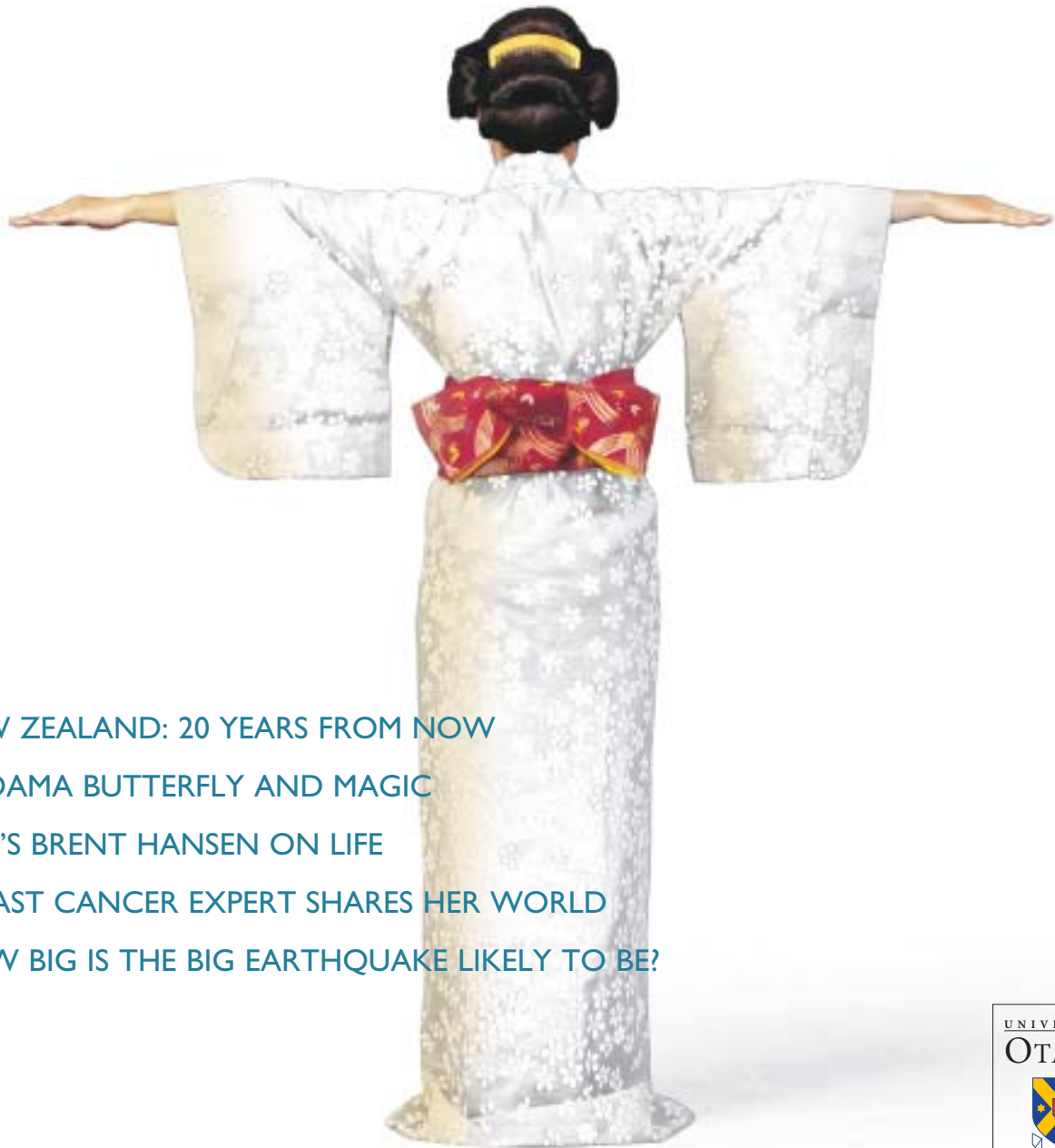


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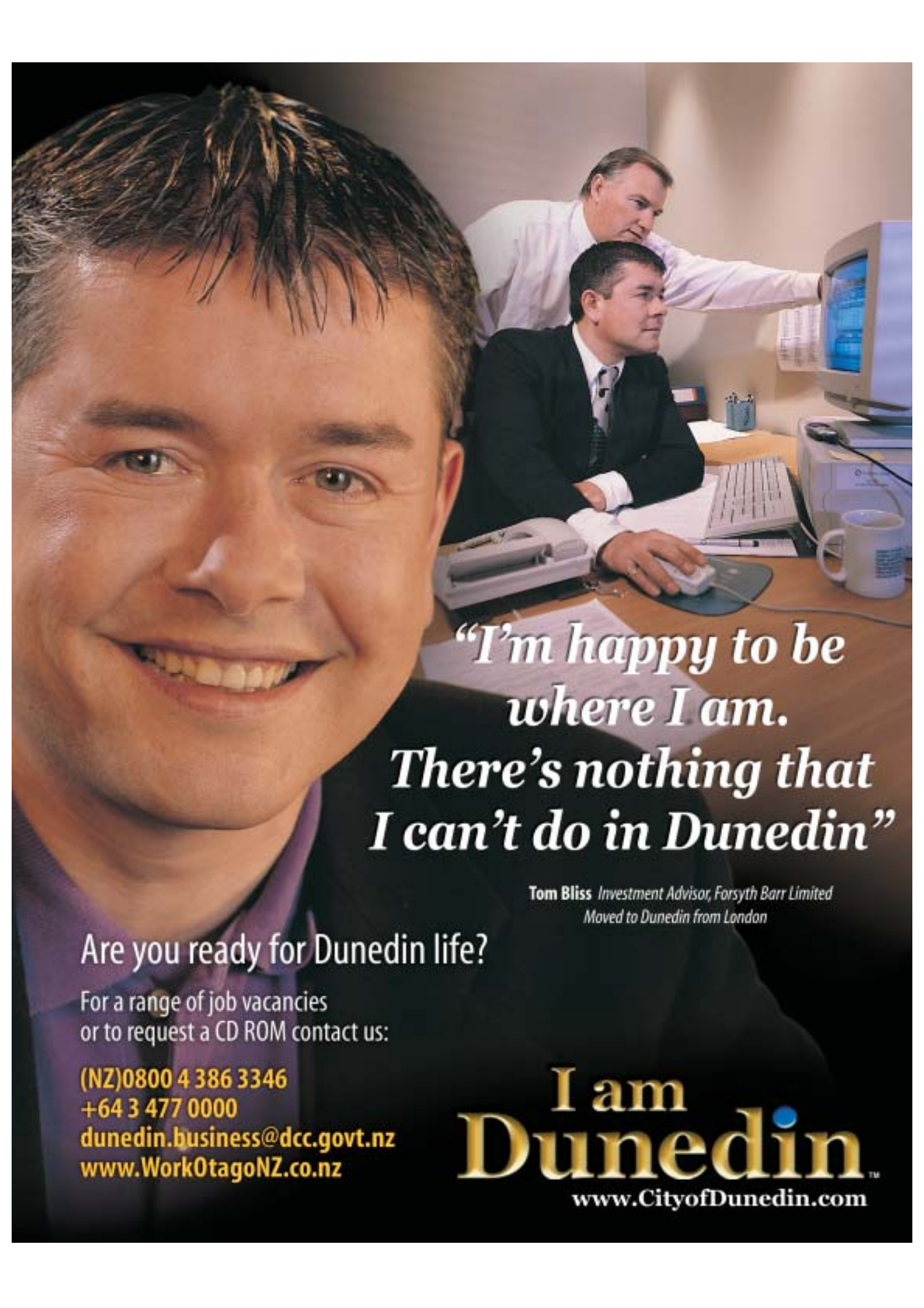
M A G A Z I N E

ISSUE 5: JUNE 2003



NEW ZEALAND: 20 YEARS FROM NOW
MADAMA BUTTERFLY AND MAGIC
MTV'S BRENT HANSEN ON LIFE
BREAST CANCER EXPERT SHARES HER WORLD
HOW BIG IS THE BIG EARTHQUAKE LIKELY TO BE?





