

# Victorious

MAGAZINE FOR FRIENDS AND ALUMNI OF VICTORIA UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON

Spring 2002



**Politics in New Zealand**  
*Victoria takes centre stage*

**Space man**  
*Creating black holes in the lab*

**The secret life of flowers**  
*Floral reproductive tricks*

**Happy Birthday**  
**Old-Boys—University**  
*100 years of rugby at Victoria*

**Pacific colour**  
*The Adam Art Gallery*  
*hots up for summer*

**Victoria**

UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON

*Te Whare Wānanga  
o te Ūpoko o te Ika a Māui*



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# Super Mario and team

By Fiona Acheson,  
Industry New Zealand.

**The soccer World Cup placed a group of Victoria computer science graduates on the world map for video gaming.**

Saatchi & Saatchi, who were awarded the contract to promote Adidas' sponsorship of the tournament, decided to make a video game the main feature of the Adidas website. It was to Wellington company Sidhe (pronounced 'she') Interactive that they turned.

The game, *Football Fever*, was the biggest budget free game ever put forward on the web—a milestone that has raised the profile of Sidhe and New Zealand's video gaming production industry internationally.

Five years ago Sidhe's managing director, Mario Wynands, shocked his friends and family by giving up his successful management consulting career to establish a video game development company. Only three years out from having graduated with computer science degrees from Victoria, Mario, with co-founder and co-graduate Tyrone McAuley, took the plunge and purchased the \$45,000 worth of software and hardware needed.

"The education we had at Victoria gave us the building blocks to enter the complexity of video game production, plus we'd had the benefit of a couple of years in the 'real world'—it was time to stop dreaming and do it."

Sidhe has since grown from a garage enterprise to New Zealand's biggest video game development company employing 21 staff, a quarter of whom are Victoria graduates. They now hold a Playstation games development license from Sony, a relatively rare commodity, and have built an international reputation for quality.

A finalist in this year's Wellington Gold Awards, Sidhe demands a minimum of a computer science degree from all its programmer employees.

Mario believes this attention to quality is paying off. He recently attended the E3 annual Electronic Entertainment Expo in Los Angeles, the biggest expo of its kind in the world. "They were blown away by the quality of our artwork, and how quickly we can produce a game. We can produce software that the Americans make but at half the cost."

Video games are a massive business worldwide. In the US, the video games industry is now worth more than the film industry, with retail sales reaching \$9.4 billion last year. While the games development industry is small in New Zealand, the Government has recently recognised the potential for it to develop into a multi-million dollar export activity. Industry New Zealand has prepared a scoping study on the sector, and has been the driving force behind the development of a New Zealand Game Developers Association.

Mario, who is the association's president, is keen to work with universities and design schools so students have the options in courses related to game development. "Sidhe is keen to push the industry forward as well as grow our own company. New Zealand's strength is the talent pool here, especially in the number and quality of its computer science graduates."

While Mario's day-to-day focus is on delivering the next game on time, the rapid pace of change in the video game market provides plenty of scope for new dreams.

*The Vic graduates of "Team Sidhe" joined by two characters from Football Fever. Back: Mario Wynands, Tyrone McAuley. Front: Peter Curry, Dan Smart, Daniel Sewell (on the ball), Lloyd Weehuizen.*

Contact: Tel +64-4-471 2638  
Email [Mario@sidhe.co.nz](mailto:Mario@sidhe.co.nz)

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## From the Vice-Chancellor

It was great to see responses to our *Victorious* survey come flooding in. If you were one of the 904 alumni and friends who shared their views—thank you. From Summer 2003 you'll see some changes to this, our premier publication for alumni and friends.

Student enrolments continue to gather momentum. By year-end we will have around 16,500 students, an increase of 2500 in just two years. Naturally all this expansion means our Kelburn and downtown campuses are fully occupied. This Summer we will undertake a seismic upgrade of the Rankine Brown building which will also provide more space, and we are developing an attractive street frontage and access to the Quad via the Easterfield Building.

The Government-funded Centre of Research Excellence, the MacDiarmid Institute for Advanced Materials and Nanotechnology, received three-year operational funding of \$13.39m and a one-off \$9.8m capital grant. This allows us and our partner institutions to develop rapidly and invest in this significant research area.

In September we joined with top Australian universities and the New Zealand and Australian governments in the formation of the Australian and New Zealand School of Government. This was announced by the Prime Minister, Rt Hon Helen Clark, at the launch of our School of Government. The Victoria Management School has also been established, with both located at Rutherford House.

Broader changes in the tertiary sector are set to take effect from 2003 and I will keep you informed of their impacts on Victoria University.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stuart N McCutcheon', written over a horizontal line.

Stuart N McCutcheon

*Victorious* is published three times a year by Victoria University of Wellington, Te Whare Wānanga o te Ūpoko o te Ika a Māui, PO Box 600, Wellington, New Zealand.

[www.vuw.ac.nz](http://www.vuw.ac.nz) To notify a change of address: Tel +64-4-463 5128, Fax +64-4-463 5108.

E-mail [alumni-relations@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:alumni-relations@vuw.ac.nz) Editorial team: Juliet Montague, Antony Paltridge, Jude Urlich, Melanie MacDiarmid. Photographs (unless otherwise credited): Image Services, Victoria University of Wellington.

Cover photo: Political Science staff are joined by Honours students from Victoria's political intern programme at the Beehive.

# “Upping the ante” on crime

The wisdom of establishing a Crime and Justice Research Centre was amply illustrated by the controversy that surrounded its launch, says Vice-Chancellor Stuart McCutcheon.

At the launch in August, Governor-General Dame Silvia Cartwright heaped praise on the University’s criminologists, saying there was a need for leadership in issues of crime and justice.

Selective reporting of her speech led to public criticism. She had clearly stated that one of the sentencing principles that Judges refer to, is that while there was a role for prison in providing protection for the public, it often created people who were more efficient criminals on their release.

Stuart says Dame Silvia’s comments were grossly misrepresented. “The reaction to Dame Silvia’s comments showed clearly the wisdom of the decision to establish the Centre—the need for a voice of reason and for neutral and objective analysis in the increasingly emotive debate about the origin of and solutions to crime.”

About 80 people, including Chief District Court Judge David Carruthers, Justice Minister Phil Goff, and Deputy Secretary for Justice, Dr Warren Young, attended the launch.

In August international expert Philip Stenning was appointed Professor of Criminology. Philip, from the University of Toronto, will take up his position in January.



Dame Silvia Cartwright launches the Crime and Justice Research Centre.

## Visa victorious



Scholarship recipients with June McCabe (far left) WestpacTrust, and Philip McCabe Alumni Association President (centre).

Graduates, staff and students who want to support the University’s mission to be a progressive dynamic centre for research can offer their practical help by applying for and using the newly improved Alumni Association Visa card.

The Alumni Association Visa is a unique credit card that offers all the usual benefits of a Visa card, including a reward programme, and also generates a donation from WestpacTrust to the Alumni Association at no extra cost to you.

The Association uses these donations to fund annual postgraduate scholarships that

focus on research outcomes. In 2002 the Association funded six scholarships worth a total of \$14,000. The topics included: an examination of the genetic variation in tuatara, a dissertation on how the body image of fashion models influences the attitudes and purchasing behaviour of 9-12 year old females, and a social history research essay on Wellington’s red-light district.

Graduates can obtain an application form for the Alumni Association Visa from WestpacTrust on 0800 557 600 or the Alumni Association: Tel +64-4-463 5218; E-mail [alumni-association@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:alumni-association@vuw.ac.nz)

## Education a winner



When Liz Albert was made redundant from her supervisor’s job at James Smiths Department store she embarked on what she thought would be a short period of retraining.

That was 1996 and six years later she’s completed a BA in Māori Studies and a BCA in public policy and Māori business and is at work on her Honours degree.

Originally she studied commerce, but

then discovered public policy and women’s issues and her life “took a complete swing”.

Liz’s efforts were recognised earlier this year when the Ministry of Women’s Affairs awarded her a Māori women’s scholarship worth \$3,500 to help her pay for this year’s study.

