

Victorious

MAGAZINE FOR FRIENDS AND ALUMNI OF VICTORIA UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON



SUMMER 2003

Wellingtonian of the Year
John Miller—community champion

Homeward bound
Tuatara on track for the wild

Boundary markers
Colonial surveyors at work

Say cheese!
Molecular research gives
Fonterra answers

Victoria
UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON

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



www.vuw.ac.nz



Say Cheese!

There's a certain irony in Dr Sophie Godefroy, an up-and-coming French physicist, leaving her gastronomic homeland for New Zealand only to end up studying that most French of foods—cheese.

Hailing from Paris, Sophie spent 2002 at Victoria carrying out postdoctoral research at the MacDiarmid Institute for Advanced Materials & Nanotechnology.

Sophie's postgraduate career to date had focussed on the physics of oil extraction. This focus took a detour when Fonterra approached the School of Chemical & Physical Sciences looking for expertise to study two of their big name export cheeses—gouda and mozzarella. Fonterra needed to know how the cheeses changed over time and export distances. Using highly specialised equipment, such as Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR), to examine at the molecular level, Sophie concentrated on studying the relationship between oil and water in maturing cheeses—key to understanding aging—to provide some answers for Fonterra.

Sophie says that Professor Paul Callaghan, Director of the MacDiarmid Institute, was

the key factor that attracted her to the Institute. She says that Paul is highly respected and internationally renowned as a leader in the area of NMR. As one of two postdoctoral fellows in the magnetic resonance laboratory of the Institute, Sophie also had ready access to recently acquired multi-million dollar equipment.

She is now working as a physicist with Schlumberger, an international oilfield services company, and will spend the next two years on the company's rigs around the world researching petroleum. Sophie says that current extraction methods mine no more than 30 per cent of the petroleum found in porous rock. Her ambition is to better understand the oil and water content of the petroleum-bearing rocks, and how extraction is related to the rock's structure in order to increase the percentage that can be extracted.

Sophie's study of the oil and water relationship in materials has been assisted

by a break-through computer programme that she played a significant role in developing. The programme, which graphically represents the oil/water relationship, has since been adopted by physicists around the world. Paul says that this programme and the results of Sophie's research will be of great benefit to future researchers at Victoria.

The Fonterra research continues at the MacDiarmid Institute this year with a new researcher building on Sophie's work.

Although not required to taste test any of the cheeses she studied, Sophie admits to nibbling a few samples. Any good? Not bad, she says, but her favourite will always be French Camembert!

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Welcome to the new look *Victorious*. Your feedback has helped us to reorganise the way we present news, research and items of alumni interest. Our circulation is growing and it is always pleasing to have reports of copies being sighted in Fiji, London and other international and national destinations. In particular we welcome new readers who are recent graduates from our December graduation ceremonies or who graduated *in absentia*.

This year we begin construction of lecture theatres and the campus link between the old Government Buildings and Rutherford House. Substantial work is also taking place to earthquake strengthen the Rankine Brown building which houses the Library. The Kelburn campus is also undergoing a series of developments including more appropriate accommodation for academic staff in some Schools, and the creation of a more user-friendly street frontage on Kelburn Parade, using the Easterfield Building and its links to the Quad.

The University's Annual Report for 2002 is being prepared and will be published online at www.vuw.ac.nz/annualreports in mid-March. It shows the collective strength of the University in research, teaching and community activities. News of our financial surplus for the second consecutive year shows that the University's Strategic Plan, approved in 2001, is well-accepted and that we are all working together to achieve its targets.

Every year poses its challenges and opportunities, and 2003 is no exception. We have a host of exciting things happening this year including visits from Nobel Laureates, partnerships with international institutions, and the further development of our applied research centres. We will keep you informed through the pages of *Victorious*.

Stuart N McCutcheon
Vice-Chancellor

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Cover photo: December 2002 graduates Sioeli Helu, Helen Lin and Abi Ferguson meet at the Law School to take part in the graduation parade down Lambton Quay.

Victoria's academic staff are leaders in their fields of research expertise. If you have a project that requires the skills and knowledge of our staff, contact Mike Doig at VicLink. E-mail: Mike.Doig@vuw.ac.nz Tel: +64 4 463 5072

Mapping health needs

We're constantly being swamped with advice about how to live a healthy life—but are the messages having any benefit? A major collaboration with the Ministry of Health aims to find the answers.



▲ Dr Richard Arnold and Dr Jan Rigby check out maps of health services.

In a package worth about \$500,000 over several years, Victoria launched two collaborative ventures with the Ministry's Public Health Intelligence Group in November—the Public Health Intelligence Applications Laboratory (PHIAL) in the School of Earth Sciences and the Scholarships in Statistics initiative in the School of Mathematical & Computing Sciences.

The funding will be used to install a suite of sophisticated computer equipment and GIS software to map and analyse health needs and the spread of diseases, and to create scholarships in statistics worth about \$30,000 a year for the next decade.

PHIAL director, Dr Jan Rigby, says mapping health needs and disease prevalence will provide important information for the Ministry and district health boards in their planning.

Statistics lecturer Dr Richard Arnold says the scholarships will help create a pool of young statisticians with expertise in public health issues.

The first to benefit was BSc/BCA student Mark Saunders who won the Public Health Intelligence Prize in Statistics worth \$500 in November.

The scholarships are facilitated through the Victoria University of Wellington Foundation.

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Boundary markers

Swashbuckling adventurers or exploitive colonial agents—the men who mapped out the towns and roads of New Zealand have divided historians.

Now the work of the surveyors has been placed under the microscope by history programme lecturer Dr Giselle Byrnes, in her new book, *Boundary Markers*.

Based on a detailed study of the surveyors' maps, notes and diaries, Giselle's study examines the role of land surveying in colonisation and how it established European settlement while marginalising Māori.

"New ways of naming and measuring the land were laid over boundaries, place names and territories established by Māori over several centuries. The surveyors saw themselves as taming the wilderness, travelling through 'uncharted territory,' and claiming commercial opportunities."

Giselle says the surveyors' work shouldn't be dismissed as just a part of the larger process of taking Māori land or that they were simply acting out the grand designs of colonisation. While not denying the destruction the surveyors' work led to—seen at its most brutal at Parihaka in 1881—some surveyors questioned colonisation, particularly its less than humanitarian effects, and debated or challenged the assumptions of their own society.

Giselle challenges the view of the surveyors as explorers, given they were led to places "no human eyes had seen before" by Māori guides. But she doesn't demonise them either. Many learnt Māori and acted as mediators in disputes. They were also crucial in recording Māori oral histories, even if their interpretations were sometimes distorted.

Giselle says the surveyors' work is all around us in place names and the straight lines that dominate our towns—often in defiance of the land's topography. The choice of names was often idiosyncratic. That the South Island has names such as Mt Cerberus and Mt Pisgah reflects surveyor James McKerrow's interest in Greek mythology and Biblical allusions.