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m a g a z i n e

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VC's COMMENT

You will read in this month's magazine about our impressive growth in student enrolments this year – six per cent overall, and almost 10 per cent in first-year student numbers alone (see p.35). While this response is a testament to Otago's outstanding reputation as a leading research and teaching institution here in New Zealand and abroad, it is very clear to me that we cannot sustain this growth on an annual basis without a corresponding injection of major funding.

Growth of this kind puts increased pressure not only on our student accommodation resources, but also on other key areas such as staffing, library, computer laboratories and lecture theatres. For example, another 200-bed Hall of Residence would cost between \$13-\$15 million.

What, then, are the options? Do we consider introducing higher entry levels? On what basis would entry be judged now

that bursary marks are being replaced by the untested NCEA system? And could the University charge appropriate tuition fees to make up for the shortfall if we cap our enrolment?

While these and other questions pose a quandary, my own view is that restricted entry is the best way forward for Otago. The advantage is that such entry requirements would keep our academic standards high and, importantly, ensure that the University is able to maintain the facilities and support systems necessary to meet the equally high expectations of students and staff.

The word "elite" does not always sit well in a New Zealand that prides itself on equalitarian values. But if Otago is to stand on a level equal to that of the very best universities in the world, then we must be prepared to set certain standards of academic excellence – otherwise, the value of an Otago degree internationally may well be eroded over time.

I would like to put the question to our wider University community, and I invite your views on how best to respond to this challenge. The path we choose will inevitably impact upon our reputation and our standing.

Dr Graeme Fogelberg
Vice-Chancellor – University of Otago

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ICEBREAKER



Dr Gary Wilson studies Antarctica's geological history from the warmth of his lab.

Antarctica's most recent geological history is pretty well under wraps – covered over by 36 million cubic kilometres of ice. If you want the story, says Geology's Gary Wilson, you need to look around the edge. But penetrating the sediments beneath the 100 metre thick ice-shelves fringing Antarctica is technically difficult and expensive.

The solution: the ANDRILL Project – a five nation initiative to sample these geological archives through stratigraphic drilling. Launched in 2001, it involves more than 50 international scientists from many disciplines.

Now, Webster Drilling Limited has been contracted "to develop and build a system capable of recovering 1000 metres of core in up to a thousand metres of water beneath an ice-shelf or sea-ice platform," says Wilson.

The whole project is overseen by an international steering

committee with representatives from New Zealand, the USA, Germany, Italy and the UK. Wilson coordinates the drilling portfolio, with the first season of drilling expected to begin in October 2005.

In this role, Wilson has been on the ice for the past two Antarctic summers, carrying out various geophysical surveys to determine the best places to drill.

He has also helped establish a new palaeomagnetic research facility, launched in May this year, "which will be one of the main analytical tools used in this programme".

The supercooled magnetometer will measure the fossil magnetism in rocks and sediments sampled from the cores, and is capable of "dating multi-million-year-old sediment that records climate change, earth deformation and changes in the natural environment to a precision of less than a thousand years".

THE BIG PICTURE



Frances Hodgkins Fellow Sara Hughes – an off-the-wall artist.

Don't expect to see Sara Hughes' paintings neatly constrained by framed canvases. The new Frances Hodgkins Fellow thinks big.

"Many of my works are quite large installations, rebuilding spaces, or working on walls," says Hughes. "I enjoy investigating ideas of space and how painting operates in terms of the relationship between the work and the viewer."

After studying painting at the Elam School of Fine Arts in Auckland, Hughes travelled in Asia and Europe, immersing herself in different cultures and soaking up the art. She helped finance her own art and her travels with freelance work in the fashion industry.

After seven years she returned to Elam to do her master's and get back into the New Zealand art scene. Then she taught part-time while she worked on her own projects.

Now Hughes is looking forward to being in Dunedin. "This is a great opportunity. It's one of the best fellowships offered in New Zealand. The facilities at the University are great, I've met lots of interesting people and there's lots happening here in art, activities and galleries. And it's a real luxury to have financial security for 12 months."

Hughes is currently completing a large work for a group exhibition called Dirty Pixels that will come to the Dunedin Public Art Gallery in August after its launch in Wellington. And Dunedin can expect several more works over the next months. Watch this space.

PLENTY MORE FISH IN THE SEA?



Viktoria Schneider investigates the consequences for fish and fishers alike, if no-take areas are introduced.

An Economics PhD student is plunging into a controversial issue for New Zealand conservation. Viktoria Schneider is investigating how a nation-wide network of marine reserves might affect fishing stocks and the fishing industry.

"It's very contentious," says Schneider. "The Ministry of Fisheries supports the idea that, if we take an area away from fishing, then stocks will recover and increase to the point where they spill out into the surrounding fishing areas, improving the fishermen's catch." But, she says, there is not enough research yet indicating that this will really be the case.

"The fishing industry feels that taking any area away will reduce their catches and affect their livelihoods."

Schneider's bio-economic model will suggest likely results for all parties

if no-take areas were introduced.

"We know stocks improve in reserves, but we have yet to find out what happens then," she says. "There are a lot of other things to take into account. There's still a lot to be proved."

Schneider says the National Research Council claims more than 25 per cent of global fish stocks are overexploited or depleted, with 40 per cent under pressure. New Zealand hopes to maintain sustainability with the quota system, but defining quotas is difficult. Her bio-economic modelling on oysters and snapper may help.

"We hope to forecast whether marine reserves could serve as an additional management tool for fisheries, and whether potential gains would outweigh potential increases in fishing pressure outside no-take zones."

PRESENTING MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS



Many patients consulting GPs have symptoms of anxiety, depression and substance abuse, according to research by Associate Professor John Bushnell (left) and Professor Tony Dowell (right).

Researchers from the Wellington School of Medicine and Health Sciences have found high levels of mental health problems among people seeking general practitioner consultations.

After surveying nearly 3500 patients, the MaGPIe Research Group found half the study participants had experienced psychological symptoms over the past year. One in three people had a diagnosable mental illness.

Group director Associate Professor John Bushnell says common disorders were anxiety, depression and substance abuse. These disorders were more common among people under the age of 44 years and many people were affected by more than one disorder.

"Substance abuse was twice as common among men but women suffered from much higher rates of anxiety disorders and depression."

