go on to make an important contribution to New Zealand and the world, and I wish each of them every success in their future endeavours."



New Pasifika space

Performances from Pasifika students at Victoria were a highlight of the opening of a dedicated Pasifika space in the Kelburn Library. The name 'Wan Solwara' means 'one ocean, one people' and signifies Victoria's place within the Pacific region and the diversity of Pacific cultures and peoples sharing a common purpose of scholarship and learning at Victoria.



Honouring Victoria's best

It was an impressive ensemble at the recent Distinguished Alumni event in Wellington's Shed 6. At the centre of the celebrations stood six outstanding alumni, each of whose endeavours have garnered incredible success, locally, nationally and on the world stage.

The recipients were top Olympian Ian Ferguson, Treaty of Waitangi negotiator Tamati Kruger, artist and curator Helen Kedgley, businessman and sports administrator Alan Isaac, the world's first

woman Anglican diocesan bishop Penny Jamieson and entrepreneur Derek Handley.

Chancellor Sir Neville Jordan said the Distinguished Alumni Awards not only recognised success, but also the talent,

courage and innovation that had driven it.

Victoria has presented Distinguished Alumni Awards since 2006 as a way of recognising and honouring the contribution made by its graduates.



A piece of Victoria

Victoria's 2015 Distinguished Alumni Award winners were gifted a hand-carved paperweight made from stone from Victoria's historic Hunter building.

The limestone used for the six paperweights has been part of the Hunter building since it was completed 92 years ago. In addition to the limestone the paperweights also feature stained glass, with both materials being extracted during the recent restoration of the Hunter Council Chamber.

Chancellor Sir Neville Jordan says the paperweights are symbolic tokens that acknowledge the relationship between the Distinguished Alumni Award winners and the University.

Sir Neville says the paperweights "embody the University's history, its spirit and mana.

"That's what our distinguished alumni carry forward. May the hau [essence] of these stones continue to speak across the generations."

Sign up for latest alumni news

Our alumni e-newsletter has undergone a makeover. The Your Victoria e-newsletter now brings to you the latest in Victoria news, events, deals and opinions every month. If you'd like to sign up for the newsletter, email your full name to alumni@vuw.ac.nz with 'subscribe' in the subject line.

From the Beehive

Hon Bill English BCom *Otago*, BA(Hons) *Well*
Deputy Prime Minister



What are some of your favourite memories of Victoria University?

I went into a small English Literature Honours class straight from a sheep farm in Dipton, Southland, so it was quite a culture change. My classmates challenged everything I thought, and my lecturers were people who liked to corrupt young minds and stir their brains—which is something I'm very grateful for.

Have you kept any connections with Victoria?

I keep in touch with some of my lecturers and fellow students, and in my official capacity I have encouraged an active connection between the government machine and public policy specialists at Victoria. We have used Victoria staff to run and participate in policy processes, and I also like to talk to academics as part of my own policy development process—they are interesting, motivated people, often with a different perspective from public servants.

What is a major challenge of your current role?

As well as getting on top of the Government's finances, a major focus of my role is improving public services—particularly for vulnerable people. When government does its job well and intervenes effectively, it enables vulnerable people to increase their resilience and social mobility, and it helps them make positive changes to their lives.

We are aiming for government services that deliver a reduction in the indicators of social stress by focusing strongly on the most vulnerable—so one of the challenges is to have services that adapt to individual and family needs. And if we are successful at that, it will reduce demand for more intensive services in the future.

My time at Victoria gave me a toolkit to understand better how public sector institutions operate, what assumptions they are built on and how they can be changed.

Living the work you love

Chelsea Robinson BSc *Well*
Environmental and social wellbeing entrepreneur



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

I took a job at the Tasman District Council, supporting the policy and planning team with resource consent processing and land management issues.

I co-founded Generation Zero, a youth-led climate change movement, while at university, so I used the experience to join the Loomio team as a sales person and consultant, working with local and national government. Loomio is a worker-owned cooperative that builds tools for collaboration and collective decision-making.

I also took a leading role in the redesign of LifehackHQ, which is a project supported by the prime minister's Youth Mental Health Project. All of the work I have done since graduating has been experimental, entrepreneurial and required a lot of critical thinking as well as open-heartedness.

What do you consider the highlight of your career to date?

I wouldn't describe my professional life as a career. I live a work-life blend, not

a work-life balance. The highlight of my work is the people I work with. As someone interested in creating a more thriving, just and sustainable world, I am so grateful to be surrounded by people with a shared vision and a dedication to doing what they can to live and work by their values.

