

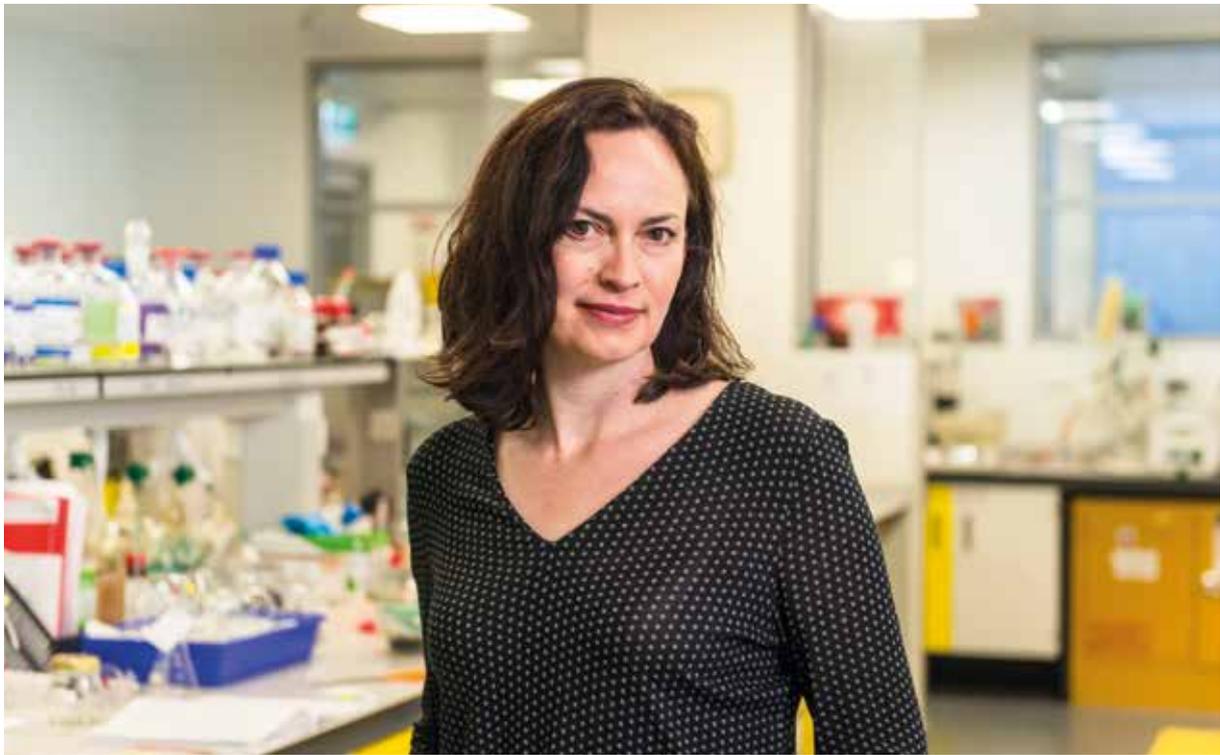
Issue 1, 2017



VICTORIOUS



Blurred lines
Spearheading digital futures



Spreading the word

Dr Rebecca Priestley reflects on her career in science communication, which spans more than 20 years.

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Spearheading our digital futures



Blurred
lines

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From the Vice-Chancellor

The possibilities presented by the digital age are multidimensional, complex and tremendously exciting. From the ways we share information, educate students and conduct research, to how we work, travel and live, our world is increasingly being shaped by digital technologies.

Victoria University of Wellington is uniquely placed to help Wellington and New Zealand prepare for that future.

The technology industry is booming, and Wellington, in particular, is thriving. The sector makes a significant contribution to the economy—in 2015 the technology industry's \$32 billion output generated \$16.2 billion GDP, which equates to about 8 percent of the economy. The sector also makes up 9 percent of New Zealand's exports. Here in the capital, the technology industry increased by 25 percent in just 10 years, and is now one of the region's largest employers, generating about 16,000 jobs.

Wellington has the potential to be a magnet city—that is, one that through intelligent planning and leadership succeeds in attracting growing numbers of visitors, talented new residents and strong investment flows. The main feature shared by magnet cities around the world is their appeal to young people, who are often those brimming with ideas, ambition and energy, like the students at Victoria. They are the leaders and the innovators of the future.

At Victoria, we recognise the crucial function of technology and our role in educating the future leaders of that industry. Researchers from all parts of the University are collaborating to explore, and find solutions to, the many challenges and opportunities associated with the fast accelerating technological age we are entering.

Among the innovative work that Victoria's students and academics have underway is the development of state-of-the-art virtual reality technologies, as well as ground-breaking work to better understand the impact on people of the constant flux of information that comes with living in the digital age.

We are adopting a blended learning approach that mixes the best of an on-campus and online learning experience and have partnered with industry leaders and other education providers to deliver the best possible training and qualifications in this vitally important field.

We have joined forces with the Wellington Institute of Technology and Whitireia New Zealand to create the Wellington ICT Graduate School, which is designed to support the rapidly growing information and communications technology sector by delivering industry-relevant education and graduates who are work ready and business focused.

More recently, Victoria has committed to opening a facility in the heart of Wellington's creative industry. The Miramar Creative Centre will be located right next door to Park Road Post Production's film production office and a stone's throw from the world-renowned Weta Workshop and Weta Digital. Experts from those companies will help with teaching and provide support and industry connections to students who will be able to develop multimedia projects using contemporary equipment and software.

Victoria has both the capability to design technologies that will enable a digital future, and the expertise to understand and communicate what a digital future will mean for individuals, organisations and society. We are proud to be preparing young people to be educated citizens in a digital society.

Professor Grant Guilford

Vice-Chancellor

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Eye on the health system

Victoria's expertise in health research and teaching underpins the new Faculty of Health recently established at the University.



Provost Professor Wendy Lerner says the Faculty builds on existing specialist schools and centres at Victoria such as the Graduate School of Nursing, Midwifery and Health, and the Health Services Research Centre.

"We have a lot of researchers and teachers involved in the health sector across the University, and the new Faculty will draw on that academic expertise to promote the distinctiveness theme of Improving the Health and Wellbeing of our Communities.

"The Faculty of Health combines this specialist expertise with our traditional strengths in public policy, government, business and industrial relations to make a difference to New Zealand's health system."

The inaugural dean of the new Faculty is Professor Gregor Coster. A Victoria alumnus and former Professor of General Practice and Dean of Graduate Studies at the University of Auckland, Gregor has spent several decades managing and governing major health organisations, including two district health boards, WorkSafe New Zealand, the Accident

Compensation Corporation and Pharmac, as well as spending 15 years in full-time general medical practice.

"We're looking at New Zealand's health system as a whole and how we can add value, drawing on our strengths as a capital city university with a global perspective. We are working closely with district health boards and government ministries.

"The health system is more than simply a network of doctors and other medical specialists. It involves people in a wide range of areas, from nurses and midwives and other clinical disciplines, policy analysts to medical researchers, to data management experts, and community workers and leaders. And we are excited about the possibilities for working in Māori and Pacific health development.

"New Zealand's health system underpins all our lives from childhood to retirement. There is enormous potential to improve the health and wellbeing of individuals and the wellbeing of society as a whole, and to ensure New Zealand's future is a healthy one."

Sharing best practice

A partnership with a Swiss university will give Victoria an insight into the best approaches to adopt when developing its new Faculty of Health.



The Graduate School of Nursing, Midwifery and Health at Victoria recently signed a memorandum of understanding with the School of Health Professions at Zurich University of Applied Sciences (ZHAW), the first and only university in Switzerland to offer a Bachelor's degree programme in Health Promotion. Victoria's new Bachelor of Health programme proposes to offer a major in Health Promotion, as well as four other new majors.

As well as allowing Victoria to draw on ZHAW's experience, the agreement creates opportunities for students from the two institutions to work in health-related professions in New Zealand and Switzerland, and for staff and students from the universities to collaborate on research projects.

Dr Jon Cornwall from Victoria's Graduate School of Nursing, Midwifery

and Health has visited Zurich to gain a first-hand insight into how ZHAW has implemented its Bachelor of Health Promotion programme.

He says community engagement turned out to be one of the most important and useful things ZHAW did. "They focused on finding out where their graduates would be most needed, and took on board employer input on how to arm the students with the necessary skills to fit those roles," he says. "We will be undertaking a similar process of engagement in New Zealand with organisations such as district health boards, health agencies or large employers—anyone involved in the area of health promotion.

"It's a fantastic arrangement—we get ZHAW's experience and knowledge of what it's like to have so recently set up a degree in a country where such a qualification hasn't previously existed."



Spreading the word

Dr Rebecca Priestley started working in science communication in the 1990s —“before that phrase was even used in New Zealand”.

As the winner of the 2016 Prime Minister’s Science Communication Prize, Rebecca wants to help ensure that science communicators are better equipped to engage the public on issues of national and international importance.

“Despite the scientific evidence for many environmental problems facing the world, a lot of people aren’t engaging with these issues or realising how important they are,” she says.

“I think it is time for the science communication community to focus more on thinking about what we are doing, what we are trying to achieve and how we can do it better.”

Rebecca, a science writer and senior lecturer in Victoria’s Science in Society Group, was awarded the

esteemed science communication prize valued at \$100,000 at an event at Parliament in March.

Rebecca’s career in science communication spans more than 20 years. Over the past six of those, she has written more than 200 science columns and features for the weekly magazine the *New Zealand Listener*. She is the author or co-author of eight books on the history of science, presents regularly at book and science festivals around the country and has curated exhibitions on the history of New Zealand science.

She teaches science communication and history of science at Victoria as part of the Science in Society Group’s suite of courses and, among other roles, leads a massive online open course (MOOC) about Antarctic

science, the first to be offered internationally by Victoria, through the prestigious edX platform.

She’s also a Victoria alumna, holding a Bachelor of Science with Honours, and a PhD in History and Philosophy of Science from the University of Canterbury.

Rebecca says while celebrating science and attracting more young people into science careers are important, the role of science communication in democracy deserves equal attention.

“To make decisions about their future, people need to be able to understand, discuss and ask informed questions about issues such as climate change, water quality and emerging technologies.”

www.victoria.ac.nz/science-in-society



Finding favour in China

A memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Beijing Jiaotong University is already reaping rewards for Victoria, including access to some of the highest echelons of the Chinese Government.

In January, Dr Rod Badcock, principal engineer at Victoria's Robinson Research Institute, joined 2016 Nobel Prize winner in chemistry Sir Fraser Stoddart and other officially designated 'foreign experts' for a gala dinner and symposium in Beijing's Great Hall of the People.

His invitation from Chinese Premier Li Keqiang expressed "heartfelt gratitude" for the work he is doing in the country.

The evening was preceded by a day-long event where the experts were invited to identify solutions to problems and opportunities to be explored.

The recommendations were forwarded to China's central leadership and heads of department, with great importance attached to them, according to the country's State Administration of Foreign Experts Affairs (SAFEA).

Rod's recommendation highlighted the important role New Zealand's superconductivity capability (through Robinson and the companies it works

with) has to play in addressing China's energy issues.

Rod was a frequent visitor to Beijing Jiaotong in 2016, supported by SAFEA to conduct joint research and supervise PhD students in the School of Electrical Engineering.

Under the MOU, Beijing Jiaotong PhD students also work with him and the Robinson team back at their laboratories in the Gracefield Innovation Quarter in Lower Hutt.

Rod has been appointed a foreign expert under SAFEA's Thousand Talents Plan, which funds positions for international innovators from academia and industry. In this role, Rod will continue his visits to Beijing Jiaotong for three more years.

Robinson has received many valuable introductions through Beijing Jiaotong and, with the assistance of Victoria commercialisation office Viclink, several projects are now up and running. These include developing technology for superconductor

transformers on high-speed trains and developing devices that could help cut the heavy energy use of Beijing's subway system by 40 percent.

"One of the things we've found with the foreign experts programme," says Rod, "is that while they would like the overall product to be manufactured in China, they don't care if the technology—the sub-systems, parts and components—is coming from New Zealand. In fact, they quite like it. That's where our strength lies."

The other side of the coin is that China has the ability to test and manufacture on a scale not possible in New Zealand.

"We're linking in through the foreign experts programme and it's starting to open other doors, deepening our relationship with China," says Rod.

His visits to Beijing Jiaotong can last anything from a few days to a month, and it is now so much a home from home he even keeps his own folding bike there to ride around the city.

Co-creative

Learning from the professionals takes on a whole new meaning for Victoria students who will study at the soon-to-open Miramar Creative Centre.

The new facility—the only place in the world where students will be learning in the heart of a flourishing film industry—results from a partnership between Victoria and Miramar Creative Limited, directed by Weta companies' co-founder Jamie Selkirk.

It will see Victoria staff and students co-located with, and mentored by, staff from Wellington's Weta Group of companies in a repurposed building that will include new computer labs equipped with the same software that is being used by film production companies around the world.

In an associated initiative, students from the music programme of the Master of Fine Arts (Creative Practice) are being taught scoring and audio post-production by staff

from Park Road Post Production, one of the world's most prestigious postproduction film companies.

The Centre will house students from Victoria's Master of Fine Arts (Creative Practice) and Master of Design Technology. It's hoped students from other Master's programmes at Victoria, including computer graphics, will also use the facility in the future.

"Victoria has an extraordinary creative heritage, evidenced by our excellent film, music, theatre and design programmes, and this new Centre, along with the initiative with Park Road Post, will build on the very best we have to offer," says Professor John Psathas of the New Zealand School of Music.

The venture extends an existing relationship between Victoria

and Weta Digital that has seen Weta Digital staff become regular lecturers at the University.