On a positive note, the research team found general practitioners were skilled at picking up mental health problems, provided they had enough opportunity to do so, through seeing the patient several times. Co-author Professor Tony Dowell says the GPs had identified about half their patients as suffering from some type of psychological disorder in the past year.

The cost of GP consultations may be a barrier to people seeking help for psychological problems, according to the researchers. Dowell says many people may also underestimate the severity of the problem and not realise that treatment may help them.

The MaGPIe Research Group intends publishing a series of papers on mental health based on the results of the study. Bushnell says the research will assist agencies making decisions about services.

CURBING CRYPTOCOCCUS



Dr Russell Poulter (centre) and Dr Margi Butler (right) are looking for ways to deactivate the Cryptococcus time bomb, with potential benefits for AIDS sufferers. Student Annika Vokor stands at left.

New discoveries by genome researchers at Otago's Biochemistry Department could offer hope to AIDS sufferers across the world.

AIDS doesn't kill, but it weakens the immune system, making it easy for sufferers to catch infections, some of which can be fatal. One of the common diseases caught by AIDS patients – but not the general population – is the Cryptococcus yeast infection, which can lead to meningitis.

Biochemistry researchers investigating the Cryptococcus genome found it had an intein, which has a vital effect in the formation of a Cryptococcus protein. This is only the second intein found in a higher organism.

The intein is part of the initial protein, but must remove itself for the protein to work. Now Dr Russell Poulter and his team hope to find a way to prevent the intein leaving – causing the protein to

fail and killing the Cryptococcus. This could enable doctors to selectively target those who have a Cryptococcus fungal infection – such as AIDS patients.

"A significant number of people who die with AIDS do so because they catch fungal infections," says team member Dr Margi Butler. "Hopefully in our wildest dreams what we would end up with is a really cheap way of ridding people of the Cryptococcus infection."

"We're also excited about using the intein gene as a tool for the early diagnosis of Cryptococcus lung infections, before the infection progresses to the brain."

This research is supported by the New Zealand Lottery Grants Board.

MAGIC REALISM



From witch-hunts to neopaganism - Dr Greg Dawes prepares to lecture on the history of magic.

Otago's Religious Studies staff can claim their courses are magic without fear of contradiction.

Dr Greg Dawes will soon be lecturing on Magic and Religion, and is supervising students working on paganism and witchcraft.

"Some people define magic as a marginal religion – a religion which is seen as disreputable," says Dawes.

"In Religious Studies we're keen to focus not just on mainstream religious phenomena but also on those which are more marginal or are practised by groups that do not have big social followings."

One honours student is researching early modern witchcraft and the witchcraft trials of the 16th and 17th centuries. Another is investigating the popular magic practised by the founder of Mormonism, Joseph Smith, in the 1820s.

And an Anthropology Master's student is working on neopagan

religious movements, which include modern witchcraft (or Wicca).

"Contrary to the popular view, modern witchcraft thinks of itself as very positive and an influence for good – as part of a religious tradition that has a very long history," says Dawes. "Practitioners often think of themselves as being in contact with an ancient spiritual world, and in particular with the goddess who is associated with the earth."

There is a neopagan group at the University, and Dawes hopes some of them might sign up for his course – "It could be very interesting..."

FROM THE MOUTHS OF BABES



Dr Bernadette Drummond (left) shows Jessie Neaves (right) the inside of her mouth, while dental assistant Sonia Thomson (centre) looks on.

The University of Otago's Dental School is treating pre-school children with severe decay in as many as 16 of their 20 baby teeth.

Paediatric dentist Bernadette Drummond and her team of Alison Meldrum, Dorothy Boyd and Katie Ayers have been trying to find out why so many youngsters have such problems with their teeth.

"Each week we have time to treat four or five children under general anaesthesia because they need around eight to twelve fillings," says Drummond, "and another two to four children will need extractions."

Preliminary findings show that the problem children tend to come from areas where the water supply is low in fluoride, from low socio-economic groups, and have poor dietary habits.

"Not all of Dunedin City water is fluoridated and it shows in

the state of children's teeth," says Drummond.

The way children eat is important too. Sugar contributes to decay, but the frequency of eating sugary foods is more of a hazard than the quantity.

And once a child's teeth start to decay, discomfort may make them less likely to want to eat a full meal, and more likely to snack, making the situation worse.

But there is good news. Drummond's team report that once they treat these children, their success rate after four years is more than 85 per cent – "very comparable if not better than most international studies."

Research continues.

UNCOVERING THE MYSTERIES OF GHRELIN



Ghrelins in the system — scientists Dr Chris Pemberton (left) and Dr Steven Soule (right) delve into the relationship between the recently-discovered stomach peptide and the heart.

It sounds like something out of a Steven Spielberg movie, but investigations into a peptide called ghrelin is fascinating clinicians and scientists around the world.

Ghrelin is a relatively recent discovery, and vital in the control of appetite. Too much and you want to eat "like a horse", too little and you are likely to lose weight rapidly.

Now, Dr Steven Soule and research scientist Dr Chris Pemberton from the Christchurch Cardioendocrine Research Group at the Christchurch School of Medicine and Health Sciences have revealed that ghrelin blood levels are associated with heart conditions. They have also discovered a new form of the peptide in blood.

"We have developed an assay or test for a new form of ghrelin (C-Ghrelin) which can now, for the first time, be measured in blood," explains Dr Soule.

"Importantly, we may be able to use blood levels of these peptides as markers or indicators of heart and endocrine health problems in people and thus improve their medication and management."

Dr Soule says it's already known that when ghrelin is injected into a patient the heart works better, and blood pressure is reduced. The CCRG is now carrying out a number of other studies to understand better its impact on cardiac function.

They are also interested in whether ghrelin can be linked to weight loss in those with overactive thyroids, and are checking levels of the peptide in patients with kidney failure and high blood pressure during pregnancy. Overall, ghrelin will be a hot topic for some time yet.

DISCOVERING THE CATLINS



One of New Zealand's last undiscovered destinations – Department of Tourism researchers help plan the Catlins' future.

Tourism students have been getting a taste of the real world, spending summer researching one of New Zealand's last undiscovered destinations.

The Department of Tourism has been hired by Venture Southland and the Clutha Economic Development Board to suggest how best to plan for future tourism in the Catlins on the Southern Scenic Route.

Coordinator Dr Brent Lovelock and Dr Stephen Boyd sent ten graduate students into the field to interview hundreds of visitors and residents to get a picture of the current situation so they can see how tourism should be handled as it grows.

"Tourism has been really undeveloped there until recently," says Lovelock. "But now it's really taking off and there's concern about the impact it will have on the natural resources people come

to see – the wilderness, forests, beaches and coastline."

The research continues with listing the area's amenities and attractions, and questioning tourists who have not visited the Catlins, despite reaching Te Anau or Dunedin, the two ends of the Southern Scenic Route.

The next step will be to report back to the communities involved and consult on what should be done.

"It's great that the Department of Tourism is doing this," says Lovelock. "We value being involved in the community and it's great to back our teaching with connections to the real world."

LIFESAVING TECHNOLOGY FOR SERIOUS ROAD TRAUMA VICTIMS



Professor Tim Buckenham (left) and recovered patient David Paterson (right), discussing his endoluminal thoracic repair.