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

On a typical day you'd find me having a coffee at Vic Books, hiding in a library room scheming with a friend or in a GEO computer suite. Off campus, you'd find me in cold flats in Aro Valley, and on Cuba Street and in Kelburn.

What has stayed with you since you left Victoria?

The importance of getting to the root cause of an issue, instead of solving something at the surface.

Alumni events

Over the past few months, hundreds of alumni have attended our free networking events in Asia. These social evenings give them opportunities to hear from inspirational speakers, expand business and social networks and reconnect with their University.

This year, Victoria's alumni and friends have been honoured to be hosted by the New Zealand Ambassador to China, the New Zealand High Commissioners of Singapore and Kuala Lumpur and the New Zealand Consul-Generals of Shanghai and Hong Kong.

For information about upcoming events or to view photos, go to www.victoria.ac.nz/alumniandfriends or our Facebook page www.facebook.com/Victoriauniversityofwellingtonalumni



From left: Special guests Vanuatu Ambassador to China Sela Molisa and Vanessa Molisa with Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Engagement) Frazer Allan at the Beijing alumni event.



Alumnus Lindsey Fung was one of the 50 guests to attend the Shanghai event co-hosted by New Zealand Consul-General Shanghai, Guergana Guermanoff.



From left: Singapore-based alumni Yook Lee, Shen Teo, Stacey Martin and William Yap were among those hosted at the official residence of New Zealand High Commissioner to Singapore, Bernadette Cavanagh.



From left: Jordan King and Sean Rahui in discussion with New Zealand Consul-General Gabrielle Rush at the Hong Kong event.



Alumni at the Kuala Lumpur event, from left: Ann Puat Leo, Peter Sim, Angie Gow and David Ng have, combined, over half a century of attendance at Victoria.



Douglas Harvey and Rachel Salmond and over 50 other guests got the chance to meet and greet other alumni at the Melbourne networking event.

International relations

Michelle Limenta PhD Law *Well*, LLM *Leiden*

Director of Center for International Trade and Investment



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

I am managing the newly established Center for International Trade and Investment at Universitas Pelita Harapan

in Indonesia. The Center is responsible for implementing the World Trade Organization's Chairs Programme, which aims to support trade-related academic activities by universities and research institutions in developing countries.

Describe your student experience at Victoria.

It was just amazing. People at Victoria were very kind, genuine and helpful. I had two excellent PhD supervisors with high expertise in their field. English is not my first language, in fact, I only started to learn English seriously in 2001. My supervisors and Student Learning Support staff were dedicated in helping me improve my writing skills. My fellow PhD friends and several law students offered to proofread my thesis and the Law School encouraged and sponsored me to attend and present my paper at international conferences.

Victoria is also situated in the coolest little capital, and Wellington cafés serve the best coffee in the world.

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

I lived in the Wai-te-ata Apartments on Wai-te-ata Road. It's a fully-furnished student accommodation, and very international. During my three years of living there I had flatmates from Malawi, Samoa, Tanzania, Germany, the United States, China and Singapore. My room had a gorgeous view of Wellington Harbour.

What was the most useful thing you learnt at Victoria?

Survival strategies while doing a PhD, one of which is don't lock yourself in the room, office or lab. Go out and have a life.

Are there any life lessons you learnt that are still applicable in your life?

Life does not need to be perfect, and it never will be, but it should be meaningful.

A legal history

David McLean LLB(Hons) *Well*

Westpac New Zealand CEO



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

I started as a lawyer in private practice, then worked as in-house counsel at a bank, before morphing into a banker specialising in the debt capital markets. So far, the highlight has been my current role as CEO of Westpac New Zealand. It is a big job, with an organisation and people I know well, and with the potential to make a positive difference to the New Zealand economy.

What are some of your favourite memories of Victoria University?

I have very strong memories about the teaching in the Law Faculty. The Socratic method of teaching, which didn't suit everybody but that I thoroughly enjoyed, was a very powerful experience. It made the lectures entertaining in an 'edge of your seat' way. Sir Geoffrey Palmer's tort group was also memorable. The quality

of the Law Faculty, both academically and pedagogically, was, in my view, outstanding. I feel that I was lucky to have been there at a pretty special time.

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

My parents lived in Wellington, but from my second year I flatmated. First in Highbury, and then in Thorndon in a nicely-restored cottage only steps from what was then the Western Park Tavern. Its downstairs public bar was full of students and the upstairs lounge bar became a quieter and more sophisticated second living room for our flat.

What was the most useful thing you learnt at Victoria?

The most useful thing I learnt was probably the disciplined approach to thinking and problem-solving, which came through the legal training.