"This is something I've always wanted to do," says Jamie Selkirk.

"Those of us who have worked in the industry for many years want to be able to pass on our experience in a meaningful way to the next generation of film-makers and creative youngsters."

"To be able to give our students and staff the opportunity to blend with outstanding talent in the middle of a thriving creative business sector is hugely exciting for Victoria, and good for Wellington," says Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Engagement) Professor Frazer Allan.

<http://bit.ly/2eoQ4kZ>

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From petri dish to pregnancy

More than five million babies have been born through in vitro fertilisation (IVF) worldwide.

That results from millions of ‘good eggs’ that were capable, once fertilised, of becoming viable embryos.

So what makes a good egg, and why do many women still struggle to conceive through IVF treatments?

Dr Janet Pitman from Victoria’s School of Biological Sciences is cracking the code. Her research looks at how to mature eggs in a culture dish (in vitro maturation, or IVM) in a way that better mimics the processes that occur in the ovarian follicle.

“This technology is important because it does not require the need for hormones, which, for some women who struggle to get pregnant, can be fatal,” says Janet.

Her research is informed by her studies of the reproductive processes of New Zealand’s sheep and cows.

Sheep are a particularly good animal model for human reproduction because their ovaries develop in a similar way to women’s.

“When women conceive naturally, the egg matures gradually until it is capable of being successfully fertilised. In this critical period, the egg needs energy and nutrients to ensure it develops as it should,” says Janet.

“When IVM is used, the egg is removed early on and put in a petri dish to mature. This differs from traditional IVF methods, where women are given hormones that help eggs to mature in their natural environment.”

To be successful, the culture environment the egg is placed in needs to be as physiologically similar as possible.

An IVM/IVF system using sheep and cow eggs has been set up so

Janet and her team can test different components that are present in the fluid that surrounds the egg in the follicle.

Janet, whose research into the subject was supported by the Marsden Fund, managed by the Royal Society of New Zealand in 2013, says an egg is “in control of its own destiny”.

“It will instruct the support cells around it by secreting growth factors to regulate these cells that nurture it. These growth factors aren’t present in traditional IVM media, so we are trying to figure out how to incorporate them.”

The research is laying the foundation to improve the success of IVF and IVM, with only the best eggs—just the way nature intended.

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All fun and games

A new therapy model being used by Victoria researchers is aiding the development of children with autism through the process of play.

Called the early start Denver model (ESDM), the new form of therapy uses fun and games to target the children's development of language and communication, social interaction, imitation, cognition and daily living skills.

"This could be by building a puzzle or block tower together, playing hide and seek or singing songs," says School of Education PhD student Hannah Waddington.

"The idea behind the model is that play is a good tool for teaching and is also typically how young children learn. This is in contrast to traditional approaches where a child with autism might sit at a table and be taught using cards repeatedly. With the ESDM, it's a combination of effective teaching techniques within play-based activities in a child's natural environment."

Hannah has completed two studies using the ESDM

with children under five years old and says the results have been positive.

"In one project, I provided therapy for four children with autism for three hours a week for 12 weeks, and in the other, I taught five parents the ESDM techniques and they applied them with their children.

"Overall, all of the children improved on their communication, functional play and social interaction skills. In the future, I want to look at providing both therapy time with me and supporting the parents."

School of Education lecturer Dr Larah van der Meer says what makes the ESDM valuable is that the therapist demonstrates to the parents what to do with the child.

"In general, the ESDM differs from what is available in New Zealand because as well as providing this support for parents, we are delivering the therapy ourselves."

Hannah is the first person in New Zealand to be fully trained as an ESDM therapist.



Te reo Māori thesis a Victoria first



A thesis that examines the hidden factors behind te reo Māori speakers' language choices has become the first Victoria PhD written entirely in te reo Māori.

Vini Olsen-Reeder, a lecturer in Te Kawa a Māui / School of Māori Studies, says there are complex reasons why te reo Māori speakers may choose to use the language in particular situations; reasons that the speakers themselves may not be aware of. "My thesis examines how these factors influence language choice and how these can be overcome in order to aid language use."

The subject matter was a natural fit for writing in te reo Māori—but it was also immensely important to Vini to use te reo Māori.

"I feel really strongly about academics writing in te reo Māori, and about Māori speakers using all the avenues they have to use the language.

"If I had finished with a thesis in English, I would have always felt like that thesis didn't speak to things I believed and felt."

Vini will be awarded his PhD in Victoria's December graduation ceremonies.

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Musical diversity

The music created by alumna Eva Prowse is not what you might expect from a musician who trained in classical music.

Eva, who graduated from the New Zealand School of Music (NZSM) in 2008, has released two highly diverse albums, toured with Fly My Pretties and performed alongside legendary American musician Wanda Jackson. She has enjoyed an equally varied career in arts administration, working for organisations such as the Royal New Zealand Ballet and the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra.

She says studying at NZSM is about laying the groundwork—after that, NZSM students can take any musical path they like.

"At NZSM you might be studying classical or jazz but they're not restrictions. They're giving you the foundations for what you want to do.

"I think you take elements of your training into whatever you do. Music's music—and genres are (and should be) constantly being redefined."

Her two albums were noted for their musical diversity, and she expects her sound will change again

before she is ready to record her next album.

"There were five years between my first two albums—that's a long period of time, particularly when you're in your twenties. A lot changes.

"Next time I start writing music I'll be in a different place in my life, and I'll have different sounds I might want to create, and a different mood. I have no idea what might come out of that—it's hard to know how these things will turn out until you get started."

Eva is the programme manager for the New Zealand Festival—a biennial arts celebration—and the Wellington Jazz Festival, and says her experience as a musician is hugely beneficial for her role.

"I know what it's like from the artist's point of view—what's going through their minds and what their needs can be."

Eva's latest album, *Humid Nights*, is available on iTunes and Bandcamp.



“I’m sorry Alice, but ...”

Finding out you have a serious illness or disease is something many people have either experienced or can imagine very clearly. But why do we often see the moment of diagnosis in films, too?

A husband-and-wife academic duo at Victoria has set out to answer that question in new research that combines their multidisciplinary talents.

In a paper just published in *Medical Humanities* (part of the *British Medical Journal* stable of publications) Annemarie Jutel, who is a Professor of Health in the Graduate School of Nursing, Midwifery and Health, has teamed up with her husband Thierry Jutel, an Associate Professor in Film Studies in the School of English, Film, Theatre, and Media Studies.

Annemarie has extensively researched the sociological impact of diagnosis, while Thierry’s teaching and research has focused on the history, analysis and production of films. In their paper, they analyse the way diagnostic moments are creatively represented in the films *Still Alice*, *A Late Quartet*, *Wit* and *Cleo from 5 to 7*.

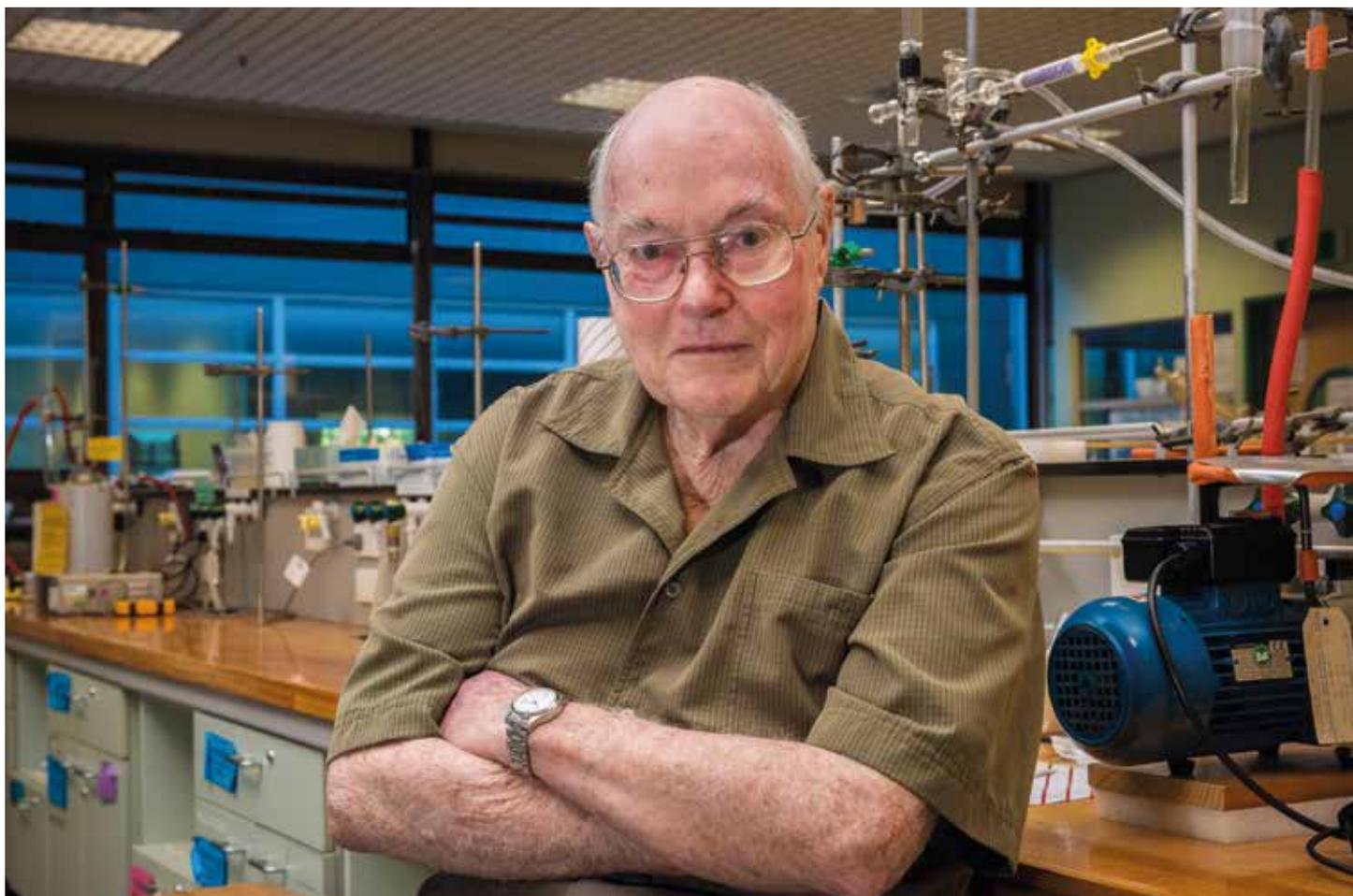
“The moment a serious diagnosis is announced creates an important crisis for a patient, as it shifts their sense of self and of their future potential,” explains Annemarie. “It’s an important and powerful part of medicine—the labels we give to diseases are much more than just naming a physiological thing happening to your body: they have huge social consequences too.”

Thierry says diagnosis of an illness is a commonly used storytelling device in film and television, and they wanted to find out why it has such a presence in popular culture.

“A diagnosis is a very potent narrative mechanism,” says Thierry. “A narrative always traces some kind of transformation, so many filmmakers exploit the moment of diagnosis because it’s a useful way to develop a character and move a storyline along.”

An extended version of their paper will form a chapter of Annemarie’s upcoming book, *Telling It Like It Is: The Diagnostic Moment and its Narratives*.

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Rewarding science

For many people, retirement is a chance to relax and explore a world outside work. Not, however, for Emeritus Professor Neil Curtis.

Despite officially retiring from Victoria in 1996, Neil still spends most of his time in his office in the School of Chemical and Physical Sciences, and earlier this year marked 60 years at the University.

"When I started out, science hadn't really changed for 100 years—it was basically chemistry, physics, biology, botany and zoology. But since then, there's been an incredible proliferation of disciplines," Neil says.

"The skills scientists need today are very different as well. When I began at Victoria, chemistry was mainly of the test tube and Bunsen burner variety. There wasn't a single modern instrument in the place.

"These days, we rely on specialised

equipment, and scientific training is more about interpreting the results."

Neil's research has been devoted to inorganic chemistry, with a particular focus on macrocyclic compounds—now known as Curtis Macrocycles in his honour.

"These compounds have large rings of atoms, with nitrogen or oxygen atoms binding to metal atoms. They're found in nature in compounds like chlorophyll, haemoglobin and vitamin B12, and chemists are now starting to realise their potential for designing new polymers and for energy storage.

"Early in my career, I discovered a simple way to produce these compounds in the lab, and I've

devoted much of my time to studying how they work and what they can do."

Similar work by American scientists led to the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 1987 but Neil says he isn't worried about being overlooked for the prize.

"I've never done science for the gongs. The sheer fascination of probing and exploring is what's kept me going; the process is its own reward."

With 60 years under his belt and more than 180 publications to his name, Neil isn't resting on his laurels.

"I might spend a bit more time in the garden, but I've got a few papers to write up yet."

Honouring outstanding Victoria alumni

Seven of Victoria's most accomplished and influential alumni are to receive Distinguished Alumni Awards at a black-tie dinner in November.

The recipients of the 2017 awards are business leaders Danny Chan and Chris Moller, former World Anti-Doping Agency director-general David Howman, Family Court Judge Ida Malosi, social justice champion Stephanie McIntyre, academic and women's rights activist Professor Marilyn Waring and athlete Liam Malone who will receive a Young Alumni Award.

Chancellor Sir Neville Jordan says the seven alumni have shown exemplary leadership and outstanding achievement over the course of their careers and are inspirational figures.

"These alumni have made major contributions in their respective fields, leaving a mark not only here in Wellington and New Zealand but around the world.

"They demonstrate the best of Victoria's values and show our current and future students what can be achieved with a Victoria education.