After 13 years in the UK, consultant radiologist, Professor Tim Buckenham, from the Christchurch School of Medicine and Health Sciences, is introducing new technology which is helping to save lives of those injured in serious road accidents.

Many patients involved in these accidents have multiple severe injuries. The most serious of these is a tear of the major blood vessel, the thoracic aorta. Injury to this large artery is usually immediately fatal, but a small proportion of patients will make it to hospital and immediate repair is essential.

Traditionally, this has been managed surgically by opening the chest and placing the patient on bypass. This procedure has been associated with a high complication rate, including paraplegia, and a mortality rate of up to 30%.

Now Professor Buckenham is introducing a new approach: endoluminal thoracic aorta repair.

The technique uses x-ray control to guide a long tube or sheath to be introduced into the aorta from a small incision in the groin. Within this sheath is a tightly constrained plastic tube with a metallic skeleton. Under careful imaging control, the stent graft is positioned at the point of the tear, and the sheath is pulled back allowing the device to open and lock into place, maintaining flow within the aorta and excluding the tear.

Eventually the artery heals around the stent, incorporating it as part of its structure. Professor Buckenham is now teaching this technique to other clinicians and it has been successfully used in most major trauma centres in New Zealand.

LANGUAGE PATTERNS



Dr Jae Jung Song takes a worldwide view of language.

A ground-breaking new linguistics study could change the way we look at the world.

The first World Atlas of Language Structures is an international collaboration among 40 linguists, looking at structural similarities and differences in the world's languages.

Dr Jae Jung Song of Otago's Linguistics Programme has contributed two chapters to the book.

"Linguists have looked at the geographical distribution of language structures on a local basis, but this is the first time a global study has been made," he says.

"The idea is that when languages come into contact they tend to borrow language structures. Languages come to share properties. And over time, they become similar to each other."

Researchers have discovered linguistic areas are much larger than at first thought. Findings suggest one area could run from

Europe to Asia for instance.

"It is hoped that this study will discover such areas on a global scale and make it possible to draw inferences about human contact and also about human migration," says Song.

"When languages spoken across such huge areas share so many similarities, they cut across their genetic affiliations. The speakers must have been in contact with one another – which has implications for other disciplines such as anthropology and human genetics."

The atlas is to be published by Oxford University Press later this year.

A PIGEON REMEMBERS



Dr Rebecca Sargisson – an expert in the short-term memory of pigeons.

Memory is like any other behaviour – it can be improved with training, according to Psychology PhD graduate Rebecca Sargisson.

Her work with pigeons has shown, contrary to current theory, that pigeons can be trained to remember things better after a longer delay, than straight after they've seen something. By placing the bird in a chamber and encouraging it to peck at a set of response keys linked to a computer, Sargisson was able to determine the bird's power of discrimination.

"We began by lighting one key red or green and then turning it off and leaving the pigeon in the dark for a while," she says. "Then we presented both colours and recorded which one the bird pecked at first. Usually, pigeons are better at remembering the light they've just seen after a short period in the dark. But after training pigeons exclusively with

a long delay, they then performed poorly at short delays."

Why pigeons? "They're good for this kind of test because they live a long time. People who use rats have to find a new batch every couple of years, but pigeons can last 20."

Sargisson has left her flock behind and is now working with dogs. Employed by the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining, she has a six-month contract with a team of researchers observing the dogs' ability to detect dummy land-mines in Afghanistan and Bosnia.

FEATURE

FORTUNE

CAUGHT UP, AS WE ARE, IN THE MOMENT AND MINUTIAE OF DAILY LIFE, IT'S WORTH REMEMBERING THAT THE DAY MUST COME WHEN THE ELECTRICITY CRISES, MYSTERY VIRUSES AND SPORTING PERFORMANCES OF 2003 WILL BE BUT A MEMORY. OUR KIDS WILL BE ADULTS, TODAY'S STUDENTS TOMORROW'S PROFESSIONALS, AND THOSE BABIES WILL HAVE BOOMED ALL THE WAY TO THEIR DOTAGE. YOUR CLOTHES, THE ONES YOU'RE WEARING RIGHT NOW, WILL EITHER LOOK RIDICULOUS, OR BE IRONICALLY TRENDY. FEW LIVING PEOPLE WILL REMEMBER WORLD WAR TWO.

Photo: Bill Nichol

TELLING

What will New Zealand be like in 2023?

BY 2023*...

New Zealand's population will be 4.375 million.

Auckland will have grown by 40%, Otago by 2%, and Southland's population will be 20% smaller.

The median age of the population will be 40, 18% of the population will be aged 65 or older, increasing to 26% by 2051.

18% of the population will be 14 or younger, declining to 15.5% by 2051.

New Zealand will be more ethnically diverse, with more people being born overseas, multi-lingual, and identifying with more than one culture.

16% of us will be Māori, 8% Pacific Islanders, and 10% Asian**.

There will be fewer two-parent families, and more one-person households.

Source: Statistics New Zealand.

* Note: Statistics New Zealand projections are for 2021.

** Based on 9% in 2016.

AND AT THAT TIME, NOSTALGIA TRIPS NOTWITHSTANDING, our brains will have other thoughts to occupy them. But what?

To get a gauge on the future, the *University of Otago Magazine* asks seven prominent Otago alumni and academics how they see New Zealand, in their particular field, in 20 years' time.

What of today will have flown by the wind, and what will have panned out as a portent of things to come? What's in store for the country? Will we have clawed our way up the OECD rankings? And in the high stakes global power games of war and trade, what chance is there for the little countries like ours?

Len Cook is in a position to take an uncommonly broad-minded view on the subject. His Otago BA(Hons) in Mathematics in 1970 began a career which has demanded he both collects data, and picks out the narratives within. After working for thirty years as a New Zealand government statistician, Cook now heads the Office of National Statistics for the United Kingdom.

"Intuitively, we're doing better than most of the OECD ratings suggest, anyway," says Cook. "I think most Kiwis feel this."

OECD measurements don't reveal a lot about social capital or lifestyle, Cook points out. While poverty ratings might measure such things as one's proximity to a telephone, they miss out other factors Kiwis value highly, like proximity to a beach.

And if global progress is to continue at the hellfire pace we've seen over the past 20 years, our small size and accessible natural environment will be our key assets.

In a period of change, little countries can have it a bit easier than their more populous counterparts, believes Cook. "Compare, for example, the recent tasks of re-equipping Air New Zealand and updating British Rail. It's much easier for smaller countries to invest in their national infrastructure. They're much better at being able to turn over their pasts."

In a small country, he adds, "Few problems are beyond the wit of a handful of smart and determined people."

Further, Cook subscribes to the legend that Kiwis are an inherently resourceful, resilient bunch. "We've got a strong 'give it a go' culture. People are respected so long as they make



Photo: Anthony Epes

an effort. It's a culture that tolerates failure and that, in fact, can be very liberating."

There is a flipside to our largesse however: we're not always so good at celebrating success. And in Cook's view the challenge for the future of New Zealand is not only to produce good leaders – which we do, fairly regularly – but to support them.

