

Issue 2, 2016

# VICTORIOUS



Enabling our Asia-Pacific  
trading nation

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Where the romance of the  
high seas ends



## Where the romance of the high seas ends

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## Enabling our Asia–Pacific trading nation



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## From the Vice-Chancellor

As New Zealand's capital, Wellington is actively engaged in the process of enabling trade. The capital city is the base for government and diplomats, policy-makers and regulators, non-governmental organisations and cultural organisations. The capital is replete with practitioners in the art of enabling trade. Exporting businesses look to institutions in the city to support and enable their efforts overseas.

Trade is, of course, about much more than goods and services. It also involves sharing ideas, languages and cultures and facilitating the movement of people.

Spanning the vast waters of the Pacific Ocean and including some of the world's most populous and most vulnerable nations, the Asia-Pacific is increasingly a force in the global economy. For good reason, diplomats and scholars not infrequently refer to this period as the 'Asia-Pacific century'. It is a region of central importance to New Zealand—more than 70 percent of our total trade is with Asia-Pacific countries and our political and cultural ties with the region are rapidly strengthening and deepening.

Hence the recent New Zealand Government decision to establish new Centres of Asia-Pacific Excellence in New Zealand universities, focusing on North Asia, Southeast Asia and Latin America. As well as facilitating exchanges of students and staff, the Centres will become a focal point for New Zealand's relationship with those parts of the world.

This is a neat fit with Victoria's strategic direction. As an engaged global-civic university we are already harnessing our multidisciplinary capability to enable our Asia-Pacific trading nation—one of our eight areas of academic distinctiveness. From knowledge about languages, cultures, geography and history, marketing, economics and international business relations and law, Victoria has the capability to help advance New Zealand's relations with the Asia-Pacific.

An important feature of this area of distinctiveness will be engagement with the practising professionals in Wellington. That means bringing those at the coal face of policy development, trade and international relations together with academics doing research related to the Asia-Pacific region to address contemporary issues and challenges. We are conducting research on topics that matter to those doing trade in the Asia-Pacific, such as how to enhance the 'Asia capability' of individuals, firms and institutions in New Zealand and gaining a deeper understanding of the factors that influence the flow of New Zealand goods to, and through, the region.

We're also taking a lead in working with our counterparts from other capital cities. The Capital City Universities Initiative harnesses the advantage that prestigious universities in selected national capitals have through their proximity to public institutions and their ability to influence debate on policy and international relations. The first meeting of the network at Victoria brought together experts from capital city universities in Asia-Pacific nations to discuss the changing environment for Asia-Pacific security.

In this issue of *Victorious*, you can read about other initiatives and some of the excellent work being done at Victoria that will further enable New Zealand to be a significant participant in the Asia-Pacific region.

**Professor Grant Guilford**

Vice-Chancellor

📧@GrantGuilford

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📧 [communications@lists.vuw.ac.nz](mailto:communications@lists.vuw.ac.nz)

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Editor: Kristina Keogh

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# The behaviour of business

It's hardly business as usual at Victoria Business School, where an eagerly awaited behavioural research laboratory is set to open.

The recent redevelopment of Victoria's Rutherford House, which includes the addition of a new six-floor annex, provided the opportunity to establish the laboratory.

The laboratory will host researchers with expertise in behavioural and experimental research in any business or public sector-related discipline.

Laboratory co-directors Professor Jake Rose and Associate Professor Ania Rose say staff and PhD students will have access to the laboratory early next year, when construction is scheduled for completion.

In addition to accounting, researchers in economics and finance, international trade and negotiations, management and marketing are expected to participate in the laboratory's activities, says Jake.

"Research will examine the effects of policy and business choices on the behaviour of stakeholders, such as the influence of investor perceptions on retirement saving decisions, the effects of big data on auditor judgement and indiscretions that can trigger decisions to engage in financial frauds."

Professor Ian Eggleton, current head of school, says, "Behavioural accounting

began in Victoria's School of Accounting and Commercial Law in the early 1980s, so the laboratory's opening is an eagerly awaited event."

Having a centralised space for this type of research will encourage cross-pollination of ideas by researchers, says Ania.

"The laboratory will allow researchers to tap into each other's resources, and will generate opportunities to address business problems that are important to New Zealand. It's great to see this long-held vision come to fruition."



## Experiencing the future first-hand

Architecture students and staff are keeping their finger on the pulse with a new digital research laboratory that comes complete with a giant robotic arm.

Victoria's Te Aro campus now boasts a 1.1 tonne industrial robotic arm—the first of this scale in New Zealand.

Kevin Sweet, senior lecturer, says the robot can be programmed to do "almost anything that we ask it to".

"Whatever the human arm can do, and more—the ease of operation and versatility of the robot provides exploration of countless possibilities.

Right now, students are using it to form flat sheets of aluminium into unique forms, and developing a panelling system that will make a small pavilion."

The robot can lift up to 200 kilograms, has a 2.6 metre reach and its programmed movements are precise to within 0.1 millimetres.

"We're using the laboratory to research the future of architecture

construction and explore alternative building methods. We want to take what students and architects imagine and find methods to actually build it," says Kevin.

"The robotic arm is just the beginning. We're hoping to add to it with a couple of smaller robotic arms and other computer-controlled machines."



# War on superbugs

The key to fighting one of the biggest threats to humanity could be found in your backyard.

**T**he spectre of antibiotic resistance is becoming a pressing issue, threatening to take humans back to a time when a simple cut finger could kill.

Dr Jeremy Owen and Associate Professor David Ackerley from Victoria's School of Biological Sciences have been awarded nearly \$1.2 million in funding to find new antibiotics from previously untapped sources in New Zealand's soil, lichen and marine life.

"Currently, scientists can culture less than 1 percent of bacteria that exist on Earth and this 1 percent has provided most of the antibiotics we currently use in medicine. But resistance to these

antibiotics is spreading, so we need to turn to the unculturable bacteria to find new drug candidates," says Jeremy.

"Almost any soil sample will have a lot of bacterial species that have never before been seen or examined, because you can't grow them. You could take a scoop from your backyard and you'd probably find something interesting."

The two scientists will use DNA sequencing and synthetic biology to discover and synthesise new drugs, allowing them to extract new molecules from bacteria that can't be grown in the laboratory.

David says antibiotic resistance is a

serious problem, with the World Health Organization comparing it to climate change in terms of threats to humanity.

"That puts in context just how dire it could be potentially. We're faced with going back to the 1920s pre-antibiotic era where the most innocuous of wounds could potentially kill you if they became infected. This is something that everybody is going to be vulnerable to."

The two scientists are working with Dr Rob Keyzers and Associate Professor Peter Northcote from Victoria's School of Chemical and Physical Sciences on the three-year Health Research Council of New Zealand-funded project.





# Bringing stories out of the woodwork

A fascination with Old Saint Paul's has turned creating a history of the church into a labour of love for one Victoria University alumna.

Architectural historian Elizabeth Cox, a Master of Arts graduate, is writing an online social history of the iconic Wellington church—150 years since it was opened and consecrated in its Mulgrave Street location.

Over the past 18 months, Elizabeth has uncovered more than 100 previously untold stories about Old Saint Paul's, which she says adds to the attraction of visiting the historic site.

"There is already so much existing research about the church because it's such a historic building, but I look beyond the fabric of the building and into the social history stories that happened inside.

"The special thing about Old Saint Paul's is that you can go inside and explore the exact spaces where people experienced a particular event.

"It's just not the same exploring the church if you just went in there without knowing some of these stories."

With the stories uploaded online, Elizabeth has heard from people around the globe whose ancestors had

connections to the church.

"Most people are really excited to find another link in their family history, but for others it can be an emotional time."

Elizabeth credits her time at Victoria for her passion for social and women's history. "It was at Victoria that I was taught about studying the stories of ordinary people who were involved in a place or in making an object.

"What I'm trying to do now is something new in terms of communicating heritage out to the world."

Elizabeth hopes to continue to expand the history of Old Saint Paul's through those who have connections to the church.

"Old Saint Paul's was a place where people worshipped and, for some, it was the centre of their lives. I want to make sure that people understand the role this building had as an active church, rather than just as a tourist attraction."

Explore Old Saint Paul's history on Elizabeth's website.

🔗 <https://osphistory.org>

## Favourite piece of history

One of Elizabeth's favourite stories began with an "intriguing" note in a 1936 newspaper article, which led her to the discovery of the maker of the litany desk that sits in the centre of the aisle at Old Saint Paul's.

The desk was made by Harriette Crawford, who had studied at the then newly established Wellington School of Design. Woodcarving was the pre-eminent arts and crafts activity for women in the 1890s to the 1910s throughout New Zealand, Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States.

Elizabeth believes the desk may have been made out of oak timbers from a shipwreck, probably in the 1890s.



# Music's connection with history

Victoria's Te Kōkī New Zealand School of Music (NZSM) is drawing in students from different disciplines in the University to learn about music in Europe during World War II.

**M**usic and Conflict: Music in World War II is open to all Music students at NZSM and History students from the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, as well as the wider university community. Senior lecturer of Classical Performance Inbal Megiddo and Professor of Music Donald Maurice say bringing together students from different areas helps to challenge their preconceptions about World War II.

"The History students gain a perspective on the role music played in the war. The Music students develop a new appreciation for compositions they may already be familiar with," says Inbal.

The paper begins with a brief history of the nineteenth century and the political lead up to World War II. Students are then introduced to specific musical works written during the war. They visit the National Holocaust Centre in Wellington and watch video testimonials from survivors of concentration camps.

Donald says the course is often emotional for students as it exposes them to real experiences and stories from the Holocaust.

"Students investigate stories of individuals rather than discussing statistics. They learn music was propaganda for the Nazis, a subversive

tool for composers, a morale booster in Jewish concentration camps and a haunting reminder for those who survived the Holocaust," says Donald.

Inbal and Donald say the paper is important because it maintains awareness of the tragedies from World War II.

"There is a responsibility to give a voice to those composers and musicians who never had the chance," says Inbal.

"Students draw comparisons between World War II and our current political climate, which I hope will encourage them to stay informed and prevent those atrocities repeating," says Donald.





Dr Cliff Atkins discusses Antarctica with Provost Professor Wendy Larner and Dr Rebecca Priestley.

# Massive step for online global courses

In a first for a New Zealand university, Victoria has partnered with edX, which delivers online courses and classes from some of the world's best universities.

Founded by prestigious United States universities Harvard and MIT, edX is a non-profit, open-source technology platform governed by universities for universities.

The partnership will see Victoria deliver eight free online courses over the next three years to anyone, anywhere in the world, increasing Victoria's reputation internationally in both learning and teaching, says Provost Professor Wendy Larner.

"But it will also help us expand our digital capability across the board in an area of focus for Victoria—that of playing

a lead role in imagining and enabling the possibilities in a digital age.

"There will be opportunities for Victoria to collaborate with other edX universities to deliver courses."

Both infrastructure and staff capability at Victoria will be developed further to deliver MOOCs (massive open online courses) as well as SPOCs (small private online courses), micro-Master's and new forms of blended learning.

"This step for Victoria fits with the New Zealand Government's enthusiasm for online learning, and with the Productivity Commission of New Zealand's focus on 'new models' for universities," says Wendy.

## MOOC facts

- Video lectures are no longer than 7.5 minutes, and are supplemented by readings and other online resources.
- Courses run for either four or eight weeks.
- Unlimited class size—the current record is well over one million students enrolled in one course.
- Victoria's online courses will be subtitled in a range of languages, including te reo Māori.

✉ [opencourses@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:opencourses@vuw.ac.nz)

## Showcasing Victoria's Antarctica expertise

Launching early next year, the first LMOOC from Victoria to be available on the global edX platform will be Antarctica Online, led by Dr Rebecca Priestley and Dr Cliff Atkins from the Faculty of Science.