Alexander Turnbull Library

▲ A party surveying the North Island main trunk in Raurimu.

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Getting to the bottom of volcanoes

New Zealanders living in the central North Island are closer to the molten rock that swirls beneath the Earth's crust than almost any other people in the world, three geophysics students have discovered.

In the geophysical equivalent of "skating on thin ice", the students' work has shown the Earth's crust in the central North Island has been stretched so thin that, at 16 kilometres, it is one of the thinnest continental crusts anywhere.

Graduate students, Anna Pulford, Michelle Salmon and Wanda Stratford, have spent up to four years studying the structure and processes beneath the central North Island, shedding new light on the underground source of molten rock that feeds the North Island's volcanoes.

"Identification of what they call the 'Taupo Bright Spot' provides a new view of where magma, or molten rock, for our volcanoes comes from..."

Wanda and Michelle worked as part of a wider scientific investigation involving the Institute of Geological and Nuclear Sciences and scientists from universities in Britain and Japan. They made measurements of the crust and upper mantle of the central North Island by timing the travel of different types of seismic waves.

Underground dynamite blasts created seismic waves that bounced back from a flat surface deep in the mantle beneath the Taupo-Rotorua-Tokoroa region. Wanda estimates the waves come from about 35km deep and represent the top of a large reservoir of melted or partially melted rocks.



▲ Michelle Salmon and Wanda Stratford set up a seismograph near Raetihi.

One of the students' supervisors in the School of Earth Sciences, Associate Professor Tim Stern, says this is the first time such a direct indication for a vast region of "melt" has been found beneath the central North Island.

"Identification of what they call the 'Taupo Bright Spot' provides a new view of where magma, or molten rock, for our volcanoes comes from and also challenges our existing notions of how heat is transferred from the mantle to our geothermal fields in the upper crust," Tim says.

Anna's work has shown that if it were not for all this action in the mantle, most of the North Island would be below sea level. Only a narrow rib of islands would exist from Hawke's Bay to the Rimutaka Range.

The research was funded by the Foundation for Research, Science and Technology.

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Sexist language under fire

Psychologist Dr Ann Weatherall's research debunks the myth that women and men speak languages so different that they might as well be from different planets.

Ann argues that debate about whether a meeting convenor should be known as a chairman or chairperson or if a woman in the theatre should be known as an actor or actress has oversimplified the issues.

"I don't think there's one correct language, but what's more important is that people should use language to highlight political issues and to challenge social inequities."

Likewise, she questions the views of American therapist Dr John Gray who,

in his 1992 book *Men are from Mars, Women are from Venus*, argued men and women speak different languages and therefore have difficulty communicating.

Ann says such arguments have become so extreme they're used as an excuse for not listening and the academic debate about whether men and women speak differently has failed to reach a consensus.

"Men's and women's language does differ, but the way they differ is not fixed."



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Tuatara homeward bound

Last November the 50 juvenile tuatara that biologist Nicola Mitchell was “mum” to for one and a half years started a long journey back to the wild.

The sadness she felt at their departure was tempered with the knowledge that their new secure home at Wellington Zoo is one step closer to the goal of repopulating New Zealand with the unique taonga.

Nicki came from Australia in 2000 on a British Royal Society Postdoctoral Fellowship to join the well-established tuatara programme at Victoria led by Professor Charles Daugherty, Head of the School of Biological Sciences. The tuatara, now about 15cm long, began their journey when Nicki and a team of volunteers collected them as eggs from North Brother Island in the Cook Strait about two years ago. Those eggs have formed the basis of Nicki’s research into how the sex of the tuatara is determined by the duration and temperature of incubation.

“My research findings have very real implications for the conservation of the species. If we know what incubation temperature produces which sex, then we can strategically plan for successful breeding populations.”

Nicki says that currently tuatara survive on only 32 islands off the mainland, where they have been relatively well protected from humans and associated predators. The University’s programme aims to understand the tuatara’s biology and behaviour, with the long-term goal of reintroducing them to the mainland.

The 50 tuatara in Nicki’s care were welcomed by Zoo staff and Te Atiawa, Wellington, to their new home where they will be reared for the next five years. They were farewelled by a group including Te Atiawa of Waikawa and Nicki, Charles, and Mike Thompson. Mike, now an Associate Professor at the University of Sydney, was responsible for cracking the secret of how to artificially incubate tuatara eggs when he was a postdoctoral fellow at Victoria 17 years ago.

In five years, the tuatara will be taken to an island in the Marlborough Sounds to form the basis of a new population, under the guardianship of Te Atiawa. Over the years Charles and his team members have built a good working relationship with the Waikawa-based iwi. Glenice Paine, Resource Manager for Te Atiawa, says that this has resulted in the parties understanding each other and recognising that both have the welfare of the tuatara central to their work. “We enjoy working with Charles and the team. They are so dedicated and have always been open with us, and they take into account our views,” Glenice says. Tuatara research at Victoria has attracted significant funding, via the Victoria University of Wellington Foundation, from the San Diego



▲ Charles, Mike and Nicki hold the future of tuatara in their hands.

Zoo. Some of this has been channelled to establish a scholarship fund allowing young people from Te Atiawa, Waikawa, to study science, environmental issues and resource management at Victoria.

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▲ Children from Cannons Creek School celebrate two years of *Computers in Homes*.



Doctoral offerings

Doctoral students play an important role in the University's research culture. Following is a selection of work undertaken by student researchers who were among 19 to have PhDs conferred at December graduation.

Jon Johansson

Political Leadership in New Zealand

Jon's thesis is the first comprehensive study of political leadership in New Zealand. His research drew insights from diverse scholars and developed a model of leadership, which was then applied to the leaderships of Robert Muldoon and David Lange. The major findings include: that New Zealand Prime Ministers are pre-eminently located to disrupt the political system; correctly interpreting one's environment is the master skill of political leadership; and between 1975 and 1989 New Zealand was not served well by its leadership, resulting in unnecessary economic, social, and political costs. This study will set the future direction for the study of New Zealand political leaders.

Rachel Gardiner

Intact Implicit Learning in Schizophrenia: Evidence from Three Implicit Learning Tasks

Rachel's thesis reveals new information about the memory processes and brain regions affected by schizophrenia. Past research has shown that people with schizophrenia have difficulty remembering things that they have learned or been taught in a deliberate manner. Rachel's research revealed that it is only this explicit learning that is affected by the disorder and not the learning that takes place at a subconscious level.

Knowing that some memory functions are spared in schizophrenia also sheds light on more efficient treatment/rehabilitation interventions.

