Welcome to the third issue of Global Eyes, a newsletter project set up by the Victoria International team that supports NZAID scholarship students. We hope that this newsletter will foster closer ties within the NZAID community at Victoria University, as well as share student stories and NZAID’s mission with a wider audience.

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Commonwealth Scholarship anniversary

Commonwealth scholars and VUW staff were invited to Parliament on Friday 4 September to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Commonwealth Scholarship & Fellowship (CSFP). The function was hosted by the Speaker, the Hon. Dr Lockwood Smith, a former Commonwealth scholar himself. More than 150 guests attended the reception, including diplomatic representatives, MFAT CEO John Allen, NZAID staff, CSFP alumni and many current Commonwealth students from institutions all over New Zealand. VUW was well represented, with six of our eight NZAID Commonwealth scholars joining the celebrations. Adella Campbell (Jamaica), Abu Conteh (Sierra Leone) and Truphena Oduol (Kenya) donned traditional outfits for the occasion, and Cherif Aldara (Gambia), Bridget Mohabir (Guyana) and Lois Parkes (Jamaica) dressed up to the nines as well! A publication to mark the 50th anniversary was launched at the end of the reception, and we are proud to announce that Abu Conteh’s PhD research is featured on page 15. Congratulations!

A PDF of this publication is available on the NZVCC website at: www.nzvcc.ac.nz/50Commonwealth

Uruguayan delegation visits School of Government

Between 6 and 17 July, Victoria’s School of Government hosted a delegation from the Uruguayan government, lead by the Vice Directors of the National Budgeting and Planning Bureau and the Civil Service Commission (ONSC). The group of ten Uruguayan policy makers came to get direct insights on different New Zealand management systems, and attended meetings with officials from 14 government departments. The visit was arranged by Rob Laking, Senior Lecturer at the School of Government, and Fabrizio Scrollini, from ONSC-Uruguay. Fabrizio completed a Master of Public Policy degree at Victoria in December 2008, thanks to an NZAID scholarship. A few months after returning home, he started working for the ONSC. This visit is another step in the short but rich history of collaboration between Uruguay and New Zealand regarding state sector reform, in which Victoria’s School of Government has played a key role. Two other Uruguayan NZAID students, Alejandro Milanesi and Diego Gonnet, are currently enrolled in the Master of Public Policy programme and participated in some of this year’s events.

Diego Gonnet
Two Victoria University NZAID students were fortunate enough to be part of the Pacific Leadership training course that was held in Wellington from 8 to 10 July 2009. Amton Mwaraksurmes of Vanuatu and Riyad Mucadam of the Marshall Islands joined 13 other Pacific Island students in a three-day intensive leadership workshop that was facilitated by lecturers of Unitech in Auckland.

The workshop covered important topics on leadership, traditional leadership, leadership models, leadership skills, mentoring skills, and issues relating to Pacific leadership. This workshop was the first, with two more workshops and other specific assignments and tasks to be completed towards a ‘Certificate in Pacific Leadership’ (CPL) award. The CPL course emphasises personal leadership development and provides the participants with practical skills and capabilities relevant to the Pacific context.

“I liked the course because I feel it is very much relevant to my work context and I feel more confident with myself as a leader”, said Amton Mwaraksurmes. “The workshop was a great introduction to reflect about past experiences, drawing lessons that were relevant to leadership issues, and hearing the viewpoints of this generation of educated islanders about Pacific regional leadership issues. I’m looking forward to interaction and less homework”, said Riyad.

Participants at this workshop were also fortunate to be joined by guests from Victoria University including Dona Ruru, another Victoria NZAID student, who has since completed his PhD and returned to Fiji; VILP Manager Amber Walters, and CEEP Programme Advisor Maciu Raivoka. The guests shared individual leadership stories that truly inspired the participants. Both Amton and Riyad look forward to completing the CPL program over the next 18 months.

Amton Mwaraksurmes

Spring Fever in Wellington

Springtime in Wellington is often a baffling experience; summer wrestles to take over from winter and the result is a season of warmth, cold, sun, rain and of course wind! To celebrate the arrival of spring, NZAID Contract Manager Inge De Leeuw and NZAID Coordinator Julia Nicholson organised a Spring Fever Party on Saturday 12 September at Aro Valley Community Hall, which was attended by more than 100 NZAID students and their families. The children of NZAIDers spent the afternoon drawing pictures while mums and dads nibbled on typical New Zealand springtime snacks and perused information about “what’s on” in Wellington during the spring months.