Three generations of Ronald Woolf's family celebrate the new era of the Memorial Trust. From left: Megan Hall, Simon Woolf, Inge Woolf (seated), Sam Hart, Deborah Hart, Noah Woolf and Lily-Jane Woolf (front).

Legacy lives on

The legacy of Wellington photographer Ronald Woolf will live on through Victoria University with the endowment of the Ronald Woolf Memorial Trust funds to the Victoria University of Wellington Foundation.

In August, the Woolf family, trustees, supporters and representatives from the University came together to formalise and celebrate the establishment of the endowment.

University development office and foundation executive director Shelagh Murray says the Foundation is “honoured and excited” to carry on the Trust’s work. “We deeply appreciate the history of the Ronald Woolf Memorial Trust, and the impact it has had on many young New Zealanders. As its new caretakers, we look forward to safeguarding its integrity and continuing the Trust’s excellent work.”

The Ronald Woolf Memorial Trust was set up in 1987 after a helicopter accident took the lives of the celebrated photographer, the pilot and a fellow passenger during a photographic mission over Wellington. Since then, the Trust has cultivated learning opportunities for young photographers through its annual scholarship and photographic exhibition.

Ronald’s daughter, Deborah Hart, says her father had long envisioned establishing a trust dedicated to supporting young photographers.

“The Trust is very important to the family,” she says. “But it was becoming increasingly difficult to ensure the funds were going to the right people. We started to think maybe there’s a better way to support young photographers and people with an interest in photography.”

Deborah says after extensive research, the Trust decided the Victoria University Foundation was ideally suited to take over, “to take it to a different level, and do things that are in line with what my father wanted”.

Pro Vice-Chancellor and Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences Professor Jennifer Windsor says the University is uniquely positioned to realise the potential of the Trust.

“We’re able to engage with aspiring photographers from an early stage, and create opportunities for emerging art historians and curators of photography.

“We are well placed to foster their understanding of photography and its evolution through time, and to mentor the next generation of photographic historians, curators and students of photography,” she says.

Possible initiatives include the development of an Honours- or Master’s-level photographic history course, enabling students to attend conferences or prepare for exhibitions or commissioning a photographic project.

The Foundation will invest the endowment in perpetuity and the Adam Art Gallery will jointly administer the funds with Victoria’s art history department.

Deborah says the family is looking forward to seeing the Trust evolve under the University’s reign.

“We’ve got a lot of faith in the University and the Adam Art Gallery to look after the funds.

“This is very much about what Dad wanted to do and we want to see his legacy go on forever,” she says.

The Foundation hopes to grow the endowment fund. If you would like to find out more, contact our Development Office.

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From left: Georgie Keyse, Jaz O'Donnell, David Maskill and Darius Balfourt.

Prints of perfection

Traditional printmaking may have fallen out of fashion but David Maskill and his Art History Honours students are out to show audiences how exquisite the art form can be.

David, a senior lecturer in the School of Art History, Classics and Religious Studies, and 10 students taking his fourth-year History of Prints course, have curated the Adam Art Gallery's latest exhibition *Traces of the Wake: The Etching Revival in Britain and Beyond*, which explores the etching revival that took place in the early twentieth century.

David spent some of last summer poring over prints held in the collections of Te Papa, the Alexander Turnbull Library and the Auckland Art Gallery, selecting the 65 that feature in the exhibition.

They include prints by Rembrandt, the presiding genius of the etching revival, Charles Meryon, a pioneering master of original etching in France and the American-born James Whistler, a major figure in nineteenth century printmaking, as well as rare New Zealand portraits and landscapes by what David calls 'British Empire' artists.

"The exhibition is an opportunity for people to see works that are unlikely to be shown in our national institutions because they don't fit the current remit of our nationalist history.

"Actually, though, these works by artists who identified as being British,

even though they were born or worked in New Zealand and Australia, tell us a lot about a particular period of New Zealand's development."

A special set of relationships make it possible for Victoria to offer postgraduate students the rare opportunity, while at university, to create and stage an exhibition from beginning to end.

"Wellington has a fantastically rich collection of works on paper," says David, "largely held by Te Papa and the Turnbull Library. Their willingness to lend works to us, and the fact that we have a gallery of the calibre of Adam Art Gallery on campus to display them, makes it possible."

His own expertise in the history of prints is another essential ingredient of the venture, which has seen David and his Honours students mount exhibitions at the Adam Art Gallery for the past 15 years.

The annual exhibition is supported by Wellington's Woolf Photography, which sponsors the exhibition catalogue.

As well as learning how artworks are stored, how to prepare them for exhibition and the intricacies of installation, each student has researched a group of prints, written an essay on them for the

catalogue, will deliver a public floor talk and be involved in publicising the show.