“I had been at James Smiths for about 10 years and I realised that if I wanted to get a job with a similar salary I would have to up-skill.”

Liz, who is of Ngāti Konohi, Rongowhaakata, Ngāti Porou and Ngāi Tahu descent, helped to research resource management for a sand mining operation close to her marae, Whangara Marae, in Gisborne.

Education is vital for Māori, says Liz. “You only have to look at the poor statistics for education and employment. I believe education is the only way we can turn some of them around.”

# There's no election without Vic

While Labour took the most votes in this year's General Election, it was Victoria that took top honours in organising election debates, providing commentary and then helping the newly elected MPs settle into their jobs.

Throughout the campaign, academics from the Political Science and International Relations programme were conspicuous in all sections of the media—with participation beyond even that of previous elections.

And added to that, Victoria's parliamentary graduates continue to grow with United Future list MP Gordon Copeland and Labour Otaki MP Darren Hughes, joining alumni such as Labour Hutt South MP Trevor Mallard, National leader and Clutha-Southland MP Bill English, National Rangitikei MP Simon Power and National list MPs Roger Sowry and Georgina te Heuheu and Green list MP Sue Kedgley.

Victoria hosted three leaders' debates in the Hunter Building attended by the leaders of all the parties in Parliament and recorded for Radio New Zealand. Students from Political Science posed the questions.

As well, the Association of Victoria University Women organised a forum attended by candidates Gill Boddy-Greer, Marian Hobbs, Glenda Hughes, Sue Kedgley, Hekia Parata and Sue Wood.

Associate Professor Nigel Roberts from Political Science was again highly visible as a presenter on TVOne's election night 2002 special while Senior Lecturer Tim Bale was election night commentator on Radio New Zealand.

Tim, fellow political scientist Jon Johansson, and Stephen Levine, Head of the School of History, Philosophy, Political Science & International Relations, wrote several commentaries for the *New Zealand Herald*, the *Sunday Star-Times* and *The Dominion Post* as well as being regularly interviewed on radio and television.

As Victoria is the home for the New Zealand Political Change Project, Nigel released some of the project's survey results on air just after the polls closed. The results were almost a perfect match for the actual results. Stephen says the record of participation by four academics from one



*Politics lecturers and interns meet MPs in Parliament's debating chamber.*

programme in one School at one University showed the "very high regard and reputation" that staff enjoyed among the media.

The snap election also provided an insight for Political Science Honours students on the University's unique parliamentary intern programme, with one intern being offered a place on a party's list. In the days after the election, another observed staff weeping as the MP they worked for was farewelled after losing his seat, while two students were offered jobs.

In late August, Victoria staff organised a post-election conference hosted by Speaker the Hon Jonathan Hunt at Parliament and attended by more than 100 people.

And finally as the newly elected MPs were trying to find their way around Parliament, Dean of Law and Pro Vice-Chancellor Professor Matthew Palmer, and law lecturer Caroline Morris ran a three-hour session on the Constitution and Government, from the perspectives of both principle and practice, attended by about 30 new MPs. The session was well received and Matthew says staff are now thinking about topics for further sessions. There has also been interest from some parties for follow-up sessions tailored to their individual caucus needs.

## Election a boon for student



While this year's snap General Election saw many MPs lose their seats, it proved a boon for student James Coyle who was doing an internship at Parliament—he got a job.

Earlier this year James was assigned to work in the office of United Future MP Peter Dunne. But the turn of television's "worm", which catapulted the party into the public spotlight, also meant its leader needed to hire a lot more staff and he turned to James, who will now finish his degree part-time.

The Honours internship programme began in 2000 and 18 students are involved this year.

Students carry out a range of work for MPs, from writing speeches or articles, replying to correspondence, and answering telephones through to examining policy options and in some cases even drafting Member's bills.

# Space man

**Mathematician Dr Matt Visser has a black hole on his desk that cannot be blamed for the loss of pens, keys, spare change or paperclips.**

Matt has returned from 24 years in the United States to take up a position in the School of Mathematical and Computing Sciences. He is continuing his pursuit of knowledge that stretches our understanding of time and space—black holes, cosmology, and quantum gravity.

“Although to many people these concepts seem like scientific fantasy, research being carried out right now is moving us closer to understanding the properties of phenomena such as black holes, intense gravity fields, and the Big Bang, that might shed light on both the origin and ultimate fate of our universe,” he says.

Matt and his colleagues are working to create what they call an “analog” to a black hole. Effectively they are developing a way of physically replicating the behaviour of a black hole in a laboratory setting.

“Doing experiments with real gravity is extremely difficult; and doing experiments with real black holes is possibly inadvisable, so a lot of work has recently gone into the idea of mimicking gravity by using condensed matter analogs,” Matt says.

The ideas being explored by Matt and a global network of colleagues are rooted in Einstein’s theory of relativity. Physicists are certain that black holes are created out of immense gravity fields which suck matter and light in—everything being accelerated to a



point whereby the matter disappears with nothing ever escaping the black hole; at least not classically—adding quantum physics to the equation makes life much more interesting, Matt says.

“Quantum physics permits a small amount of leakage across the black hole event horizons; so that black holes are not entirely black. This effect, predicted by Professor Stephen Hawking of Cambridge University, is one of the issues we hope to be able to investigate using ‘analog’ black holes.”

Matt is continuing a relationship with Victoria that saw him graduate in 1981 with a Master of Science (Mathematics), with distinction, before going on to do his PhD in Physics at the University of California, Berkeley.

Contact: Tel +64-4-463 5115; E-mail [Matt.Visser@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:Matt.Visser@vuw.ac.nz)

## CyberCommons goes live

**What’s blue and purple and hums all day? The CyberCommons—Victoria’s funky new student computing suite!**

The space was architecturally designed to be calmly conducive to learning but still invigorating enough to pump up flagging energy levels. The CyberCommons provides an extra 50 PCs on campus to enable students to access free student e-mail, access to home drives, Microsoft Office programmes, academic software and printing and internet services. Part of the ongoing plan to deliver quality computing services and facilities to students will see another 24 PCs installed later this year.

Not that students even need to be on campus to access the student computing services. Earlier this year the innovation of the University’s remote access portal for students was recognised through finalist status in the Computerworld Excellence Awards. Designed with the assistance of TelstraClear, the portal allows students to log in and work wherever they are, at a time that suits, and provides global access to the University’s computing resources.



## Campus outreach

**More than 100 Māori and Pacific students from Aotea, Mana, Bishop Viard and Naenae Colleges, and Wainuiomata High School jumped on buses in August to get themselves a taste of university life.**

The students were welcomed onto the campus at Te Herenga Waka marae and after checking out the campus facilities, sat in on a mock lecture.

They have been part of the Community Outreach programme this year, run by Māori and Pacific Community Coordinator, Heeni Shortland (Ngāpuhi, Ngāti Hine, Ngāti Raukawa ki te Tonga). They meet regularly with volunteer Māori and Pacific tutors and mentors at their schools to be encouraged towards tertiary study.

After two terms of mentoring, Heeni says that all of the students were aiming for university study and 85% of them said that their schoolwork had improved.

Heeni is planning an open day for the whānau of the Outreach programme students in November. She says that often the students who take part in the programme have not had family members attend university before. “Hopefully, having the families on campus will help them see what the environment is like and what support their children might need,” she says.

And what impressed the students most about Victoria apart from the sheer size of the campus? The food at the marae!

# Successful science sisters!



Haley Ataera, Melanie Russell, Adele Whyte.

**It's often crime-fighting fictional characters that come in threes, but this trio of postgrad students is more interested in solving the mysteries of science than crime.**

Adele Whyte (Ngāti Kahungunu) is the

most recent addition to the triumvirate who have been successful in gaining significant Tuapapa Pūtaiao Māori Fellowships from the Foundation for Research, Science & Technology. Earlier in the year Haley Ataera (Cook Island Māori and Rangitane) and Melanie Russell (Ngāti Porou) were both awarded funding for two years to complete their Master's degrees. Adele has just been awarded \$75,000 to complete her three-year PhD.