The kids then entered their drawings into a competition which was judged by the entire group. Current students brought along their favourite photos of New Zealand and their homecountry to enter in a photo competition. Congratulations to Matias Mastrangelo & Guillermmina Ruiz from Argentina and the Mambo family from Papua New Guinea for taking out the top prizes! The Spring Fever Party proved to be an entertaining and relaxing afternoon for our hardworking students during this busy time of year. Thanks again to all those who braved the rain to join us!
For our second fieldwork profile, **Samnang Chum**, who is in his final year of a Master in Development Studies, describes his research trip to Cambodia earlier this year. His thesis “Non Governmental Organisation (NGO) Coordination and the Changing Aid Environment in Cambodia: Challenges and Opportunities” investigates the aid situation in Cambodia; specifically how the large amount of aid there has affected the actual distribution of aid to the people and places that need it the most.

“I conducted my fieldwork in Cambodia between March and June this year. The objective of my study was to investigate the effectiveness of NGO coordination in Cambodia. My in-country research involved participant observation and a series of semi-structured interviews. The interviewees included seven senior government officials, eleven senior donor managers and advisors, and ten NGO executive directors and managers.

Cambodia is one of the poorest countries in South East Asia and is heavily dependant on aid. Historically, NGOs have operated in Cambodia since the collapse of the Khmer Rouge regime in 1979. Since the Paris Peace Accord Agreement was signed by the Cambodian leaders in 1991, the number of NGOs has grown rapidly and played a pivotal role in delivering public services and advocacy. There has been concern, however, over their coordination and overall effectiveness in the aid delivery process. In an effort to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of aid delivery, aid mechanisms have actually become complex and cumbersome.

I am a former government official and worked for the Council for the Development of Cambodia for more than six years. This lent me some research advantages, including easy access to the wide range of information related to my research, and being able to get interviews with the most relevant people. While still in New Zealand, I was able to communicate with these people and organize appointments and interview times. By having the same appearance, skin colour, language and understanding of the socio-cultural as well as political context, I managed to build a strong partnership with my key interviewees, especially Khmer interviewees. I was comfortable to have a good conversation while they provided the information from their heart and soul. Before interviewing, I believe as a researcher, one must be ready and organized in terms of location, time, dress code, and a prepared set of questions.

The results of my research are expected to contribute to the enhancement of NGO coordination efforts and aid coordination mechanisms in Cambodia. Thus, the effectiveness of development work and therefore poverty reduction in Cambodia will hopefully be accelerated. I am now half way through completing my thesis and expect to finish and submit the final report in January 2010. I am planning to present my findings at the sixth annual Graduate Conference on 28 October 2009 at Auckland University and the NZ Postgraduate Conference on 20-21 November 2009 at Victoria University.”

**Samnang Chum**

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**Student Profile**

Solomon Islander **Patrick Daudau** is currently completing his Master in Education. He aims to become a policy analyst in the education sector to ensure that effective policies are implemented for the future generations of his country. Patrick chose to study at Victoria University because of its reputation as a world-renowned university that attracts a diverse range of academics and students who have links with various institutions both in the Pacific region and around the globe.

Patrick has had the privilege of joining the Pacific Leadership Cluster movement at Victoria University. For him, sharing his experiences whilst learning from other students from the Pacific and Asia region has been powerful and enriching. This opportunity has allowed Patrick to publish an article in their recent book, attend and present papers at various conferences and meet other NZAID scholars and lecturers.

Patrick enjoys life with his family in Wellington but will never forget the unpredictable and windy weather! He advises new students to make use of all opportunities and be purposeful in both their academic and social life. He would also like to thank NZAID for this prestigious scholarship and the opportunity to contribute to positive educational advancement and leadership development.

**Patrick Daudau & Anna Kerr**
In Focus

Before starting a Master of Public Policy at VUW this year, Indonesian NZAID student Astrid Kartika was involved in disaster relief efforts in the Indonesian regions worst hit by the 2004 tsunami. Astrid had the opportunity on 2 July 2009 to co-present the seminar ‘Disaster, disengagement, and hope - An Indonesian perspective on response to the Sumatran tsunami and earthquake” at the School of Government. We’ve asked Astrid to share some of her experiences.

“Helping the poor and disadvantaged is one of my passions in life, besides raising my three lovely daughters. This was my main reason for leaving my previous work in a sophisticated hospital in Jogjakarta as a General Practitioner (GP) and to help disaster relief in Aceh and Nias. After a year working with the WHO, I joined the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) to serve as a Health Advisor and assist the Government of Indonesia to develop and implement health policies and programs in post-disaster areas of Aceh and Nias. With this position, I had a huge opportunity to fulfil my desire in helping the poor and the needy in these regions.

One interesting thing in disaster relief is dealing with pre-disaster and post-disaster problems e.g. deconstructions that are exacerbating pre-disaster issues. If you look at it positively, however, the disaster can be seen as a breakthrough and a blessing in disguise. Disaster could also bring double benefit to overcome both problems. It can be a wake-up call for the government and international donors to rectify or to totally change the approach of development, as well as a calling for funding to accelerate development in post-disaster areas. Hence, this can be a great opportunity to rebuild back better the region.