In a globe in which a few superpowers seem to be holding increasingly more cards, Cook believes the world will have a role for small countries. But it's up to those individual countries to find their place.

"New Zealand's got a reputation as a consistent wee country that's difficult to write-off as a friend or foe. We're not anti-American, or French or British or Australian, but we can occasionally take strong positions, like showing up at the Mururoa Atoll with a frigate.

"What New Zealand needs to realise is that it can't compete on every front, and neither does it need to. We need to decide what are the main things we stand for, what is our niche? Then we have to make sure it's absolutely consistent in everything we do."

Cook's opinion is that the future for New Zealand is clean and green – 100% pure. "People already have this perception of New Zealand based on 100 years of imagery. Let's not confine this message to tourism, but also spread it to agriculture, our environmental policies and our business activities."

But certainly – given two more decades of global pollution, political unrest and big-city social pressures – New Zealand 2023 will be a desirable place to live, says Cook, who still owns a crib in the Otago coastal hamlet of Purakanui, to which he lovingly returns for holidays. But the onus is on New Zealanders to appreciate what they've got.

"We need to be more transparent in our methods of continuing our economic well-being, and can't base our future on still selling our passports and land. We have to get better at selling our services rather than our resources."

"It's true that New Zealand offers a kind of lifestyle that is dreamed of and idealised in some other parts of the world, and it's getting truer all the time."

ALISON HOLST

BHSc 1959, Hon DSc 1997

What will we be eating?

SKILLS CAN DISAPPEAR IN A GENERATION. AND BY 2023, believes Alison Holst, New Zealanders' already diminishing prowess in the kitchen will be woeful.

"Many people won't know how to boil a potato, or that carrots can be stored in the fridge for a few weeks.

"The trend has already emerged," she laments. "Soon it will be normal."

As such, Holst predicts fewer home cooked meals – "large parts of the population will never have tasted beef stew". Instead, Kiwis will eat out, or take advantage of the dramatic rise in pre-prepared, single-portion dinners available from the supermarket.

"It won't be unusual," believes Holst, "for each member of a family or flat to eat something different at teatime." Many homes will dispense with dining tables altogether.

The good news is that such meals will become healthier. Packaging technology already exists that allows food to be prepared in supermarket delis, stored at room temperature and heated in the microwave, without the need for chemical preservatives.

For those who are still cooking, time will continue to be of the essence. Ovens will march on with their efficiency gains, as induction technology – already capable of reducing cooking times to a third – becomes more widespread.

Asian food will remain big, as much for its flavours as its haste. Geography will serve no barrier to ingredients and ideas, and expect our culinary appropriation to extend into Asia and Africa.

Indeed Holst points out that cafés – set to become de facto kitchens for increasing numbers of Kiwis – are also where we'll be introduced to this ever-widening range of ingredients. And where there are foodies, there's hope: cafés may also ensure good old-fashioned cooking survives.

"When people try things like a citrus slice at a café, they are often inspired to try baking it at home."



Photo: Tim Lovell

DIANA CROSSAN

BA 1972

How will life be for our ageing population?

THERE ARE TWO ISSUES, SAYS RETIREMENT COMMISSIONER Diana Crossan, and they're not quite the same. "One is, there will be more of us over 65 as a proportion of the population. And secondly, we'll be living longer."

By 2031, there will be more elderly than children. How will we cope?

"You can factor in a tax-paid national superannuation of some sort. That will stay. What people have to decide is what kind of lifestyle they want beyond that."

The idea of saving, or investing, for retirement will have become part of our national consciousness, believes Crossan. "People will need to understand their finances better. The emphasis will shift from the amount of money people have, to the quality of their investments."

Indeed, Crossan suggests it's not the superannuation bill that's the concern; it's the health bill. "We'll see a lot more

debate about rationalisations in health. About whether it's worth giving an 85-year old a new knee. Because at some point decisions will have to be made."

The wealthy will go to Australia, and closer trans-Tasman health ties may be forged.

Healthier people, living longer, will be working longer too. "Maybe just one or two days a week, for a bit of extra income. The labour market is becoming flexible enough to enable that."

Grandparents will play an increasingly active role in childcare, and may even help out with family finances, by way of education funds, for example.

Many others, meanwhile, will "do the things they've always wanted to do". If they've got money, they might travel. Tertiary studies for older people is becoming a growth area in education.

And yes, "there will be enough rest homes, because we'll build them. The baby boomer generation is good at getting what it wants".

PROFESSOR RICK SIBSON

Department of Geology, University of Otago

How will New Zealand be meeting its energy needs?

AS I WRITE, NEW ZEALAND IS IN THE GRIPS OF AN electricity crisis. The University's been asked to make 15% in savings. The lights are off and nobody's showered for days.

Long-term, however, says Otago Geology Professor Rick Sibson, meeting our electricity requirements will be the least of our worries. "We've got options for addressing it, including hydro schemes, solar power and wind."

"If we can build sailboats, we can build wind turbines."

The electricity shortage is solvable, Sibson believes. Not so, oil.

After peaking before 2010, global oil production is destined irrevocably to decline thereafter. A supply crisis is likely to hit – hard – by 2010-2015. Gas will follow shortly after.

"There is no magic solution on the horizon," says Sibson. "Developments in hydrogen-powered fuel cells will allow us to travel short distances. But there's no known energy alternative for long-haul transport, especially air travel, in the short-term."

Think not only of the consequences of this for travel, tourism and trade. Oil is needed for manufacturing plastics, lubricants, fertiliser, make-up, medicines and much more.

In some ways New Zealand is in a better situation than other places, believes Sibson. We're resource-rich and our energy resources relatively unexplored. We've got stacks of coal, though to use it would contravene our Kyoto Protocol requirements. But we're short of metals.



"If we could join forces with Australia we could probably function pretty well self-sufficiently."

But even as an island economy, Sibson points out, New Zealand will never shelter itself fully from global events. By 2010, China will be the largest consumer of oil on the planet, and competing aggressively with America for the remaining oil reserves.

Eventually, "energy will become our basic unit of currency, determining the value of everything, from houses to cars to disposable nappies. We'll be able to keep warm and fed, but we will be living perhaps more simply".

MAI CHEN
LLB(Hons) 1986

Where will race relations be at?

ONE THING'S CERTAIN, BELIEVES MAI CHEN, "WE ARE seeing the brownization, and the Asianization of New Zealand."

By 2021, Statistics New Zealand puts Māori at approximately 16 per cent of the population, and Pacific Islanders at over 8 per cent, and with higher birth rates than pakeha, these figures are climbing. In 2016, 9 per cent of New Zealanders will be Asian.

"This is what's ahead of us, and as a country we have a choice of whether we want to embrace the opportunities this diversity brings, or write it all off as too hard."

In some lights it doesn't look good. The country's most recent immigration debate, fuelled by last year's election

campaign, may well go down as a particularly dark episode in our country's race relations. But Chen finds a positive angle: "At least people are talking about the issues, and their fears. We can work from there."

And in 2023? "We will have become more accepting of difference," Chen predicts, more from a position of pragmatism than idealism. "We have to. A very significant number of the working population will be brown."