The Distinguished Alumni Awards will be presented at a gala dinner in Wellington on 14 November 2017. Tickets will be available from 1 June.

www.victoria.ac.nz/alumni



Liam Malone (BCom 2017)—Young Alumni Award

In 2016, Liam Malone became one of New Zealand's most popular athletes with his breakout performance at the Paralympic Games in Rio de Janeiro.

Dubbed the Kiwi Blade Runner, Liam claimed two gold medals in the 200 metre and 400 metre T43/44 events, breaking Paralympic records for both events in the process, and won a silver medal in the 100 metre T43/44.

This success was particularly impressive considering he was juggling his final year of study for a Bachelor of Commerce and had taken up running only three years earlier, buying his first set of running blades in 2013 after crowdfunding the \$25,000 needed.

Liam's achievements were recognised by him being chosen as New Zealand's flagbearer for the closing ceremony,

becoming a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit in the 2017 New Year Honours and being awarded the Disabled Sportsperson of the Year at the Halberg Awards 2016.

Not content to rest on his laurels, Liam has set a goal of becoming the fastest person on the planet through innovations in running-blade technology. Outside sport, he is writing a book, making plans to climb Aoraki / Mount Cook in 2018 to raise money for cancer research and is investing in New Zealand-based start-up businesses, including First Cut Ventures, an angel investment fund that gives young New Zealanders the opportunity to grow their business. Liam also intends to establish a foundation to provide low cost, accessible equipment for children with disabilities in developing nations.



Danny Chan (BCA 1972, BCA(Hons) 1973)

Danny Chan is an influential businessman with interests spanning sectors as diverse as education, investment management, financial and business consultancy and floriculture.

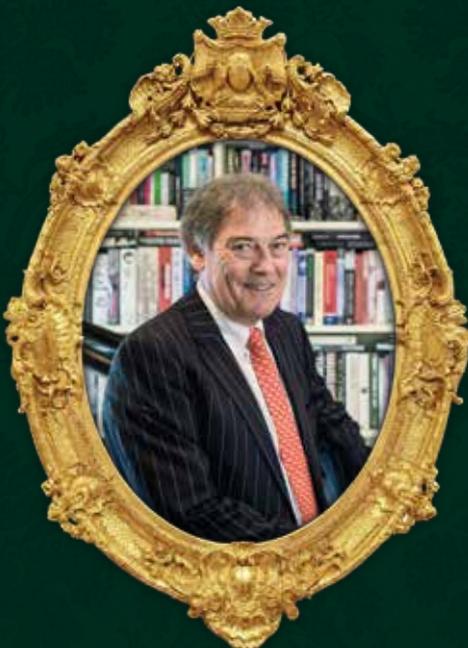
He is perhaps best-known for his involvement in Academic Colleges Group, an education and training company he co-founded in 1995. The company is made up of preschools, schools and vocational colleges, and educates more than 13,000 students at 35 campuses across New Zealand, Indonesia and Viet Nam.

After graduating from Victoria, Danny worked in investment and insurance in Wellington and taught part time at Victoria for 14 years, before joining the largest fund manager in the world—Fidelity Investments—where he sat on the board of the fund’s Asia-Pacific operation and headed its Taiwan office.

In addition to his work in education and the financial sector, Danny has

been a pioneer in exporting New Zealand flowers, setting up Flowerzone Turners, one of the country’s biggest flower exporters, in 1993. He currently serves on the boards of several companies, including Abano Healthcare, Auckland Tourism Events and Economic Development, Farmers Mutual Group and Marlborough Wine Estates. He has previously held directorships of the state-owned Airways Corporation and Crown research institute AgResearch.

In recognition of his business experience in the Asia-Pacific region, Danny serves on the NZ-China Executive Council Board, and the boards of the Asia New Zealand Foundation and the Confucius Institute based at the University of Auckland. He has also previously served as a member of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet China Project Advisory Group. He also advises several New Zealand companies on their Asia marketing and joint ventures.



David Howman (BA 1970, LLB(Hons) 1973)

Before stepping down in 2016, David Howman led the fight against drug cheats in international sport for 13 years as director-general of the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA). This built on his previous work with what was then the New Zealand Sport Drug Agency, first as legal counsel and then as chairman.

During his tenure at WADA, a global anti-doping code was implemented by international sport bodies; the Unesco International Convention against Doping in Sport (2005) was ratified by 184 of the world’s 195 Unesco member states; and issues such as bribery and corruption were brought to the attention of the sporting world. Most prominently, he oversaw a two-year investigation into Russia’s institutionalised doping programme for its elite athletes.

David commands deep respect around the world for the quality of

his work and his integrity. WADA’s success has been directly attributable to David’s qualities as an administrator and diplomat and he is regarded as one of the world’s very best sporting administrators.

Before his appointment to WADA, David practised as a leading sports lawyer and won Australasian awards for this work. He also served as president of New Zealand Tennis, as a commissioner for New Zealand Rugby and as a board member for the Hillary Commission for Sport, Fitness and Leisure.

He continues to be heavily involved in New Zealand sport, currently serving on a panel working on New Zealand Rugby’s Respect and Responsibility review.

In the 2017 New Year Honours David was made a Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit for services to sport.



Judge Ida Malosi (BA 1985, LLB 1989)

Judge Ida Malosi is a District Court judge based at Manukau in South Auckland. She is proud of her Samoan heritage and has become a role model for Pasifika men and women in the legal profession and wider community.

After graduating from Victoria, she established an all Māori and Pasifika women legal practice in South Auckland, King Alofivae Malosi, which received the Auckland District Law Society's EEO (equal employment opportunities) 'Most Innovative' award in 2000.

In 2002, she became New Zealand's first female Pasifika judge when she was appointed to the Family Court. Since then, she has sought to implement alternative, culturally appropriate responses to youth offending in her community, working with her Māori Youth Court colleagues on establishing

Rangatahi Courts and using this as a model for similar Pasifika Courts. In 2015, the Australasian Institute of Judicial Administration awarded the Rangatahi and Pasifika Courts its Award for Excellence in Judicial Administration.

Ida's judicial achievements extend beyond New Zealand to Samoa, where she served as that country's first female Supreme Court judge between May 2013 and July 2014. Since then, two other women have been appointed to the Supreme Court, and two women to the District Court. During her time in Samoa, she established the Family Court and the Family Violence Court and implemented judicial settlement conferences. She also laid the groundwork for the Alcohol and Other Drug Treatment Court to be established in Samoa by Judge Ema Aitken.



Stephanie McIntyre (BA 1975)

Stephanie McIntyre has been a champion of the most marginalised citizens and a high-profile advocate for social justice throughout her working career.

For 13 years, she has been director of DCM (Downtown Community Ministry), a Wellington organisation working with people who are homeless or are at risk of becoming homeless. Her commitment is to end homelessness by thoroughly understanding, gathering evidence about and implementing practical solutions to address the complex issues that underlie homelessness in New Zealand.

Stephanie and her team at DCM are dedicated to working with people others often overlook, working in ways that are respectful, inclusive and welcoming. Continually seeking new solutions to assist poor Wellingtonians, their recent developments include the launch of a dental service in

partnership with the Wellington Dental Association.

For more than a decade, Stephanie has championed the establishment of 'harm reduction' housing as a bold, yet highly effective, accommodation option for the most vulnerable homeless population. The mayor of Wellington, Justin Lester, made the support of such a home one of his key election promises.

Formerly a social justice commissioner for the Anglican Church, Stephanie has a long history of speaking out on issues that impact on the poorest, most vulnerable citizens of Wellington. She continues to take on a number of roles to ensure that marginalised people in our community have a voice and that their views are heard.



Chris Moller (BCA 1976, DipAcc 1977)

Chris Moller is a highly respected businessman and sports administrator who has shown outstanding leadership in fields as diverse as dairying and energy generation, rugby and cricket.

Chris established a reputation for visionary leadership during 15 years in the dairy industry, initially as a senior executive with the New Zealand Dairy Board and then as the inaugural deputy chief executive of the newly formed Fonterra. Since then, Chris has made major contributions at a governance level to some of New Zealand's largest and most significant organisations, including NZX Limited, Westpac New Zealand, SKYCITY Entertainment Group, Meridian Energy and the New Zealand Transport Agency—chairing the last three organisations.

Just as significant for New Zealand has been Chris's work as a sporting

administrator. He is the only New Zealander to have held the positions of chief executive and chairman of the national bodies for rugby and cricket respectively, and is also the first person in the world to have sat on the boards of the global governing bodies of both codes, the International Cricket Council and the International Rugby Board.

Chris's tenure at the New Zealand Rugby Union saw a hugely successful Lions tour of New Zealand in 2005, as well as his co-leadership of New Zealand's winning bid to host Rugby World Cup 2011. He then served as chairman of New Zealand Cricket, playing an instrumental role in organising the co-hosting of the Cricket World Cup 2015 with Australia.

In 2015, Chris was made a Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit for services to business and sport.



Professor Marilyn Waring (BA(Hons) 1974)

Professor Marilyn Waring is a prominent New Zealand economist and feminist, and a leading activist for women's human rights.

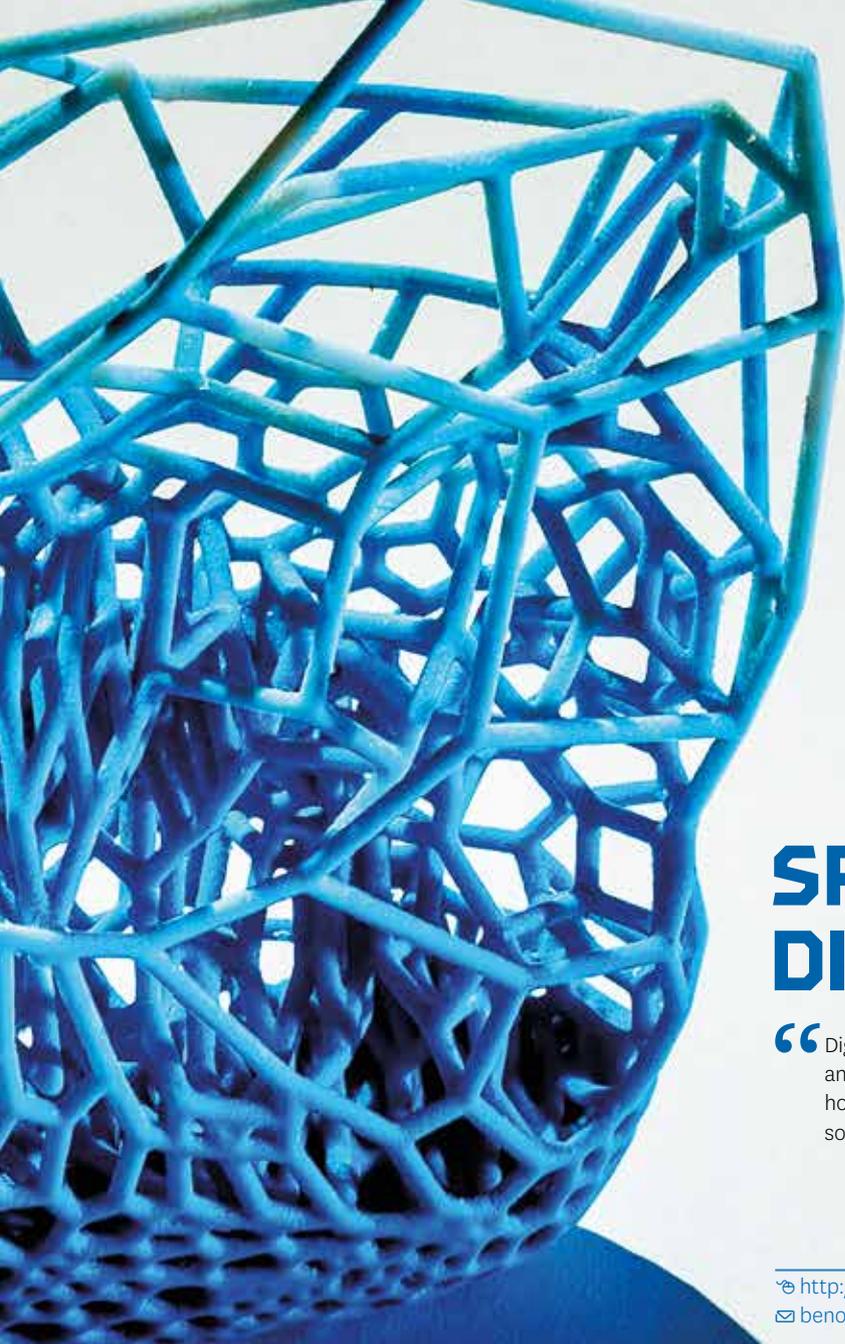
Marilyn was one of the youngest New Zealanders ever elected to Parliament, serving as a National MP between 1975 and 1984. She was just 23 when she entered the debating chamber and, between 1978 and 1981, she was the only woman in the National caucus. She pushed to have marital rape criminalised, and threatened to cross the floor to vote with Labour on a nuclear-free New Zealand, precipitating the 1984 snap election.

On leaving Parliament, Marilyn earned a PhD in Political Economy and her academic research has been influential in establishing the field of feminist economics. One of her most famous works, *If Women Counted*, argued for

the economic importance of women's unpaid work and the environment, revealing the serious policy consequences caused by ignoring these when calculating national economic measures such as GDP.

More recently, Marilyn's work has focused on the inequities of globalisation and the importance of acknowledging women's work as an international human rights issue, and she has undertaken a range of projects dealing with these issues for the United Nations. She is also a prominent spokesperson for gay and lesbian rights and a strong advocate for same-sex marriages, memorably arguing against civil unions as a lesser form of marriage and hence a way of perpetuating legal discrimination against same-sex couples.