Mike Reid

Observational Gravitational Microlensing

Mike's research involved developing a high-speed, automated software suite to capture the interactions of distant stars. The software was then used to analyse several stellar events observed in New Zealand by a joint New Zealand/Japanese research project. Useful measurements made with the software include an estimate of the radius of a distant giant star, and the possible detection of a Neptune mass planet near the centre of the Galaxy. Elements of Mike Reid's software have been adopted by astrophysicists in St. Andrews, Nottingham, Rome, Padua, Nagoya, Tokyo, Austin, and Princeton. His research contributes to our understanding of galactic structure and the stellar systems within it.

Irihapeti Ramsden

Irihapeti's thesis documents the history and evolution of cultural safety in nursing and nursing education in Aotearoa. Her study analyses the evolution of cultural safety theory; its relationship to educational pedagogy and to nursing practice; and explores key perspectives on the practice, theory and future of cultural safety in nursing and nursing education. She shows that the cultural safety that has emerged in the area of nursing and health is also relevant to all encounters between health care workers and patients. This thesis is the culmination of a nursing career dedicated to developing cultural safety.

Communities seize digital opportunities

"The *Computers in Homes* programme has taken us from talking about the 'digital divide' to talking about 'digital opportunities'," says Barbara Craig, principal researcher for a scheme that has introduced information and communication technology into under-privileged communities.

At the end of 2002, Barbara, from the School of Education, presented her research findings to a group from Government, business and education. They had gathered to case study

the two-year pilot project that had provided families with a PC, an internet connection, training and technical support.

"Research shows that the project has given parents the skills and confidence to enter a digital world and has enabled them to improve their lives in some significant areas. These include improvements in literacy, self-confidence, maintaining and spreading their cultures, employment and further education, and increased communication with schools and community services."

Computers in Homes was established by the 2020 Communications Trust in July 2000 with financial support from the Ministry of Education. Clare Coman at Victoria Link, the University's commercial contract

organisation, has played a key role, acquiring the software, hardware and technical expertise and securing funding. Although initially piloted in two school communities, there are now 17 groups involved in *Computers in Homes*, with Barbara getting at least one new inquiry a week.

"A strong message from the participating parents was that the desire to learn IT, literacy and numeracy skills was driven by the desire to help their kids succeed at school where they themselves may not have."

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If you are interested in supporting the students and staff of Victoria with a donation of funds, resources or time, we'd like to hear from you. For financial contributions contact the Victoria University of Wellington Foundation Executive Officer, Tricia Walbridge.
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Scholarship brings dream alive

When Sinat Chea emigrated with her family from Cambodia to New Zealand, computers were as foreign to her as the accent of those in her new homeland.

Now two years later as winner of the 2003 Girls' Friendly Society Scholarship, Sinat plans to complete a Bachelor of Information Technology at Victoria and become a computer systems engineer.

The Scholarship has brought a dream alive for Sinat. "In Cambodia I could only dream of going to University. I never imagined that I would be able to make it."

The three year fee-paying Scholarship, facilitated by the Victoria University of Wellington Foundation, is awarded to a seventh form pupil of Wellington East Girls' College who will be studying at Victoria University the following year. Janet Waite, President of the Girls' Friendly Society, says that the Scholarship is designed to lessen the pressure of tertiary study on young women from families with limited financial resources. Although Sinat had studied basic English in Cambodia, when she arrived

in New Zealand she found the accent very difficult to understand. After an intensive summer course to improve her English skills, Sinat jumped feet-first into studying maths and science subjects.

Sinat says that her parents and grandparents were excited when they heard that she had won the Scholarship. "They were so proud of me and happy! They have told so many people," she says. "They want me to study and get an education so that my life will be easier than theirs has been."

"In Cambodia I could only dream of going to University. I never imagined that I would be able to make it."

Janet says that the Scholarship was awarded to Sinat because of her ambition to succeed academically, in spite of obstacles, and



▲ Sinat on the Hunter Lawn

to help her family. No stranger to hard work, Sinat has held down a part time job at a local supermarket while studying at Wellington East. She is the second recipient of the new Scholarship, with Lucy McIntyre now into her second year of study at Victoria.

The Wellington Girls' Friendly Society is an Anglican Church organisation, established in 1883 by Lady Lucy Jervois, wife of Sir William Jervois, Governor of New Zealand, to assist single women as they arrived in New Zealand.

Literary legends in the making

Two annual prizes awarded in December through the Victoria University of Wellington Foundation highlighted some hot new literary talent in the International Institute of Modern Letters.

Cliff Fell was announced as winner of the 2002 Adam Prize in Creative Writing for his collection of poems, *The Adulterer's Bible*. The \$1,000 prize, donated through the Adam Foundation, goes to the best folio presented by a student from the MA in Creative Writing.

The Adulterer's Bible takes its name from a 17th century Bible whose printers omitted the word "not" from the commandment "Thou Shalt Not Commit Adultery". Cliff can be heard reading his poems at Turbine 02—the International Institute of Modern Letters' online literary journal www.vuw.ac.nz/turbine/

Claire Ashton will go down in history as the inaugural winner of the \$1,000 Embassy Trust Prize for the top student in the scriptwriting course taught by Ken Duncum, the Michael Hirschfeld Director of Scriptwriting.

Claire's winning work is a feature film script called *Vena Cava*, adapted from the novel of the same name by New Zealand writer Ann-Marie Houng Lee. The film script is set

in Tokyo and follows the relationship of a New Zealand woman and an Australian woman working as hostesses.

▼ Cliff Fell and Claire Ashton





A little help from our friends

The professional standards and the extent of the service provided by the University's Adam Art Gallery come at a price, says Gallery Director, Sophie McIntyre.

"By becoming a Friend or Sustaining Member of the Gallery you will be helping us to develop our exhibition programme and to provide a range of public programmes which are relevant to the University and wider community."

The Gallery opened in September 1999 after a generous donation from Denis and Verna Adam through the Adam Foundation. It has since established itself as a resource to a wide variety of groups including staff, students, artists and other galleries both in New Zealand and overseas.

In addition to presenting exhibitions by national and international artists, Sophie is interested in tapping into the varied expertise within the University to stage interdisciplinary exhibitions. Staff and students from the School of Biological Sciences contributed to the successful *Botanica* exhibition. *Would you like beats with that?* was an exhibition of intermedia installations by School of Music students in collaboration with artists from the wider community.

"I would welcome all those people who appreciate the value of the Adam Art Gallery at Victoria to step forward and support us."

In return for financial support, Friends and Sustaining Members are invited to exclusive events, receive advance notice of upcoming exhibitions and events, and get reductions on publications and event charges.

Contact the Adam Art Gallery for details on becoming a Friend or Sustaining Member.

E-mail: Kate.Griffin@vuw.ac.nz
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www.vuw.ac.nz/adamartgal



Emeritus Professor Tim Beaglehole and Patsy Reddy are sustaining members of the Adam Art Gallery:

Over the last two years the Adam Art Gallery has given us an exciting range of exhibitions—stimulating, challenging, innovative and curated with scholarship and imagination. It has fostered understanding and interpretation of the visual arts and become an integrated contributor to the academic and cultural life of Victoria and the wider community.