Urgent improvements will have been made in settlement programmes, helping newcomers cope with the English language and Kiwi way of life. And expect better education of all Kiwis to help them accept the cultural diversity that surrounds them.

"It's incumbent on all those who benefit from our multi-culturalism – including schools, businesses and the government – to impart greater understanding to their communities about those benefits."

Not quite two days before this interview, Mai Chen gave birth to her first child. His future is very much on her mind.

But at least her son, along with the increasing numbers of second generation New Zealanders, will benefit from having parents with some understanding of what it's like to grow up "different".

"What's 'different', however," says Chen, "is changing all the time."

GREGG ANDERSON
BA(Hons) 1983, BCom 1986, MA 1990

How will tourism be shaping New Zealand?

"IN TERMS OF WORLD TOURISM, NEW ZEALAND'S RIGHT on trend at the moment," says Gregg Anderson, Tourism New Zealand's North America Regional Manager. "Comparative freedom from crowding, safety, lack of pollution."

"In a mixed-up, crazy world, all the things that once were barriers, like distance, isolation and even our reputation as a quiet backwater, are now our strengths."

And in the next 20 years, predicts Anderson, don't expect any of this to change.

But while New Zealand passed the 2-million-visitor-in-12-months mark in 2001, no one wants exponential growth into the future. Rather, with a tourism industry based on offering a sense of space, it's quality, not quantity, we'll be seeking from our visitors.

"Sustainable tourism is the key to New Zealand's future," says Anderson. It's a realistic vision, he believes, given our current tourism strategy.

Plus, argues Anderson, in some ways our distance will save us.

"To some degree, it's self-regulating. Our seasonality limits numbers, and it will always cost a lot to fly here. But if we can offer the right product, there are discerning travellers willing to pay top dollar to experience it."

Think fewer tour buses; more camper-vans and cars.

"There will be an increase in independent travellers. They may limit how much they see of NZ each trip and spend more time in single locations. And they'll come back – two, three, maybe more times in their lives."

While outdoors-based activities will remain central, they'll go hand in hand with high quality accommodation, food, wine and good old Kiwi hospitality.

"We're seeing a movement of creative, energetic people returning to rural New Zealand for lifestyle reasons, and setting up great tourism and hospitality ventures.

"These days you can get a great coffee in practically every small town in the country – that's something to be proud of!"

CLIVE RENNIE
DipPhEd 1966

What will our schools look like?

THE TEACHER SHORTAGE CRISIS FOR NEW ZEALAND secondary schools will hit in less than ten years, believes Otago Boys' High School rector Clive Rennie. So by 2023, we'd have to be seeing some solutions.

"We'll be exploring creative options for addressing teaching salaries and conditions." He's talking staff sabbaticals, professional development, greater specializations between academic managers and teachers. And money.

"Collective bargaining hasn't always helped teachers. Good teachers, in twenty years' time, will be able to name their price."

Extra-curricular activities, too, will become increasingly professional, with teachers strategically selected, and fiscally rewarded, for their strengths in certain areas.

New Zealanders will have become used to schools as truly international environments, hosting both teachers and students from around the world. But watch out for a gulf opening up between larger, richer, cosmopolitan schools that are able to take their share of the international market, and those reliant on government funding.

Given all these pressures, in 2023 NCEA won't have quite died, but it will certainly have mutated, believes Rennie.

"It will become victim to a lack of resources," he says. And that may not be a bad thing. "Schools are being forced towards continuous assessment, and it is not necessary, nor can it be sustained."

Instead we may see a breakdown of the tyranny of the timetable, with schools exploring interdisciplinary studies, and non-assessed life-skills programmes. Fewer distinctions will exist between schools and tertiary institutions, as "staircasing" opportunities and qualifications are developed. Most importantly, teaching practice will emphasize building relationships with students, rather than the "I teach, you learn" model.

The gap will close, believes Rennie, between girls' and boys' performances at school, as boys improve skills in areas such as interpretation and expression.

In this light, says Rennie, "Boys' schools, specializing in boys' education, will be more important than ever."

Nicola Mutch

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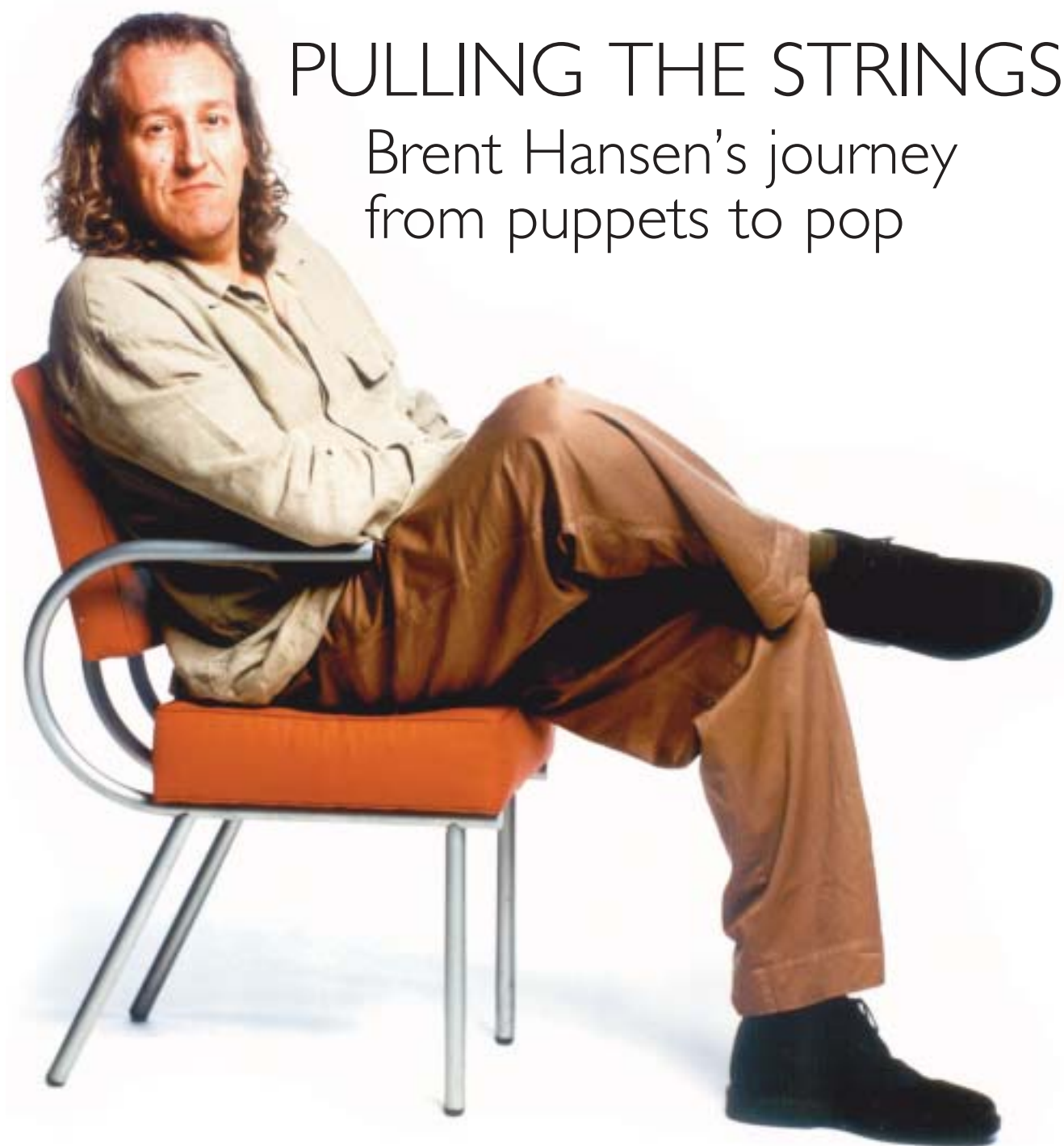


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PULLING THE STRINGS

Brent Hansen's journey
from puppets to pop

MTV Europe boss Brent Hansen:

“I LIKE BEING AN OUTSIDER. I’M OBVIOUSLY NOT A TRAINED BUSINESSMAN
AND ENJOY BEING ABLE TO BRING SOMETHING NEW TO THE ROLE OF MANAGEMENT.”