The devastation caused by the earthquake and tsunami in Aceh and Nias was unprecedented, and it was hardly imaginable that we could do much to help them. Luckily, the aid efforts during the emergency relief and recovery process, both from national and international partners, were also extraordinary. The establishment of the Indonesian Agency for Rehabilitation and Reconstruction of Aceh Nias (BRR Aceh Nias) was a milestone in the history of the recovery program in Aceh and Nias. Without the presence of the agency, the success of coordinating and implementing the extraordinary job of rehabilitation and reconstruction in Aceh and Nias would be near impossible. With the slogan “build back better”, Aceh and Nias are now much better than they were before the disaster. The people in Aceh are now enjoying good airports and seaports, sophisticated and modern hospitals, good schools, decent roads and other infrastructure, and so forth. The challenge is, however, to ensure sustainability of the development. Poverty and limited capacity of local governments are prominent backgrounds that threaten the sustainability of recovery results.

The issue of sustainability is a key message that I’ve delivered in the international conferences I have attended, including the one that I participated in at the University of Canterbury last year (iREC 2008). During that trip I managed to visit Wellington and searched for an opportunity to apply for a scholarship at VUW. What I knew at that time was that the School of Government has “health policy” as one of the courses offered and this was the one that really attracted me. I was very interested to learn what the perspective of government is in setting up health policy in relation to other public policy areas such as economic and social policy. My experiences with the WHO and the UNDP have taught me a lot, yet understanding the whole knowledge and practices from developed countries such as New Zealand will really help my skills and my considerations in the future.

I am so fortunate that the School of Government accommodates my learning process, and provides me with lots of opportunities to gain and share my knowledge. On 2 July, 2009 I got to share my experiences in building a better health system in a post-disaster area during a seminar held by SOG (many thanks to Rob Laking). This seminar attracted the NZ-MCDEM (Ministry of Civil Defence and Emergency Management) and asked me (and my colleague, Heracles Lang) to present a further discussion and presentation at MCDEM. I would happily participate in any other occasion or discussion to share my experiences. After finishing my study I’d like to continue my work in assisting the health development in poor regions—not necessarily post-disaster areas. However, if there is a call to fly to another post-disaster area, I will be ready!”

Astrid Kartika

Te Puni ball

Te Puni Village hostel held its annual ball on 25 July. The theme was “Titanic” and the location Bodega bar in central Wellington. The night involved dancing, music and good times for all. The ball was attended by some of the Samoan NZAID undergraduate students who live at Te Puni Village. They were all decked out in gorgeous dresses and suits and reported having an enjoyable night out!
In February 2008 Isabella Rovo moved from Brasilia, the capital of Brazil, to Wellington with her husband Rogerio Dias and their two sons Gabriel and Andre. Rogerio is a NZAID student completing his Master in Tourism Management. We asked Isabella a few questions about the transition to life here and how she has made the most of her time in Wellington.

**How did you feel about moving to New Zealand?**

I was excited about the new experience for the whole family as we would get the chance to learn a second language, get to know a different culture, and make new friends. At the same time I was worried about the cold weather and the distance from our relatives for two years. Settling into life here was actually easier than I expected. Rogerio came first to check out accommodation possibilities and he found a sweet house at Everton Hall, close to the centre, to the university and to the boys' schools. With the well located house we decided not to buy a car, which was really good for the family budget and fitness as well. We were especially lucky to choose Wellington, a perfect sized city, safe, with many beautiful places to visit and great cultural activities. Apart from the wind, it's an amazing place to live.

**Did connecting to the community here happen easily?**

My first contact with the Brazilian community came through Wellington Batucada, a local percussion group inspired by Brazilian rhythms founded six years ago by a group of Kiwis. There I met not only Brazilians (the group has around 100 members and only 6 Brazilians) but many locals sensitive to our music. From this contact I invited some guys and put together the band Brazealand and later Roda de Samba.

The Brazilian Studies Programme at Victoria University and the Embassy of Brazil were two other great points of connection. They promoted some speeches and seminars about Brazil in which I took part and they also supported the Live Brazil Festival we are promoting.

**What activities are you currently involved in?**

I have three parallel activities going on at the moment. I'm part of two Brazilian bands, I integrate the coordinating team of “Live Brazil Festival” to be held in October, and I teach Portuguese for private students.

One of the bands is Brazealand that presents a variety of traditional Brazilian rhythms and dances, including special costumes, dances and themed decoration. We will be playing at the Botanic Gardens Magic Concert on 11th January 2010.