As Sustaining Members, we are pleased both to be able to contribute to the energetic programme generated by the Gallery and to enjoy the benefits of membership.

Offering financial support is one way of helping to continue the excellent programmes the Adam Art Gallery is celebrated for and to maintain a close personal link with the range of activities offered. We commend the idea to you.

Foundation welcomes new members

Sponsors and donors—the University needs their support and the Victoria University of Wellington Foundation late last year paid tribute to the people and organisations that have given so much generous support.

The Foundation held its Members' Function to thank its most significant donors and

sponsors at the Adam Art Gallery in November, which was attended by more than 130 guests.

Foundation Executive Director Tricia Walbridge says the function is held every two years to recognise and honour the generous support of donors and sponsors.

"With the limitations on Government funding, the support of sponsors and donors is vital to the University. All donations, large or small, are gratefully received and the Members' Function is an important way in which we can thank those people and organisations who have contributed towards the University's success."

The function honoured 12 new Members of the Foundation. They were: The Les and Sonia Andrews' Cultural Foundation, Holden + Partners, Sir Frank and Lady Holmes, Mary McHardy, Meridian Energy Ltd, the Morton Family, John Oakley, The Ministry of Health's Public Health Intelligence Group, Glenn Schaeffer, Shell New Zealand Ltd, South Pacific Pictures and Trinity Newman Hall of Residence.

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If you are interested in finding out about the dynamic courses and qualifications offered by Victoria for yourself or to share with others, contact our Course Advice team. E-mail: Course.Advice@vuw.ac.nz Tel: 0800 VIC UNI

IT humming at Vic

Information technology services to staff and students are moving ahead in leaps and bounds.

The corporate home page www.vuw.ac.nz and pages in the home directory have been completely overhauled, providing direct specialist links for prospective, current, international and Māori students, as well as alumni, donors, media, visitors and staff.

The new home website was designed by Wellington company Shift. In October they won the TUANZ 2002 Marketing Award for designing Victoria International's new website www.vuw.ac.nz/international. The site has proved to be an effective tool in the recruitment of international students.

The website includes a specially designed home site for current students called *studentVUIW* that can be accessed offsite through the Victoria homepage.

Several hundred summer trimester students piloted a new feature of *studentVUIW* that gave them access to their Student Records, allowing them to view their timetable and fee balances as well as updating their contact details.

It is planned to offer this service to all students this year, including the ability to check examination results, print unofficial transcripts and pay fees online.

The University is also planning to pilot a similar system for its academic staff.

To allow this to happen, the University's student administration system, Banner, is undergoing a major upgrade. Working on the upgrade are several Victoria alumni including Simon Ford, Ginette Thompson and Louise Carlile.

Thirty six CyberConnects have been installed for students throughout the Kelburn campus,



▲ Student Alana Hutt checks her email on a new CyberConnect while fellow student Lorna Flynn looks on.

with plans to extend their spread to the city campuses this year. These provide students with "on the go" access to e-mail and web services.

Legal eagle wins community honour

Law students have played a key role in Senior Lecturer John Miller being named The Dominion Post 2002 Wellingtonian of the Year.

John received the award at a function at Te Papa in November. He was recognised for his efforts on behalf of hundreds of accident compensation claimants for whom he has won substantial cash awards and for the instrumental role he has played in changing ACC law.

John, from the School of Law, says his work provided ample case studies for the courses he taught on the law of torts, criminal law and victimology. "They're all aspects of law around the rights of accident and crime victims to compensation."

"I also have several senior law students who work with me on my cases and from which



▲ John Miller with the Wellingtonian of the Year Cup.

they gain considerable experience, as well as helping them with their research. In the Law School we run a clinical programme where students work out in the community and we're considering expanding that to have students working for me in a 'public interest law firm'."

John was slightly embarrassed to receive the award. "I do feel a bit guilty because there are so many other people who do as much as I do and more, and also deserve to be recognised, but I am very pleased."

John says one of his most memorable cases, which he did free of charge, won the right to 24-hour care for the seriously injured. The decision of the High Court resulted in ACC paying out more than \$200 million.

Dean of Law, Professor Matthew Palmer, says John is a fine teacher and worthy winner of the award. "John's quiet but determined championing of the underdog reminds us of one of those important dimensions of the role of the university in our community."

The awards, in their fourteenth year, honour Wellingtonians who have made a difference.

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Who's new?

Pat Walsh

Professor Pat Walsh had barely settled into his job as Head of the new Victoria Management School last year when he was promoted to become the new Dean of Commerce & Administration and Pro Vice-Chancellor.

Pat took up his new role in January, succeeding Professor Neil Quigley. Neil remains as a Pro Vice-Chancellor with responsibility for international issues and Victoria International.

Pat completed his BA and MA at Canterbury University before undertaking a PhD at the University of Minnesota. He joined Victoria in 1981 and was appointed Head of the former School of Business & Public Management in 1997.



Warwick Clegg

Professor Warwick Clegg has been appointed to the newly created position of Pro Vice-Chancellor with responsibility for information technology. Warwick will be responsible for academic activities in information technology, and for the Library and Information Technology Services.

Warwick came to Victoria from the University of Plymouth, England, where he was Head of the Department of Communication and Electronic Engineering. He is an expert in the area of novel methods of magnetic data storage and advanced instruments for high-resolution magnetic imaging.

He has extensive managerial and leadership experience, and has been involved in all aspects of practical and strategic university administration. He also has experience and an interest in developing lifetime learning skills in students.

Gary Hawke

Professor Gary Hawke, the inaugural Head of the University's new School of Government, is no stranger to Victoria.

Gary has been on the staff of Victoria since 1968 and was Professor of Economic History in the School of Economics & Finance before starting his new job in January. He has previously served as Dean of Arts (1985-88) and as Director of the Institute of Policy Studies (1987-98). A Fellow of the Royal Society of New Zealand, in 1998 he was awarded the NZIER-Qantas Prize in Economics. Gary has chaired or been a member of several government working parties, including chairing the New Zealand Planning Council (1986-91).



New programmes

New programmes are regularly provided by Victoria University to meet the demands of employers, students and developing disciplines. A selection of recently introduced programmes and courses include:

Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Film

Building on the existing Bachelor of Arts major, Film is now offered as a subject for Honours. The programme acts as a bridge between the study of Film at the undergraduate and higher postgraduate levels. The programme involves students completing four courses in scriptwriting, a video production project, film theory, film culture and society, avant-garde and independent film and video making or a research essay. The programme suits students who have majored in Film at the undergraduate level and want to study film in greater depth or are keen to work creatively in film and wish to enhance their skills.