In 2005, she was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize.



SPEARHEADING DIGITAL FUTURES

“Digital technologies are changing our world—how we live, work and think. At Victoria, we have the skills to explore and understand how the future will unfold. Bring us a problem and we will try to solve it.”

—Professor Benoit Aubert
Chair of Spearheading Digital Futures,
one of Victoria’s areas of academic distinctiveness.

<http://bit.ly/2bUMys9>

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Game on

When Dr Karsten Lundqvist was a child and received one of the first home computers as a birthday present, he was “like a kid in a candy shop”.



His passion was for gaming, but his dad told him that couldn't be a job. His dad turned out to be wrong.

As a senior lecturer in Victoria's School of Engineering and Computer Science, Karsten uses game development as part of a pioneering e-learning course he founded to teach computer programming.

More than 180,000 people from nearly 200 cultures have been through Karsten's massive open online course (MOOC), set up while he was working for the University of Reading in the United Kingdom.

The course, now also available through Victoria in a collaboration with the University of Reading, is running in 2017 for the ninth time.

While programming students are usually asked to carry out tasks such as sorting strings or calculating equations, Karsten believes creating games is a better way to learn because it allows students to become skilled problem-solvers.

Inventing games also encourages students to use their creativity.

“I think of making a game as making a new world,” says Karsten. “We have to decide what kind of structure our new world will have, what kind of functionality we will need within that structure to make it work and what the rules of our new world will be.

“Creativity is the foundation of what we do, and it's what makes creating a game so exciting.”



Blessed are the mech

New Zealand School of Music lecturer Dr Jim Murphy's zeal for exploring new frontiers in the sonic arts dates back to his childhood.

“I built this shortwave radio kit,” he says. “I discovered the most interesting part of listening to it was finding the stations that weren't quite there, and you got these beautiful distortions. That led to me being interested in how to make those weird electronic sounds myself.”

Jim's research and teaching focus on the design and use of new robotic and mechatronic instruments; mechatronics being a technology that combines mechanical engineering and electronics.

He is a member of Victoria's Sonic Engineering Lab for Creative Technology, an interdisciplinary group of staff and students whose work bridges the New Zealand School of Music and the School of Engineering and Computer Science.

The instruments Jim and his colleagues create variously—and sometimes simultaneously—expand the sonic palette available to composers,

offer new performance possibilities to musicians and contain kinetic visual elements that make them as much sound sculptures as instruments.

They have included a mechatronic drum beater, robotic slide and bass guitars and a mechatronic harmonium.

Jim has also been involved in projects for the Royal New Zealand Ballet, Orchestra Wellington and Wellington's annual Lux Light Festival.

Working to transcend the limitations of the human body has at the same time given Jim renewed respect for that body.

“One of the big things I've come to appreciate from this work is how amazing the human body is at controlling things, playing instruments, making music. When you try to do that with motors and gears and pulleys and stuff, you are humbled. Shifting pitch on a stringed instrument, for instance, easily moving up and down the neck—that's so quiet and fast for us as humans, but try building a mechanism that does the same thing!”



DEEPLY DIGITAL

Digital technologies are evolving at lightning speed. How they will affect universities' learning, teaching, research and community engagement over the coming years is unknown territory, but one which Professor Steven Warburton hopes to navigate.

Steven is Victoria's inaugural Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Digital Futures). He joined Victoria in November 2016, arriving in Wellington with his family from the United Kingdom where he headed the University of Surrey's Department of Technology Enhanced Learning.

"My previous position focused on researching the role of design in educational technology development and the implementation of digital projects to enhance the student learning experience.

"My role at Victoria is at a strategic level. I am looking at the challenges and opportunities in the digital space, and working across the three

key themes: distinctive research, excellent learning and teaching and positioning Victoria as a world-leading capital city university.

"It's a forward-thinking role. The direction for all universities over the next decades will be deeply digital. We need to understand the challenges this presents and how to respond effectively."

Steven says it is critical that digital advancements are developed to correspond with Victoria's vision.

"For any university, the digital technologies must fit with key business priorities and the local context. This includes awareness of the skills, knowledge and attitudes

that need to be nurtured for staff and students and building analytical skills for informed decision-making."

Steven is also keen to employ digital technologies to strengthen connections between Victoria and Wellington.

"For example, in the long term we'd look to exploit advances in the internet of things by extending our learning and research into public places—on the streets, shops, galleries—to create a seamlessness between ourselves and the community. There are opportunities for us to engage with citizens throughout their life."



Left beaker: *Lissom* (2014) by Ross Stevens, Bernard Guy and summer scholarship students Oscar Pipson, Keith Thurlow, Ellen Crane and Ben Smith.
Right beaker: *Metaglobs* (2007) by Ross Stevens, Douglas Easterly and Hit Lab NZ's Michael Groufsky.

BLURRED LINES

Ross Stevens is the first to admit 3D printing can be “creepy”.

“I’m fascinated and a bit apprehensive of how objects made with computer code and 3D printers appear so similar to creatures grown with biological code—DNA.

“I know I’m onto something interesting when people’s first response is ‘that’s creepy’, because it’s just a bit too familiar.”

This technology isn’t new, says Ross, Victoria’s Industrial Design programme director—it’s been around for more than a decade.

“Victoria has been experimenting with 3D printing since 2006, when we purchased our first PolyJet printer.

“Many of our projects blur the line between living and fabricated. One of them, when immersed in water for a day, turned from transparent to white—and I remember being disappointed. But then I remembered human skin would turn white too if left in water for a day. That’s quite creepy when you think about it.”

And it’s only going to get creepier. The next step is 3D printing material that contains tissue and cells, says Ross.

“I think there’re a lot of big ethical questions around that. The question then becomes not can we, but should

we? I’m really curious about what this means philosophically.”

Working with 3D printing is an exceptional educational tool, he says. “It helps students across many disciplines understand complex theories and prepare for the workforce.

“Software these days makes experimenting very easy—and with incredible results. Computer programs seem to take your ideas and turn them into something beyond what you’d originally considered, beyond what your constructive mind is thinking.

“One exchange student from the United States arrived in New Zealand having never done 3D printing before—and got access to the very latest equipment through our programme.”

The student’s project was made on the very latest machine from Stratasys—the world’s biggest manufacturer of 3D printers and 3D production systems.

Last year, in a New Zealand first, Victoria’s School of Design signed a research agreement with Stratasys.

The University joined the Voxel Print Programme, an exclusive

partnership with Stratasys Education that enhances the value of 3D printing as a powerful platform for experimentation on Stratasys PolyJet systems.

Experimenting on the PolyJet systems is an extraordinary opportunity for the University—and from a 3D printing perspective, this is the holy grail, says Ross.

“It is a bit like comparing all other 3D printing systems to a black and white television, and we have access to the first colour version. We’re one of only eight research groups in the world to have this.

“The beauty of this relationship is that we will also have access to Stratasys experts who will critique our research to make sure it’s in areas worth exploring and ones they haven’t yet explored. This means we will know we are undertaking relevant research that builds on the most current knowledge.

“It’s an exciting field and agreements like our one with Stratasys will make sure Victoria will play a world-leading role in this rapidly expanding industry.”

☞ <http://bit.ly/2eXTwkU>



A GALAXY OF CONNECTIONS

Associate Professor Leon Gurevitch credits dyslexia with helping him build bridges between disciplines in new and exciting ways, something that is a hallmark of his work in Victoria's School of Design.

"Although I didn't know I was dyslexic when I was younger, its impact was a real challenge for me in my early life because it made traditional forms of learning incredibly difficult. But I am also certain it left me with the ability to make connections between different things, and to see holistic pictures and patterns," he says. "I get bored if I focus on just one thing for too long."

Leon's research breaks down boundaries between art and science, and spans everything from space art

(with photographs of his that highlight the beauty of the galaxy being included in a touring exhibition in the United Kingdom last year) to data visualisation (his first research project at Victoria was an interface displaying energy use as tree rings that grow over time. His goal was to find a way of giving people "an emotional connection to their energy use, rather than just using bar graphs").

Leon's major interest at the moment is the migration of digital image workers from Hollywood to the rest of the world, including New Zealand—a project for which he received a three-year Marsden Fund research grant in 2011.

In 2016, he gave a presentation on the project at DreamWorks Animation

and Blizzard Games in the United States, where he was a visiting professor in the School of Film and Media at the University of California Santa Barbara and a senior fellow on the Cultural Analytics Program in the Institute for Pure and Applied Mathematics at the University of California, Los Angeles.

The digital diaspora the project records presents great opportunities for New Zealand, says Leon. "The challenge of the next 50 years will be leveraging our tertiary education and research culture to continue to innovate as much as possible. We're in a great position to be able to do it. Culturally, New Zealand and Silicon Valley share a willingness to give things a go."

VIRTUAL REALITY SHOWCASE

In March 2017, Victoria partnered with Te Papa Tongarewa for a series of public events that focused on how virtual and augmented reality (VR and AR) are changing the way people live, work and play.

Associate Professor Doug Easterly, who heads Victoria's School of Design, says Te Papa Talks: Virtual Realities

was a fantastic opportunity to showcase the cutting-edge research happening at the University.

"The team at Te Papa were great to collaborate with, because they are experts at crafting specific modes of delivery to different audiences," says Doug. "The people attending included young creatives, industry professionals

and teachers, which is why we ended up with a range of events from talks by some of our academics through to hands-on workshops.

"The work Victoria's researchers are doing in this space is world-leading. It's been great to highlight our capability to the public because the potential uses of AR and VR are almost limitless."

The DIGITAL HANDMADE

The worlds of ink, lead, 3D printing and plastic are colliding at Victoria's unique letterpress printing facility Wai-te-ata Press / Te Whare Ta O Waiteata, where staff are using technology to create type characters for historic printing processes.

The creative minds behind the project are Reader in Book History and Director of Wai-te-ata Press Dr Sydney J. Shep and School of Chemical and Physical Sciences PhD candidate Leo Browning. The two met at the 2016 Victoria Research Bazaar (ResBaz), which is part of a festival held around the world that promotes digital literacy in contemporary research.

"You might not think Wai-te-ata Press is a place where digital things happen, but we lured ResBaz participants down for a tour," Sydney says.

"I got hooked," Leo says. "At that point, they had one or two 3D printed letters in their arsenal of type, and it really sparked an interest in me."

Inspired by the unintended textures on Sydney's original 3D printed types, and using his self-made 3D printer in the lounge of his flat, Leo started a project on printed type—the technical term for letters used in the printing process. He explored how type texture can affect text that is inked and printed by the letterpress machine.

"The expectation with 3D printing is that it's an easy way to make a computer-perfect physical object. The reality is, you often see the way the plastic has been extruded from the machine. This mark of the machine, or its fingerprint, is apparent when the type is used on a letterpress. So I built something that gave the 3D printer instructions on the type texture I wanted. The result was a combination of intended pattern

as well as the 3D printer's own quirks and foibles," Leo says.

Leo and Sydney are now looking at making type in different languages, including printing macronised type for te reo Māori and experimenting with individual Chinese characters.

"The joy of working at Wai-te-ata Press is living this world of the digital handmade," Sydney says. "Showing that technology isn't actually a sequence of disruptions but a sequence of continuities—we can reverse engineer history by going from digital to analogue. We tend to think of the reverse, such as the value of digitising something analogue. What happens if you turn that thinking around completely?"

"I've come away with a commitment to celebrating the imperfections and character of what we produce," Leo says. "Not only are we seeing an interplay with old and new but an interplay between tool and craftsman, man and machine. The fact they're not perfect but remain a human process is fascinating."

Sydney and Leo also want to put the digital handmade into different spaces.

"We're working with the School of Design and thinking about installations and interactive spaces, while also thinking—how small can we go?" Sydney says.

"You might ask, what are we creating in this world of hybridity? I don't think it's a Frankenstein monster but I think it's something rich and strange that is worth pursuing as we push the envelope even further."



TE REO MĀORI IN THE DIGITAL AGE

Dr Joost de Bruin

Senior lecturer
School of English, Film, Theatre, and Media Studies

In Aotearoa New Zealand there is a range of Māori language media that people can engage with: two Māori television channels, more than 20 iwi radio stations that can be accessed online, te reo Māori groups on social media, Māori language phone apps, numerous online resources and dictionaries such as the one Māmari Stephens has helped to develop (see opposite).

An important topic of discussion is whether the increased availability of Māori language media has made learning the language easier. In collaboration with the Ngāpuhi radio station Tautoko FM in Mangamuka (Te Tai Tokerau/Northland), a team of researchers and I carried out an audience research project on language learning and Māori media.

For all the people interviewed, learning te reo Māori had been a complicated and difficult process. The journey of learning a language presents exciting opportunities but also obstacles for Māori. As indigenous peoples, they find themselves in a situation in which they have to reconnect with their own language because it was taken away through assimilatory practices of colonisation. Barriers to language

learning are numerous and ever-present: doubt about whether te reo Māori will be useful in their lives, lack of confidence about learning a second language and making time for learning in a daily



context where there are more immediate challenges to be faced.

We found that people who were in a position to adopt a focused approach were the most successful learners. This approach included scanning the

media for te reo Māori content at the right level, carefully planning when to consume these media and finding groups for support. To quote David Ihimaera, one of our participants, “You may not be a beginner, but you’re not a fluent speaker, so you’re trying to gauge where to find a place. And for me, I’ve had a look at different shows on TV and *Ako* [on Māori Television] really fits, it kind of challenges me and I’m learning all the time.” Under the right circumstances, the opportunities of the digital age allow learners to create their own pathways and derive a sense of empowerment from their journey learning te reo Māori.