Antarctica Online has already been delivered as a four-credit, 300-level online course within the Science in Society teaching programme at Victoria, and has also been run by Continuing

Education at Victoria.

In 2014, Rebecca and Cliff 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. In August 2016 they travelled to an international Antarctic conference in Kuala Lumpur,

where they filmed new lecture material to illustrate the diverse range of researchers who study the continent.

"By transferring this course to edX, Victoria can dramatically increase the scale and reach of a globally distinctive and relevant course, while capturing people across the world who may not have access to this topic," says Wendy.





# CYBER MAN

Cybersecurity is about so much more than IT, says Chris Ward. And he should know.

Chris was headhunted by the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) in 2007 from his role as a major in the British Army, where he led Computer Network Defence (CND) Operations at the Ministry of Defence in Whitehall.

At the NZDF, he oversaw the setting up of New Zealand's first computer security incident response team (CSIRT).

Now he's establishing the second—at Victoria University.

Chris is director of Cyber Operations for Cyber Toa, the firm partnering with Victoria to develop a centre of excellence for research, training, advice and protection that will strengthen New Zealand and the Asia-Pacific's resilience against the escalating threat of cybercrime and cyberattacks.

As part of the collaboration, Cyber Toa has launched a commercial CSIRT at the University's Kelburn campus—offering proactive and reactive cybersecurity support to businesses and other clients in New Zealand and the wider Asia-Pacific.

"When you set up a CSIRT, people think it's all about IT and networks," says Chris. "But that's just part of it. We also cover things like software engineering, research and development

into tools and techniques, governance, risk, compliance and the human factor."

Cyber Toa is one of only 10 certified training partners of the Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT) Division of the Software Engineering Institute (SEI) at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh in the United States.

Nearly 30 years old and the gold standard in cybersecurity, the SEI CERT works closely with high-level government organisations such as the United States Department of Defense and Department of Homeland Security, law enforcement agencies such as the FBI and the intelligence community.

The Victoria CSIRT's staff are all SEI-trained and accredited—required by government security agencies across the globe and an increasing number of New Zealand's trading partners before they will exchange threat information and share cybersecurity tools and technologies.

Chris, an SEI-certified instructor, says Cyber Toa's existing SEI-accredited cybersecurity training delivered in association with Victoria is being expanded and will eventually include all 42 courses the SEI has available.

Cyber Toa and Victoria will be the only

provider in the Southern Hemisphere to offer all the courses, teaching them in Wellington and Auckland and, if demand requires, in Australia and other Asia-Pacific countries.

From 2017, the University is also offering a new Master of Cybersecurity.

It won't be "just a bumped-up IT degree," stresses Chris, but will benefit from the deep-seated and up-to-the-minute expertise of SEI, Cyber Toa and the team in the Victoria CSIRT.

Chris joined the British Army at 16 as an electronics technician, working his way up the ranks from private and gaining a Master of Science in Communication and Information Systems Management from Britain's Bournemouth University.

When first introduced to CND, Chris said, "The Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament? Why are you asking me about that?"

Later, with his acronyms sorted and in charge of cybersecurity, he went looking for the best training the world had to offer. "And the place I found was the Software Engineering Institute at Carnegie Mellon University."

✉ [chris.ward@cybertoa.co.nz](mailto:chris.ward@cybertoa.co.nz)

# The 'less' said the better

Professor Miriam Meyerhoff first grappled with the intricacies of New Zealand English aged six when she migrated from California after her mother married a Kiwi.

"I got very interested in accent differences because they were right there in the house. I learnt my New Zealand accent by quite consciously copying my stepfather. It was something highly salient for me for about a year at an important stage of my life. I guess I got to a point where I sounded local enough and was happy so I stopped paying attention for a while."

Miriam, a Professor of Linguistics in Victoria's School of Linguistics and Applied Language Studies, now pays attention on a daily basis and has just started a three-year research study, Auckland Voices, supported by the Marsden Fund Council from Government funding managed by the Royal Society of New Zealand.

The study—in collaboration with Dr Elaine Ballard, Dr Helen Charters and Dr Catherine Watson from the University of Auckland, where Miriam is an honorary fellow in the School of Psychology—is investigating the New Zealand English spoken in two Auckland communities: one predominantly Pākehā/European, the other with no ethnic majority.

"We're trying to see whether when you get lots of people from different backgrounds coming together in a very high density in one community, and in particular when the community is a bit younger, those communities are starting to develop different norms."

Pronunciation will be part of the study—but not exclusively so.

"I suspect there are things going on at what I would consider to be a more grammatical level. There's a whole lot of stuff people haven't really looked at in New Zealand English because everybody has been so obsessed with the accent. Like people not being so inclined to say 'the North Island', just calling it 'North Island', not being so inclined to say 'in the Waikato', just saying 'in Waikato'. No one uses the word 'fewer' any more. Everything is just 'less'. I imagine we will probably find some data to do with that."

✉ miriam.meyerhoff@vuw.ac.nz



# Making sensor of the Internet of Things

People like to think of themselves as complex, but compared with *things* they are all too predictable.

That's what Winston Seah, Professor of Network Engineering in Victoria's School of Engineering and Computer Science, has found as he leads a team of researchers working on the Internet of Things (IOT).

Currently the area of internet development "the whole world is crazy about," says Winston, IOT seeks to give everyday and other objects network connectivity so they can send and receive data.

Supported by a three-year \$1 million deal with telecommunication giant Huawei New Zealand, one of the aspects of IOT Winston and his team are exploring is how networks might handle the massively increased traffic such functionality would bring.

"It's already been predicted the numbers are going to exceed human connections by hundreds of thousand times or even a billion. How many smartphones can we carry? Maybe two or three—and that's a lot. But let's say my jacket is embedded with sensors that measure my body statistics. It could easily have 100 sensors, each sending

data. Multiply that by the number of people in a city. And that's just one application."

Then there is the variability of what is being transmitted and when.

"It's not like the internet in the past where you're just dealing with human beings' communications. People are creatures of habit. How we communicate tends to be the same. Whereas machines are so different. And sometimes you just can't think what kind of data they will send and what kinds of patterns will emerge."

Winston and his team are also developing individual IOT applications such as land movement sensors that give advance warning of potential landslides, which are being trialled in the Manawatu Gorge near Palmerston North.

With a glint in his eye, Winston ponders other New Zealand sensor candidates, turning the Internet of Things into "the Internet of Sheep, the Internet of Cows, the Internet of Pinot Noir vines ..."

✉ winston.seah@ecs.vuw.ac.nz





Victoria's futsal players representing New Zealand: (back row) Finn Sterner Corbishley, Tom Withnall; (front row) Royden Smith, Adam Burrows, Alex Brodie and Cameron Webber. (Absent: Tai Barham.)

## Gutsy performance at Futsal University World Champs

The New Zealand Men's University Futsal Team, largely made up of Victoria students, competed against the best at the world university futsal championships in Brazil in July.

Victoria students made up the bulk of the 13-strong squad after winning the New Zealand universities national competition in April.

Although the team didn't notch up any wins, its members were happy with their hard fought efforts.

"Competing against the world's best is an amazing experience and there's no better feeling than walking onto the pitch wearing the silver fern," says team captain Alex Brodie.

It was the first time New Zealand had

competed in the international competition and coach Enrico Bitencourt Meirelles was impressed with his team's performance.

"The intensity and speed is much higher at international level. For our guys, most had only been playing in the last few years. It was good experience and I know we improved throughout the tournament."

## Collaboration for cancer detection

Detecting complex cancers could become easier with the development of a new device by a Victoria University spin-out company.

Ferranova has been established as a partnership between Victoria's nanoparticle specialist company Boutiq Science and the University of South Australia (UniSA), after negotiations with technology incubator

Powerhouse Ventures.

Ferranova will develop an ultra-sensitive magnetometer probe—around the size of a ballpoint pen—and an injectable magnetic fluid that will allow surgeons to detect the spread of cancer throughout the body.

Dr Anna Henning, head of sales and product development at Boutiq, says the combination device is designed to replace

radioactive materials.

"Traditional techniques have proved less effective in some cancers where nodes are closely packed or clustered.

"This device, which combines UniSA's magnetometer research and Boutiq's nanoparticle tracers, will be more accurate to detect these complex cancers and is easier to operate."



## Discover the world with a short course

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Victoria Alumni Special: receive a 15 percent discount on Continuing Education short courses if you graduated with a Victoria degree. It's that simple.

Call us on 04-463 6556 or email [conted@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:conted@vuw.ac.nz) for the Alumni promotional code to access this discount.





# Curiouser and curiouser

Associate Professor Nancy Bertler felt a little like Alice in Wonderland during her first visit to Antarctica.

“Nothing can really prepare you for it,” she says. “It’s enormous and breathtaking. Things that are unusual at home become quite normal in Antarctica.”

A former graphic designer from Germany, Nancy came New Zealand in 1999 to carry out her PhD under the supervision of Professor Peter Barrett—then director of Victoria’s Antarctic Research Centre (ARC).

She’s now led 13 expeditions to Antarctica, and is an internationally respected ice core scientist jointly appointed by the ARC and GNS Science.

“I feel hugely privileged to work in such an important place. Antarctica provides unique insight into understanding

climate change. I’m working to improve future projections so that people can make informed decisions.”

Her commitment to advancing New Zealand’s understanding of climate change earned Nancy a 2016 Blake Leader Award—prestigious recognition for those who’ve demonstrated outstanding leadership and the determination to achieve extraordinary things.

Nancy manages the National Ice Core Research Facility at GNS Science—one of the most advanced facilities of its kind in the world—and leads Antarctic field deployments for ice core research. She’s the chief scientist for the Roosevelt Island Climate

Evolution (RICE) project, initiating a nine-nation collaboration to examine a 763 metre deep ice core from the Ross Sea region. She’s now developing a 14-nation exploration of West Antarctica’s Thwaites Glacier region, which is being impacted dramatically by climate change.

Nancy also actively mentors and supports junior employees and students.

“A good leader has to recognise the skills and contributions others make and can make, and leads by example,” she says. “It’s very rewarding giving to the next generation of scientists the type of opportunities that were given to me. I’ve learned just as much as I’ve given.”





## Showing the way

Professor Rawinia Higgins was a shy, nervous 16-year-old girl straight out of boarding school when she came to Victoria University in 1990 to study for a Tohu Māoritanga / Diploma in Māoritanga and later a Bachelor of Arts.

**T**wenty-six years on, she's remembering this while in her new office as Victoria's recently appointed Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Māori)—an exemplar of successful Māori development who is now responsible for leading Māori development at the University herself.

She comes to the role having been Victoria's Assistant Vice-Chancellor Māori Research and head of school for Te Kawa a Māui / School of Māori Studies.

With respected research expertise in Māori language planning and policy, Rawinia chaired the review that helped shape the 2016 Te Ture mō Te Reo Māori (Māori Language) Act establishing Te Mātāwai as an entity to lead te reo

Māori revitalisation on behalf of iwi and Māori. Her governance roles on Māori broadcasting funding agency Te Māngai Pāho and the Māori Language Commission have allowed her to provide strategic advice on language policy in relation to these Crown agencies, too.

"To be able to participate in setting the future framework for policy related to language through the Māori Language Act was huge—a career highlight by far," she says. "As academics, we often talk about influencing policy change and this was policy change and legislation based on our work."

A staunch supporter of Māori development in all its guises, Rawinia

hopes her senior appointment at such a relatively young age brings a new kind of energy at a strategic level and encourages others to take on leadership roles.

"I have worked in every academic position there is in a university and so have an appreciation of what it is like and what is achievable. I believe this experience gives me a clear insight and understanding when developing strategy that supports Māori success and achievement. Furthermore, this role relies on the collective input of others and so it is important to build and strengthen relationships across Victoria and beyond to realise our objectives."