Adele's PhD will study the genetic capability of green shell mussels to respond to natural and synthetic toxins in seawater. Techniques learned in studying the mussels' genes could one day be applied to human health by matching medicines with peoples' genetic make-ups.

Haley is doing an MSc in Cell and Molecular Biology, looking at the long-term effects of drug abuse on serotonin transporters. She hopes that her research findings will further the understanding of drug dependency and treatment.

Melanie's MSc is paving the way for the

introduction of the proposed marine reserve in Island Bay. Donning scuba equipment, she is measuring and tagging juvenile paua so that their movement and how fast they are growing can be compared later to paua under the conditions of the marine reserve.

Wanting to do more than add distinguished letters after their own names, the trio are all actively involved in Te Ropu Awhina Pūtaiao: a mentoring programme that aims to encourage and support Māori and Pacific students studying science, architecture and design.

Adele, Haley and Melanie offer academic support by tutoring in the dedicated Awhina whānau rooms around campus. Most recently the Awhina scheme has moved out into the community and the mentors are now working to get secondary pupils in low decile schools to take up tertiary study.

Haley says that she enjoys the mentoring and that it keeps her grounded. Melanie agrees—"it's great being around people and being able to combat some of the stereotypes that have tended to surround scientists."

## Research excellence recognised

**The University's tradition of research excellence was recognised earlier this year with a Foundation for Research, Science and Technology (FRST) budget allocation of \$6 million over the next five years.**

"We're absolutely delighted that the early investment Victoria University has made through its internal research fund has enabled our world-class researchers to compete for this central funding," Vice-Chancellor Professor Stuart McCutcheon says.

### Cancer Drug

Led by Drs Peter Northcote, John Hoberg, Paul Teesdale-Spittle and John Miller of the Schools of Chemical & Physical Sciences and Biological Sciences, the Microtubule Stabilising Research project, worth \$2.2 million over four years, will further the understanding and synthesis of peloruside—a marine sponge toxin. Acting in the same way as Taxol®, an expensive cancer drug that stops cell division, peloruside shows

great promise as a second-generation alternative in the fight against cancer.

### Down to Earth

From the School of Earth Sciences, Associate Professor Tim Stern's five year \$1.355 million project will research the structure, deformation and mechanical properties of the Earth's crust and upper mantle in New Zealand. A particular focus of the programme is measuring the crustal thickness, electrical conductivity and seismic wave speeds within the North Island. In the South Island the researchers will focus on fault structures and the role that fluids in the earth play in fault movements and earthquakes.

### Melting Moment?

A project on Antarctic Climate Evolution, led by Professor Peter Barrett of the Antarctic Research Centre has been awarded \$280,000 per year for five years. The main focus of the research is the behaviour of the Ross Ice

Shelf, which has recently calved icebergs more than 200 kilometres long. Peter's team will join scientists from other institutions around the world to investigate the present day environment beneath a part of the ice shelf south of Scott Base, and then participate in the recovery of a 1 kilometre-long core into the sea floor by the multinational ANDRILL consortium.

### Tourism

Worth almost \$1 million over three years, this project led by Doug Pearce, Professor of Tourism Management, will develop a more systematic understanding of distribution channels for New Zealand tourism and examine ways of increasing their effectiveness. "Increased understanding of distribution channels will lead to enhanced competitiveness in the tourist industry and enable us to recommend best channel management practices for different regions and markets," says Doug.

## Law notes

**In September distinguished Law Lord and member of the Privy Council, Lord Steyn, delivered the Robin Cooke Annual Lecture at the Law School.**

Established to honour alumnus the Rt Hon Lord Cooke of Thorndon, regarded by many as New Zealand's greatest jurist, the lecture is to be given each year by a figure from the legal world of international renown. "Lord Steyn is a contemporary English judge greatly respected for his humanity and zeal for the protection of the human rights of the citizen," says Professor Matthew Palmer, Dean of the Law School. Staff and students benefited from Lord Steyn's presence at several workshops and social events.

Starting their legal careers with a bang, a group of law students were extremely successful in the recent New Zealand Law Students Association national champs. Victoria was the only university with three teams in the finals, and won an impressive three of four available titles. Claire Boshier and Renu Badiani are the Russell McVeagh Client Interviewing champions; Charlotte Patterson and Chelsea Payne, the Buddle Findlay Negotiation champions; and Bridget Fleming, the Witness Examination champion. "It was extremely intense but that's what working as a lawyer is really like and the championships capture that feeling so well," says Bridget, also Victoria Law Students Society president.

## Wonderful words

**Although only introduced this year, the Scriptwriting major in the International Institute of Modern Letters' MA in Creative Writing has already attracted significant industry support.**

The Embassy Theatre Trust in conjunction with the Victoria University of Wellington Foundation has established the \$1,000 Embassy Theatre Trust Prize, to be awarded to a student from the scriptwriting programme for the first time in December this year. "Victoria University's Creative Writing programme is looking ahead to the needs of the scriptwriting industry and we are happy to recognise and support its endeavours," says David Carson-Parker, Deputy Chairman of the Embassy Theatre Trust. The inaugural winner will be announced in early December 2002.

Not getting enough poetry in your diet? Look no further than the Institute's *Best New Zealand Poems* website [www.vuw.ac.nz/modernletters/bnzp](http://www.vuw.ac.nz/modernletters/bnzp) The inaugural annual site was launched in April and has received a significant number of hits from within New Zealand, and more significantly from around the world. Professor Bill Manhire, Co-Director of the Institute says that *Best New Zealand Poems* is doing a fine job as an international shop front for New Zealand poems. "In the past it has been difficult for New Zealand poets to gain international exposure. This site takes home grown poets to the international stage so that wherever there is internet access, their work can be read," he says.

## Asian travels

**In the late-Ming period the celebrated poet Yuan Hongdao (1568-1610) wrote about travel experiences in historical West Lake in China's Zhejiang Province. After translating his writings 400 years later Stephen McDowall has won a scholarship that will send him on travels of his own.**

Thanks to an Asia 2000 Foundation scholarship, Stephen is set to continue his research on Chinese literature in China next year. The first Master of Asian Studies to graduate from Victoria, Stephen translated the landscape writings of Yuan Hongdao as part of his thesis—the first time that they have appeared in English.

"The late-Ming period was an exciting time in Chinese history, one of relative intellectual freedom in which gentlemen were able to choose pursuits of leisure and culture while rejecting government service. In any previous period of Chinese history this would have been unthinkable," Stephen says.

It was in this time that Yuan Hongdao travelled to the famed area of West Lake where for centuries before him, artists and writers had congregated. Here Yuan Hongdao wrote poetry and prose that Stephen says strike a balance between natural and free flowing outbursts, and highly polished literary compositions.

Later next year Stephen will have some of his translations published by Harvard University Press as part of a large anthology of Chinese landscape and garden literature.





# Vision of tertiary education

In August this year leading members of the education sector gathered at a seminar to honour the lifetime contribution of educationalist Jack Shallcrass. *The Face of Education in 20 Years* saw addresses delivered by leading educationalists on diverse areas of education. Jack, a teacher for more than 55 years, is one of New Zealand's most distinguished educationalists, receiving a CBE for his services to education. He is a former Vice-Principal of the Wellington Teachers' College and Associate Professor of Education at Victoria.

Following is a précis of the paper delivered at the seminar by Professor Paul Callaghan, the Alan MacDiarmid Professor of Physical Sciences and Director of the MacDiarmid Institute for Advanced Materials and Nanotechnology:

Think of any New Zealand business, and ask, which one will be trading under its present name in 100 years from now? I would be prepared to bet that Victoria University of Wellington will, and the fact that universities so endure, tells us that they are unusual.

Now consider what makes a university successful. A comparison of four great US universities, Berkeley, CalTech, Columbia and Cornell, tells us that it is neither university size nor city location which matters. And, given the excellence of Cambridge and Oxford Universities, we can be sure that the efficiency of university management is not at all important. What each university has in common however is great staff and great students.