An important goal of the project was to support Tautoko FM with catering its programming to the needs and wishes of listeners learning te reo Māori. Apart from academic publications, the project resulted in a ‘knowledge base’ for Tautoko FM, containing a report about the project, interview material, relevant academic literature and toolkits on how to do audience research. This toolkit has been used to develop programming and to design research that will benefit the station in the future.

<http://bit.ly/2oqClw4>

The current media and internet landscape provides an array of opportunities for te reo Māori. This allows us to forge our own pathways to learn and use te reo Māori in a modern context. Two of our academics identify some of the opportunities as well as challenges they have discovered through their research.

He maha ngā hua mō te reo Māori i roto i te ao pāpāho me te ao hangarau. Arā noa atu ngā kōwhiringa kia akona, ōtirā kia whakamahia te reo Māori ao pō, pō ao. Kua puta i ngā mahi rangahau a ētahi pūkenga o tēnei whare wānanga he tirohanga ki ētahi painga, ētahi wero anō hoki mō te reo Māori i roto i te ao pāpāho, ao hangarau hoki.

Māmari Stephens

Senior lecturer
School of Law

In the digital age, new English words and phrases seem to be popping into our vocabularies every day. ‘Alternative facts’, ‘liberal snowflake’ and ‘micro-aggressions’ are a few examples of words, phrases and acronyms that get created, picked up, used and then sometimes discarded, all around the English-speaking world.

Word usage can tell us interesting things about any language and the people who create that language. Dictionaries can tell only part of that story. One of the great benefits of the digital environment is that it has become easier to explore how Māori words have been used in the past and how they are being used now. One online resource, the Legal Māori Resource Hub, provides an accessible way to explore not just word definitions but word histories and contexts that can help Māori language users decide *how* to use vocabulary, even beyond the legal sphere.

The Legal Māori Resource Hub is the online environment for the research outputs of the Legal Māori Project I co-lead at the School of Law, including an online version of *He Papakupu Reo Ture: A Dictionary of Māori Legal Terms*. It lets users browse contemporary and historical Māori language texts, look up

word meanings and test new or old Māori words against an enormous bank of texts printed between 1828 and 2009.

At approximately eight million words, the corpus section of the Hub is the



largest known structured corpus of the Māori language. Regardless of expertise, if anyone would like to know about a word in te reo Māori, chances are they will find examples of its use. They can see how the word sits inside a sentence and how its

use might have changed over the course of nearly 200 years. They can then click through to any, or all, of the digitised source texts and often, scans of the original text, to see how the word is used in its full context. If the word is a legal term, they can explore how it appears in the Hub dictionary.

But let a real-life user tell you how she found the increased functionality of the Hub, compared with the printed dictionary (which we still love, of course):

“WOW [...] just wow. I put in ‘utu’ and up popped the different variations of how it’s used. But the coolest thing of all—clicking on the code that indicates the source of the example and then being able to see where it’s come from, not only that, but I can then view the *full* text if I want to or even an image of the text I can pin to Pinterest. Whaaaaaat! That was a researcher’s and reo speaker’s dream come true right there (sorry I’m not a lawyer, LOL). Very proud of all involved and just think it’s wonderful.”

We are now working towards the next edition of the printed dictionary, which will lead to changes in the Hub, and our next development is hoped to be a handy app. Watch this digital wordspace!

<http://bit.ly/2o4Crad>



An eye for an AI

When Mengjie (Meng) Zhang embarked on an academic career, his ambition was “to do one thing and to do it well”. The one thing he opted for proved an astute choice in which he has done exceedingly well and to the benefit of us all.

Meng is a Professor of Computer Science at Victoria and a leading international researcher in artificial intelligence (AI), which has “the very cool idea” of mimicking human thinking, ideas, behaviour and learning ability.

Originally from China, Meng has witnessed a rapid rise in interest in the application of AI since he arrived in New Zealand in 2000.

“Ten years ago, AI was not so useful. Now it can increasingly be applied to the real world, in areas ranging from immunoanalysis [laboratory tests that use antibodies or antigens to test for specific molecules] to Antarctic research.

“Artificial intelligence is still seen as a hard area to work in, but I tell my students that anything new—data mining, big data, data science, cybersecurity or the internet of things—needs AI techniques.”

Victoria is a recognised hub for AI research, with a close-knit team of collaborators that attracts top researchers and PhD students from all over the world.

Meng is a member of the University’s Artificial Intelligence Group (a loose affiliation of staff spread across the School of Biological Sciences, the School of Engineering and Computer Science, and the School of Mathematics and Statistics)

and heads the multidisciplinary Evolutionary Computation Research Group crossing computer science, software engineering, electronic engineering, statistics and biology.

Evolutionary computation is a sub-area of AI based on the theories of biological evolution, including evolutionary algorithms and swarm intelligence, and the group is in the top five internationally in terms of representation in major journals and publications.

“Computer hardware advances, the internet and new techniques have made it possible to solve things we couldn’t have begun to solve 10 years ago,” says Meng.



IMMERSED IN NEW MEDIA

For Dr Taehyun Rhee, a senior lecturer in Victoria's School of Engineering and Computer Science, academic research offers a precious freedom.

"We can imagine and then we can dream some kind of crazy idea and test it," he says.

The idea Taehyun and his team are testing at the moment is to "make a new media", but there is nothing remotely crazy about it.

Taehyun is one of Victoria's large contingent of researchers in the growing field of virtual and augmented reality technology.

He joined the University in 2012 after 16 years as a top researcher at South Korean electronics giant Samsung. He is a founder and leader of Victoria's Computer Graphics Research Lab and established its Computer Graphics programme, which collaborates with industry partners such as Weta Digital.

The new media Taehyun is working toward is an immersive mixed-reality experience via headsets where users can interact with 3D virtual objects seamlessly blended into a 360° panoramic live video background.

It doesn't sound easy to create, and it isn't: challenges include lighting,

shadowing and other aspects of visual quality, as well as achieving high-performance real-time rendering of images.

But such a technology would have many potential applications, says Taehyun, from home entertainment to simulators for doctors, architects, engineers and other professionals.

Taehyun and his team's research is part of a collaboration with the University of Canterbury and universities in South Korea, funded by New Zealand's Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment and South Korea's National Research Foundation.





Shaking up the office

When the Kaikoura earthquake hit in November 2016, many organisations went into emergency mode. Unable to fully access buildings, business processes were decentralised and digital technologies were crucial to ensure business continuity.

Professor Benoit Aubert says the post-earthquake response gave a glimpse of how organisations operate in a digital space and the challenges ahead as our world is increasingly digitised.

Benoit and a team of researchers are investigating the impacts of digital technologies on organisations and their employees.

“One focus area is how digital technologies are changing the traditional boundaries of an organisation,” he says.

“Work can span countries and time zones, and employees work on projects involving multiple organisations.”

These changes have huge repercussions, not only on processes and systems but also on employee interactions.

“For example, expanding boundaries allow for rapid expansion and diversification of the knowledge required by organisations. But they’re also making it harder to retain

knowledge as team members may never meet in person, or may work for the organisation for a limited time.”

Benoit’s team members are interviewing Wellington businesses about their post-earthquake organisational processes at a time when they were forced to operate without traditional premises.

Another group of researchers is honing in on organisations’ increased fluidity of collaboration, which is occurring in response to the highly competitive digital environment.

“High team fluidity isn’t a new concept, but the meaning of team fluidity is evolving,” says team leader Dr Yi-Te Chiu from the School of Information Management.

“Already organisations are creating virtual teams and have employees working across departments, distances and creating temporary, project-specific teams. Some organisations, like Spotify and Weta Digital, are already managing high

fluid teams because they want to meet customer demands on the fly.”

Yi-Te says high fluid teams bring together different perspectives and knowledge that can encourage better, more creative outcomes. But, he warns, we need to manage potential drawbacks.

“With high fluid teams comes a blurring of employees’ roles and responsibilities. They’re characterised by short membership and unstable team structures, which can hinder coordination by limiting opportunities for employees to develop trust and a shared understanding.”

Working with fellow researchers Dr Catherine Caudwell from the School of Design and Dr Mohammad Saud Khan from the School of Management, Yi-Te hopes the research will lead to creating guidelines on how organisations can use information and communication technology to improve team performance.

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Smarter with data

New Zealand schools accumulate a lot of data about students and their community, but many lack access to tools that would help them analyse it.



Associate Professor Ivy Liu

Associate Professor Ivy Liu from the School of Mathematics and Statistics and Dr Louise Starkey from the School of Education are using their expertise to create a solution, working with colleagues from the School of Engineering and Computer Science, the School of Information Management and the School of Government.



Dr Louise Starkey

“Data for schools means information on student achievement, attendance and the views of students and parents. The issue is, they have the information but not the tools to analyse and apply it to inform decisions,” Louise says.

The first stage of the team’s research involved a survey of New Zealand schools in 2016 to give a baseline of how data was being used.

“Schools are required to report data to the Ministry of Education for accountability purposes, which they’re doing, it’s how they use data for their own processes that’s the problem. They feel like little islands. There’s no way schools can individually afford to get something

developed—especially small schools and Māori immersion schools.”

To address the problem, Ivy is exploring the possibility of an interface that will interpret schools’ data in a way that’s easy for principals and management to understand.

“We realise a lot of people don’t see numbers as we do, so we’re hoping a new methodology can be developed that everybody can use,” Ivy says.

Louise says collaborating across disciplines is challenging but useful.

“The University has amazing expertise and we want to put our heads together and do something that’ll be really useful for New Zealand schools.”

Leaders in sign language

Victoria is continuing its leading role in New Zealand Sign Language (NZSL) documentation, research and resource development with the release of a new online learning resource from the University’s Deaf Studies Research Unit (DSRU).

Called Learn NZSL, the course is the first of its kind to provide a large-scale, free interactive and sequential learning experience for NZSL, which is one of New Zealand’s official languages.

“It will be great for introducing people to everyday vocabulary, phrases and conversations in NZSL,” says Learn NZSL project manager and School of Linguistics and Applied Language Studies lecturer Sara Pivac Alexander.

“Approximately 95 percent of Deaf children are born to hearing parents. It can be difficult for hearing parents to access local NZSL classes, so this resource will help them increase their understanding and ability to communicate with their child and the Deaf community.

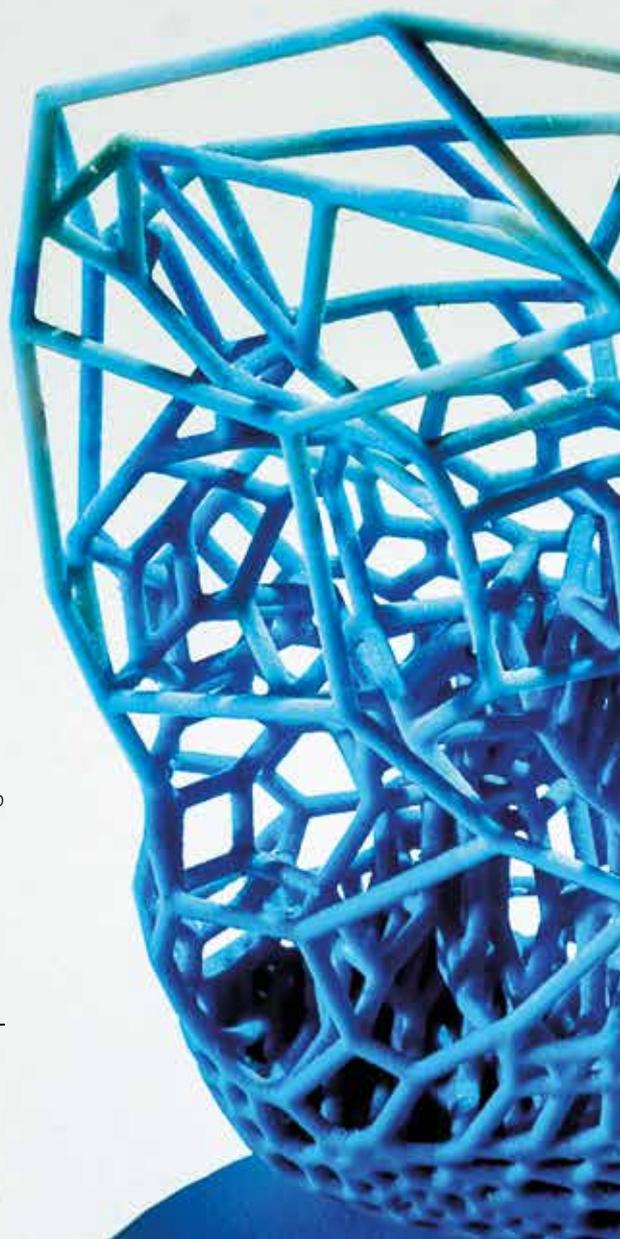
“Since NZSL became an official

language in 2006, demand for sign language learning has increased. However, there is a small pool of NZSL teachers nationwide and the number of classes is limited. Learn NZSL aims to allow New Zealanders to learn from anywhere 24/7.”

The course is split into nine topics, supported by interactive tasks and 660 videos. Award-winning local eLearning company Kineo Asia Pacific has worked in partnership with the DSRU to develop the learning resources.

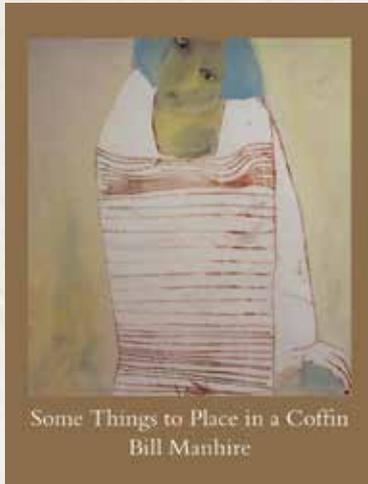
Learn NZSL has been funded by the NZSL board, a Ministry of Social Development advisory group that granted the project \$230,000 and a donation from the TAB Book Project Committee.

www.victoria.ac.nz/dsru



BETWEEN MUSIC AND MEANING

In April, Victoria University Press published two Bill Manhire books: a new poetry collection, *Some Things to Place in a Coffin*, and *Tell Me My Name*, a book with a CD of his riddles set to music by Norman Meehan and sung by Hannah Griffin.