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Postgraduate Certificate and Diploma in Public Management

Mirroring the structure of the Master of Public Policy programme, the Postgraduate Certificate and Diploma in Public Management staircase towards the three-year Master of Public Management (MPM) degree. Students completing the first year of the MPM programme can either continue on or graduate with a Postgraduate Certificate. Likewise, those completing the second year can either complete the degree or graduate with a Postgraduate Diploma. The programme provides increased flexibility to students who are unable to commit to the full three-year MPM programme.

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Executive Master of Public Administration

Victoria and the New Zealand Government are inaugural members of the Australia and New Zealand School of Government (ANZSOG) along with the Australian Government, two state governments and seven major universities. Victoria proposes to offer a ten-paper Executive MPA in association with ANZSOG. Papers will cover topics such as the design of public policies and programmes, public sector change and decision-making under uncertainty. Twenty senior New Zealand public service staff will embark on the programme each year. ANZSOG staff and Victoria University staff will offer half of the papers each and students will study both in Wellington and in Brisbane, Canberra, Melbourne or Sydney. The first students start in May.

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Where will you be in 6 months' time?
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Ministry bars study tour funding

Recently retired after 28 years at Victoria, Professor Chris Dearden had led students on three overseas field trips before the Ministry of Education this year made funding changes that place the experience beyond the financial reach of many. The Ministry's changes affect students from programmes across the University and has already resulted in the cancellation of one Summer Trimester course. Following are Chris' thoughts on the Ministry's decision:

The students who have taken part in a Greek Field Trip have been uniform in their praise for its value and their love of the learning experience.

One student said, "there is nothing so fulfilling as finally coming face to face with the statue or vase or ancient site that you have written about, studied in depth, described from books and slides—it makes it all so much more real".

In my years of teaching there have been few experiences quite like providing students with an opportunity to learn first hand. The true value of the field trips cannot be overestimated for the way they bring the subject alive and create a fuller understanding of the ancient and modern world.

Classics went to great lengths to ensure that the trip was as reasonably priced as possible.



▲ Chris Dearden at Eleusis, Greece.

The cost has been \$3,250, covering airfares, transport and hotel accommodation, breakfast and insurance for more than five weeks. Even at that value students had difficulty meeting the costs but, as a fully approved course, it was able to be financed from student loans. The Ministry of Education has now changed the rules, refusing student loans to courses that are taught off shore, except under three conditions—that the course is approved and does what it says it will do (ours does), that it cannot be taught in New Zealand (self-evident one would think) and that it is a compulsory part of the degree. The latter we cannot meet because not all students could go off to Greece for five weeks, and, more importantly, to meet it would require taking groups of 100+, which would be a very different experience. We have protested, argued, persuaded—all to no avail. The Government is firm and apparently unconcerned about the educational value that might be derived from such a trip.

“There is nothing so fulfilling as finally coming face to face with the statue or vase or ancient site that you have written about, studied in depth, described from books and slides—it makes it all so much more real.”

The future of this and other trips now hangs in the balance. Whether trips go ahead and which students will be able to go is now very much dependent upon individual student savings.

Crossroads approaching for tertiary sector

by Professor Stuart McCutcheon, Vice-Chancellor

New Zealand's tertiary sector is fast approaching a crossroad. Years of declining investment are soon to come home to roost and the high standards we hold dear may slip if proposed changes to the tertiary sector are implemented without real increases in per student funding.

The University Council, in October last year, reluctantly accepted the 2003 fees stabilisation offer, freezing student fees at the 2000 level. The Government said it was offering a 4.5 per cent increase, well above inflation. But the increase was only on tuition subsidies and equates to a 2.5 per cent increase in total revenue. It continues a decline in real terms of Government per student funding that began in the early 1990s.

This cycle of declining and fragmented funding, combined with increasing central control, cannot go on forever if standards are to be maintained and the autonomy universities have cherished is to be preserved.

The pressure on the system continues to rise. While Victoria will record a modest surplus for the 2002 year, other institutions have struggled with deficits and rising debt. In November we amicably settled pay talks with union staff but our ability to pay rates to attract and retain academics of international calibre is severely limited by the low level of public funding. Other New Zealand universities were not so lucky, with the pressure to pay for increases they believed they could not afford, boiling over into industrial action.



Māori research needs

To meet the funding challenge, universities have reduced costs and we've all become more entrepreneurial in attracting other revenue. But the Government has now moved to further control our revenue sources.

Victoria, along with other universities, has strenuously opposed the proposal for student fees maxima. The proposal undermines the University's autonomy and the ability of the Council to set its own fees.

The Government has introduced an export levy on international students. We believe it is one of the most flawed pieces of policy analysis ever used to create a tax or levy in New Zealand. We don't see why quality institutions such as Victoria, which have invested heavily in attracting and supporting international students, should in effect have to pay to fix the problems caused by poor quality providers.

To meet the funding challenge, universities have reduced costs and we've all become more entrepreneurial in attracting other revenue.

Millions are also being spent on bodies such as the Tertiary Education Commission, but it is not clear what benefit it will bring to our front-line teaching and research people. The proposed funding model, with its variety of funding systems looks set to move us from a simple and under-funded system to one that is complex and under-funded. Funding is being sliced up into smaller pieces, with greater government control. Every new fund that is established results in increased overhead costs and bureaucracy.

This cycle of declining and fragmented funding, combined with increasing central control, cannot go on forever if standards are to be maintained and the autonomy universities have cherished is to be preserved. Both this and previous recent governments have stressed the importance of universities as drivers of the "knowledge economy." If that is to be anything more than rhetoric, the funding has to be provided to make it happen.

Māori research has been given a financial boost in the last year but the people able to carry it out are thin on the ground, say two Victoria staff who attended the second *Māori in the University Sector Conference* in October last year.

Māori representatives from eight universities, key government officials and Māori members of working committees in the sector met at Victoria to focus on two main issues—building Māori capacity in New Zealand universities and the advantages to Māori of having good research strategies in place.

Victoria's representation included Piri Sciascia, Toiahurei and Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Māori); Te Ripowai Higgins, Tumuaki and Head of Te Kawa a Māui; and Wally Penetito, Senior Lecturer in the School of Education and Kaihautā of He Pārekereke.

Te Ripowai says research for Māori has significantly moved forward with the establishment of the Government-funded Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga (Horizons of Insight): The National Institute of Research Excellence for Māori Development and Advancement.

But more remained to be done across all disciplines including meeting the need for more Māori to be carrying out research in strong partnerships with Māori communities, she says.

"Māori graduate students just get snapped up as they are very marketable candidates..."

Wally says that Māori research and education are not an end in themselves, but vital for Māori advancement. Many Māori doing postgraduate study choose to complete their degrees with coursework rather than a thesis, which he puts down to students being unable to give up work to devote to fulltime research.