The "cachet" of the word "university", rests on the provision of an education that stretches the intellect to the highest possible level. To run the university business well, you have to defend the intellectual heritage, and of course, you have to maintain a great research library. Universities are unique because they combine teaching and research, and sometimes it is hard to tell them apart, a confusion which is precisely the ideal state-of-affairs. Teaching benefits research as much as research benefits teaching. When we teach we have to understand. We can stand up and give a research seminar and feel some discomfort at moments when our reasoning may be shallow, but we cannot get away with that when we teach. The



*Jack Shallcrass celebrating his 80th birthday at the seminar held in his honour.*

undergraduate student will ask the naïve but penetrating question. The reason that so many top researchers choose to work in a university is that by teaching they advance their understanding.

For me, the research-teaching link is based on the three pillars of Ownership, Authorship and Apprenticeship. Only a person who has made discoveries himself or herself can feel that knowledge is created by people called "us" rather than people called "them", and is thereby able to convey to students a sense of ownership of knowledge. Only someone who has authored can know just how fragile is the written word, and can thereby convey critical judgement. Only the student who has the opportunity to work as an apprentice, can aspire to exceed the performance of the master. Apprenticeship is about shared learning, and about the teacher being vulnerable and open. One can only be vulnerable if one is truly confident, and that confidence springs from the teacher's role as a creator of knowledge through his or her own research.

In these respects New Zealand universities perform quite well, given our meagre funding base. But we do lack the alumni affection of our American counterparts. When you enter the University

of North Carolina Chapel Hill, you join the fanclub of a famous college basketball team. You will have a personal mentor. You will study on a beautiful campus and you will live in residential accommodation for a significant part of your degree. You will be formally welcomed to the university family and be asked to homecomings for the rest of your life. If you go to Oxford University you will be part of a college that will claim you for life, a college which gives you music and drama and rowing and chapel and conversations at dinner.

I think we need to assist the development of the lives of our students through smaller, personal university communities that connect students' formal education with their lives. At Victoria University we have such a community in the Awhina programme, and in the halls of residence which mingle postgraduate students with first year students, under the guidance of residential academic staff. In the next twenty years I would like to see us do more to try to make the university experience remarkable and life-transforming. We will know the measure of our success through the affection felt for this university. And then, should our graduates travel abroad, they might dream of the day they can return to work in this land.

# 100 years in the green and gold

**The Dead Ants. The Teddy Bears. The Pink Gingers. Hardly team names that instil a sense of dread in the opposition but which have nonetheless formed the backbone of Victoria's rugby club, Old Boys-University.**

Celebrating their centenary in March 2003, organiser and club stalwart since the 1950s, Graham Atkin (known to many as "Mum") says that because club members over the years have predominantly been students, the reality of exams and deadlines has meant that many social teams have formed. This has created an excellent culture and many lifelong friendships, he says.

The club has done more than produce good times and a social network though. It has a proud and successful history of playing open rugby with great flair, and has produced 27 All Blacks over the years. In 2001 Old Boys-University won the Hardham Cup, and this year was a finalist against Marist St Pats in the Jubilee Cup. Many more of its players have played representative rugby.

University staff played a big role in the young club, which was founded in 1903. Professor Tommy Hunter was a highly regarded player and coach and Professor von Zedlitz, the first President. History records Tommy Hunter, Lecturer in Philosophy, as saying "Rugby is more than a partial impact of blind atoms. It is a game of brains".

In 1991 the Victoria University Rugby Football Club amalgamated with Wellington College Old Boys Rugby Football Club. This merger brought together two of Wellington's oldest and proudest clubs with more than 200 seasons between them and an accompanying sense of tradition and heritage.

The centenary celebrations, to run from March 14-16 2003, will include a golf tournament, rugby games and a number of social events. All who have played or been associated with the club over the years are warmly invited to attend the centenary celebrations.



*The 1903 team, The Spike/Victoria College Review, October 1903, JC Beaglehole Room Collection.*

With a nod to the 1950s tradition of hotel room parties to circumvent 6pm closing, there have been a few mutterings in Graham's ear suggesting he get together old boys of a certain era, find a hotel room with the traditional number 8A on the door and party like in "the old days"!

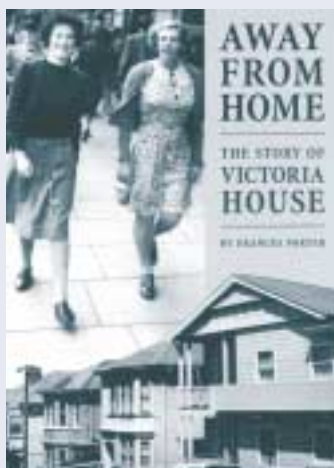
Contact: Tel +64-4-567 1873  
E-mail [g.atkin@paradise.net.nz](mailto:g.atkin@paradise.net.nz)  
[www.equinox.co.nz/vuwrvc](http://www.equinox.co.nz/vuwrvc)

## Did you miss your mum?

**Can the fact that Rangitikei MP Simon Powers, 1990s All Black Alama Ieremia, and actress Katie Wolfe all stayed in Victoria House be the underlying secret to their success?**

Recently published, *Away from Home* by Frances Porter tells the lively story of Victoria House by drawing on conversations with former residents and on carefully preserved records. Opened in 1908, Victoria House was the first hostel in New Zealand for women students.

The present Victoria House, to which males were admitted in 1972, has comforts and amenities that the early women could only have dreamed of. The book traces the colourful history of the hostel including the buzz created by the arrival of United States Marines in Wellington, the celebration in 1960 when all students were first given front door keys and the debate surrounding admitting men. The book costs \$29.95 plus \$5.95 postage. Contact Victoria House, 282 The Terrace, Wellington or email [vichouse@xtra.co.nz](mailto:vichouse@xtra.co.nz)



## New school launched

**The launch of the School of Government in September highlighted Victoria's status as a premier provider of public policy research and advice.**

Prime Minister, the Rt Hon Helen Clark, launched the School at Rutherford House and announced that Victoria University and the New Zealand Government had joined with the Australian Government, the governments of Queensland and Victoria and several top Australian universities to form the Australian and New Zealand School of Government.

The Prime Minister also announced that the State Services Commission and Victoria University were developing a memorandum of understanding for a long-term strategic partnership. The University would act as a facilitator for public servants to access teaching and research at Victoria or other providers in New Zealand or internationally.

She also presented the PM's Prize in Public Policy to Dr Peter Roberts while Inspector Chris Salt received the PM's Prize in Public Management. Peter also received the Holmes Prize for his research in the Master of Public Policy. The Prize was established by Emeritus Professor Sir Frank Holmes and Lady Holmes through the Victoria University of Wellington Foundation.



# Shaky attitudes



Psychology graduate Matt Spittal is living proof of the kind of person who by all accounts should be ready for when the “big one” hits but is not.

His recently completed 4-year PhD, comparing earthquake awareness with preparedness, has revealed an interesting and startling reality that many Wellingtonians are

aware of earthquake risk but do nothing to prepare for it.

“My research showed there was no correlation between being aware of a major earthquake and actually being ready for it,” Matt says.

Matt’s PhD research revealed profiles of two groups which are key to understanding the factors surrounding earthquake preparedness. The group who are least prepared are those in the 18-24 year old age bracket who live in rented accommodation. Those who are best prepared are: people generally cautious about risk; home owners; and those who believe that they have control over significant matters.

When asked who they thought would be injured in a major earthquake, the majority of respondents thought that others would be hurt while they themselves would be unharmed.

“The thinking that ‘others will get harmed before I will’ is a major psychological driver that stops people from heeding the warnings

to get ready for a major earthquake—they know that it’s likely but think that they won’t be as badly affected as others will,” Matt says.

“My findings should be useful to future campaigns to tackle the attitudes and behaviour of the groups who really need to be targeted,” Matt says.

“There are some attitudes that are difficult to change so different approaches may be needed. For instance, armed with knowledge that younger people who live in rented accommodation are the least likely to be earthquake ready, one day landlords may be legally required to provide each flat with an earthquake kit and ready the flats themselves.”