Bill has collaborated with artists throughout his writing career—early on with his friend the painter Ralph Hotere, whose

artwork is on the cover of the new collection.

Bill has done four albums now with Norman, and says that usually the text precedes the music.

“There are lyrics I’ve produced for Norman and Hannah that I wouldn’t otherwise have written. They are very satisfyingly weird, and I’m totally pleased they’re in the world. ‘Warehouse Curtains’, a sort of Elizabethan lyric gone wrong, is one example.”

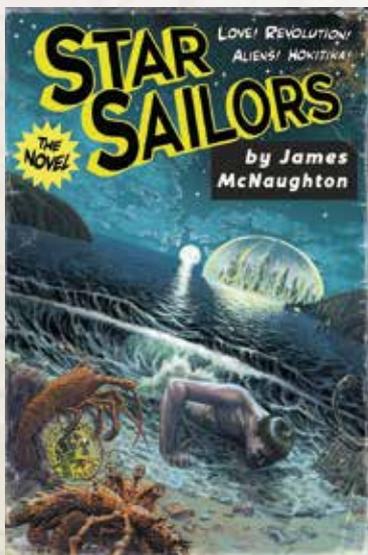
A poem written as a lyric for singer/songwriter Sean Donnelly, better known as SJD, appears in the poetry collection. Sean is working on songs with lyrics written by New Zealand poets.

The musical collaboration is unsurprising, given the importance Bill places on the sound of a poem, which he says is part of an almost physical effect poetry should have on its reader.

“Emily Dickinson says that she knows she’s dealing with poetry when she reads something and it makes her feel so cold no fire can ever warm her. I want a poem to exist in the world of its own unparaphrasable actuality, then to have some resonance beyond itself. I like poems that hover between meaning and music.”

WE NEED TO TALK ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE

Wellington writer James McNaughton’s second novel tackles the very topical subject of climate change. Published by Victoria University Press in March, *Star Sailors* is set in Wellington in 2045 after climate change has devastated the world and New Zealand has become a haven for “elites”.



James says he wanted to write about climate change in a way that wasn’t dry or abstract.

“For a lot of people in first-world countries, climate change and inequality have become bothersome background noise that only sharpen into a sense of guilt and hopelessness when attention is paid to them.”

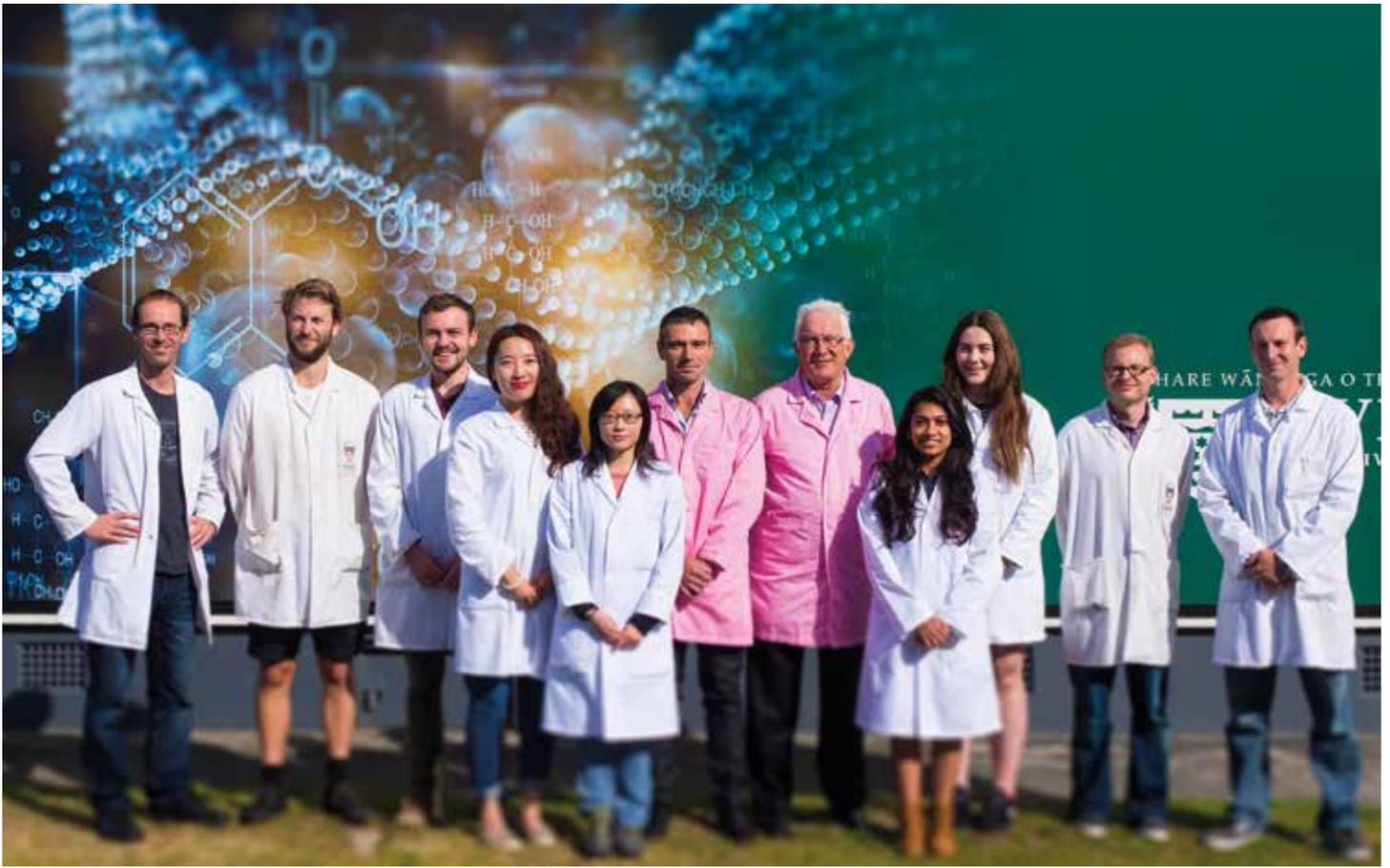
But, James points out, the novel is not a dystopia.

“*Star Sailors* shows the disastrous possible effects of climate change and inequality on a day-to-day basis; however, the prerequisite for any novel

to effectively tackle issues is that it be entertaining. Problems are the beating heart of fiction, so from a writer’s point of view there’s plenty to work with around our slide into catastrophe.”

He says that while the process of writing the novel hasn’t removed his own fears about climate change, it has made him feel less powerless.

“Narrative is how we make sense of time and the world. Stories have power, metaphor is a powerful communicator. Drama and fiction can help raise the issue for everyone and move it forward. As soon as enough people get organised and make their feelings felt, those in power will learn that climate change denial is not the right horse to back.”



Targeting breast cancer

Imagine a future where no one is suffering from breast cancer.

Thanks to a five-year research partnership between the New Zealand Breast Cancer Foundation (NZBCF) and Victoria's Ferrier Research Institute, this could one day be a reality.

The Foundation is giving Ferrier scientists \$500,000 to develop a breast cancer vaccine, following a significant breakthrough by chemists at Ferrier in the area of cancer immunotherapy.

Evangelia Henderson, chief executive of NZBCF says, "We went looking for a research partner that would give us the best shot of moving toward our vision of

zero deaths from breast cancer. We were blown away by the calibre of the Ferrier team, the work it had already done in the exciting field of immunotherapy and vaccines, and the strength of its international partnerships. It was a no-brainer for us."

Immunotherapy focuses on targeting the body's own immune system to fight cancer cells, rather than introducing toxic agents to attack tumours directly. The treatment is well tolerated by the body, has fewer side effects than chemotherapy treatments and may

be more effective in the long term, prompting the leading journal *Science* to describe it as the "breakthrough of the year" in 2013.

Ferrier staff are developing a synthetic cancer vaccine technology that produces a targeted immune response.

Ferrier Institute director Professor Richard Furneaux says the technology is almost there.

"We just need to get it to the stage where it is ready for the next level of testing—human clinical trials".

<http://bit.ly/2n6Ypb2>

Aotearoa's landscapes go global

Victoria's partnership with edX is well underway, with the first massive online open course (MOOC) finished and the second soon to open for enrolment.

More than 5,000 people from across the world registered for Victoria's first offering on the platform, *Antarctica: From Geology to Human History*, which took students on a free virtual fieldtrip to the coldest, driest, windiest continent on the planet.

The University's next specialist offering, and the world's first bicultural MOOC, is *New Zealand/Aotearoa: Landscape as Culture*, presented by Professor Lydia Wevers and Dr Maria Bargh. It will be delivered as a New Zealand series of courses across four distinct MOOCs, and will be subtitled in te reo Māori.

The first of these will explore the depth of culture attached to the unique features of New Zealand's landscapes.

With a distinct bicultural approach, the course will analyse scientific, political and cultural understandings of Aotearoa and challenge students to re-examine the contested understandings of their own landscapes.

The University's last MOOC being developed during 2017 will be led by Professor Chris Marshall, the Diana Unwin Chair in Restorative Justice.

open-courses@vuw.ac.nz

<http://bit.ly/2nrqb3K>

B7



From left: Shayna Valabh, Sydney Brunsmann, Jordan Abrahams, Francesca Logan

Who's in my room?

A friendship formed in their first year at Victoria has continued to flourish for two alumnae, who have since gone on to establish a successful Auckland-based travel gear business.

Science graduate Jordan Abrahams and arts and law graduate Francesca Logan visited the capital to reminisce about their time sharing room B7 at Victoria's Weir House.

They describe their time at the historic hall of residence as the best

of their life—and one that led to them continuing to share a room, by choice, after university.

On a sunny Wellington afternoon, they returned to the place where it all began to meet current residents and first-year students Shayna Valabh,

who is studying science, and Sydney Brunsmann, who is studying law and criminology.

Together, the foursome spent the afternoon talking 'twinshares', travelling and traditions, and traded tips and tricks for navigating university life.

Jordan and Francesca

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

Jordan: It's exciting but also quite freaky. You kind of expect the room to look like it did when you left, but it's all someone else's decorations. I do feel some kind of ownership over the room!

Francesca: Nothing's changed, but it's quite different at the same time.

Are you still friends with your fellow residents?

Jordan: Definitely. We called ourselves a 'wolf pack'—a group of around 13 girls from B Floor. We're all still really close.

Francesca: The highlight was definitely the friends we made. We even flatted together after leaving Weir House, and stuck together through university.

What advice do you have for Sydney and Shayna?

Jordan: Embrace the whole experience—that first year was a real holistic experience. I remember one night we all pulled our mattresses out of our rooms and slept in the hallway, and we had so much fun.

Francesca: It's the smaller, more random activities that stick with you after leaving university. So say yes to all the silly things that happen in the hall.

What would you have said if you'd been told that your roommate at Weir House would one day be your business partner?

Jordan: We probably wouldn't have believed them! On move-in day, we found we had very different personalities, a bit like chalk and cheese.

Francesca: But about three days in we were pretty much best friends. At the end of first year, we spent a summer in Australia together and travelled around Southeast Asia.

Jordan: Our travels led to us starting a business called Elephant Stripes—we sell travel gear that has exciting designs and patterns.

Francesca: It's worked well because we lived together for so long and we know each other so well. When you're sharing a room, you learn to communicate effectively so we have a really open line of communication.

Sydney and Shayna

Why Victoria?

Sydney: I came to Wellington because I've always loved the city. And I came to Victoria because it's known for its excellence in law—so I thought it'd be ideal.

Shayna: I agree—I love Wellington. I moved down from Auckland and I love how compact Wellington is. I chose Weir House because the vibe here is really nice and I was wanting a classic university experience.

Was the room what you were expecting?

Sydney: We weren't initially expecting to be sharing a room, but we both like the room—it's so nice.

Shayna: We're really stoked with the view we have of the city. Plus, our room is at the end of the hallway, so it's more private.

Is this your first time out of home?

Sydney: Yes it is, for both of us. I thought I'd be homesick by now but I'm really loving it.

Shayna: I think we're doing pretty well so far! I'm looking forward to exploring Wellington more.

Thoughts on having the room of people who've gone on to start a business together?

Sydney: Weir House is great because it's really easy to make friends. Everyone is so lovely and the doors are always open.

Shayna: It's really cool to know Jordan and Francesca have stayed so close. It's great to see how complete strangers, who end up in the same room together, go on to big things.

📺 Watch the full story at youtu.be/jNX1C_k-xVE



Surveying working life

A survey of more than 14,000 public sector workers revealed that while many are motivated, resilient and satisfied in their jobs, they also felt underpaid and inadequately supported by their organisation.

The survey, commissioned by the Public Service Association, was conducted by Dr Geoff Plimmer and Dr Clara Cantal from Victoria's Centre for Labour, Employment and Work.

It is estimated to be the biggest survey of working life in New Zealand and Geoff says it's particularly important because it identifies areas where the public sector could improve.

"There's a problem internationally with public sectors being asked to do more with less. Fortunately, New Zealand's public sector leaders seem less insular than in previous years and we're hoping this research will encourage change."