This poses concerns under the Performance Based Research Fund currently being implemented, as it is proposed that universities will get the same funding



▲ Piri Sciascia speaks at the opening of the conference.

for teaching a postgraduate degree as coursework as they will for an undergraduate diploma, with additional funding coming from a mix of research completions and other research measures.

Te Ripowai says it is difficult to build the capacity for Māori research in the university sector because of more attractive employment packages elsewhere. "Māori graduate students just get snapped up as they are very marketable candidates. Even fewer go on to do postgraduate work as there is strong demand from the government sector for our undergraduates to become policy analysts."

Te Ripowai says there was a lot of interest from other universities in the work being carried out at Victoria to develop relationships with Māori. Victoria's Council and Senior Management Team last year both backed documents outlining the University's obligations under the Treaty of Waitangi.

Wally sees room for a greater Māori tertiary infrastructure to be implemented in order to effect change.

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If you are interested in joining the alumni association of Victoria University or the Wellington College of Education Email: Alumni.Association@vuw.ac.nz
Tel: +64 4 463 5128, www.vuw.ac.nz/alumni or www.wce.ac.nz/alumni

Come join us!

By Philip McCabe
As President of the Alumni Association I'm often asked "The University keeps in touch with me via *Victorious*, why should I become a paid member of the VUW Alumni Association?"

The answer is simple: Victoria's graduates have an important active role to play in the life of Victoria's community and by becoming a subscription member you are making a contribution that financially supports the work of the University and the community of scholars it represents.

There has been a lot of talk recently about the worth of education to the New Zealand economy, getting value for student fees and changes in the way universities are funded. It would be easy to think of the University as just another big business. But Victoria is more than that. It is an institution committed to society's highest aspirations, like the exploration and discovery of ideas and knowledge and the critical analysis and evaluation of ideas important to human intellectual and social advancement. Victoria is also charged with the responsibility of being a critic and conscience for the society it serves. Imagine if universities did not exist.

At only \$30, or for two people sharing mail \$50, an Alumni Association subscription may be a small contribution but it is important because it helps fund the research and teaching that translates these lofty ideals into reality. One practical example of this support is the Alumni Association Scholarships that are awarded each year to postgraduate students. Last year the value of these scholarships was \$14,000 and they funded research on such diverse subjects as how the body image of fashion models influences the attitudes of young children, and a study of the regional variation in New Zealand English intonation. If the Alumni Association Scholarships programme is to grow to help more students, further funds are needed on a continuing basis.

Subscription members also get opportunities to participate in the life of the University, to receive the results of groundbreaking research at lectures, to experience the work of the University's new graduates in music, theatre and architecture and the rest, to take advantage of Victoria's graduate network and best of all, to enjoy each other's company while doing so.

If you are not already a subscription member, it's important that you join now!

Looking for graduates



WELLINGTON COLLEGE OF EDUCATION
TE WHĀNAU O AKO PAI KI TE UPOKO O TE IKA

Enrolments are looking good for the first year of the conjoint teaching qualification being taught by the University and the Wellington College of Education.

An agreement signed in July 2001 by the two institutions enables the sharing of services and resources, and makes a commitment to developing partnership ventures. The more we do together, the closer our communities will be. To keep you in touch with the people and developments,

a Wellington College of Education alumni programme has been established. From now on College alumni will receive *Victorious* as well as College news and event invitations.

A College alumni event is planned for mid 2003 but we need to know where you are. It's a slow process collecting current contact information so if you want to be a part of the Wellington College of Education's alumni network, contact us now.

Please pass on the word to other College friends!

E-mail: wcealumni@vuw.ac.nz
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www.wce.ac.nz/alumni



▲ Pauline Neale and Angela

Kiwi connections

The Alumni Association has joined forces with Victoria International to establish Kiwi Connections, a volunteer friendship programme for international students. Kiwi Connections aims to help international students adjust to their "adopted" country, gain insights into the daily lives of Kiwis and take home some unique memories.

The pilot programme in 2002 was incredibly popular with international students. The Alumni Association is now recruiting more hosts to be involved this year.

Pauline Neale, one of the pilot programme hosts, says that she volunteered, "to avoid becoming a curmudgeonly old codger by keeping in touch with what younger people are thinking and to actively contribute to the University's, and New Zealand's, responsibility to help international students succeed rather than letting them sink or swim by themselves".

Pauline's student Rong Xin Xia, or Angela as she prefers to be known here, arrived at Victoria from Beijing, China in June 2002 to study for a Bachelor of Tourism Management.

The pair have had fun together, going on outings and sharing meals. Angela has introduced elements of the Chinese culture to Pauline and her family and friends.

Angela says she feels very lucky and privileged to have the opportunity to learn so much about the Kiwi way of life, as well as participating in activities that she might not otherwise have become involved in.

E-mail: Alumni-Association@vuw.ac.nz
Tel: +64 4 463 5246.



Life after Vic

Thanks to the graduates and members of the University community who have sent in their news of life after Vic. Here is a selection of your stories.

Ken Stevens

In 1996, after 20 years in Education at Victoria, Ken was appointed to the Chair of Tele-Learning at Memorial University in Newfoundland, Canada, after a worldwide search. Now five years into the role, he is a leading expert in using technology to link the resources of rural schools to deliver a breadth and quality of subjects. Ken started this study at Victoria when he worked with school clusters in remote areas of New Zealand. His brief in Canada was to establish the same model there, which he successfully did, resulting in the Ministry of Education adopting the model for wider use. Ken was a visiting Professor at the School of Education in 2002 and shared his experiences with staff, students and others in the education sector.



Ida Malosi

BA 1985, LLB 1989

Her Honour Judge Ida Malosi, New Zealand's first Pacific woman Judge, has a particular interest in issues pertaining to families. It's an interest borne out by her many professional and personal contributions prior to her appointment to the bench in September 2002. In 1994 she commenced practice in partnership with Sandra Alofivae and La-Verne King at King Alofivae Malosi. In 1996 she was part of a team contracted by the Law Commission to report to the Womens' Access to Justice project on Pacific women. She is a past member of the Auckland District Law Society's Mental Health Committee and Children and Young Persons' Committee. She was also a member of the Auckland Women Lawyers' Association for many years, and prior to going to the Bench had been a District Inspector of Mental Health for two years. In practice she



represented children in the Family Court and young people in the Youth Court.

Christine Young

LLB BCA 1992

Since graduating Christine has worked as an accountant, with a couple of diversions. In 1996 she travelled to the UK to work in Oxford where she worked in the finance department of Apollo Leisure before opening her own restaurant. This 3rd degree Black Belt also found time to represent England and Wales at the 1997 Taekwon-Do World Champs in St Petersburg, winning a gold medal. Christine now works in London as Financial Controller for the international public relations firm August. She is planning to grade for her 4th degree black belt shortly, and expects to return home this year.