✉ rawinia.higgins@vuw.ac.nz

## Celebrating staff excellence

Professor Rawinia Higgins was one of eight Victoria staff whose achievements were celebrated and recognised with a Victoria Staff Excellence Award at an event held at Parliament.

**H**osted by Hon. Steven Joyce, Minister for Tertiary Education, Skills and Employment, and Victoria alumnus Chris Bishop, National list MP, the event was a wonderful way to celebrate Victoria's high achievers, says Vice-Chancellor Professor Grant Guilford.

"It's important to recognise and celebrate the achievements of staff who go the extra mile in their work."

The Victoria University of Wellington Research, Teaching and Engagement Excellence Award recipients are listed right.

🌐 [www.victoria.ac.nz/staff-excellence](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/staff-excellence)

### Research Excellence Award

**Dr Joseph Bulbulia**

School of Art History, Classics and Religious Studies

**Dr Nicholas Golledge**

Antarctic Research Centre

**Professor Mengjie Zhang**

School of Engineering and Computer Science

### Teaching Excellence Award

**Dr Deirdre Brown**

School of Psychology

**Dr Matthias Lein**

School of Chemical and Physical Sciences

**Dr Diane Ormsby**

School of Biological Sciences

### Engagement Excellence Award

**Professor Rawinia Higgins**

Te Kawa a Māui

**Dr Carwyn Jones**

School of Law



# A teacher's learning

Dr Azra Moeed says it has been a lifetime of learning, not a lifetime of teaching that led to her receiving a prestigious Ako Aotearoa Tertiary Teaching Excellence Award (TTEA) this year.

Azra, a senior lecturer in the Faculty of Education, has been teaching in New Zealand for 40 years.

She says putting together her portfolio application for the TTEAs was a reflective process that illuminated how much she puts into the learning of her students.

"I realised my entire professional life hadn't been about teaching at all. It was about learning and, most of all, it was about the experiences of my students. You get to know the learner and you care about them."

This belief shone through in her TTEA portfolio, the first page of which features an embroidered quote from one of her students that acknowledges the impact Azra's teaching skills have had on their life.

Azra says most of the research she has carried out during her career has taken place in the classroom, looking at both teaching and learning. The focus of her doctoral study has been the interaction between learning, motivation and assessment, which Azra says had unsurprising, but disappointing, revelations.

"My research revealed that a lot of teaching is motivated by assessment. I believe if you teach somebody to understand something, they are capable of answering any assessment on the topic. If you teach only to adhere to a particular assessment, the student won't take as much away."

"My mission is to put learning in its rightful place, which is always before assessment."

✉ azra.moeed@vuw.ac.nz

## Capturing a portrait of our time

A study started in 2009 by Victoria Alumnus and University of Auckland Associate Professor Chris Sibley has developed into a tool for measuring all aspects of New Zealanders' lives—including their political inclination, their happiness and their ability to deal with adversity.

The New Zealand Attitudes and Values Study surveys a large and diverse sample of New Zealanders each year with the aim of understanding stability and change in values over time. The longitudinal study involves researchers from across the globe, and includes Victoria's Associate Professor Joseph Bulbulia, who is one of four members on the study's core management team, led by Chris.

"Experimental studies in the human sciences can help us understand values, but experiments are also limited because conditions in a laboratory are artificial

and samples are typically small and often homogeneous. By following a large and diverse group of people over time we are able to use the world as a kind of natural experiment, comparing people who are similar in most respects, but who are different in what happens to them.

"For example, by comparing responses from the same people before and after the Christchurch earthquakes, we could understand how values and beliefs changed in Christchurch relative to the rest of New Zealand and test theories about whether having certain values, dispositions and habits helped people to get through," says Joseph.

The study currently has a longitudinal sample of more than 15,000 participants and involves 40 academics around the world, including more than 10 academics and postgraduate students from Victoria. Information is entered into a database

where it can be analysed in depth to rigorously test social scientific theories about values and beliefs, and their role in everyday life.

"With so many New Zealanders participating, the study has impressive predictive power. For example, we accurately forecasted the results of the flag referendum and the most recent general election," says Chris.

"We are figuring out what makes a difference to people's health and happiness now—what people really value and care about. But even more fundamentally, we are recording social history with unprecedented precision, at the level of individuals. We are cataloguing a rich and diverse story of New Zealand for the future. It's a huge responsibility," says Joseph.

🔗 <http://bit.ly/2aDMO1J>





A house under roof restoration in a Fijian village. Photo: Anthony Mak

# In the wake of Winston

Winston is the strongest tropical cyclone on record to hit Fiji. The Category 5 cyclone, which struck in February, brought with it a national record wind gust of 306 kilometres per hour.

Now, months on, the nation's state of emergency has lifted, and the 350,000 Fijians who were in the storm's path are living with the aftermath.

Just how the community can recover and rebuild was the focus of a trip to Fiji by staff and students from Victoria's School of Architecture.

Led by Professor Regan Potangaroa, a structural engineer and post-disaster reconstruction expert, the group worked alongside the Shelter Cluster headed by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

"One of our village surveys showed more than 60 percent of families had a significant decrease in their quality of life, and more than 25 percent of people felt lonely, most or all of the time, despite being in a village and being surrounded by relatives and family," says Regan.

"These are very telling statistics, because on the surface the people are fine—they seem to be helping one another and working together well."

Master of Architecture students Emily Cayford, Jessica Hulme, Suchita Jain and Anthony Mak travelled with Regan as part

of their final-year thesis research.

"The time we spent in Fiji was illuminating. Anyone outside Fiji could easily believe that everything has returned to normal," says Emily.

"Many people were still living in tents. The dangerously low level of education surrounding building codes means buildings are generally built back to the same standard. The next tropical cyclone will bring them down again."

The group noted many emerging issues with housing, says Jessica.

"Land tenure and informal settlements was an issue. Quality materials were often unaffordable locally—timber was cheaper to import from New Zealand. There was also concern that villages closer to the highway were more accessible and therefore received more attention, aid and shelter.

"There are so many stakeholders involved in the process, and to effectively provide communities with housing that they both need and want proves difficult."

Anthony says the trip provided insight into what engineers and architects were doing to help those most vulnerable.

"A group of structural engineers had volunteered to assess school buildings that required reconstruction or strengthening, but architects had not demonstrated a comparable level of initiative, nor implemented strategies for the necessary provision of shelters.

"Architects have a privileged role being able to explore ways in which the wellbeing and safety of people can be sustained and improved through space."

Post-disaster reconstruction is a long and complex process, says Regan, who has travelled to more than 20 countries to help in the wake of natural disasters and conflict zones.

"Working in the field is dynamic and ever-changing—it's very different from what you might see on television or read in the newspaper.

"I think the students learnt the significance of the profession they have taken up, and it's an experience they'll carry into their design for a long time."

Watch footage of the damage to Naboutolu and Nokonoko villages captured by the group's drone.

📺 <https://youtu.be/YedhfZy7UVA>



## Where the romance of the high seas ends

**P**irates, protestors and plunderers—the high seas spawn romantic tales of danger and adventure. But for island nations such as New Zealand, what laws protect our environment, trading routes, sustainable fisheries and exploration and extraction of oil and gas when the law is based on a concept of freedom of the seas dating back centuries? These issues are key to research by senior lecturer in law Joanna Mossop.

“I have flown over the northern and western parts of the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) and it was fascinating to see the number of fishing vessels sitting just outside its 200 nautical mile limit. This reinforced for me that New Zealand has a lot of stock in understanding what’s going on both in the EEZ and on our extended continental shelf,” Joanna says. “This is even more important for our Pacific neighbours who have rights to large expanses of the ocean and virtually no capacity to monitor activities there.

“Given that 98 percent of exports from, and imports to, New Zealand travel by sea, it is important we know that our

trading routes are secure and that the environment is protected.”

Joanna’s research interests lie in public international law, including the Law of the Sea Convention—an international agreement covering the use of the world’s oceans.

Within the EEZ, all the seas’ resources are covered by national laws. New Zealand also has rights over resources on our extended continental shelf, some 1.7 million square kilometres of seabed (confirmed in 2008 by the United Nations Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf)—an area about six times that of New Zealand’s land.

“From a legal standpoint, we need to define what this means. Because the extended continental shelf is under the high seas, our rights are limited to the living and non-living resources of the sea bed,” Joanna says. “So we have no claim to the fisheries in the water above. But our rights to the sea bed include sponges and coral attached to the sea floor; so could New Zealand stop ships from other countries from bottom trawling there

(towing a fishing net along the sea floor and scooping up everything in its path)?”

Joanna explores this critical area of international law in her first book, *The Continental Shelf Beyond 200 Nautical Miles: Rights and Responsibilities*, to be published by Oxford University Press in December. The book is the consolidation of several years of research, supported by a grant from the New Zealand Law Foundation.

Joanna says the world’s governments have been so focused on establishing the outer limits of their continental shelf that nobody has had a good look at the ensuing rights and responsibilities, as she has in the book, which is the first on the subject in the English language. It covers protests at sea, fishing, exploration and extraction activities around oil and gas, security and access.

“There is a certain amount of ambiguity over the extent of rights for the extended continental shelf and I hope this book will lay the groundwork for international law discussions over the next five to 10 years,” Joanna says.





# Enabling our Asia–Pacific trading nation

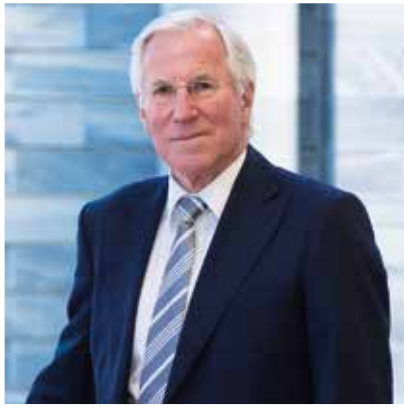
“One of Victoria’s eight distinctive academic themes, Enabling our Asia–Pacific trading nation, brings together more than 100 staff across a wide array of disciplines to focus on the flow of goods, services, people, cultures and ideas that constitute modern trade. This is an important role for an engaged global-civic university based in New Zealand’s capital city, given our country’s high dependence on the Asia–Pacific for our livelihood and security.

Victoria intends to be New Zealand’s internationally recognised centre for expertise, learning, engagement and capacity building for advancing our country’s relations with the Asia–Pacific. We are undertaking research and teaching that addresses the relevant contemporary issues and challenges.

It is a region in which we are making a difference.”

**Victoria’s Vice-Chancellor**  
Professor Grant Guilford





# The business of business ... and government

Business schools traditionally focus on ‘the business of business’, but business success and the welfare of communities are not only affected by emerging technologies, industry trends and global competition, they are also affected by government performance and the policy environment.

Responding to this is core to the innovative approach being taken by Victoria Business School (VBS), which is situated in the heart of Wellington, a minute’s walk from Parliament, so well placed to commit as much to ‘the business of government’ as to ‘the business of business’.

“We have capitalised on our location in Rutherford House on the University’s Pipitea campus to not only enrich our engagement with the business community but to deepen our involvement in the policy environment and with government,” says Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Dean of Commerce Professor Bob Buckle.

Embracing its position at the intersection of business and government—recognising ‘the business of business’ often is ‘the business of government’—distinguishes VBS from many other business schools, says Bob. This includes ones in other capital cities, which don’t always take the same approach to building ties.

As Bob and Associate Professor Dan Laufer, head of VBS’s School of Marketing and International Business, wrote in a recent article for leading business education magazine *BizEd*, VBS has, in the past decade, enhanced its contributions to government and policy through four initiatives: introducing partnership chairs; supporting policy advice

and policy reviews; expanding its curriculum; and extending the School’s global reach.