Key to their findings was that "meaningful public service" is

important to more than 75 percent of survey participants. Job satisfaction also rated highly, and nearly 90 percent were motivated to do their best "regardless of any difficulties".

Clara says one of the biggest challenges is a reported lack of support for managers. "Twenty percent of managers in the survey said they received no training on how to manage employees and teams, and 36 percent had only experienced a little. If managers are unsupported in their role, it raises serious questions about their ability to lead."

Other difficulties, according to survey participants, include a lack of innovation at organisational level and uncompensated overtime.

Geoff says, "I'd like to see a real nuts and bolts approach to improving job experiences and operational processes in the public sector. By doing so, we'll better achieve organisations that are adaptable and also efficient. More restructurings and layers of management are not likely to help much."

<http://bit.ly/2nuhSqu>

Dr Geoff Plimmer



Dr Clara Cantal





Karen Morgan

Principal of Taita College
 BEd GDipTchg(Secondary)
 PGDipEd(EdAdminLead) Massey, GDipTeReo
Te Wananga o Raukawa, MSSL Well

What have you been doing since graduating?

Through my life and educational journey, my passion has been to make a difference. Working in education as a teacher and a leader is most rewarding; seeing students succeed and flourish is priceless. It's an absolute honour being a principal. I love my job, and every day I look forward to enabling those around me to be all that they can be. As a leader, I am doing my best to influence positive change. It is a privilege to work alongside such talented students and staff and work in partnership with a positive and supportive community.

What are the highlights of your career?

Some highlights include meeting and working alongside inspirational and talented people, working in different New Zealand cities and overseas and experiencing magic moments every day as a teacher and educational leader.

Have you kept any connections with Victoria?

Absolutely. I keep in touch with my lecturers and colleagues who were also part of my Master's class. As people and leaders, it is important to understand the importance of strong connections and the power of networking, and appreciate the value of collaboration.

What was the most useful thing you learnt at Victoria?

As an educational leader, I made a conscious decision to advance my academic qualifications, knowing that it would enhance my practice and ability to influence positive change. My time at Victoria allowed me to learn, reflect and crystallise my values, leadership capabilities and strategic vision. I am certain that gaining my Master's gave me a distinct advantage when becoming principal of Taita College.

Learning is lifelong. Knowledge is power. Believe in yourself and your ability! Whāia te iti kahurangi, ki te tūohu koe, me he maunga teitei.



Dave Jenkins

Director of GradConnection
 BCom *Well*

Describe your student experience at Victoria.

My student experience at Victoria was fairly typical. I enjoyed the social side of university perhaps more than I should. But isn't that what university is partly about? I could be found either on campus having hot chips in the Student Union Building or off campus at Zebos (now the Southern Cross).

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

After finishing my degree in 2006, I was one of six graduates to enter the Westpac IT Graduate Programme in Wellington. It was a great learning experience for me—I enjoyed the programme and worked with some really smart people. It's actually where I met the three other directors of GradConnection (an online platform that links graduates to employment opportunities), which has been my focus for the last decade. We now have offices in Asia, Australia, South Africa and the United Kingdom and 30 staff globally.

My current role focuses on our growth markets: South Africa and the United Kingdom. I'm less involved in writing code and more involved in working with universities in the United Kingdom, our staff in South Africa and Asia and spending a lot of time in airports!

What are the highlights of your career so far?

One would be GradConnection reaching 10 years of age this year. I'm really proud of the team that we have built—we've grown extensively, expanded internationally, built more technology products, established a strong brand and, as a result, we have great customers across the globe. When I look back to those four guys from Wellington who had never started a business before, I'm glad we persisted and were able to build something I'm proud to be a part of.



Andrew Digby

Science Adviser Kākāpō/Takahē,
Department of Conservation
BA(Hons) Camb, PhD Edin, PhD Well

What have you been doing since graduating?

I've been working in conservation biology as a scientist with the Kākāpō and Takahē Recovery Programmes at Department of Conservation (DOC).

What are the highlights of your career?

Meeting David Attenborough twice in the past year ranks as a career highlight—he's an inspiration to many people, particularly in conservation. Also, playing a part in the biggest kākāpō breeding season on record, when 32 chicks were produced in 2016. It was intense, but unforgettable.

Describe your student experience at Victoria.

I really enjoyed it! I started some courses while working full time and then took the plunge to go full time to do another PhD. Going back to university as a mature student is a completely different experience—not as much partying, but with some work and life experience you're much more organised and the studying is easier!

My favourite experiences were actually in the field, just down the road at Zealandia. It was magical being alone in there at night—in the middle of a city, yet with kiwi in the bush.

What was the most useful thing you learnt at Victoria?

Probably conservation field-work skills. I've always been into the outdoors, but had done little field work prior to starting my PhD. I did lots of kiwi field work during my time at Victoria—both as part of my study and with DOC. It's been invaluable for my current job.

More than anything, I think a PhD teaches you how to learn. This second PhD reinforced that for me. My job is very diverse—I've become familiar with a wide range of technical topics in a short space of time.



Johanna McDavitt

Associate at Simpson Grierson
BA LLB(Hons) Well

What have you been doing since graduating?

I finished at Victoria in 2013 and went to work in the Auckland offices of Simpson Grierson. I am part of their competition and litigation team, where I help clients respond to Commerce Commission and Financial Market Authority investigations.

What are the highlights of your career?

I've only been out of university all of three years, so I'm new enough that just doing my job still feels exciting! But, being recognised as one of the most promising young lawyers in the country by being named the joint winner of the 2016 New Zealand Law Foundation Cleary Prize was pretty massive.

Describe your student experience at Victoria.

It was a great time of personal growth for me. It offered me the chance to meet so many different people and exposed me to different perspectives. I think you could practically fit everyone from my high school into one of Victoria's lecture theatres!

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

I spent most of my time down at the Law School, either in the tutor's office or in the common room. I flatted on Taranaki Street—as did half of the people I knew—so it was really easy to pop over to each other's houses for a drink. There were also so many great cafes and bars in that area!

What kind of student would you say you were?

I was pretty driven and reasonably disciplined, but I made time for the social side of things as well. It's so easy to get caught up with what you are doing academically, so spending time with friends is really good for your mental health.



Finding the light

A garment that lights up and was designed by two alumnae won the 2016 World of Wearable Arts (WOW) People's Choice Award.

Ester, created by Flavia Rose and Ashleigh-Jean King, is made of a durable cane skeleton, 340 LEDs and 1,000 hand-cut paper petals. The pair learnt the techniques needed to create the garment in Victoria School of Design senior lecturer Anne Niemetz's wearable technology course, which is part of the Media Design programme.

"The course set us in motion to take the same materials, methods

and ideas to make a WOW entry. I've always been captivated by things that light up," says Flavia.

The two designers went on to tutor other students taking the wearable technology course, and to work for Weta Workshop and Weta Digital. These days, Ashleigh-Jean is a rotoscope artist at Weta Digital, while Flavia focuses on freelance design work. She is also working on an entry for the 2017 WOW Awards—and while details of the entry are top-secret, she promises it will include lights.

Redevelopment complete

Victoria's new Rutherford House Annexe on the Pipitea campus was officially opened by Prime Minister the Right Honourable Bill English in March.

The opening marked the end of a two-year \$38 million refurbishment programme at the home of Victoria Business School, which has included building a new Commerce Library and redeveloping the ground and mezzanine floors to include new student services, a new Vic Books cafe and an enlarged bookshop.

The lower levels have been designed to be a social area, similar

to the award-winning Hub at Kelburn campus, and include postgraduate study spaces and fit-for-purpose teaching spaces.

"Developments like Rutherford House—in the heart of Wellington's legal, government and business district—enhance our engagement with the capital city, helping us to make the best use of the fertile interface between town, gown and Crown or, put another way, the interface of business, innovation and public policy," says Vice-Chancellor Professor Grant Guilford.





Making headway

It's estimated someone in the world develops Alzheimer's disease every 60 seconds.

Scientists from Victoria's Ferrier Research Institute have been awarded more than \$850,000 to advance a potential treatment for the disease, which leads to an inability to retain new information and difficulty in recognising people and places.

The potential treatment focuses on complex sugars called heparan sulfates.

The team has discovered that some heparan sulfates made in the laboratory have the ability to target an enzyme that creates small toxic compounds in the brain believed to be responsible for Alzheimer's disease.

"Our molecules are targeted against the formation of these compounds called amyloids. Amyloids disrupt the normal function of cells, leading to the progressive memory loss that is characteristic of Alzheimer's disease," explains Ferrier's Professor Peter Tyler.

"No one else in the world is using this heparan sulfate approach."

Peter, alongside Drs Olga Zubkova and Ralf Schwörer and long-time collaborator Professor Jerry Turnbull at the University of Liverpool, has been granted \$392,000 from KiwiNet's PreSeed Accelerator Fund, more than

\$450,000 from the United Kingdom's Alzheimer's Society and a New Zealand Federation of Women's Institutes research grant of \$15,000 for Olga.

The funding will be used to develop drug candidates from the research, which the team has been working on since 2008.

"New drugs that can effectively halt or delay the progression of the disease are urgently needed and this funding is invaluable to progressing our work," says Olga.

If preclinical tests prove successful, the research will progress to clinical trials.

Climate change conference returns

In response to the urgent and potentially life-threatening consequences of climate change on the Pacific, Victoria is holding a second Pacific Climate Change Conference from 21 to 23 February 2018.

Entitled Pacific Ocean—Pacific Climate, the conference will focus on oceans.

Organisers are inviting experts, decision makers and community groups from the Pacific to share knowledge on climate change effects, the challenges they bring and possible solutions.

The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme is sharing hosting duties, further enabling the Programme's

26 member states to be involved.

Pacific Ocean—Pacific Climate is organised by Victoria climate change expert Professor James Renwick, critical accounting lecturer Dr Pala Molisa and Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Pasifika) Hon. Luamanuvao Winnie Laban.

<http://bit.ly/2mJWRni>



From left: Trevor Crawford, Ian McKinnon, John McGrath, Hugh Rennie

Sixties students 50 years on

‘The silent majority’ is a favourite phrase of political pundits in the wake of Brexit and the election of President Trump, but it could equally have been applied to 1960s student politics at Victoria.

In 1965, three friends—Trevor Crawford, John McGrath and Ian McKinnon—decided to run for the Victoria University Student Executive to try to broaden its appeal and relevance to the student population.

Student politics in those days played out against a backdrop of the Vietnam War, and most of the student election campaigns focused on where candidates stood on that issue. Ian, who later served as a chancellor of Victoria, said the three realised this emphasis on broader political movements did not always resonate with all Victoria’s students.

“It was quite the norm then for Victoria students, particularly in Commerce or Law, to study part time while working as clerks in the professions or in the public service. The campaign for us was directed at trying to include those students in the student political process—to give them a say—while, of course, getting ourselves elected!”

In the era before social media electioneering, a tactic for reaching out to such voters was for candidates to head to the ‘horseshoe bar’ of the now demolished Midland Hotel and other favourite haunts of part-time students, many of whom were also involved in the University sports clubs that were reliant on grants from the Students’ Association.

Trevor, John and Ian were duly elected to the Student Executive for 1965–66—tenures running from July to the following June in those days—and were re-elected for the 1966–67 term, with Hugh Rennie (then *Salient* editor) taking Ian’s place in the latter part of the second term.

When Trevor visited Wellington in late 2016, the four who had had two terms involved in student politics took the chance to get together.

“There is always much to say when reflecting on 50 years earlier, as well as on the intervening period,” says Ian.

Experience on the Student Executive clearly left a taste for public service.

Sir John went on to serve as solicitor-general, as a Supreme Court judge and, like Ian, as a former chancellor of Victoria; Ian has also served as deputy mayor of Wellington and is currently a Greater Wellington regional councillor; Hugh Rennie is a leading QC and was recently involved in the Christchurch earthquake enquiries; and Trevor was in business and is a company director in Auckland.

Joining these three in the 1966–67 Student Executive photo are other prominent alumni, including a third Victoria chancellor, Hon. Douglas White QC who is currently president of the Law Commission; the late Michael King, one of New Zealand’s most influential historians; and Sue Markham and David Shand who made their mark in international organisations—Sue at the United Nations and David at the OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development), International Monetary Fund and World Bank.



Lessons on university life

Seventy-two Pasifika students had a taste of university life at Victoria's first academic preparatory camp, held before classes started in Trimester One.

The free three-day camp was a new initiative aimed at preparing first-year Pasifika students for the transition from secondary school to university.

Students attending the camp went to mock lectures and study skills workshops, and stayed in a Victoria hall of residence. They also

met lecturers, support staff, current Pasifika students, leaders and alumni.

Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Pasifika) Hon. Luamanuvao Winnie Laban, who organised the camp, said while the camp emphasised academic resilience, it also considered students' wellbeing and cultural needs.

"The students were able to form friendships and connections to help them during their studies and beyond. We also held two sessions for parents and community members so they could discover how, together with Victoria, they could support their children's journeys."

Change lives, change our world

The Victoria University Foundation has raised more than \$50 million since 2011 and aims to raise the same amount again over the next few years as part of its first major fundraising campaign, Capital Thinking: The Victoria University of Wellington Campaign. The funds raised will go towards research programmes, new initiatives and scholarships.

Their Excellencies the Right Honourable Dame Patsy Reddy and Sir David Gascoigne were guests of honour at the Celebration of Giving dinner in mid-February when the

Kelburn Hub was transformed for a formal dinner. The occasion was a chance to thank donors for their gifts, donations, bequests and scholarships to Victoria over many years, as well as officially announce Victoria's fundraising campaign goal.

Among the transformative gifts donors have made are contributions to the Foundation's First-in-Family Scholarships, which provide financial and mentoring support to help students who are the first in their family to attend university.