THE MAN WHO SPENT TIME WITH HIS HAND UP A bumblebee puppet called Mr Do Bee on the Christchurch set of the children’s programme *Romper Room* in the 1980s, now sits at the helm of a colossal music entertainment empire: Brent Hansen, Chief Executive and President of MTV Europe. With a staff of 1200, he heads a corporation that prescribes the television music diet to no less than 38 countries, and around 120 million homes across Europe.

There’s nothing of the dry business executive about Hansen – in fact, he’s one of few corporation heads who doesn’t have a business degree: “I enjoy being a square peg in a round hole – I like being an outsider. I’m obviously not a trained businessman and enjoy being able to bring something new to the role of management.”

Hansen didn’t set out to be a big CEO – he’s just deeply smitten with music. As a six-year-old Christchurch boy, he kept a transistor radio hidden beneath his pillow for furtive nocturnal listening sessions while the rest of the family were asleep. Never really wanted to be a rock star, except for five minutes when he and a friend were discovered by the friend’s father “standing on his full-size billiard table holding ukuleles with the earplugs from our transistors hanging out of them so that they looked like electric guitars, singing ‘All Day and All of the Night’ by the Kinks”.

He did end up in a band for a while – as a drummer in the St Andrew’s College Pipe Band in Christchurch, though this was less to do with music and more a cunning ploy to dodge cadet training (guys in “sad serge uniforms” with rifles over their shoulders and a bunch of “sad adults shouting and barking instructions at them”). In later years he played occasionally in a country band called Punk & the Kartels with a group of Wellington musicians, but says his elaborate pipe-band-influenced flams, drags and ratamacues were a little too fancy for his fellow musicians. Besides, says Hansen, “I was only in the band because I had a record collection.”

When he enrolled at the University of Otago, it was with thoughts of becoming a lawyer, but he fell under the arts spell instead, majoring in English and History. He rates his Dunedin years highly: “I loved the University environment there, although I’m a non-drinker...and it was a pretty heavily alcohol-driven time in the mid-70s. But I thought it was such a beautiful place, I thought they had a fantastic spirit, and I thought that all the tutors and lecturers I had were really interesting people. My sense was that as University students we were important to the town and we weren’t looked down on or a nuisance and they lived with our student idiosyncrasies...I go back to Dunedin infrequently these days but I love it, absolutely love it.”

Hansen went on to complete his MA in English at the University of Canterbury, and maintained his musical interests by working for Radio U and doing occasional music reviews. He spent a year training to be a secondary school teacher, but never quite made it into the classroom – the Hansen foot got wedged in the telly industry door instead. While still at Teachers’ College he was invited by South Pacific Television to work on a concert they were filming – and there began his new career trajectory. His first job was nothing too lofty: as assistant floor manager his duties included floor sweeping and a starring role in *Romper Room* as Mr Do Bee. “It was a bumble bee puppet that I had to poke at Miss Yvonne or Miss Helen,” he recalls. “I had to shake up half g’s of jungle juice for brattish children of television executives who would sit in the crowd and I’d have to lie on my stomach behind the set amongst a bunch of wires and hot lights with my hand up this silly bloody puppet pretending I was Mr Do Bee.”

After a stint on *That’s Country* he was offered the plum job of producing *Radio with Pictures*. Though his current MTV post makes him one of the most influential players in the European music industry, he still looks back on his time as the producer of *Radio with Pictures* as his most golden

job. Being a non-commercial public service programme with no rigid constraints, it allowed them a huge degree of broadcasting indulgence. Says Hansen, “It was fantastic – probably the best job I’ve ever had.”

But in 1986, this ultimate job turned to custard: Television New Zealand became locked in a dispute with the record companies over payment for videos. Figuring that he would either be shuffled across to the TVNZ sports department, or put to work on something like the Miss New Zealand contest, Hansen resigned. With his wife Pip Dann (a former *Shazam* presenter) he took off for a kombi van holiday around Europe, and never came back.

Before he left, Hansen took a punt and sent a CV and accompanying video reel (including a David Bowie interview, some Telethon footage and some shots of his involvement in the New Zealand pipe band championships) to the vice-president of MTV in America, tagging a hopeful little “by the way, if there are any jobs going...” to the end of his letter. His pluck was rewarded: by some exquisite stroke of luck and timing, MTV was just beginning to stretch its European arm, and Hansen was asked to try out for a job. He approached it with customary equanimity: “I’m not very fazed by many things,” he says, “MTV wasn’t something I had particularly positive thoughts about – I’m a snob you see, a musical snob! But I thought it’d be interesting and I thought it’d pay for my kombi van...” He’s been there now for sixteen years. In the space of a decade, he went from News Producer, to Director of News, to Head of Production, to Director of Programming and Production, to President and Creative Director, finally reaching his current position of Chief Executive in 1997.

When Hansen started at MTV Europe in 1987, he was part of a small group delivering music to 1.5 million homes. Within two years, that number swelled to a whopping 45 million households. Pretty heady stuff, but then Hansen has just the right mix of competence and calm for the job. He remains fairly aloof from the schmoozing and pop-idolatriy

of the music industry, and always remembers that small Christchurch boy with the transistor under his pillow: “You have to make sure you don’t have any higher idea about what you do than that. If you do that, you start to believe the hype...I think it’s quite a New Zealand thing – just keeping yourself real.”

That “New Zealand thing” has certainly smoothed his international career path. Hansen enjoys being a wild card – especially among the class-bound British: “it makes it very difficult for them to read me, and I think that’s actually quite a good thing.” He’s sure there’s something discernible in the Kiwi character that shines out in the workforce – he sees it in the “I’ll have a crack at that” attitude of the 25 New Zealanders who work in various parts of his own organization. Though he’s been based in London for the past 17 years, he says, “I am very New Zealand oriented – I make quite a big deal about it. It’s what I am and it’s important to me and I do wear that quite a lot.”