Focusing on important contemporary New Zealand issues, and variously partnering with government departments, public policy agencies, businesses and private trusts, VBS’s Chair in Digital Government, Chair in Public Finance, Chair in Economics of Disasters, Bank of New Zealand Chair in Business in Asia, Diana Unwin Chair in Restorative Justice and Brian Picot Chair in Ethical Leadership conduct research, publish newsletters, organise conferences and provide valued policy advice.

Staff from VBS have been involved in many policy reviews and policy organisations, including the 2009 Tax Working Group, whose recommendations underpinned the wide-ranging tax reforms of the 2010 Budget, 2012/13 Expert Advisory Group on Solutions to Child Poverty, New Zealand Productivity Commission, Data Futures Partnership, Consumer Advisory Council and Financial Markets Authority.

The advantages of such involvement are multiple, say Bob and Dan in their article, ‘Capitalising on Location’.

“For instance, our classrooms are enriched because academics draw on their experiences and insights to illustrate their lectures. Professors also make connections with government ministers and

experts from outside the Business School, and they’re often able to invite these experts to participate in guest lectures or public seminars.”

Since 2012, VBS has incorporated Victoria’s School of Government and its programmes in public policy and public management, and it is closely involved in the Australian and New Zealand School of Government.

Curriculum additions include a Master’s programme in e-government and an applied Master of Professional Economics in response to a review that found “a dearth of experienced economic input into policy advice across the public service”.

Among its global activities, VBS has hosted international conferences and delivered executive training for public officials in emerging markets such as Indonesia, Papua New Guinea and Viet Nam.

“We are one of just 75 business schools in the world simultaneously accredited with the Association for Advancement of Collegiate Schools of Business, European Qualifications Framework and Association of MBAs,” says Bob. “As part of a global-civic capital city university, we consider it one of our fundamental duties to be of as much benefit as we can to public policy-making in New Zealand and the wider Asia-Pacific.”

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✉ bob.buckle@vuw.ac.nz



Development Studies PhD student Peter Williams in Peru with botijas used to store the spirit pisco. Peter is researching the network behind piscos legally protected geographical indication label. Photo supplied.

# How ethical is ethical?

We live in a world where Western consumers are increasingly concerned about the integrity of what they buy. They want to know if it's fair trade, if it's organic and where it's come from.

But how do Fairtrade and similar certification schemes, organic labelling and geographical indications (such as 'Idaho' potatoes or 'Yorkshire' forced rhubarb) work in practice? What are the pros and cons of these 'ethical value networks'?

Focusing on the wine, fruit and fish industries in Latin America, South Africa and Australasia, Professor of Human Geography Warwick Murray and director of Development Studies Professor John Overton are seeking answers to these and associated questions.

Their three-year project is supported by a \$710,000 Marsden Fund Council grant from government funding managed by the Royal Society of New Zealand—the first time a Marsden grant has gone to research on Latin America.

Victoria's Development Studies programme has long-term relationships with several Chilean universities and Warwick and John are partnering with two academics from the Pontifical Catholic University of Chile, Latin America's top-ranked university. Victoria postgraduate students have been researching in Chile, as well as in Argentina and Peru, and future research is planned in Columbia and Ecuador.

The concept of geographical indications originates in the French wine industry and the protection of place names such as Champagne and Bordeaux as intellectual property.

"We're now seeing the idea of culture and place in the development field, where a place name can become a basis for local development," says John.

"In Latin America, there is a new movement called 'Desarrollo con Identidad' (or Development with Identity)," says Warwick. "It's being driven by rural development non-governmental organisations and supported by some states—including, notably, Peru, Ecuador and Chile. They're convinced this is the way forward because it adds value to products while protecting culture.

"The question is, how does that unfold on the ground? Who gets to decide who's included and what is and is not 'authentic'? In theory, it's a nice idea, if it can be made to work and is truly democratic."

✉ warwick.murray@vuw.ac.nz

✉ john.overton@vuw.ac.nz

🌐 <http://bit.ly/2cJoBbT>

## A trans-Tasman first

In a trans-Tasman first, from next year Victoria will offer a new international trade degree that brings together expertise from four faculties.

The Master of International Trade—which spans Law, Science, Humanities and Social Sciences and Victoria Business School—offers students a unique opportunity to understand international trade law, economics and political economy, as well as a variety of cultural

and critical perspectives impacting trade.

"New Zealand has a global reputation as a successful trading nation and is a respected player in international trade negotiations," says Vice-Provost (Research) Professor Kate McGrath.

"Victoria is already highly regarded for study related to international trade. It's fantastic that we are able to take our offering to the next level, with a degree programme that will be attractive to a range of students

who will make their career contributing to the global economy through trade."

The core courses in the degree, which can be completed in a year, will cover:

- Multidisciplinary approaches to International Trade
- International Trade Law
- Economics of International Trade
- International Political Economy.

🌐 [www.victoria.ac.nz/international-trade](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/international-trade)





# In Asia we trust

Doing business in Asia requires time and investment, says Victoria's Professor Siah Hwee Ang, but the potential rewards are well worth it for New Zealand businesses.

Siah is the inaugural BNZ Chair in Business in Asia—a joint partnership between Victoria, the Bank of New Zealand, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment and New Zealand Trade and Enterprise.

A Singaporean with a PhD in international business strategy, Siah, who has been in the role since 2013, says he didn't always think of himself as an Asian expert.

"To some extent, business strategy is the same whether you're dealing with an Asian partner, or a European one, or someone in North America. You could argue that it boils down to working out whether you want or need to expand, and then the demands of the specific market is a secondary concern.

"But the world is changing and I don't think you can have a one-size-fits-all approach anymore. Certainly, doing business in Asia requires a more nuanced approach and I think those nuances—many of which are cultural in origin—baffle many New Zealand businesses. My job is to try to demystify Asian business

for New Zealanders, and also to bridge the traditional divide between academic research, government policy and commercial interests."

According to Siah, there are some basic misconceptions that hold back New Zealand business in Asia. Indeed, the very concept of 'Asia' needs to be re-examined.

"When we talk about 'Asia', we're talking about almost 50 countries, from parts of Turkey and parts of Russia in the west through to the ASEAN countries in the east.

"There are commonalities between those countries but it doesn't really make sense to have an 'Asian strategy'—instead, you need to think about what's needed in Myanmar, or India or Japan.

"Having said that, one of the things you find across the region is a basic belief that business is founded on trust. And I think many New Zealand businesses underestimate how long it takes to establish that trust. You can't simply turn up to a meeting and expect them to sign contracts there and then. You need to build relationships first, which takes time."

Siah says 'soft skills' such as language, cultural awareness and personal

connections have an important role to play in building those relationships.

"There's been a big shift in the way China, for example, has dealt with the world over the past few decades. China used to be far more willing to accommodate Western business practices, but as Chinese economic power has grown, so too has their expectation that the West will meet them on their own terms. In practical terms, if you don't speak Mandarin, for the most part you're facing an uphill battle.

"But the effort is well worth it. The New Zealand market is so small in global terms that you only need to open up a new market in one or two cities in a country like India or China to make a massive difference.

"The key is being really specific about what you're trying to achieve, and not biting off more than you can chew. Very few New Zealand businesses have the capacity to deal with all of India, or all of China—and they'd be competing against massive multinationals if they did. Much better to be very targeted and grow in a sustainable way."

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✉ [siahhwee.ang@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:siahhwee.ang@vuw.ac.nz)

# New Zealand Contemporary China Research Centre

For several decades, China has been a major player in global affairs, exerting considerable influence in economic, geopolitical and cultural spheres.

Recognising the importance of China for New Zealand's future, Victoria hosts the New Zealand Contemporary China Research Centre—a collaborative

project with the Universities of Auckland, Canterbury, Lincoln, Massey, Otago and Waikato, and the Auckland University of Technology.

The Centre is the only national research centre on contemporary China in the world, providing a forum for research on contemporary China and helping strengthen ties between

New Zealand's academics and their Chinese counterparts.

The Centre also serves as a think tank for government policies towards China, offers consultancy services to New Zealand businesses looking to establish a presence in the Chinese market and educates the general public about China and its future.

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[www.victoria.ac.nz/chinaresearchcentre](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/chinaresearchcentre)

## Confucius Institute

China is one of the world's most enduring civilisations, and Victoria's Confucius Institute provides opportunities for New Zealanders to learn more about its social and cultural legacy.

The Institute was opened by then Chinese Vice-President Xi Jinping in 2010, as a partnership between Victoria and Xiamen University to promote

Chinese language teaching and cultural and intellectual exchange between China and New Zealand. It is one of 500 Confucius Institutes around the world, operating with the support of the Confucius Institute headquarters in Beijing.

Every year, the Institute brings top university graduates from China to New Zealand to help teach Chinese

language classes at Victoria and in schools around the region. In addition, the Institute collaborates with major institutions such as Te Kōkī New Zealand School of Music and with arts festivals, and organises a range of events and workshops to bring the literature, music and visual arts of a civilisation more than 5,000 years old to New Zealand.

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[www.victoria.ac.nz/ci](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/ci)

## New Zealand India Research Institute

India is a major trading and strategic partner for New Zealand, and one of the most vibrant democracies in the world.

In 2012, the New Zealand India Research Institute was established at Victoria to foster collaborative research on India by scholars based at Victoria and the Universities of Auckland, Canterbury, Massey, Otago and Waikato, and the Auckland University of Technology.

The Institute's research is wide-ranging, spanning India's society

and culture, migration and diaspora, economics and business environment, environment and sustainability and politics and security. Currently, researchers affiliated with the Institute are investigating various aspects of India's economic development; institutional challenges of doing business with India; religion and modernity in India; Indian migration to the South Pacific; the experiences of low-caste refugees following the

1947 Partition of India; key features of mathematical knowledge in Sanskrit literature; and important shifts in religious authority, leadership and community among Hindus in nineteenth-century India.

As well as supporting this research, the Institute also promotes academic and cultural exchange with India, and engages with government and the New Zealand business community on India-related policy research.

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[www.victoria.ac.nz/india-research](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/india-research)





## Alexandra Grace

Regional director, Education New Zealand  
BA(Hons) LLB *Well*

### What have you been doing since graduation?

I started working in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade's (MFAT) legal division and from there went on secondment to our United Nations Mission in New York. A posting to Shanghai as deputy consul-general was preceded by two years of intensive language training at National Taiwan University. I am currently on leave from MFAT and have been based at the Embassy in Beijing as Education New Zealand's regional director—greater China since 2011. There have been highlights of all kinds, including being a judge on a Chinese reality show.

### How has Victoria prepared you for your career?

It sharpened my critical thinking and ability to see other perspectives. Working part time while studying developed prioritisation skills—important now I have three children and a husband with a job that's also very busy.

But I wish I'd stuck with my Commerce degree beyond day two. Understanding economics is fundamental to understanding the way that everything works.

### What opportunities do you see for New Zealand in the Asia-Pacific region?

Being an Asia-Pacific nation is central to our identity, and it's appreciated by our neighbours. We're known for being constructive and fair-minded, and for giving things a go. Our products and services need to draw on our country's attributes and be positioned at the niche and high-quality end of the spectrum, focusing on value over volume.

One common mistake I see is Kiwis not being adequately prepared for the market. There's a misconception that China is a land of opportunity for everyone and that it's 'simply' a matter of 'finding' the fraction of the population that will want your product or service.

I've seen otherwise smart people ease up on proper precautions like due diligence because they expect things to be different here. That's true to some extent, but it's not that different. You still need to do your homework and establish relationships before anything happens.



## Jo Luping

Managing director, Jo Luping Design  
BA *Well*, BBA *Massey*, DipFA *Otago*

### What have you been doing since graduation?

It's been a really varied career, combining film, design and marketing work, in New Zealand and Malaysia.

I set up a design company—Jo Luping Design—producing objects for the architectural, interior design and gift industries, and selling into more than 500 stores throughout New Zealand. I've run this in tandem with a film career, directing and producing a number of films, including *Reframe*—an award-winning feature-length documentary about the work that my sister, an international human rights lawyer, was doing in the Palestinian occupied territories. At the moment, I'm working on a live action film based on a legend from the Sabah state in Malaysia, where I now live.