The other band is Roda de Samba that plays around a bar table, recreating the old samba and bossa nova atmosphere. The Live Brazil Festival is a project conceived to showcase the cultural diversity of our country, bringing together Brazilian inspired local bands, handicrafts, films, photography, workshops and typical cuisine. We are also bringing the renowned group "Tambolele" from Brazil to headline the musical program and undertake workshops on traditional instrument building, rhythms and body movement.

About private classes, I was asked by some Kiwis if I would be able to teach Portuguese. Most of them were previously engaged with Brazilian Culture though music, Capoeira, partners or a trip. I have a Bachelor in teaching arts and I thought it could be a good challenge to develop my teaching skills and, this could sound funny, but it also helped to improve my English – and my Portuguese! I'm happy to see the interest for Portuguese and for Brazilian culture in general.

**How do you spend your remaining free time?**

I can say Te papa and the Botanic Gardens are my two favorite places to go. They are close to our place and always have something new for us to see. The waterfront is another good option for a walk with the family on a sunny day, but I reckon gathering friends, surrounded by good food and music is a perfect combination for free time.

**How it feels to be the partner of a NZAID scholar**

I'm very, very thankful for the opportunity to be part of the NZAID scholarship programme. I think it's fantastic to have New Zealand promoting this kind of knowledge exchange between many different countries, and especially bringing the international student's families which allows a greater cultural exchange. Our boys are very happy to be here. Rogerio is studying hard and doing his best on his Master and I believe I'm contributing with my small part by sharing Brazilian culture.

Lucilla Brunt & Isabella Rovo

www.brazealand.blogspot.com; www.rodadesambanz.blogspot.com; www.livebrazil2009.blogspot.com
Turning the page on poverty

Buy a book and help to change the world! This simple mantra is the founding concept of the organisation Good Books, which donates all of its profits to Oxfam to help fight poverty and social injustice. Good Books’ work is voluntary and its services and equipment are donated, yet its prices remain amongst the lowest on the market. Good Books offers free worldwide delivery. Every cent of their retail profit goes to funding for community projects such as the provision of clean water and sanitation, the development of sustainable agriculture and access to education in locations such as Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu, the Solomon Islands and Tanzania. Consumer power has never made more of an impact than it has today, so make your choice count and multiply the benefits of your literary purchases by visiting www.goodbooks.co.nz.

Anna Ker

Introducing ...Te Ropu Āwhina

Āwhina is about people and collective success. The kaupapa of Āwhina is to produce Maori and Pacific science, engineering, architecture and design professionals who will go on to contribute to the development of their communities. Some of this work includes outreach programmes where Āwhina students and staff go out to schools and communities to educate whānau and rangatahi about tertiary education in the Āwhina disciplines. Āwhina is not seen as a service but as a Whānau and is inclusive, which is shown in the many diverse people and cultures involved. This year Āwhina celebrated its 10th birthday and the successes they have had over those ten years. 200 guests attended and it was a night of many laughs and entertainment. It also showed that Āwhina has come a long way in a short amount of time.

Contact: teropuawhina@gmail.com

Superb Kiwifruit Cake

Ingredients

- 125 g (4 oz) butter, softened
- 1 cup sugar
- 2 large eggs
- 1 cup flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 4 green Kiwifruit
- 1 tablespoon sugar, extra
- 1 tablespoon icing sugar (confectioners’ / powdered) sugar

Directions

1. Grease a 20 cm (8 in), loose-based cake pan and lightly dust with flour. Pre-heat the oven to 180°C (350°F)
2. Cream the butter and sugar with an electric beater for 3 minutes. Add the eggs and beat well. Sift in the flour and baking powder, stir to combine then beat on high speed for about 2 minutes, until well combined
3. Spread the batter into the prepared cake pan. Peel and quarter the green Kiwifruit. Cut each quarter in half and dot evenly over the batter. Sprinkle the fruit with the extra tablespoon of sugar
4. Bake for about 50 minutes, until a skewer inserted in the centre comes out clean. Cool for 10 minutes before removing from the pan. When cool, the cake can be stored in an airtight container. Serve dusted with icing sugar and cut in wedges.

Serve as a dessert or with coffee
Serves 8

Source: Jan Bilton, author of the New Zealand Kiwifruit Cookbook

Welcome and goodbye

No new NZAID students arrived in the period from July to September but the NZAID family at VUW was able to welcome its youngest member, Latoya Freuan, newborn daughter of Samoan scholar Patricia Freuan. Congratulations to Patricia and her family! Unfortunately several people have also recently returned home after completing their studies. We wish Thi Cam Le Nguyen (Vietnam), Selenge Nergui (Mongolia) and Melany Timmango (Philippines) all the best for the future and hope they will keep in touch!