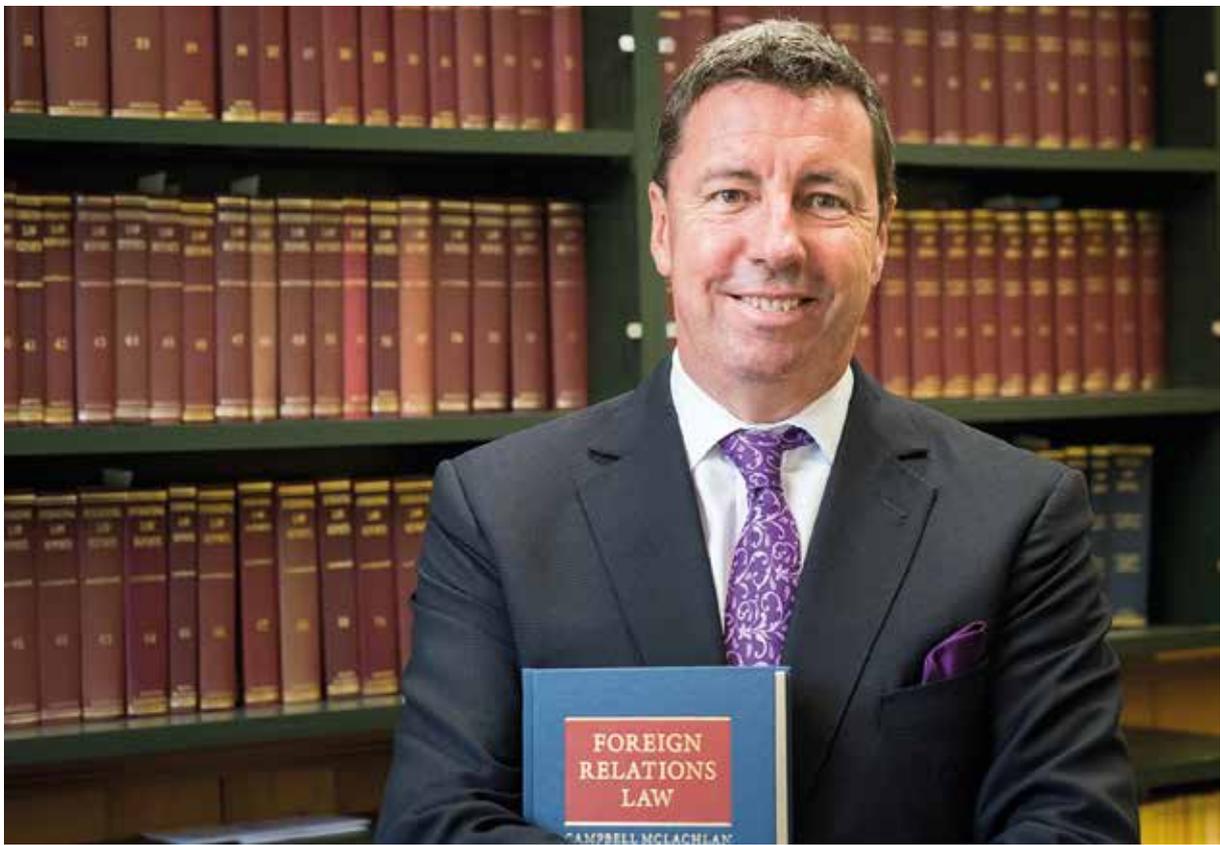
<http://bit.ly/2lFpoyN>

SOUNDS LIKE A GREAT IDEA

What began as a great idea between staff in the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences has become a compelling podcast series investigating the world's most revolutionary ideas.

Called Great Ideas and recorded in collaboration with national broadcaster RNZ, the six podcasts cover the American, French and Russian revolutions, the origins of democracy, Darwin and natural selection, the Protestant Reformation, revolution's impact on art, fashion and literature and the world of languages.

<http://bit.ly/2b4zXVr>



The edges of international law

A study of foreign relations law written by a Victoria University law professor is making a big impact overseas.

Professor Campbell McLachlan's book *Foreign Relations Law* shot to prominence in January when it was the only work of a living author cited by the majority of the United Kingdom (UK) Supreme Court in its Brexit judgment.

Campbell, who is also a Queen's Counsel, has presented on the ideas from the book in seminars around the world and in 2017 is running a special topic course on foreign relations law at Victoria's Law School.

The week before the Brexit judgment, the UK Supreme Court had also relied on his work in an extraordinary case of alleged MI6 complicity in rendition and torture.

"Belhaj was a prominent Libyan dissident during the Gaddafi regime," says Campbell. "He alleges that in 2004, with the complicity and assistance of MI6, he was detained by the CIA at Kuala Lumpur airport, taken to a black site in Thailand, then against his will flown back to Libya, where he was imprisoned and tortured, and not

released until Gaddafi was ousted.

"He claims that this was done knowingly by the British Government, as part of their thaw with Gaddafi during that period. Based on that allegation, Belhaj sued Jack Straw (then UK Foreign Secretary) and MI6.

"Not so much in New Zealand, which may reflect our relative isolation in the world, but in the UK, Canada and Australia, there's been an explosion of case law in this area," he says. "And one of the reasons for that is 9/11."

Since then, and the subsequent 'war on terror', courts in the UK, Canada and Australia have been drawn into a 'search for substitute justice' by those who can't get a hearing in the US.

"The Belhaj case is an example of this. Mr Belhaj claims he just wants to achieve a level of accountability.

"The response of the British Government was to plead the foreign act of state doctrine: that a UK court couldn't even hear the case because it centred on an allegation of complicity

between British officials and the officials of a foreign state. To decide the case, the court would need to sit in judgment on another government's acts, which, they said, contravenes that doctrine."

Belhaj v Straw went all the way to the Supreme Court. Its January 2017 decision, which repeatedly cited Campbell's book, ruled that Belhaj's claims can be sent to trial in an English court.

"In short, the Government's argument was rejected. I argued in the book that the foreign act of state doctrine shouldn't immunise the officials of a home state from their own courts. It's a basic principle of the rule of law that the executive is accountable in its own courts for alleged grave breaches of human rights.

"This decision has a significance well beyond its extraordinary facts, for the law in New Zealand as much as in the UK. The Government cannot expect a free pass in the courts for its acts abroad, simply because it has acted in collusion with foreign states."

Exploring Victoria's heritage

Victoria's creative legacy and contemporary innovation are being brought to life by students.

The University is home to unique objects such as New Zealand author Janet Frame's desk, Victoria alumni and chemist Alan MacDiarmid's Nobel Medal and the works of art displayed across the University and in the Adam Art Gallery. "But, how many of our visitors know that?" asks Chelsea Torrance, a Master's student and web curator for Victoria's Creative Legacy project.

Writing in their own voices, students have produced stories on topics ranging from Victoria's art collection and Māori artefacts to items with special significance for individual schools and programmes. The stories can be accessed through a mobile phone app called STQRY.

"This app is a way of sharing the fascinating

stories that make up the creative and cultural heritage of our university," says Chelsea.

Once the app is downloaded, users find the stories using the in-built map or through pop-ups on their mobile as they pass the location of an object or story.

The Creative Legacy project is an initiative of Victoria's Cultivating Creative Capital theme—one of the University's eight distinctive, multidisciplinary areas of expertise—and aims to showcase and celebrate Victoria's heritage of imagination and innovation.

There will be around 150 stories in the app, each providing an account of the history of creative practice, people and places at Victoria.

Unusual literary treasure on campus

In 1966, founder and editor of New Zealand magazine *Landfall* Charles Brasch gifted the desk he had used for 20 years to Janet Frame.

Janet (1924–2004) has since been recognised as one of the greatest writers in Aotearoa New Zealand.

The desk was altered twice while in her custody: to make it more comfortable, she shortened its legs. In 1968, the tenants leasing her home sawed the desk in half, explaining it would not fit in a room with a double bed. Unfazed by the tenants'

alteration, Janet pushed the pieces together and continued to use it.

In 1989, she gave the desk to neighbours in Levin when she moved to Shannon. The neighbours gifted the desk to Victoria in 1996.

A conservation report was commissioned, and some further repairs were made.

The desk now resides in the International Institute for Modern Letters on the Kelburn campus, where it is considered one of New Zealand's most unusual literary treasures.

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Rita Angus, *Mother Watching TV in Napier*, 1969. Victoria University of Wellington Art Collection, acquired with funds from the Beaglehole Bequest, 2016

The one that almost got away

Many in the Victoria community will fondly remember the late Professor Tim Beaglehole as a key figure in building the University's art collection.

The former Victoria student, history scholar, dean, Council member, Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Chancellor is also remembered by Adam Art Gallery director Christina Barton for describing acclaimed New Zealand artist Rita Angus as "the one that got away", and the absence of an Angus original as a "hole" in the Victoria University of Wellington Art Collection.

In April, that hole was filled when Angus's portrait *Mother Watching TV in Napier* was hung in the University's Hunter building.

The portrait, believed to be Rita Angus's last, was acquired using a

bequest from the Beaglehole family.

Christina says it is fitting that the bequest was used to fill a gap the late professor had frequently lamented.

"Without the bequest, we wouldn't have been in a position to acquire a Rita Angus. Her works rarely enter the market and many are still held by her estate. We feel very honoured to be able to work with the estate to secure this work for the collection, understanding that, in accordance with the artist's wishes, they only occasionally release works to public institutions."

While many people love Angus's landscapes, Christina believes her

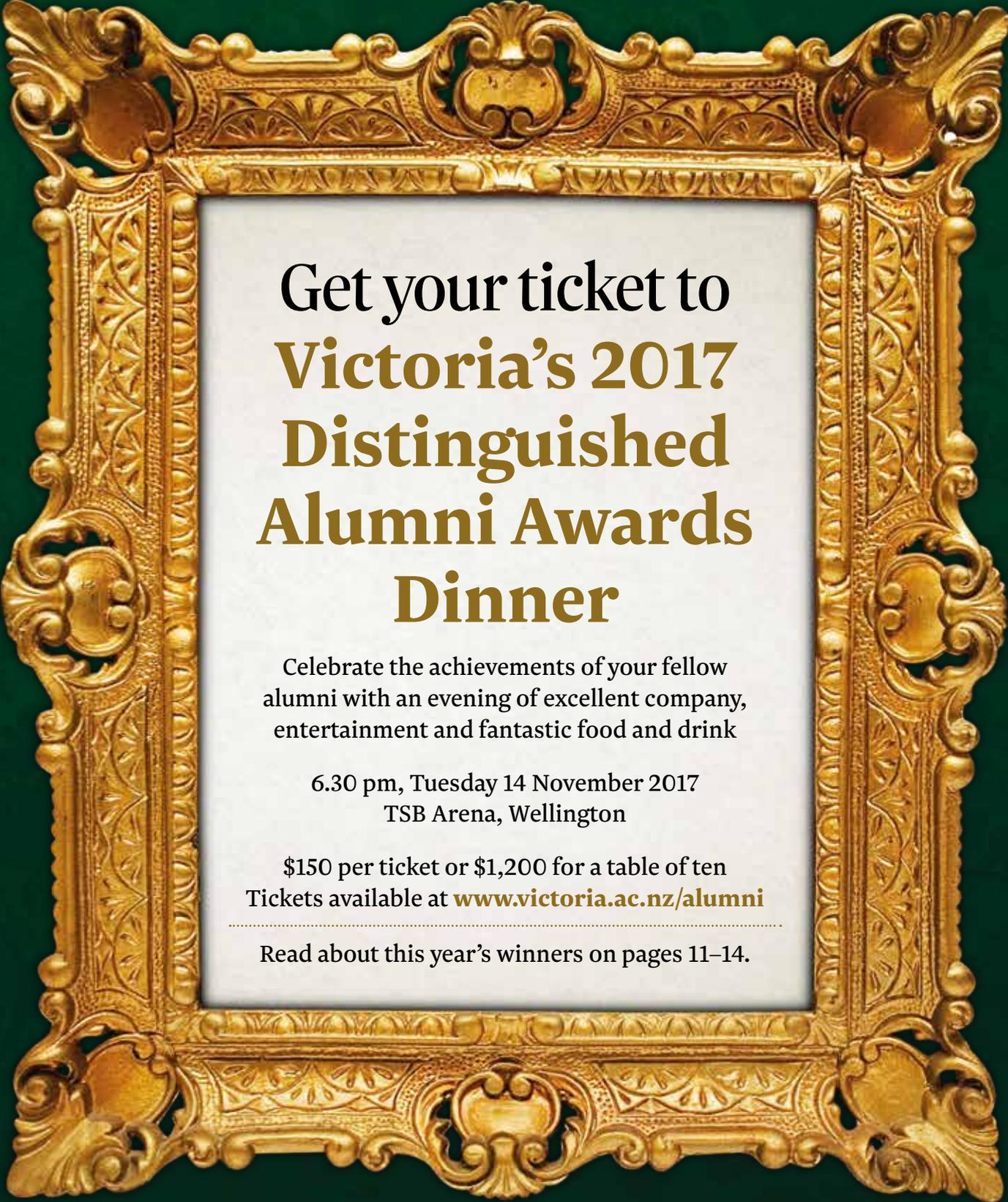
portraits are her real contribution to New Zealand art history.

"She has provided us with images of people from her own social circle and particularly a generation who were increasingly coming to know themselves as New Zealanders. She was the one to really capture that in a lucid way.

"This particular work is a sensitive portrait of her elderly mother quietly watching television, which was then a new medium.

"This acquisition is an important stake in the ground that confirms the national significance of Victoria's Collection."

✉ christina.barton@vuw.ac.nz



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