And does Matt have a stash of muesli bars, a first aid kit and a torch under his bed? No, not yet. “But then again, I’m a walking example of the kind of person that most needs to be targeted to get earthquake ready,” he says.

Contact: E-mail [Matt.Spittal@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:Matt.Spittal@vuw.ac.nz)

## New programmes

Victoria University is providing new programmes of study to meet the demands of students, employers and emerging disciplines. Equally important is the need to ensure quality academic and research opportunities to enable students to succeed in their chosen career. The new programmes and courses include:

### Conjoint Teacher Education Programme

Delivered in partnership with the Wellington College of Education, the four-year, 10 trimester Programme is an academically rigorous qualification that includes extensive and varied classroom experience. Reflecting international requirements, the new teacher training qualification consists of a double degree—a Bachelor of Teaching (BTeach) and then the choice of either a Bachelor of Arts (BA/BTeach), Science (BSc/BTeach) or Commerce & Administration (BCA/BTeach) from which students select two specialised teaching subject areas. The qualification offers

a high degree of flexibility: a choice of primary teaching, secondary teaching or both, allowing the qualification to be used in a variety of ways throughout a teaching career.

Three scholarships for academic excellence will be available to school leavers enrolling in the Programme in 2003. The \$5,500 scholarships will be paid over the four years of the Programme.

Contact: Tel 0800 VIC UNI

E-mail [Course-Advice@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:Course-Advice@vuw.ac.nz)

### Honours and Master in Biomedical Science

Developed in consultation with schools, research organisations and potential industry employers, these two qualifications provide students with a postgraduate study path in biomedical science. The qualifications have a strong research component and will provide students with an understanding of advances in molecular bioscience along with their application in

human clinical situations. Graduates will gain a detailed understanding of: the molecular basis of the normal processes of cells and tissues; the molecular basis of the processes of disease; and the technologies employed to explore those areas.

Contact: Tel +64-4-463 5577

E-mail [Jim.McIntosh@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:Jim.McIntosh@vuw.ac.nz)

Where will you be in 6 months’ time?

Contact us now for more information on the world of learning options available to you at Victoria, Tel 0800 VIC UNI or E-mail [Course-Advice@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:Course-Advice@vuw.ac.nz)

# Alcoholism—in the genes

A genetic discovery by Dr Geoff Chambers and his team at the School of Biological Sciences has revealed that many Polynesians have inherited a genetic factor from their Asian ancestors which may assist them in reducing the overall risk of developing alcoholism. The discovery also reveals information about Pacific migration patterns.

Started more than ten years ago and with the assistance of former PhD student Stephen Marshall, Geoff's research shows that more than two thirds of Polynesians have inherited the *ADH2\*2* gene variant from Asian ancestors. This gene is responsible for making the consumption of alcohol a less pleasant experience. In Europeans, fewer than one in ten carry the same type of *ADH 2* gene.

Those Asians who are very sensitive to alcohol possess two genes which can make alcohol consumption extremely unpleasant: *ADH2\*2* increases the production of the toxic chemical, acetaldehyde, which is compounded by the gene *ALDH2\*2* which prevents the liver from detoxifying it. Geoff has discovered that more than two thirds of Polynesians have inherited *ADH2\*2*, but not *ALDH2\*2* which research shows was carried from mainland China to Taiwan about 5,000 years ago, but migrated no further. Geoff's discovery of *ADH2\*2* in Polynesian people adds to the understanding of where New Zealand's indigenous people came from and the path they took to get here.

At very high levels acetaldehyde acts as a poison in the body. Those with *ADH2\*2* in their genetic kit are unlikely to drink alcohol to excess and are therefore unlikely to develop alcoholism. In contrast to the Asian and Polynesian group, almost all Europeans belong to a group that lacks *ADH2\*2*: their bodies produce a lower amount of acetaldehyde, which the liver is able to effectively detoxify. So for most Europeans, drinking can be a more pleasurable experience, which leaves them open to developing alcoholism.

A third of the New Zealand Māori population, like Europeans, lacks *ADH2\*2*. An analysis of blood samples of young Māori males with drinking problems showed that three quarters of them were drawn from this group.

Geoff's research also offers some of the most compelling evidence yet in support of the idea that genes influence our lifestyle choices and can be used to predict human behaviour.

"One day these new molecular tools might give you a genetic profile, which you'd want to consider in regard to a whole range of lifetime decisions," he says.

Further research might involve the social sciences, including sociology and psychology, to compare behaviour with genetics. "I'm interested in working with Polynesians to look at the drinking patterns of people with *ADH2\*2* genes to see if they drink lesser amounts of alcohol, and drink less often," Geoff says. "Previous studies of Asian peoples suggest very strongly that this should be the case."

The study came about as an offshoot of Geoff's long-time research using genetic profiles to track the migration patterns of the indigenous peoples who populated New Zealand.



As part of the Continuing Education Spring/Summer Programme, Geoff will be giving a series of 3 lectures called *Little Genes, Big Questions* that explore the white-hot scientific revolution that is molecular biology: 15 October, *The Beginners Guide to DNA*; 22 October, *DNA and the Human Situation*; 29 October, *DNA and the Environment*. Financial members of the Alumni Association will receive special discounts on these lectures.

For more details or to enrol; E-mail [conted@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:conted@vuw.ac.nz);  
Tel +64-4-463 6556; Web [www.vuw.ac.nz/conted](http://www.vuw.ac.nz/conted)

Contact: Tel +64 4 463 6091; E-mail [Geoff.Chambers@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:Geoff.Chambers@vuw.ac.nz)

# Export education tax questioned

*Pro Vice-Chancellor Professor Neil Quigley and Director of the Institute for the Study of Competition and Regulation, Professor Lewis Evans, have questioned the justification for a new levy on institutions involved in export education:*

Export education is a \$1 billion per annum industry for New Zealand, with 50,000 fee-paying international students in 2001. A compulsory levy on participants has been introduced to “promote the sustainable growth of export education and to establish New Zealand as a provider of quality international education”. This compulsory levy is likely to have the opposite effect.

The levy is a response to problems identified by the Ministry of Education<sup>1</sup> as a risk that insufficient quality assurance and poorly managed growth could damage New Zealand’s reputation.

A levy is proposed as the preferred policy response because, “of the diverse nature of the industry and potential ‘free-rider’ problems, a form of market failure exists in the development and promotion of the export education industry. This...means a lower than economically efficient level of investment... occurs if the industry is left

*to its own devices.”<sup>2</sup>*

This argument is novel in its application to export education. In the past it has been used to justify primary producer boards and producer levies that have, until recently, been prevalent in agriculture. In recent years producer boards have been dissolved and levies are now more limited. The application of the argument to export education is even harder to justify because:

- there are no tariffs in other countries to be negotiated down
- there is no sole foreign purchaser
- the product is not perishable, and
- products are differentiated in an apparent way to prospective customers so investment in individual marketing and brand awareness is efficient.

If New Zealand institutions are to increase their role in this industry, it will be necessary to provide them with incentives to invest in excellence and to build reputations based around that excellence. This means investing in high quality teachers and in appropriate support and pastoral care for international students.

Institutions that have invested in

excellence in teaching and research cannot adopt poor quality assurance practices or utilise low quality marketing because these would destroy the value created by their investment in excellence in other areas. More importantly, in the case of a levy, an institution that has invested in quality operations and in building the value of its brand should not be required to subsidise institutions that have failed to invest in quality. The lack of support for the levy among quality New Zealand institutions in this market is strong a priori evidence that the occasional failure of a low-quality provider does not have negative externalities for quality providers in the market.

By taxing investments in quality, the tax will be likely to discourage investments and encourage low quality providers who see there is a viable market niche for them.

By operating in foreign markets New Zealand educational institutions are testing the quality and price of their services internationally. The possibility of New Zealand institutions keeping pace with the rapid development of education markets worldwide is limited by this specific tax.

1, 2 Ministry of Education (2001) *Export Education in New Zealand: A Strategic Approach to Developing the Sector*, August 2001.