Jessica Hutchings

MA(Applied) Environmental Studies 1998

Jessica, Ngāi Tahu, Ngāti Huirapa and Indian, is the Investment Manager, Māori, for the Foundation for Research Science and Technology (FRST). She facilitates Māori responsiveness in research, science and technology investment processes, supports initiatives that build the capacity of Māori as researchers in the science and technology system and explores ways FRST can promote the development of research capabilities for Māori. She is in the final stages of completing her PhD at Victoria.



Paul Michalik

LLB(Hons) 1993; BA 1995

Since 1993 Paul has worked as a lawyer, apart from the two and half years he spent at Oxford where he studied for his postgraduate Bachelor of Civil Laws and also taught law. In 2002 he was made a Partner at Morrison Kent, Wellington and



was graded for his second degree black belt in Kyokushin Karate. Paul still instructs karate regularly at Victoria's Rec Centre, and also teaches insurance law as an Adjunct Lecturer to the Law Faculty.

Alex Dyer

BDes 1999,

Daryl Neal

BDes 1999,

Jonathan Pidwell

BDes 1999

Alex, Daryl, and Jonathan are partners in the Wellington-based company Tasman Studios. The company specialises in product and multimedia design and has designed everything from toy drums and musical playgrounds to rubbish bins. Alex has worked as a model maker for the Lord of the Rings Trilogy, and as a 3D illustrator whose pictures are now in all the Road Code publications in New Zealand. Daryl was recently involved in the design of the Lord of the Rings exhibition currently on display at Te Papa. Previously Daryl was based in Germany where he was remodeling aircraft interiors. Jonathan's stadium seat designs—the Unity and Eclipse—both use innovative flexible engineering to increase comfort and provide world-class, competitively priced products. The designs are being specified and installed all over the world including in some of the 2004 Athens Olympic stadiums.



▲ Daryl Neal, Alex Dyer and Jonathan Pidwell of Tasman Studios

Victoria Heine

BSc 1990, LLB(Hons) 1993

Last edition we reported that Victoria was on track to becoming a Partner at law firm Chen Palmer & Partners. Our mistake—she was already a Partner.

Forgotten author

Alumnus Guthrie Wilson was a military hero and international best-selling author in the 1950s and yet almost 20 years after his death he has been largely forgotten. Now alumna Julia Millen is uncovering the details of his life in a biography she is writing with the assistance of a Creative New Zealand grant.

Julia last year interviewed Guthrie's widow, Madge, in Sydney, and his children who live in a remote corner of New South Wales, where she found a box of his manuscripts including letters and clippings, short stories, an unpublished novel and his unpublished memoirs. Guthrie graduated from Victoria in 1935 with an MA with First Class Honours in History.

A key part of Guthrie's controversial fourth novel, *Sweet White Wine*, tells the story of

two men at Victoria University. Included are descriptions of the campus, climbing Salamanca Rd through violent winds and rain and thinly veiled caricatures of University staff. Julia suspects economics professor Reggie Althorp is none other than Professor Barney Murphy after whom the Murphy Building is named.

But it was the libel case that surrounded the book that became a *cause célèbre*. Guthrie won £1,500 from the *Manawatu Daily Times* after it published a review alleging he had used the book to attack the Palmerston North Boys' High School Board of Governors for turning him down as headmaster.

Ironically, it was Guthrie's first book, *Brave Company*, which told the story of New Zealand soldiers in Italy in World War II and sold 100,000 copies worldwide, that led to the fracas. The book's inclusion of some coarse language used by ordinary soldiers irked the school board. Guthrie had been wounded and captured during a WWII

battle and later received the Military Cross. Guthrie published eight novels, the last in 1963, but after gaining the headmastership of The Scots College in Sydney, he gave up writing. He died in 1984. "He was New Zealand's most successful novelist in his time but he has since been totally forgotten. The move to Australia, where he was less well known, work commitments and that all his novels were so utterly different, eventually counted against him," Julia says.



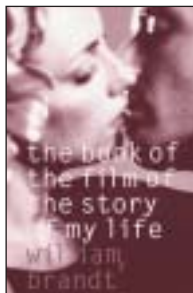
▲ Guthrie Wilson in the early 1960s.

Victoria University Press

The Book of the Film of the Story of My Life

William Brandt

In the tradition of Nick Hornby, this first novel from William Brandt, MA in Creative Writing graduate and Adam Prize-winning author of *Alpha Male*, is both moving and laugh-out-loud funny.



Measurement

Tim Corballis

This beautifully written novel by a Victoria alumnus is a moving meditation on the intricate relationship between life and memory. Tim's first novel, *Below*, was one of the outstanding novels of 2001.



Vagabonds

Lorae Parry

Lorae, a former Writer in Residence at Victoria, takes three real people—Charlotte Badger, an escaped convict with a colourful past who was New Zealand's first recorded Pakeha woman, Mrs Foley and Mrs Swan, and imagines a series of increasingly outrageous incidents set against the backdrop of the Waikato Land Wars.



The Trials of Eric Mareo

Charles Ferrall & Rebecca Ellis

When flamboyant musician Eric Mareo was convicted in 1936 of murdering his actress wife, most New Zealanders believed that justice had been served. But some, including the trial judge, were not so sure. Charles Ferrall is a Senior Lecturer in the English programme.



Constitutional Conversations:

Geoffrey Palmer talks to Kim Hill on National Radio 1994-2001

A collection of the best of nearly nine years of regular broadcasts on National Radio's Nine to Noon programme hosted by Kim Hill. The Rt Hon Sir Geoffrey Palmer, 2002 recipient of an honorary Doctor of Laws, and Kim Hill discussed contemporary events as they occurred, putting them in context and relating them to the constitutional framework and the system of government as a whole. There are many topical and insightful areas covered in this learned, accessible and frequently provocative book.



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Seven weeks in a leaky boat

Nick Ashill, Senior Lecturer in the School of Marketing & International Business, is steadfast in the face of two and a half years of mental and physical slog that will see him through to the start line of the seven-week North Atlantic Ocean Fours Rowing Challenge.

In June 2005, Nick, Greg Meikle, David Shanks and a fourth team member will set off to cross one of the wildest stretches of water on the planet. One of 15 teams, and the only one from the Southern Hemisphere, they will embark on a journey that will test their endurance as they row from Boston to Plymouth through a course of container ships, stray ice bergs and fog.

Nick, who won one of the Government's Tertiary Teaching Excellence Awards in 2002, is an accomplished sportsman and self-confessed "can't sit still" kind of guy. "It's part of my make-up. I'm always looking for new challenges. This is the first time the race has been held across the North Atlantic, so whoever wins will set the race record."

The team has called on advice from sportspeople Rob Hamill and Jude Ellis, both of whom have rowed across the South Atlantic. "The message they both gave us is that the work required to gather a support team, build the boat, secure sponsorship and do the training will be as big a task as the race itself."