### What opportunities do you see for New Zealand in Malaysia?

There's huge potential in Malaysia and specifically East Malaysia. Sabah is a state in the north of Borneo, and it's positioning itself as the greenest state in Southeast Asia. Given New Zealand's marketing under the 100% Pure New Zealand brand, I see potential for companies to provide agricultural or aquacultural expertise, or to take advantage of the state's growing demand for sustainably farmed, organic foods to export their produce here.

### What are some of the challenges Kiwis face doing business in your part of the region?

Business in Sabah is about building relationships with people face to face, which means projects take longer to develop than you'd expect in New Zealand.

It is easy to be an expat and just converse with expats, but if you want to build local relationships then being part of an organisation such as Rotary International is an excellent idea. This provides you with a network of local business people as well as getting you involved with the community.



# Accounting, “no innocent thing”

**H**uman rights atrocities and accounting is not a pairing that naturally springs to mind. But for Dr Pala Molisa, lecturer at the School of Accounting and Commercial Law, the two couldn't be more entwined.

Pala is a firm believer that some of the world's biggest problems are symptomatic of deeper issues in the economic system. His academic interest lies in the lesser-known area of social and critical accounting, and he is currently researching how conventional accounting and accountability systems facilitate the social, political and ecological devastation in West Papua being produced by Indonesia's invasion and ongoing occupation of West Papua.

West Papua has been under Indonesian

rule since a United Nations-sanctioned, but discredited, election in 1969. Currently, allegations of human rights abuses by military and police include mass arrests, excessive force, trans-migration, attacks on religious minorities and genocide. West Papua is also rich in natural resources such as gold and copper, making it attractive to foreign businesses.

In between lecturing duties, Pala analyses annual reports and media publications of multinational companies operating in West Papua. He's also examining Indonesian government reports that show how it accounts for economic growth.

This provides an insight into how accounting practices help establish accountability relationships within

organisations, and between different groups of people and nations.

Pala says decisions are too often based on economic reasons. “Accounting isn't an innocent thing,” he says. “It uses a structured hierarchy of privilege and economic growth that categorises the social and ecological factors as externalities.”

For example, accounting tools such as balance sheets, GDP and corporate statements to shareholders don't account for social and ecological impacts of business.

“My research has two objectives. The first is bringing out the functions of accounting that mask the atrocities in West Papua, and from there I'm looking at alternative, more critical ways of doing accounting that are more honest in terms of confronting the social and ecological realities.”

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## Raising a viewpoint

**O**nwards and upwards? Victoria University's *Asia Pacific Viewpoint* climbed to fourth out of 69 Area Studies journals in the latest ranking by the prestigious *Journal Citation Reports of the Institute for Scientific Information*.

With articles on various topics such as improving ways of evaluating the global Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation scheme and incorporating indigenous knowledge into natural resource management, it was up from 11 in the previous

ranking and 39 in the one before that.

“We've got a strong record in this School and its programmes of research on the Asia-Pacific and one of the manifestations of that is this journal, which was set up in 1960,” says Warwick Murray, Professor of Human Geography in the School of Geography, Environment and Earth Sciences and strategic editor and former editor-in-chief of *Asia Pacific Viewpoint*, which is published by Wiley-Blackwell.

“With recent editors-in-chief Associate

Professor Andrew McGregor and Associate Professor Lisa Law, we recognised the academic importance of climbing the impact rankings in order to attract ground-breaking scholarship from across the world. It also means we can provide a platform for Pacific and Asian research by Pasifika and Asian people themselves in a journal that ranks highly—in a small way helping to redress what is a very Western-centric academic world.”

✉ warwick.murray@vuw.ac.nz



# Victoria Institute for Links with Latin America

With its growing economy and population of well over 600 million people, Latin America is a region of increasing global strategic importance.

The Victoria Institute for Links with Latin America (VILLA) was established in 2008, prompted by blossoming New Zealand–Latin American political, economic and cultural relationships, rapidly increasing research interests and a growing number of student exchanges.

The Institute promotes and supports interactions by university faculties with counterparts and interested parties in New Zealand and Latin America. The aim is to encourage collaborative research not only on topics relating to New Zealand–Latin American relations and Latin American studies, but across all disciplines and programmes wanting to work in the region.

Among other activities, VILLA provides a link between Victoria and non-academic institutions such as business for, government and non-governmental organisations concerned with Latin American issues—especially where this stimulates research.

In December, VILLA will be holding the seventh biennial conference of the Council for Latin American Studies of Asia and Oceania, where delegates from more than 15 countries will discuss the theme Navigating the Links between Latin America, Asia and Oceania.

✉ warwick.murray@vuw.ac.nz  
🌐 <http://bit.ly/2cDRtrB>



Eastern Institute of Technology

## Learning English, making friends

“It’s like a mini United Nations,” says

Deryn Hardie Boys, a senior teacher in Victoria’s English Language Institute (ELI), remembering the times the English Language Training for Officials (ELTO) Asian and African programmes have overlapped and students have come together for summits full of “fantastic discussions”.

The ELI, part of the School of Linguistics and Applied Language Studies, teaches ELTO courses for Victoria’s Accent Learning on behalf of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. It has been teaching the courses since 1992—with a new three-year contract for Asia increasing students from 96 to 160 a year and adding Indonesia to existing countries Cambodia, Laos, Mongolia, Myanmar, Timor-Leste and Viet Nam.

Aimed at early- to mid-career public officials, each of the Asian courses, which Deryn coordinates, is built around a specific theme in order to serve the needs of different areas of government.

Courses come with a raft of supporting activities, including workplace visits, workshops and guest speakers, as well as the public lectures a capital city such as Wellington offers.

Professional relationships that result from courses are in many ways as

important as language and other skills learnt.

These relationships can be within an individual country or the region as a whole and often continue long after a course ends.

“That’s one of the goals of the programme—building those relationships,” says Deryn. “We encourage students to talk about their background and experiences in relation not only to the course theme but also their wider culture. So at the end of the course there’s an awareness and understanding that may not have been there before.”

At the same time, course graduates become great friends of New Zealand—friends often in influential positions.

“They talk about New Zealand, the experiences they had here, the educational opportunities,” says Deryn. “So the word of mouth aspect is invaluable.”

The ELI director Dr Angela Joe says ELTO is a much respected brand in Southeast Asia. “Because it’s known in those countries, there’s a point of commonality when you say ‘I’m an ELTO graduate’. It’s got real currency.”

✉ angela.joe@vuw.ac.nz  
✉ deryn.hardieboys@vuw.ac.nz



## David Tan

Managing director, Delphi Bioscience Asia  
BA(Hons) Well, PGDipEd Massey

### How did your time at Victoria prepare you for your career?

The environment at Victoria moulded my perception of life and career. The open-door policy of the academic staff gave me many opportunities to consult them whenever I had problems with my studies. Their willingness and support gave me the same desire to break down walls in my own office, so that my staff can also be confident that the boss is not to be feared but to be their confidant on any problems faced by them.

### If you had your time at Victoria again, is there anything you would do differently?

I would probably add a law component into my studies, as I think it would help me in my current work to speed up negotiations and build an appreciation of distributorship agreements.

### What are some of the challenges Kiwis face doing business in Singapore?

New Zealanders need to learn to balance brand development and earning quick profits—the latter is often the primary focus for many Asian businesses. Also, not to be so trusting because opportunists will promise just about anything to get your business.

### What advice would you give Victoria's new graduates looking to live and work in your part of the Asia-Pacific region?

It's very important to have an understanding, and appreciation, of local language and cultures.

Although the wages are attractive, living costs are pretty high. To help stretch your dollar, eat where the locals eat, live with others and use public transport. Also, you will work much harder and longer than in New Zealand. Don't expect weekends to be your own!



## David Hosking

Partner at Accenture  
BCA BSc Well

### What have you been doing since graduation?

My career to date has spanned more than 26 years where I have performed a variety of consulting and technology roles. Straight out of university I joined Accenture—a global consulting, strategy, technology, digital and operations firm—and have enjoyed it so much I'm still here! I started as a consulting business analyst and programmer and then rapidly progressed into project and programme management roles. I now lead one of the biggest client account teams in Australia and have delivery and quality responsibility for health and public service projects across Asia-Pacific.

### What future opportunities do you see for New Zealand in the Asia-Pacific region?

We are in a digital age, which means some of the disadvantages of being in New Zealand and so far away from major markets are starting to go away. Using the innate Kiwi traits of ambition and drive, combined with practicality, individuals and organisations can compete on a global stage using technology. New Zealand is doing an excellent job in positioning itself as an innovation and technology hub in the region and that makes me very proud as a Kiwi.

### What are some of the challenges Kiwis face doing business in your part of the region?

Living in Australia is always challenging for a Kiwi—particularly with all of the trans-Tasman sporting contests. While the All Blacks keep winning it is bearable! Seriously though, I think Kiwis and the 'can do' attitude are highly valued globally. Perhaps the biggest challenge is being away from friends and family, either due to travel or relocation.



# Understanding Asia–Pacific

“The Asian century” is well underway. Two Victoria academics discuss the issues and opportunities for New Zealand in the Asia–Pacific region.

## Professor Robert Ayson

Director of the Centre for Strategic Studies  
School of History, Philosophy, Political Science and International Relations

I think the whole world needs to be thinking about the Asia–Pacific region because global power is heading increasingly in Asia’s direction. As if that reason enough, the world’s most important bilateral relationship—between an unevenly rising China and an already strong but somewhat changeable United States—is playing out in Asia.

Understanding these power dynamics is particularly important for New Zealand, since our prosperity is increasingly connected to major markets in the region, especially in East Asia. Similarly, our closest neighbours and partners are also heavily reliant on Asia’s prosperity, which raises the stakes for us even higher.

But understanding the Asia–Pacific region is about more than economics. All of us, whether we like it or not, or whether we know it or not, rely on Asia being peaceful as well as prosperous. Growing security competition in Asia, including in the East China Sea between China and Japan and in the South China Sea between China and the United States, and the possibility of a contest between the region’s maritime democracies (including the United States, India, Japan and Australia) and its continental autocracies (including China, Russia and North Korea) are all things we need to watch.

There’s a view that since we’re all so tightly connected economically, the costs of allowing these security tensions to get the better of us are too high for conflict to occur. But this is wishful thinking.



Economic cooperation may increase the costs of conflict, but it does not deal with all of the risks of conflict. This matters a lot to New Zealand, whose policy settings have tended to focus on regional economic integration, including through the negotiation of free trade agreements. Since I came to Victoria University in

early 2010, I have noticed an increasing awareness around town that the good old days of a trade-focused foreign policy towards Asia takes us only so far.

There is already some work being done on these economic–security connections in the Asia–Pacific. But there is a big gap in knowledge on how emerging patterns of security cooperation and competition are placing pressure on emerging patterns of economic cooperation and competition, and vice versa. I know there are New Zealand officials who are very interested in what this means for the Government’s future policy options. So this is a great opportunity to produce new knowledge that is of intrinsic academic importance and is also policy-relevant.

I think it is fair to say that Victoria boasts the most impressive concentration of academics in New Zealand who are able to think about the various strands of this country’s Asia–Pacific regional engagement, including political scientists, economists, lawyers, geographers and language experts. And I think our work is of real interest to scholars from around the region and to the official community too. We all need a richer public debate about these issues, and Victoria can make a real difference here.