## Music maestros make mark



Successful pianists Beth Chen and Jennifer Lee.

### Music students hit the high notes with a succession of awards in August.

Two former winners of the University’s Concerto Competition scored top places in international competitions in Australia. Beth Chen, who is completing her MMus, took first prize in the instrumental division of the North Queensland Concerto and Vocal Competition while Jennifer Lee was one of two pianists selected to represent New Zealand at the 2002 Kawai Australasian Piano Concerto Competition in Melbourne.

Meanwhile, three singers from the School, James Rodgers, Helen Lear and Jaimee Marshall took first, second and third place respectively in *The Dominion Post* Aria Competition. All three took lead roles in the September production of Monteverdi’s opera *Orfeo* performed in the Adam Concert Room. Players from the University’s Baroque Workshop accompanied the singing students along with Victoria Voices.

The production was particularly special as it was the last time Professor Peter Walls was musical director of a School production. In August he took leave to become the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra’s Chief Executive. “I will miss the energy of our students and being involved with the School’s operas and orchestra, both of which have been a passion for me.”

## Sex life of plants



**Tailors have politely asked men for years “which way they dress” when measuring them for new trousers and now botanist Dr Linley Jesson has discovered that genes control whether the sex organs of some plants hang to the left or right.**

While botanists have known for more than a century that the styles or female organs of at least a dozen unrelated families of flowering plants pointed to the left or right, creating “mirror-image” flowers, Linley says it was always considered to be a random phenomenon.

Linley discovered the genetic link and

solved the puzzle of mirror-image flowers while doing her PhD at the University of Toronto. Her discovery, with Toronto colleague Spencer Barrett, was reported in the June edition of the international science journal, *Nature*.

Linley, who started teaching in the School of Biological Sciences in January, says the discovery is believed to be the first demonstration of a gene for “handedness” in plants.

“We believe it promotes cross-pollination in bee-pollinated plants. Bees visiting flowers with styles pointing one way pick up pollen from the male organs, or anthers, on one side of their body but cannot deposit it on the style of other flowers on the same plant. But on flowers that swing the other way, pollen rubs off in exactly the right place.”

While wider cross-pollination resulted in greater vigour and more offspring compared with plants that were largely self-pollinated, it was not known why the phenomenon was rare, occurring on less than 1 per cent of all flowering plants. As New Zealand has no native bees, the phenomenon did not evolve among flowering plants here.

Linley says she decided to investigate the

genetic control of mirror-image flowers or “enantiostyly” to use the technical term, after internationally recognised developmental biologist, Richard Palmer, from the University of Alberta, bet her a bottle of scotch that it was randomly determined.

“When we presented our results at a conference we finished by saying he owed us a bottle of scotch.” While he paid up, Linley laughs that the booty had since been consumed.

Having solved one of the plant kingdom’s puzzling sex mysteries, she’s now investigating the evolution of gender in plants, why some are males, females or hermaphrodites.

Contact: Tel +64-4-463-5573

E-mail [Linley.Jesson@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:Linley.Jesson@vuw.ac.nz)



## Nobel Laureates coming to town



**February 2003 and Wellington will be buzzing with excitement. Glorious summer will be upon us, festivals will see the city streets come alive and to top it all off, we’ll be receiving a visit from three Nobel Laureates.**

Esteemed alumnus Professor Alan MacDiarmid will be joined by fellow Nobel Laureates Professors Alan Heeger and Hideki Shirakawa as special guests of *AMN-1*, an international conference on Advanced Materials and Nanotechnology, 9-14 February 2003. The three Nobel Laureates were awarded the Nobel Prize for Chemistry in 2000 for the discovery and development of conductive polymers—modified plastics that conduct electricity.

*AMN-1* is being presented by the MacDiarmid Institute for Advanced Materials and Nanotechnology—the Government-funded Centre of Research Excellence hosted by Victoria. As well as the five-day conference there will be campus visits, a public event and events with community groups.

Many of tomorrow’s innovative technologies will require new and super efficient materials. The study of advanced materials and nanotechnology furthers the understanding of the properties of these unusual materials.

“New Zealand is already benefiting from the establishment of the MacDiarmid Institute,” says Professor Paul Callaghan, Director of the Institute and Victoria’s Alan MacDiarmid Professor of Physical Sciences.

“Leading scientists in the field are coming to New Zealand because

of the prestigious link with Alan MacDiarmid and also because we are developing world class people, equipment and research in advanced materials science and the infrastructure to support it.”

Selected as a Government-funded Centre of Research Excellence earlier this year, the MacDiarmid Institute has received three-year operational funding of \$13.39m and a one-off \$9.8m capital grant.

The capital funding injection has allowed the Institute to purchase some of the most advanced equipment in existence, including a super computer and an electron microscope.

“The equipment is being distributed around the partner institutions of the MacDiarmid Institute to encourage the development of a critical mass in the field of advanced materials,” says Paul.

The Institute has a vision to train young materials scientists and to also develop the infrastructure and job opportunities in New Zealand for graduates in this progressive field.

The MacDiarmid Institute has formed some excellent collaborative relationships, sharing equipment, people and knowledge resources. It is a partnership with the University of Canterbury, Industrial Research Limited and the Institute of Geological & Nuclear Sciences. Staff from Massey, Auckland and Otago universities are involved in key projects.

Contact: E-mail [amn@conferences.co.nz](mailto:amn@conferences.co.nz)

Website [www.macdiarmid.ac.nz](http://www.macdiarmid.ac.nz)

# Barbara Ewing returns to Vic

International actress and author Barbara Ewing was nervous when she returned to Victoria for the first time in more than 40 years to give a public lecture in July. But it was the dramatic changes that occurred at her alma mater rather than any sense of stage fright that had her worried.

"I can't believe I'm in the same place. As we were walking here I was thinking 'Am I at Victoria University?' because it was so very small when I was here ... I have never set foot in the place since and so I felt quite nervous because it's like being in another place."

When Barbara was at Victoria, there were about 3,000 students—now there are more than 16,000.

She remembers being in one play at Victoria, but it was through an amateur dramatic group in Auckland that her acting potential was noted and she was urged to apply for the scholarship which saw her head to London in 1962.

But a photographer from *The Evening Post* caught Barbara on camera at Victoria in 1956. The photographer visited around examination time to get a picture of students hard at work and spied her and a couple of young men on the Hunter Lawn. Barbara says that they had to dash inside to the library to get some books to pose for the shot.

In her lecture, *Memory, Truth and Outrageous Lies*, she examined the concepts in her two recently published novels. Despite being an actress—the subject of *The Actresses* (1997)—and having learnt Māori



The Evening Post.

Barbara Ewing studying on the Hunter Lawn in 1956 with Rex Linton (left) and Irving Gair.

and worked in the Māori Affairs Department—a setting for part of *A Dangerous Vine* (1999)—she denies her work is autobiographical.

*A Dangerous Vine* caused controversy with its depiction of New Zealand's race relations in the 1950s, such as boarding house signs that said "No children, Maoris or dogs".

Barbara's fourth book *The Trespass*, set in London and New Zealand in 1849, will be released in November.

## Award to honour inspirational lecturer

The work of former geology lecturer, Associate Professor John Gamble, is to be remembered with a student award in his name.

John worked at Victoria for 23 years and conducted a wide range of internationally respected scientific research before leaving recently to take up the Chair of Geology at University College, Cork, Ireland.

Peter Barrett, Professor of Geology and Director of the Antarctic Research Centre, said the award was a way of recognising not only John, but also the ideals he held dear.

"The award will be for a Master, Doctoral or Honours student who has shown a passion and talent for original research involving both field-work and laboratory investigation, as well as an ability to inspire enthusiasm and a sense of team-spirit in their fellow students. We expect on average to make one award each year."

That call has already been answered by one of John's former students, Dr Joel Baker, a Senior Research Scientist and Laboratory Leader at the Danish Lithosphere Centre in Copenhagen.

Joel, who has donated \$3,000, said alumni donations to such projects as the John Gamble Award were vital if New Zealand was to continue to produce high quality students and to encourage them to go on to postgraduate education.