The rowers, with Jim Richard, team manager, have been out and about spreading the word on their project. They've received great



▲ Nick (left) and the team at Wellington harbour

support to date but would still like to hear from people who are interested in contributing to the team—through a financial donation, the loan of training facilities or expertise.

Right now they are making the most of the summer weather with land and sea training under way. Nick says that Cook Strait will provide an excellent training ground and a taste of what they can expect to meet in the Atlantic.

The crew will reach a preparation milestone in June when their 11m x 2m kitset boat will arrive. "That's when we are hoping that a boat builder will step forward and help us put it together."

Nick and the team are confident that, with support, the end goal of completing the race is achievable.

"The project is really all about ordinary New Zealanders doing the extraordinary."

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Hello Sailors

First it was the Boys and Girls in Blue. Now Vic has taken the sailors onboard.

Late last year the University signed an agreement with the Royal New Zealand Navy that will see the development of a close working relationship as the Navy seeks to align its education and training with tertiary qualifications.

The agreement is similar to an arrangement between Victoria and the New Zealand Police, which has been in place for two years.

The Memorandum of Agreement was signed by Vice-Chancellor Professor Stuart McCutcheon and Captain Pat Williams, of the Navy's Fleet Personnel and Training Organisation. It follows a call from the Navy, in 2001,

for proposals from tertiary providers interested in developing a long-term relationship.

"This partnership with Victoria University will assist the Navy as we continue towards our vision of being 'the best small nation navy in the world'," says Capt Williams.

The new School of Government is responsible for overseeing the Agreement, which will involve the Navy gaining credit recognition towards Victoria qualifications for in-service training conducted at its officer training school at Auckland's Devonport Naval Base. The University had already been involved in the re-development of the Navy's Maritime Strategy Paper, which was delivered at the Naval Base in November.

E-mail: SOG-info@vuw.ac.nz
Tel: +64 4 463 6599

Super scientists

The contributions of two scientists who share their time between Victoria and Industrial Research Limited (IRL) were recognised last year with scientific honours from the Council of the Royal Society of New Zealand.

Associate Professor Ken MacKenzie and Professor Jeff Tallon FRSNZ form a link between the two institutions that sees Victoria science students get access to the best of world-class scientists, equipment and research projects.

Ken, of the School of Chemical & Physical Sciences and Senior Scientist in the Ceramics Team at IRL, has been elected to a Fellowship of the Royal Society of New Zealand. The Fellowship was extended to Ken in recognition of the substantial research contributions he has made in the study of the chemistry of ceramics, minerals and inorganic materials.

Over the last 36 years he has published his research findings in some 229 papers (the majority being in high quality international peer reviewed journals), secured four patents and

written an authoritative text book on *Multinuclear Solid State NMR of Inorganic Materials*.

Jeff, a renowned physicist at the School of Chemical & Physical Sciences and Distinguished Scientist at IRL, was awarded the 2002 Rutherford Medal for Science and Technology—the Royal Society of New Zealand’s highest award. The medal recognises his leading international research in the discovery, design, physical characterisation, understanding and application of high temperature superconductors. He is also renowned for his enthusiastic leadership in the promotion of science—speaking at schools, professional and service organisations and to the wider community.

Ken MacKenzie ▼ ▼ Jeff Tallon



Honours awarded

The University recognised three lifetimes of achievement when it awarded honorary doctorates to Professor Michael Kelly, Rt Hon Sir Geoffrey Palmer and Gordon Brown at the December graduation ceremonies.



Photography by Woolf



Photography by Woolf



Photography by Woolf

Michael Kelly

Professor Michael Kelly FRS received an honorary Doctor of Science for his work in electronics and solid-state physics. Moving to Britain in 1971, the Victoria alumnus completed his PhD in solid-state physics at Cambridge University, worked for some time at electronics company GEC, and then moved to the University of Surrey where he was later appointed Head of the School of Electronics, Computing and Mathematics. In 1993, he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society and last year he returned to Cambridge University as the inaugural Prince Philip Professor of Technology.

Geoffrey Palmer

The Rt Hon Geoffrey Palmer was awarded an honorary Doctor of Laws for his achievements in academia, the law and government. The Victoria alumnus has been a lecturer and professor at Victoria as well as at the Universities of Iowa and Virginia. He entered Parliament in 1979 and served in various roles in Opposition and Government including as Prime Minister (1989-90). He retired from politics in 1990 and received a knighthood in 1991. In 1994, he founded, with Mai Chen, the law firm now known as Chen Palmer & Partners.

Gordon H Brown

Artist and art historian Gordon H Brown was awarded an honorary Doctor of Literature for his work in 20th century New Zealand art history and criticism. Born in Wellington, he was among the first to assess New Zealand painting and other visual media in line with international practice. A graduate of the Canterbury College of Art, he trained as a librarian at the National Library School and joined the Alexander Turnbull Library in 1960. In 1970, he became director of the Waikato Art Gallery and in 1974, of Wanganui’s Sarjeant Gallery. In 1989 he received an OBE for his contribution to New Zealand’s art history and scholarship.



Time unravelled

How long is a piece of string? In artist Bill Taylor's case, 4.6 billion years and counting.

In 2002 Bill, an alumnus, took leave from his art specialist job at Raroa Normal Intermediate to spend a year at Victoria on a Royal Society of New Zealand Teaching Fellowship. In this time he immersed himself in the expertise of the Schools of Biological Sciences and Earth Sciences and created *Timeline*, a large installation that plots the Earth's history.

Timeline uses 4.6 kilometres of sisal rope, which Bill has strung up in a Cotton Building lecture theatre to represent the Earth's 4.6 billion years of history. Artefacts and interpretive sculpture are placed along the rope to mark significant milestones in the planet's development.

"There's an enormous variety of objects used in *Timeline*—beautiful, abstract, puzzling and larger than life. Put in context they tell the story of how we got to be here today. You can see all sorts of objects including the jaws of a rare frill shark, a tuatara skull, fossilised plankton, fossilised ferns, bones, ancient stones, polished coconut shells, and sea eggs.

"I want people to walk into the lecture theatre and experience the 'wow factor'. It will really get people thinking when they see that the period from the birth of Christ until today takes up only the last 2 millimetres of the 4.6 kilometre rope."

Much of the scientific knowledge Bill required to create the work was gathered from attending lectures and picking the brains of the University's scientists. He also received support from the wider science community. "I was able to send a 'shopping list' to the Institute of Geological and Nuclear Sciences and they opened up their drawers and contributed a wonderful array of artefacts."

Timeline is part of a broader exhibition at the University called *Genesis Aotearoa*. This shows more of Bill's work in a variety of media on the subject of how the land, flora and fauna of New Zealand were created.

Dealing in such vast quantities of time has caused its share of headaches for Bill. "I was awake one night for a couple of hours with a calculator wondering just where I'd lost 40 million years!"

Timeline is open to the public each day, 9am-5pm in Cotton Lecture Theatre 122.

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