# Dr Kate McMillan

Senior lecturer

School of History, Philosophy, Political Science and International Relations

**T**o better understand the Asia-Pacific region is to better understand ourselves as New Zealanders.

Combined, the proportion of the New Zealand population who identified with at least one Asian or Pacific ethnicity in 2013 was 19 percent—a percentage likely to increase significantly over the coming decades. The proportion of those who identified with an Asian ethnicity increased by 33 percent between 2006 and 2013, and by 11 percent for those who identified with a Pacific ethnicity over the same period. Never has it been more important for New Zealanders to understand and appreciate the perspectives, histories, languages and cultures of Asia and the Pacific, alongside those of Māori and the dominant Anglo population.

There's a clear case to be made for research about the drivers and consequences of migration from Asia and the Pacific to New Zealand. Permanent and temporary migrants, students, tourists and business visitors from the region make an enormous contribution to our economic development. Education is one of New Zealand's biggest export earners, with China and India our largest source of foreign fee-paying students. Migrants, students and business visitors bring linguistic and cultural knowledge, as well as personal networks, all of which can be valuable in increasing

New Zealand's connectedness in the region.

I agree with Robert, though, when he says the economic potential of Asia is only part of the picture. Migration from, and within the region, is also likely to have



increasingly significant political impacts, including on our electoral politics; something my own research focuses on. We need to pay particular attention to the growing nexus between human security and migration in the region. Conflict, persecution, extreme poverty and the emerging effects of climate change all undermine human security and have the potential to cause forced or irregular forms of migration.

Asia already experiences high levels of irregular migration, including refugee flows, with many migrants vulnerable to trafficking and human rights abuses. Refugee camps are notoriously insecure places, but repatriation is an option only when there is security at home, and resettlement is only an option if third countries are willing to take refugees.

We urgently need to develop better ways of dealing with these issues. We need to ensure that the increasingly dominant discourse of 'migrants as threat' doesn't obscure how insecurity itself generates forced migration. The xenophobic politics associated with a migrants as threat discourse compounds the insecurity already experienced by many migrants and minorities, and appears to be leading to a rise in nationalism in Europe.

So, while there are undoubtedly enormous economic opportunities in the Asia-Pacific, these are tightly bound up with environmental, social and political challenges. Understanding the people and politics of the region is crucial if we are to have any chance of developing sustainable solutions to these issues. Victoria's concentration of Asia-Pacific experts, and the extensive links they have with the policy community, means we're well positioned to contribute to this process.





## Fossicking for fossils

We know that dinosaurs roamed the North Island, but do the ravines and forested mountains of Te Urewera hide other fossil dinosaur tāonga that can enrich our knowledge of ancient New Zealand? That's a question Victoria University palaeontologist Professor James Crampton is seeking to answer.

James will join forces with GNS Science in a project led by Tūhoe to explore potentially fossil-bearing rock formations in Te Urewera. He says the project was inspired by earlier research to develop a geological map of Te Urewera.

"The assistance of Tūhoe was absolutely

critical to the success of that project. We relied on their knowledge of the area and help with accessing parts of the region—often on horseback—that we wouldn't have otherwise been able to."

The geological map revealed the presence of a type of rock formation that had yielded dinosaur fossils in nearby areas, and James saw the potential to inspire a future generation of scientists and technologists.

"Fossils are a great way to start a conversation. They spark the imagination. The Tūhoe people are interested in learning more about the pre-human history of their

land. They also see the potential this has to involve their young people in, and get them excited about, science."

The project was one of three to receive funding through the Government's Vision Mātauranga Capability Fund, which invests in programmes that help iwi development for the benefit of New Zealand.

"The funding will allow us to run field trips with teams of geologists and members of Tūhoe. In addition to looking for fossils, we're focused on building up Tūhoe knowledge and capability in this space so they can continue this research into the future."

## On track to slash Beijing subway energy use

The heavy energy use of Beijing's subway system could be nearly halved, thanks to high-temperature superconducting (HTS) technology developed by Victoria University's Robinson Research Institute.

The subway system, one of the Chinese capital's biggest energy users, is set to benefit from a multi-million-dollar deal between Robinson and Beijing Milestone Science and Technology Development Company Ltd.

The deal will also make Robinson-developed portable magnetic resonance imaging machines, known as podMRIs, available to China's regional hospitals.

Milestone chairman Mi Wang says he was "drawn to Robinson because of its ability

to develop market-ready technology based on an in-depth understanding of science and engineering. It is one of the few places with the experience to design and build the high-speed HTS rotors needed for the flywheels my company is developing."

The flywheels are effectively energy storage devices, says Robinson principal engineer Dr Rod Badcock.

"When trains slow down to stop at stations, the flywheel will store the train's kinetic energy and can later supply it back to them with take-off. Currently, a great deal of energy is expended in braking and accelerating trains. With the HTS flywheel to capture and reuse this energy, the savings are estimated to be as high as 40 percent of the energy used by the Beijing subway system."

Along with a parallel Robinson agreement with Milestone, Jiangsu Zhongguancun Science and Technology Industrial Park and Suzhou New District Economic Development Group Corporation, the deal further cements the role of New Zealand involvement in China's drive to boost green technologies and high-value manufacturing.

"HTS is a key enabling technology of the future and New Zealand is a leader in its development," says Robinson director Professor Bob Buckley. "China, through Milestone and the other signatories, is keen and ready to adopt these two HTS applications and to work with us on developing a range of others."

✉ bob.buckley@vuw.ac.nz



## Drama, novels, film and free rein

It all came down to collaboration when co-writing the screenplay for New Zealand film *The Rehearsal*, says Victoria's International Institute of Modern Letters (IIML) senior lecturer Emily Perkins.

Originally a novel written by Man Booker Prize winner Eleanor Catton for her Master of Arts at the IIML, and published by Victoria University Press, *The Rehearsal* tells the story of a drama school student who finds himself in a moral dilemma.

Emily co-wrote the screenplay with Alison MacLean for three years while continuing to teach at the IIML.

"Eleanor gave us free rein to transform her daring and sophisticated novel into a cinematic

experience. Alison is based in New York, which meant there were intensive writing sessions when she came over to New Zealand, as well as Skype meetings and emails. We sent Eleanor an early draft to let her know where we were taking the story, and it was a friendly relationship with her throughout."

Emily says she came to be part of the project because Alison and the film's director Bridget Ikin liked her writing, knew she had attended drama school and were aware she was a fan of the book.

Watching the actors and crew interpret the script was an inspiring experience, although some people on set were initially nervous to see a writer present during the shoot.

"I hope I'm not too precious about my writing, and I understand that working with actors and a production crew means you need to be nimble and prepared to make changes. It was incredible the way an actor could convey a line of dialogue just with a look. The story-telling collaboration runs through every aspect of film-making."





# Who's in my room?

When NewsHub political journalist Patrick (Paddy) Gower walked into the dining hall at Victoria House, he was overwhelmed by the response from current residents who cheered when they saw him.

Just like when he was a student, he collected a lunch of vegetable soup, and then sat down at a table with Criminology, English, Film and Media Studies student Jack Lockhart, who lives in what was once Paddy's room—G18.

The duo spent a rainy Wellington afternoon chatting about their experiences of Victoria House. Paddy told Jack that he was glad camera phones weren't around to capture his student antics, about the epic party that

"shook the foundations of Vic House" when New Zealand won the America's Cup and shared some advice about making the most of his time at Victoria, "because you're not going to be young forever!"

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## Paddy Gower

### Why did you chose to come to Victoria?

I was living in New Plymouth and really wanted to get to a big city. I came to Victoria because I wanted to study politics, but mainly because my mates were coming here! I remember being pretty immature—Mum would make my lunch right up until I left school.

The one thing I remember is there were lots of similar people to me here at Victoria House, and I found instant friendships.

### What kind of student would you say you were?

I'd never done that well at school, but I feel I came into my own at Victoria. Initially, I had no idea what I was going to do. I played pretty hard and worked pretty mediocrely for the first couple of years, but by the end I was knuckling down.

### How does it feel to come back?

I never thought I'd get tears in my eyes coming back here—it's surreal. I haven't been back in 22 years, but this has brought back a lot of good memories. It was a really special time in my life when I was in this room. You think it's going to last forever, but it doesn't.

In fact, when I left, I couldn't wait to see the back of the place—to go flatting and have some freedom. But, it's awesome to be back—I feel like staying the night!

### What's it like to be in your old room?

It's still the best room in Victoria House. The room hasn't actually changed much except for the curtains and carpet. I'm pretty sure the crack in the window was there. The only thing that's missing is my Pulp Fiction poster—I thought I was pretty cool with that.

Also, no one had computers. Our essays were double spaced and handwritten on refill. They had started to set up computer labs on the Kelburn campus. I remember talking about someone at Weir House who had a laptop in his room—they must have been wealthy.

## Jack Lockhart

### Why Victoria House?

It's quite small compared to some of Victoria's other halls, so it has a community kind of vibe to it. The dining hall and lounge areas are quite close and everyone knows each other. It definitely has some character. You get to meet people from a bunch of different places and backgrounds—it's a really good experience.

### What kind of student are you?

I don't necessarily always have my face in the books but I really enjoy what I'm studying. If you're doing something you're really passionate about, it's a lot more fun. You've got to play hard too—that's just essential, especially when you're moving away from home.

### What are your future aspirations?

I'm hoping to go into the film industry—that's the one thing that I really love to do. I feel I've been quite lucky in the fact that I know the one thing that I'm really interested in doing. I'm hoping that it all works out. It was one of the reasons why I chose Victoria because Wellington has a great arts and film culture. It's also a place you meet a lot of great people to collaborate with.

### What do you think about currently having the room that was once Paddy's?

I knew who Paddy was but I never thought in a million years that I'd be in the same place that he was—let alone the same room and building.

It's encouraging to know because he's been successful in journalism. I'm hoping the room rubs off and gives me some luck.

*At the end of the afternoon, Paddy told Jack that he was glad to see that his old room was in good hands. "She's a goodie—the best one at Victoria House, I reckon."*

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▶ Watch the full story at <http://bit.ly/2cqsWOi>





## From the archives

An abridged excerpt from *Salient*—Victoria's student magazine—  
volume 17, dated 3 September 1953

### Spotlight on the 1953 Victoria cross-country team

Although rain had fallen during the previous day and during the morning, the track at famed Cornwall Park apparently favoured Victoria University College, for our team made the most of it. The track, however, was not boggy—the rain was enough to soften the top-soil and make the going slightly tougher.

John Mahan, having completely recovered from a troublesome ankle which had hindered his performances during the early portion of the season, won the contest for Victoria with a good time of 38.44 minutes for the 6½ mile course, nine seconds faster than Auckland University College's D. Dow.

Fifth, sixth and seventh places went to Victoria University College who were awarded the Dixon Trophy for teams placing (first tour men home) and also the Shackleford Cup for the North Island teams race.

The winner—John Mahan—impressed most with his seemingly effortless pace, and only in the last few yards was any strain evident. Dick Gilberd, fifth man home, was also nearing exhaustion. Colin Candy, sixth, ran as well as could be expected. His form of late has been steadily improving, although he is not yet in a position to give his previous high standard.

Tim Beaglehole, finishing twelfth, ran an excellent teams' race. Up with the leaders at the end of the first lap, he set the pace well and prepared the way for John Mahan and the others. He ran a good race, and his form was an improvement on previous efforts. He should eventually reach an excellent standard and he is worth watching in the future.

In general, an excellent team combination paid dividends by gaining for Victoria not only the trophies, but an additional eight points in the shield, which made Otago University think twice.





## Una Jagose

Solicitor-General  
LLB Otago, LLM Well

### What have you been doing since graduating?

Since graduating in 1989, I have been a public-sector lawyer. That has involved a huge range of work—mostly in public and administrative law but also criminal law and human rights law. That work has been both advisory and litigation, always for the Crown.

My work in recent years has also included organisational leadership: first as manager, then deputy solicitor-general, acting director of the Government Communications Security Bureau (GCSB) and now, solicitor-general.

### What are the highlights of your career?

Being New Zealand's seventeenth solicitor-general is both a great privilege and a significant burden—it is undoubtedly my career highlight.