"In the US where you pay for your education, they have these large alumni funds from which you can fund an entire PhD scholarship. Since I left, New Zealand has gone down the route of students paying more for their tertiary education. As former

graduates we can't just sit back and rub our hands with glee and say I got a free education, we have to put something back into the system."

Joel, who did his BSc and MSc at Victoria (1985-1990) and went on to do his PhD in London, said John was an inspirational teacher. "He was typically Irish in that he was a natural communicator and more than anything else he got across his enthusiasm for the subject. He wasn't just a good lecturer. He really loved doing it."

"He inspired many people to go on to prominent research careers from Victoria to places all over the world and for one small department to produce those numbers is a remarkable testament to how well he taught people and the enthusiasm he brought to the subject."

Donations to the fund are being handled through the Victoria University of Wellington Foundation, a registered charitable trust.

To contribute contact: Tel +64-4-463-5109; E-mail [vuw-foundation@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:vuw-foundation@vuw.ac.nz)



John Gamble.



Joel Baker.

# Lifelong learning



The new Centre for Continuing Education and Executive Development (CCEED) will play a critical role in developing Victoria's capabilities as a dynamic, innovative provider of relevant, accessible programmes for continuing education and executive development markets, says recently appointed Director, Dr Jan Blayney.

The main purpose of CCEED is to work with the University's Schools to deliver lifelong learning programmes for individuals, groups and organisations. This includes:

- professional and executive development programmes, both public and in-house
- public lectures and seminars to enhance access to current research on contemporary, cultural, scientific and other issues
- overseas study tours

- professional conferences
- courses for inbound international students

Some of the highlights for the remainder of 2002, says Jan, are a seminar series *Little Genes, Big Questions*; 3 sessions providing *A Taste of the Pacific*; a one-off lecture, *Globalising Greed? Inequality and the Future of Capitalism*; a cutting-edge series on *e-Learning*, developed with (e)-vision; and an intensive 10-day programme, *Accelerated Management Development*. A further highlight in 2003 is a three-week study tour, *Paris and the Heyday of French Opera*.

Jan has held a number of continuing education roles at Victoria, from Programme Manager through to Deputy Director. Since 1999 she has been Acting Director of Continuing Education.

For further information or to enrol, contact:

Continuing Education: Tel +64-4-463 6556; E-mail [conted@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:conted@vuw.ac.nz);

Web [www.vuw.ac.nz/conted](http://www.vuw.ac.nz/conted)

Executive Development: Tel +64-4-463 5452;

E-mail [anna.mcgeorge@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:anna.mcgeorge@vuw.ac.nz); Web [www.vuw.ac.nz/execdev](http://www.vuw.ac.nz/execdev)



## Sign language gets boost

New Zealand Sign Language will reach a new level of recognition at Victoria when the School of Linguistics and Applied Languages begins offering a 200 level course next year (DEAF 201, Intermediate NZSL).

Rachel McKee, a Senior Lecturer in Deaf Studies, says the corresponding 100 level course had been offered since 2000, attracting about 40 students a year.

"But many students who had taken the 100 level course found it enjoyable and interesting and were keen to continue studying sign language.

"Some were interested in going on to work with Deaf people in some way, such as becoming a sign language

interpreter. If you're going to do that you need to develop your language skills further than the basic introduction."

Rachel, who will teach the course with her husband David, who is Deaf, expects about 20 students to take on the 200 level course, which will run in the first trimester.

About 7,000 Deaf New Zealanders use sign language. Rachel says the Deaf Studies Research Unit, which published the first dictionary of NZ Sign Language in the mid-90s under Professor Graeme Kennedy, is about to publish a Concise Dictionary of NZ Sign Language.

Contact: Tel +64-4-463 5626

E-mail: [Rachel.McKee@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:Rachel.McKee@vuw.ac.nz)

## Business par excellence

Two Victoria staff were among an elite group of examiners selected from the public and private sectors to judge the 2002 New Zealand Business Excellence Awards.

Dr Linda Angell and Associate Professor Lawrie Corbett of the Victoria Management School completed an intensive 200 hours judging business excellence.

Run by the New Zealand Business Excellence Foundation the awards are to recognise excellence and best practice. The examiners give finalists a score that can be benchmarked with other organisations around the world.

To become examiners Linda and Lawrie had to submit CVs and referees, and complete an evaluation of a mock application before

they were selected to undergo a three-day training seminar in Taupo.

The judging was a rigorous process that required initial individual assessment and then group decisions by members of the examining team. If the applicants scored highly enough, then the team conducted a two-day site visit.

Although challenging and time-consuming, Lawrie enjoyed the evaluation experience. "It was an excellent opportunity to gain insight into how good organisations operate, where people are committed and achieve good results. It is an experience that has been good for personal development and will be useful for teaching and research purposes," he says.



# Life after Vic

Wherever you are we are interested in what you are doing.

Please write to us with your news at PO Box 600, Wellington, New Zealand or e-mail [alumni-association@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:alumni-association@vuw.ac.nz) Many thanks to those who contributed to this edition.

## **The Rt Hon Thomas Munro Gault** *DCNZM LLM 1963*

Appointed President of the Court of Appeal.

## **Diana Bridge MA 1965**

A poet whose work, published in *Landscape with Lines*, *The Girls on the Wall*, and *Porcelain*, reflects her interest in Asian culture and language. Diana has researched and taught Chinese language and culture, and early Indian art history, and holds a PhD in Chinese literature.

## **Tony Hurst BSc(Hons) 1968**

Visiting Professor at the Aso Volcanological Laboratory of Kyoto University, Japan.

## **Christine Olsen BA 1970**

Scriptwriter and co-producer of the feature film, *Rabbit Proof Fence*.

## **Tony Thomas BCA 1974**

Executive Director of Team New Zealand and America's Cup 2003. Tony is responsible for fundraising, sponsor liaison and fulfillment, brand management, and general management. He also heads up the organising committee of America's Cup 2003.



## **Kenneth Rees-Thomas LLM 1976**

Completed a postgraduate degree in theology at Regent College, University of British Columbia, Canada. Now a qualified barrister and solicitor in British Columbia with an active practice in Vancouver.

## **'Aisea Taumoepeau LLB 1977**

Attorney General and Minister of Justice, Kingdom of Tonga.

## **'Alisi Afeaki Taumoepeau LLB 1983, LLM 1999**

Solicitor General, Kingdom of Tonga. Currently completing a PhD (Law) at Victoria.

## **Michael de Silva BSc(Hons) 1984**

Superintendent of Schools, Ministry of Education, Singapore. Married with three children.

## **Christopher Boon MBA 1988**

Financial advisor with Madison Avenue Financial Group based in Portland, Oregon.

## **Suzanne Booth LLB 1990**

Senior associate with public law firm Chen Palmer & Partners. Suzanne specialises in government relations.



## **Victoria Heine BSc 1990, LLB(Hons) 1993**

On track for partnership at Chen Palmer & Partners where she leads a new team specialising in regulatory and competition law, Victoria has an LLM in Law and Economics from the University of Chicago.



## **Siau Foon Yee BA(Hons) 1991**

Completed an MA in English Studies at the National University of Singapore. Currently the Level Head of English Language and Literature at Chung Cheng High School, Singapore.



## **Kevin Brady MPP 1993**

Recently appointed as Controller and Auditor-General.

## **Pania Ellison BA 1989, MEd 1994**

Tumuwhakahaere/Manager at Te Puawai Tapu, a Māori health provider specialising in sexual and reproductive health, and a member of the JR McKenzie Trust Board.

## **Adam Fisher BA 1994**

Completed an MA in War Studies at the Royal Military College of Canada. Currently with the Directorate of Parliamentary Affairs

at National Defence Headquarters in Ottawa, and in charge of preparing the Defence Minister for daily questions in the House of Commons.

## **Eva Wong BMus 1994, BA 1995**

In charge of the marketing department for a casino-hotel resort on Tinian in the Northern Mariana Islands.