"It's an amazing opportunity," says Georgie Keyse, one of the student curators. "For most of us, it is the first time we've had work published and also the first time we have presented in public."

Another student, Darius Balfourt, has also learnt the ins and outs of borrowing art works, going with David Maskill to Te Papa and the Turnbull and helping to catalogue the prints.

"It's an interesting point in the history of printmaking," he says. "The project has sparked a lot of questions around why printmaking has become relatively unpopular and why so few people are currently working in this field."

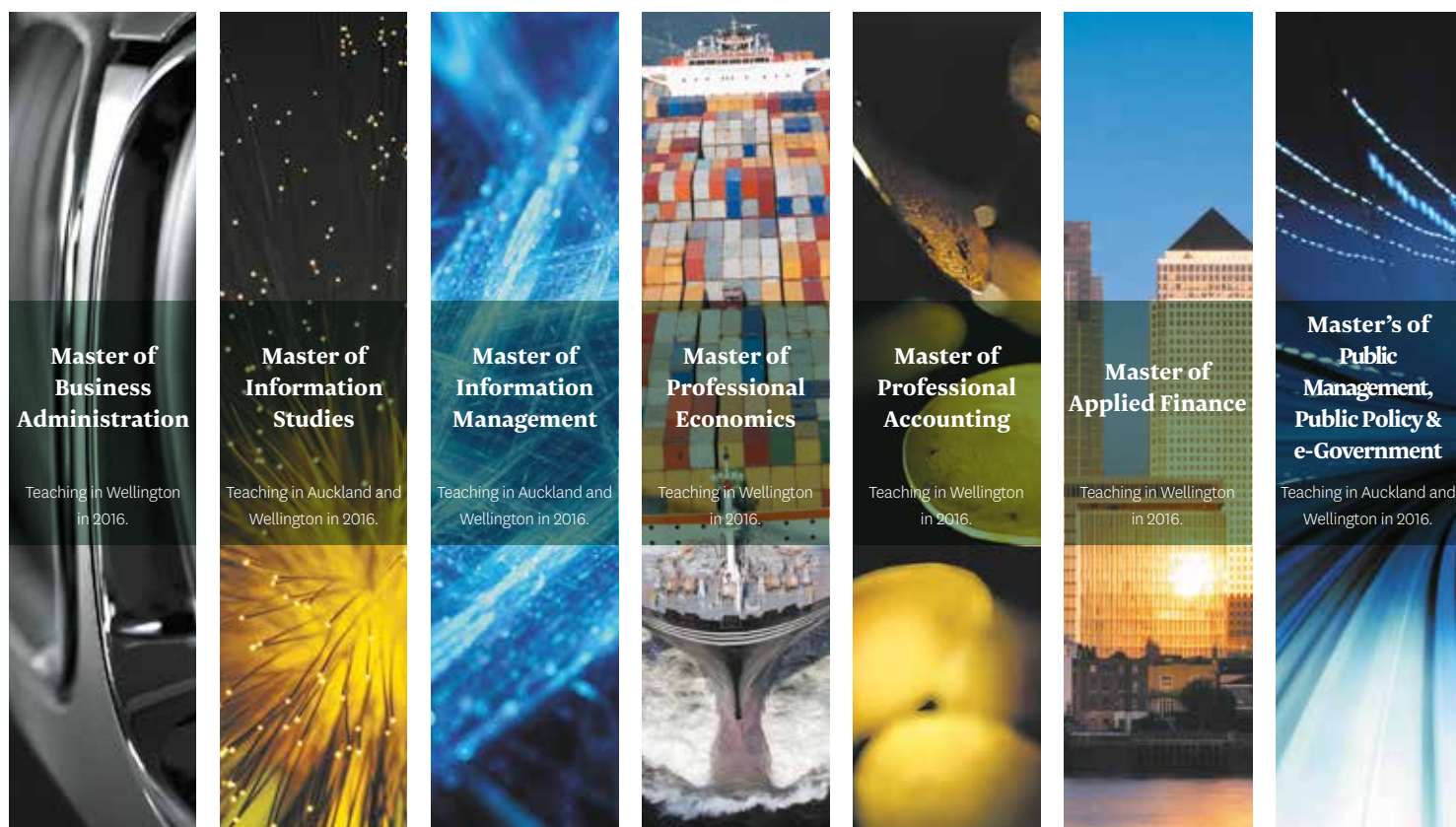
The exhibition runs until 20 December and David hopes it will attract a wide audience.

"It's a chance to see some of the most technically brilliant and seldom-seen prints produced in the history of printmaking. Some of the scenes portrayed, such as a view of the ruins of Napier after the 1931 earthquake, are fabulously rare."

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