Stepping outside my experience of lawyering to act as the director of the GCSB for a year was also a significant highlight. That taught me a lot about leadership and about myself. It was an invaluable experience.

### Describe your student experience at Victoria

I attended Victoria on a part-time basis while working at the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, so my attendances at the Kelburn campus were intermittent, and frequently interrupted by work commitments.

I felt I knew so much more, as a mid-20-something adult, than I had at undergraduate level. I wondered whether I would be a better student after a bit of work experience. Turns out I was; my marks were considerably better!

### What piece of advice would you give a student?

My advice to everyone is to look for that 'sweet spot' where what you love to do and what you do for your work coincide. Luckily for me, the decision I took early in life to undertake a law degree and the exposure to public law principles has really suited me and let me do jobs I love.

Also, take opportunities to leave your comfort zone—it's called a 'comfort' zone for a reason! It's cosy but you will not grow, learn or advance there.



Huabing pictured with Vice-Chancellor Professor Grant Gullford.

## Huabing Liu

Executive Officer at Limecho  
BSc JLU, PhD Well

### What have you been doing since graduating?

After receiving my PhD in Physics from Victoria in February, I returned to Beijing to work in a scientific consulting office where I provide training and other services related to nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) techniques.

The customers are mainly from the energy and materials sciences industries, where they use NMR and MRI as non-destructive approaches to analyse the structure of samples.

### What are the highlights of your career?

Using the advanced scientific technologies from my research to commercialise the energy and materials sciences industries. My education, and scientific background, will contribute greatly to spreading the application of magnetic resonance methodologies.

Within continuous development and progresses, these novel techniques will better serve and be a part of people's daily life in the near future.

In the future, I see myself becoming a scientific consulting leader in a solid and innovative field.

### Describe your student experience at Victoria

I received a scholarship from the Chinese Scholarship Council in 2012 that allowed me to start my doctoral study under the supervision of Dr Petrik Galvosas in the School of Chemical and Physical Sciences. Dr Galvosas leads a world-class, international and prominent NMR and MRI research group. I was constantly inspired and encouraged by staff and fellow students to make the most of my ability and time at Victoria.



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## Atawhai Tibble

Principal Adviser—Crown-Māori Relationships,  
New Zealand Treasury  
*LLB Well*

### What are the highlights of your career?

It's pretty good working at the Treasury, especially since the recent thinking revolution. We now take a much broader look at the drivers of societal wellbeing, which are underpinned by the Living Standards Framework. Being part of the team developing and promoting the Framework has been amazing. Treasury chief economist Girol Karaocaglu has led this, although he's off to head Victoria's School of Government.

But funnily enough, working at Statistics New Zealand, of all places, has been my highlight. I led the development of the world's first official statistical survey of indigenous wellbeing that incorporates indigenous measures: Te Kupenga 2013. I was able to measure ideas and concepts—like whānau wellbeing, whānau sense of tūrangawaewae—that I learnt about from my own iwi, Ngāti Raukawa, but that were expanded upon at my time at Victoria.

Last year, I was asked by the OECD to present my lessons from Te Kupenga at a conference in Guadalajara, Mexico. And I got my name on the same programme as one of my intellectual heroes, Nobel economics prizewinner, Joseph E. Stiglitz.

### What are some of your favourite memories of Victoria?

Te Herenga Waka was my home away from home. Te Kawa a Māui (the School of Māori Studies) was a fantastic place and still is. I was there when Pou Temara, Ruka Broughton, Wiremu Paaka and Hirini Moko Mead were there and they influenced me a lot. They taught me that Māori culture is important and we need to retain it. I have gone on to use their guidance and wisdom in my work.

### What was the most useful thing you learnt at Victoria?

The importance of connections. Victoria University alumni are everywhere—across policy teams, in government, in the opposition and in business.



## Felicity Lusk

Vice-President Education for GEMS Education  
BMus *Well*, DipEd *Massey*,  
DipTchg *Christchurch Teachers' College*

### What have you been doing since graduating?

I taught as head of music at two Wellington secondary schools—Wellington East Girls' College and Aotea College—before going to the United Kingdom in my early thirties. I have been head of two leading independent schools for the past 20 years—firstly at the all-girls Oxford High School and then the all-boys Abingdon School from where I 'retired' in August.

But I'm not exactly settling down to long lunches yet—I've taken up a post as vice-president education for GEMS Education Dubai UAE, a large education foundation with schools around the globe.

### What are the highlights of your career?

Breaking through one of the last glass ceilings when I became the first woman to run an all-boys' public day and boarding school, which still remains a real achievement in England.

All that, and I managed family commitments alongside my own career.

### What are some of your favourite memories of Victoria?

Looking back, I recognise now that I came across New Zealand's finest musicians of the time—Douglas Lilburn, David Farquhar, Jenny MacLeod and William Southgate.

I also remember fondly, the Virginia creeper on the old brick Hunter building in the autumn and seeing the mist hovering over the University as I walked down from Upland Road.

### What was the most useful thing you learnt at Victoria?

Education is the most important gift any young person can receive. When it's inspiring and taught by gifted individuals, who convey their love for their subject, then the mind opens and anything is possible.





## Giving a voice to refugee youth

Victoria student Daniel Gamboa came to New Zealand four years ago as a refugee, and is now using his experiences and studies to represent New Zealand youth refugees internationally.

Daniel started his studies at Victoria with an English Language course and is now completing a double degree—a Bachelor of Arts and a Bachelor of Science.

This year, he represented New Zealand in Geneva at an annual United Nations resettlement consultation.

He says his studies allowed him to better articulate his experiences and needs as a refugee to those who attended the consultation.



## A warm haere mai, bienvenido, huānyíng to Victoria

Hundreds took part in Victoria's Trimester Two International Students' Orientation.

The students were welcomed to the University with a pōwhiri at Te Herenga Waka Marae.

Some even tried out te reo Māori as part of Māori Language Week celebrations.

Watch the video at <http://bit.ly/2aANshf>



## Former Chancellor's contribution honoured

The new atrium space at Rutherford House has been named in honour of former Victoria University Chancellor Ian McKinnon.

Ian's connection to Victoria dates back to the 1960s, when he studied at the University. Since then, he has served as vice-president of the Victoria University of Wellington Students' Association, Pro-Chancellor and Chancellor and chair of the University Council.



## Capital city connections

Experts from capital city universities around the Asia-Pacific region gathered at Victoria to discuss security challenges in the region. As well as meeting with public service officials, and discussing ways of working more closely with their counterparts at Victoria, they participated in a public panel discussion in the Hunter Council Chamber—Regional Perspectives on Strategic Competition in the Asia-Pacific Region.

# Unearthed treasure at new Chinese Scholars' Studio

New Zealand's original Chinese printing types, used in a traditional printing press, will be the jewel in the crown of a new Chinese Scholars' Studio at Victoria's Wai-te-ata Press after they were unearthed from a farmer's field in Pukekohe.

The printing types were used by the Dominion Federation of New Zealand Chinese Commercial Growers to print the *New Zealand Chinese Growers Monthly Journal* from 1949 to 1971 and hold significant cultural and historical value for New Zealand's Chinese community.

Opening in 2017, the Chinese Scholars' Studio will showcase unique Chinese-New Zealand initiatives, giving the Chinese community an opportunity to use the restored printing types for small print runs.

Dr Sydney Shep of Wai-te-ata Press says, "Repatriating these unique types back to Wellington and putting them back into action offers an unprecedented opportunity for Victoria to

help link past with present, language with culture, scholars with communities and catalyse new interest in the complexities of Chinese print history and its New Zealand stories."

The Chinese Scholars' Studio project is supported by the Chinese Poll Tax Heritage Trust and the New Zealand China Friendship Society, along with Yvonne, Keith and Selwyn Chan, Victoria alumni who, together with their father Laywood, have a long and generous history of giving at Victoria.

The Chan family has a very personal connection with the project as the grandfather, Dan Chan, was the first editor of the *New Zealand Chinese Growers Monthly Journal*.

✉ [sydney.shep@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:sydney.shep@vuw.ac.nz)



# A lasting conversation

Alumna Catherine Chidgey's new novel, *The Wish Child*, tells the story of two German children caught up in World War II.

Although Catherine didn't deliberately sit down to produce a World War II novel, she says in hindsight it seems natural that her work took that direction.

"My father was a child during the war, and as an adult he had a particular interest in the period. I studied German at school and at Victoria, and when I was 16 I spent three months on exchange in Germany. Herr K from my host family told me about his experiences fighting in Russia—he said there was very little for the soldiers to eat, and when they came to a field of watermelon they fell on them and gorged themselves, they were so hungry. He also said that if he hadn't killed, it would have been an act of suicide. That conversation stayed with me."

In 1993, Catherine went to Berlin to study and says she found herself living in a city where the past was always visible.

"You could still see bomb damage and shrapnel marks and bullet holes on the buildings, particularly in the east. One of the professors at my university showed us a campus building—now the Department of Political Science—that had been the

site of medical experiments during the Third Reich. It was powerful stuff for a fledgling writer."

Catherine burst onto the New Zealand writing scene in 1998 with her first novel, the award-winning and bestselling *In a Fishbone Church*, and two subsequent novels, *Golden Deeds* and *The Transformation*. All three have been published internationally as well as by Victoria University Press in New Zealand. It has been 13 years since her last publication, a long time she confesses, "partly due to life getting in the way, but also because of the intricacy of the story I wanted to tell".

She says that the Germany of *The Wish Child*, although historically accurate in many respects, is in other respects not quite real. She invented a job for one of her characters, a censor, who cuts forbidden words from books, the list of which accumulates as the war progresses.

"This was a way for me to comment on the absurdity of a regime in which language and meaning were routinely manipulated and abused—'special treatment' meant execution by lethal gas;

'protective custody' meant anything but."

*The Wish Child* will be published by Victoria University Press in November 2016, and by Chatto & Windus in the United Kingdom in 2017.

"I feel relieved, nervous and excited. The book has been part of my life for so long—I am more than ready to let this child find its way in the world."

## *The Wish Child* by Catherine Chidgey

Erich Kröning is an only child on a farm near Leipzig and Sieglinde Heilmann lives a busy life in a middle-class Berlin neighbourhood—seeing her father off to work in the censors' office, going on school outings to factories, visiting her wealthy Aunt Hannelore. Both children dream of joining Hitler Youth and helping to build a glorious future, but their dream is about to collapse.

Release date: 10 November 2016.  
Hardback, \$40, paperback \$30.



Grant Maiden Photography

## A new constitution

Former prime minister and Victoria distinguished fellow Sir Geoffrey Palmer believes New Zealand needs a modern written constitution that will keep governments accountable.

*A Constitution for Aotearoa New Zealand*, published by Victoria University Press in September, sets out the ideas of Sir Geoffrey and co-author and constitutional expert Dr Andrew Butler.

"We aim to provide a model and stimulate the debate," says Sir Geoffrey.

"New Zealand needs a modern constitution that is easy to understand, reflects our identity, better protects rights and liberties and prevents governments from abusing power.

"The changes we propose are a necessary part of preserving democratic freedom in New Zealand, and of protecting the fundamental principles which anchor public power and strengthen government accountability."

The Law Foundation supported the book with a grant.

To comment on the proposed constitution, visit [www.constitutionaotearoa.org.nz](http://www.constitutionaotearoa.org.nz)



# Flying high

Lance Weller has spent his life asking himself “How can I contribute?”

He’s answered that question in various ways since graduating from Victoria in the early 1960s, most recently by driving 1,920 km to help a friend move from north Queensland to the Gold Coast.

After completing a Bachelor’s degree at Victoria in Commerce and Administration, Lance moved to Australia where he had a successful business career, working as a senior executive at the appliance maker Simpson, and at National Exhaust. He then built up a small company, Australian Jewellers Supplies, which became Australia’s largest supplier of precision tools for the jewellery industry, before getting into cattle farming in the Brisbane Valley where he built a “green farm house” with no connection to the grid.