## **Mark Williamson MBA 1996**

Recently appointed as marketing manager at Kathmandu, outdoor clothing retailer. Mark was previously the international apparel manager and marketing manager for Wools of New Zealand.

## **Jason Cascarino MIR 1997**

Runs his own consulting business, conducting market research and analysis, business planning and strategic communications for American and international nonprofit organisations.

## **Charlotte Walsh (nee Campbell) MBA 1999**

Web development manager in London, managing the development and launch of a large section of the e-commerce portal for United Kingdom retailer Marks and Spencer.

## **Gerard Walsh BA 1991, MBA 1999**

Manager at Accenture (management consultancy) in London, specialising in strategy and supply chain in the European energy markets.

## **Louise Hyatt BDes 1999**

One of eight photographers to travel with Volunteer Service Abroad. Louise's photographs were part of an exhibition at the City Gallery and are used to illustrate the book *New Zealand Abroad: the VSA story in Africa, Asia and the Pacific*. In bookstores from November or contact VSA.



## Victoria University Press

VUP books are available from all good bookstores or by contacting Tel +64-4-463 6580; Fax +64-4-463 6581; E-mail [Victoria-press@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:Victoria-press@vuw.ac.nz)

### VUP success

Victoria University Press authors have garnered much praise and many awards this year. *Ngā Pēpeha a Ngā Tipuna* by Hirini Moko Mead and Neil Grove won the Reference and Anthology category of this year's Montana New Zealand Book Awards, while *Taking Off* by Central Otago writer and poet Brian Turner was shortlisted in the poetry section and Elizabeth Knox's *Billie's Kiss* was joint runner-up for the fiction prize.

*The Swing Around* by Barbara Anderson has been nominated for the world's richest literary prize, The International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award, to be announced in June 2003.

Damien Wilkin's latest novel *Chemistry* was published in September by Granta Books in the UK and in Australia by Allen & Unwin. A deal has been signed with Granta US for an American edition early next year.

Jagiellonian University Press in Poland will publish a Polish language edition of Stephanie de Montalk's *Unquiet World: The Life of Count Potoki de Montalk*.



### The Unfortunate Singer

Rachel Bush

This collection of poems by an MA in Creative Writing graduate has a questioning and often humorous tone and is a wonderful mix of the odd as well as the familiar. "There is a mysterious quality to Bush's writing that throws the everyday into high focus and makes it resonate."—Elizabeth Crayford, the *Dominion*.



### Favourite Monsters

James Brown

This third book of poems from alumnus and winner of the Best First Book Award in the 1996 Montana NZ Book Awards is a dazzling collection of poems on subjects ranging from the highly political to the intimately domestic.



### Ground/Work: The Art of Pauline Rhodes

Christina Barton

Written and edited by a Victoria Art History lecturer, this book makes the artist's work accessible to a wider public, and secures for her a central place in art history. Additional essays by ecologist and historian Geoff Park, and architectural theorist Sarah Treadwell, consider Rhodes in light of their respective disciplines.



### Grey & Iwikau: A Journey into Custom

Alex Frame

This book by a Victoria alumnus and Honorary Fellow of the Law School traces the journey from Auckland to Taupo of the Governor of New Zealand, Sir George Grey, and Iwikau Te Heu Heu, the paramount chief of Tuwharetoa, in the summer of 1849-1850. It sheds light on the interaction between the cultures of Grey and Iwikau in a period before the descent into hostilities between Government and iwi.



### Foundations of Unjust Enrichment: Six Centennial Lectures

Peter Birks

In 1999 Peter Birks, Regius Professor of Civil Law at the University of Oxford, was the Centennial Visiting Fellow at the Law School. Professor Birks gave six public lectures on unjust enrichment that cut across traditional boundaries of 'subjects' in the law.



### Books and Bibliography: Essays in Commemoration of Don McKenzie

Edited by J E P Thomson

Long-term staff member Don McKenzie (1931-1999) was known for his teaching of Shakespeare and also his achievements in bibliography. Friends and colleagues commemorated his death by inviting those throughout the world whom he had enthused to tell of work influenced by his example.

## Institute of Policy Studies

The Institute of Policy Studies promotes independent study, research, and informed discussion of current issues of public policy.



### The Tie that Binds: The Relationship between Ministers and their Chief Executives

Edited by Colin James

This book explores the relationship between ministers and departmental chief executives. It reports and draws on a diversity of views and opinions expressed during forums held in late 2001.



### States of Mind

Edited by Arthur Grimes, Lydia Wevers & Ginny Sullivan

This collection arises from an interdisciplinary conference held to examine the relationship between Australia and New Zealand from 1901 to the present day. Contributors include historians, political scientists, an MP, lawyers, economists and commentators.

# Islands in the Sun



*Patrice Kaikilekofe, Matala i Siale, 1998*  
colour woodcut on tapa cloth

The Adam Art Gallery will be ablaze with the bright colours of the Pacific this summer. *Islands in the Sun: Prints by indigenous artists of Australia and the Australasian region* (15 November 2002-16 February 2003) celebrates the vitality and diversity of contemporary indigenous printmaking in the Australasian region. It brings together a remarkable and extensive collection of prints by artists from Aotearoa New Zealand, the Pacific Islands, Arnhem Land, Bathurst and Melville Islands, Torres Strait Islands and Papua New Guinea.

The indigenous peoples of the Australasian region, while geographically and culturally distinct, share histories of European colonisation. The arts have proved potent forces in maintaining cultural identity, and printmaking has become an increasingly vital mechanism for making the visual arts of these cultures widely accessible.

During the 1980s printmaking became a popular medium among Aboriginal artists from Arnhem Land. Local narratives were enthusiastically adapted to the print medium and became a vehicle for the acceptance and familiarity of Aboriginal imagery in popular culture.

In Aotearoa New Zealand the last two decades have witnessed a renaissance of Māori culture, with art playing an important role in this political and social process. Māori imagery has been reclaimed by contemporary Māori artists including printmakers Paratene Matchitt, John Hovell and Robyn Kahukiwa.

Pacific Island artists including John Pule, Fatu Feu'u and Michael Tuffery have adapted traditional motifs to both paper and tapa, using the printmaking medium as a means of communicating their Pacific heritage.

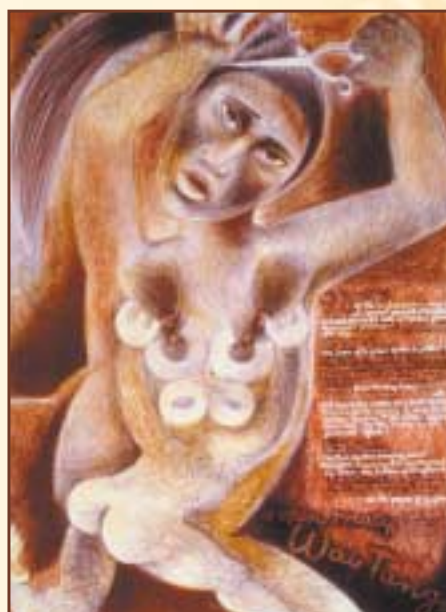
Featuring linocuts and woodcuts, screenprints and lithographs, the exhibition also includes an innovative group of works which cross traditional cultural boundaries. *Tea, Milk, Sugar* (2000), for instance, is a collaborative project between New Zealand artist Robin White and Leba Toki of Fiji. Using tapa produced in Fiji, the work combines traditional Fijian tapa design with objects relating to tea, milk and sugar—symbols of colonial rule.

Curated by Roger Butler and Brian Robinson, *Islands in the Sun* is a National Gallery of Australia Traveling Exhibition in collaboration with Cairns Regional Gallery. It is the Sustaining Members Exhibition for 2002.

There will be a lively selection of public programmes held in conjunction with this exhibition. Please contact the Gallery on Tel: +64-4-463 5229; Email: [adam-art-gallery@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:adam-art-gallery@vuw.ac.nz)



*Mathias Kauage,*  
The first missionary,  
1977, colour  
screenprint on thin  
white card



*Robyn Kahukiwa,*  
Waitangi from the folio  
New Zealand, 1990  
colour lithograph on  
paper

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