At Victoria’s Brisbane alumni function earlier this year, Lance spoke about flying patients around Queensland in his own plane as part of Angel Flight Australia and about establishing Angel Flight New Zealand in 2012.

“If you make a quid in life, you should give back to the community. That’s the main reason for spending my time on Angel Flight—it’s about working with your

mates to help make your fellow citizens’ lives a bit better.”

Describing himself as “the sort of person who gets bored easily”, Lance took flying lessons at the age of 50. He began flying for Angel Flight Australia, and was surprised to find there was no similar service in New Zealand.

“Angel Flight New Zealand flies people around the country for non-urgent medical appointments. If there’s a child with leukaemia in Gisborne or Kaitaia, we’ll collect them and their parents, and fly them to Auckland for an appointment or treatment. One of our earth angels will meet them at the airport, drive them to and from the hospital and then we’ll fly them home again.

“These patients aren’t in a critical condition but they’re pretty sick so you don’t want them driving in a car for six hours each way. The idea is to take as much stress out of what is already a pretty stressful situation for them.

“It’s a great feeling to be part of that—people are so grateful for the effort.”

Established in Whangarei, the service now covers all of New Zealand with 69 planes making around 30 flights each

year. To get this started, Lance first had to fly his own aircraft from Brisbane to Whangarei via Lord Howe and Norfolk Islands. The pilots volunteer their time and their planes, and the earth angels do the same with their cars. This means the service is completely free for the patients.

“The hardest thing to start with was getting people to understand the concept. A lot of doctors and hospitals were a bit sceptical—they couldn’t understand why it was free. But once people get it, they’re wonderful and very supportive. We’ve also been very grateful for support from Air New Zealand, Fonterra, New Zealand Red Cross and many others.

“You hear a lot about how selfish we all are these days, but that hasn’t been my experience. I think if you provide New Zealanders with a model for how they can get involved in the community, they’ll grab it with both hands.

“If I can offer Victoria’s new graduates any advice, it would be to go the extra mile. If you want to shine, you need to get involved and work harder than the person next to you. And, of course, you need to look around and ask, ‘How can I contribute?’”





# Testament to New Zealand's art and education history

A four-metre carved tōtara panel commands the view at the entrance of Kelburn Library. The *Feilding Panel* displays a medley of carving styles and the collaborative work represents a monumental period in New Zealand's education and art history.

The *Feilding Panel* was gifted to the Victoria University of Wellington Art Collection in 2013 and housed at the Karori campus until earlier this year, when it was relocated to Kelburn.

The panel is a legacy of the 1960s movement, largely led by the Department of Education's Gordon Tovey, which saw bicultural arts and crafts entering mainstream New Zealand classrooms.

Tovey ran workshops designed to provide teachers with experience in

Māori arts and crafts so they could introduce them in schools. Over one week in 1964, under Tovey's guidance, 10 trainee teachers carved the wooden panel found at an old Feilding mill.

Collection officer Sophie Thorn says, "We're fortunate to have this piece as a reflection of a progressive time and place in New Zealand's art and educational history.

"It's great to have it displayed in such a prominent space. The Library is a quiet,

contemplative place. This location for the panel encourages students not to just walk by, but to pause and take it in."

The panel gave acclaimed artists Paratene Matchitt and Dr Cliff Whiting ONZ their first taste of carving. Today, Matchitt's carving talents can be appreciated in Wellington's City to Sea Bridge, while Whiting has worked on a number of high-profile locations, including the Beehive and Te Marae at Te Papa Tongarewa.





# Victoria graduand takes off

Almost 50 years after the first seismometer was placed on the Moon, Victoria PhD graduand Jesse-Lee Dimech is heading to NASA to take up a post-doctoral fellowship investigating what new information can be gained about moonquakes.

Between 1969 and 1972, five of the Apollo missions successfully placed seismometers at landing sites on the Moon, which recorded ground motion and radioed this information back to Earth. Contained in this dataset are more than 13,000 moonquakes that were recorded up until 1977, when the devices were turned off.

“Seismic energy such as earthquakes, or in this case, moonquakes, is useful for looking inside a planet without having to dig it up. Using their energy, we can gain insight into the composition and structure of the Moon,” says Jesse-Lee.

“The data set I will be working with has been processed several times already, but by applying new techniques we may be able to get new information.”

One of those new techniques is shear wave splitting analysis, a key research interest of Professor Martha Savage from Victoria’s School of Geography, Environment and Earth Sciences, who has collaborated with Jesse-Lee to undertake the first shear wave splitting analysis off-world.

“When seismic waves travel through layers of rock they split in much the same way light does when it hits a crystal. By measuring how much splitting occurs, we can learn a lot about subsurface conditions.”

Another technique Jesse-Lee will be using is a statistical method of examining the faults responsible for the moonquakes. This method of analysis was developed by Associate Professor Richard Arnold, from Victoria’s School of Mathematics and Statistics, and Associate Professor John Townend of the School of Geography, Environment and Earth Sciences.

“I applied this technique in my PhD to earthquakes we found in the upper mantle—the layer beneath the crust—which was able to tell us what type of faults produced them. We plan to use a modified version of this code to understand the type of faulting associated with ‘deep’ moonquakes, which are situated about halfway between the Moon’s surface and its core.

“I will be continuing to work with Professor Savage and Associate Professor Arnold while I’m at NASA. New Zealand has great scientific minds and I’m excited about maintaining and building relationships with people here.”

Some of the techniques Jesse-Lee plans to use on the Moon may also be useful in helping NASA learn about the composition of Mars when they land a seismometer there in two years’ time as part of the InSight mission to Mars.

Australian-born Jesse-Lee says he has loved space since he was a child, and a post-doctoral role at NASA is the culmination of a lifelong ambition.

“I was actually pen pals with Australia’s first astronaut Andrew Thomas. We exchanged several letters when I was a kid, and I even talked to him on the phone once, as well as fellow astronaut John Glenn who just happened to be in the office at the time. They definitely inspired me. I was also the youngest member of an astronomy club. I’ve always been fascinated by NASA.”



# Connecting alumni and students

Victoria's Alumni as Mentors programme connects students in their penultimate or final-year at university with alumni in the workforce.

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## Reinvigorating a connection to Victoria



Jane Wrightson, chief executive of New Zealand on Air, always remembered her time at Victoria fondly, but hadn't had much to do with the University since graduating with a Bachelor of Arts.

That changed when she signed up to be involved in the Alumni as Mentors programme.

Buddied up with then arts student Sophie Bartleet, she was grateful for the opportunity to give something back to the Victoria community.

"It's interesting to get yourself out of your bubble, especially if you don't have much contact with millennials," says Jane.

"In the media industry, it's incredibly important to be in contact with young people. It really challenges you. And you can have grown-up conversations that don't result in mother-daughter arguments!"

As a result of the relationship the two have built, Jane raised an eyebrow when Sophie mentioned heading to study journalism without having an immediate reason to study at postgraduate level. Instead, she's now producing and hosting a podcast called What's next?, a move described by Jane as very enterprising.

One thing that Sophie has learnt from the mentoring experience is to keep her options open.

"Opportunity dances with those who are already on the dance floor."

It was this attitude that inspired Sophie to respond to the email she received about the programme. "I thought I may as well apply, and nothing but good has come from it.

"I would like to mentor in the future and be able to help somebody else along the way."

## Drawing from alumnus' experience



Being part of Victoria's Alumni as Mentors programme gave Master of Building Science student Cara Askew the opportunity to develop personally and refine her career path.

"As a student, I felt like I got lost within my studies and forgot about my own development and where I wanted to go with my degree."

Being matched with Richard London, a senior technical engineering and project adviser at the Ministry of Education who has been involved in the programme for three years, allowed Cara to focus on what she really wanted, which has led her to postgraduate study at Victoria.

The duo had a number of discussions around the benefits of further study or further experience in the sector, says Richard.

"I drew a lot on my own experience. In hindsight, continuing to study at postgraduate level straight after finishing my undergraduate degree would have been a lot easier for me."

Richard understands the pressure of being a new graduate. "It's tough trying to figure out what you want to do, but for a new grad, getting involved in the programme is a bit like finding a trailblazer who's done it before—someone able to tell them, here's what I learnt and what I'd do if I had my time again."

But it's not all giving for Richard. "Cara gave me a lot of insights into the way I interact with people and the opportunity to hone my own skills."

And although the six-month programme has ended for both Cara and Richard, they still keep in touch.

"The construction industry in New Zealand is small. There are people I know who Cara interacts with too, so we have the opportunity to continue our discussions."

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Learn more about the Alumni as Mentors programme: <http://bit.ly/2ayIBNf>



Ruth Buchanan is renowned for her innovative use of display mechanisms in her work. Or, a building, installation view, Badischer Kunstverein, Karlsruhe, 2015. Photo: Ruth Buchanan

# Three generations unified in art

The work of three women artists of different generations is presented in the Adam Art Gallery's latest exhibition, *Bad Visual Systems*.

Conceived and designed by the youngest of the artists, Berlin-based New Zealander Ruth Buchanan, the show melds art works and design elements with the building's dramatic spaces.

It is a homecoming for Ruth Buchanan (born 1980), who spent her childhood in Wellington. It is also a return for the oldest artist, Marianne Wex (born 1937), who lived in Wellington briefly in the 1980s.

Wex has been rediscovered by Buchanan for her huge archive of 1970s photographs of people in different poses captured on the streets and collected from historical sources. Hundreds of these feature in the exhibition, along with films and sculpture by Judith Hopf (born 1969), whose playful pieces poke fun at institutional and social norms.

Christina Barton, Adam Art Gallery director and the exhibition's curator, says, "Ruth Buchanan is enjoying considerable attention in Europe for her thoughtful, historically researched installations that

combine words with sculptural objects and images. A key feature of her works is the way she incorporates display mechanisms, such as way-finding devices, screens or a set of chairs that draws the audience in, encouraging them to interact with the art."

Buchanan invited Wex and Hopf to be part of her exhibition at the Adam Art Gallery, which she says provides "a nuanced portrait of feminist positions in contemporary practices".

The Gallery's curator, Stephen Cleland, says while each artist's works remain distinct, Buchanan makes them mutually dependent.

"For example, she designs the display boards for Wex's photographic material and frames Hopf's sculptures with her own metallic curtain. Even the gallery attendants have roles to play, which is something new for us."

*Bad Visual Systems* will run until 23 December at the Adam Art Gallery, Victoria University, Gate 2, Kelburn Parade, Wellington.

🔗 [www.adamartgallery.org.nz](http://www.adamartgallery.org.nz)





### Taika Waititi

BA 1997

Victoria Distinguished Alumni—2011

Taika is a film director, writer, comedian and actor whose trademark deadpan humour and startling visuals have cemented his place in film making in New Zealand and internationally.

### Claudia Batten

BCA 1996, LLB Hons 1998

Victoria Distinguished Alumni—2013

Claudia is a US based serial entrepreneur known internationally for her innovative contributions combining marketing and information technology.

### Bernice Mene

BA 1998

Victoria Distinguished Alumni—2007

Bernice is best known for her decade-long netball career and was made a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit (MNZM) in 2002 for her sporting achievements.

### John Campbell

BA Hons 1988

Victoria Distinguished Alumni—2013

John is one of New Zealand's most respected journalists, he is known for his tenacity and empathy. He has won multiple industry awards for investigative journalism.

## Distinguished Alumni Awards nominations now open

Victoria's distinguished alumni are trailblazers, risk takers and rule breakers. If you know someone who has made a significant contribution to their field nominate them today.

To receive a nomination form or find out more about the nomination process email [alumni@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:alumni@vuw.ac.nz)



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