His homing instinct is still strong – he has a clause written into his contract that allows for his family to be flown back to Christchurch every year. Though born and bred in England, his two children Marley (11) and Cassidy (8) tell all the kids at their North London school that they are New Zealanders (in posh little English accents). Hansen carries a medley of New Zealand images on high-rotate in his head: the North Canterbury landscape, chunks of road that he used to hitch between Christchurch and Dunedin, and the view from the Sky Tower across the Auckland Harbour with that powder-blue sky, browned hills, the Coromandel Peninsula in the distance, and lots of long white cloud. In his London garden: cabbage trees, a lancewood, kowhai, lots of New Zealand grasses, and puna. On his walls: paintings by Colin McCahon, Tony Fomison and Bill Hammond. “I sound like a raving patriot,” he says, catching himself mid-gush. Not raving, no – just a very enthusiastic, contented New Zealand square peg.

Claire Finlayson



OPINION

Photo: Alan Dove

WHAT WE LEARN FROM MOVIES

Why film, media and fashion?

WHY WOULD THE FOUNDATION PROFESSOR OF FILM and Media Studies be interested in fashion? “Movies” as a set of social practices are tied to the development of consumer culture. Merchandising “fashion” or “style” is an important dimension of consumer culture, especially feminine consumer culture. Understanding “style” is necessary to understanding movies if we look at consumer culture as the common ground of 20th century social practices.

Most film historians agree that cinema was the first mass culture industry to recognise women as a significant market. Like 19th century novelists, cinema told stories for women, about women and their lives (often dismissed as melodrama) but the movies reached a far broader market – an international market that was not restricted by national languages.

Most film historians would also agree that Hollywood cinema taught women, including recent immigrants to the USA, how to be good consumers – what clothes to buy, how to apply cosmetics, how to be stylish in a consumer culture. The question then is: were women learning how to express themselves – or were they dupes of culture industries that urged them to buy more by making them feel inadequate?

When I explained my research area to one of my colleagues at the University, she responded: “Oh yes – I understand. Whenever I buy a new outfit I ask myself am I expressing myself – or am I JUST BEING SUCKED IN?” Social anthropologist Ian Frazer, currently Head of the Department of Anthropology at the University of Otago might express it differently. He might ask: “Is it a question of *Gemeinschaft* or *Gesellschaft*? Is it the ‘folk’ or the ‘institution’ at work here?”

My answer would be: it’s both. Dunedin offers a clear example of these two contradictory trends. As we walk down

Feminists or fashion victims? Professor Hilary Radner, wearing a Fieke Neuman original, asks whether it’s possible to express yourself in a consumer culture.

George Street, window shopping, we see everything from sportswear produced by multi-national companies to cottage industry knitwear. Nationally marketed design labels like Tanya Carlson and Nom D. jostle the creations of emerging designers like Fieke – whose work was recently on display at the Hocken Library. Blockbuster films (*The Lord of the Rings* series) feature jewellery by designers who also display their work on George Street.

The people who make and purchase “style” in the form of clothing, haircuts and jewellery do so because it is meaningful to them in some way. Of course there is an economic incentive. We all have to pay the rent. But this economic incentive doesn’t explain the kind of diversity that we encounter on George Street.

It is clear from our little walk down George Street, but also from leafing through popular New Zealand magazines like *Metro*, *Next*, *Pavement*, *Pulp*, *Urbis* (to mention but a few), that New Zealand design is very important to how New Zealanders see themselves (even if it is not a big export industry). The exciting thing about working in a country like New Zealand and teaching at a place like the University of Otago is that we can ask these questions with a view to the future.

Otago students are among the future policy makers of the country as well as future designers and, most important of all, future consumers. By asking questions about fashion, we ask questions about ourselves. Fashion is important because it helps ask crucial questions about who we are and what we want in life.

FEATURE

NIGHT OF RAPTURE,



FROM WITHIN OTAGO'S DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC
COMES AN EVENING OF REAL, CREDIBLE MAGIC

madama butterfly

A POTENT MIX OF LOVE, LONGING, PATHOS AND DEATH

STARS UNNUMBERED

FRANKLY, IN THE DEEP CHILL OF A DUNEDIN WINTER, I'd go and sit before an empty stage just to relish the warmth of the Regent Theatre (blessed be their heating system) and to stare at that glorious ceiling. That I can thaw my August nose before the University of Otago's production of one of opera's darlings – Puccini's *Madama Butterfly* – is an even more marvellous thing.

Since its first performance a century ago, *Madama Butterfly* has continued to draw audiences the world over for its potent mix of love, longing, pathos and death. Set in Nagasaki, the story centres on Butterfly – a beautiful young Japanese girl who marries Pinkerton (a philandering American heel) and eventually has her heart squashed by his deceptive doings. Or, as one critic succinctly put it: "Girl wins boy, girl loses boy, girl commits hara-kiri".

It was all Judy Bellingham's idea – an idea she chased through all the appropriate hoops and right into the Vice-Chancellor's office. Dr Graeme Fogelberg gave it the thumbs-up and committed the University to underwriting the whole project, while the Community Trust of Otago pitched a happy \$50,000 into the production purse. Dr Fogelberg believes, "An integral part of the University's mission is to foster the creation and presentation of fine works of art, literature and music for the benefit of the communities we serve. I am very excited by this opportunity to showcase the considerable talent

of our distinguished graduates and also the staff and students of our internationally respected Music Department."

Bellingham – the University's Senior Lecturer in Voice, and *Madama Butterfly*'s Executive Producer – is utterly thrilled: "Not only are some of Otago's most talented alumni returning home to share their love of opera with the public, but the production will also help hone the skills of a new generation of singers and musicians studying at the University. They will have the valuable opportunity to understudy main roles, take up smaller vocal roles, and instrumental students will learn valuable accompanying skills as members of the orchestra."

Butterfly was chosen because, as operas go, it has a small cast that could be served by a good proportion of graduates. Of the eight principal roles, five are filled by Otago alumni (Roger Wilson, Bih-Yuh Lin, Brendon Mercer, Brandon Pou, and Emma Fraser). David Griffiths is a previous staff member, having been the Executant Lecturer in Voice before Judy Bellingham. The other professional singers are Andrew Rees (Welsh tenor) and Yih-Lin Hsu (from Tung-Hai University in Taiwan).

The artistic personnel include Otago graduate Tecwyn Evans (Conductor), Elric Hooper as Director (ex-Artistic Director at Christchurch's Court Theatre), Allan A. Lees as the Costume and Set Designer (recently returned from Hollywood where he was working for the third *Star Wars* prequel), Joe

Hayes as Lighting Designer, Alistair Watson (also an alumnus) as Répétiteur, and Nicholas McBryde as Production Manager. The casting of Taiwanese soprano Yi-Lin Hsu as Butterfly, and Bih-Yuh (Marie) Lin as Butterfly's maid Suzuki, will add a touch of credibility and realism that is usually lacking in productions of this opera. "The last time I saw this opera performed," says Bellingham, "it was a European singer with a wig on, made to look Asian, which really stretches reality. So we don't have any stretching of reality now because we've got two Asians in the two Asian roles – SARS permitting, please dear God!"

Securing Elric Hooper as Director was another coup. Bellingham wasn't keen on doing a "horrible update" with a contemporary edge – especially when the morality that underpins the whole dramatic action of *Madama Butterfly* is that of early twentieth century. Hooper's approach will retain that historical integrity. She says, "Elric's concept of it is fantastic. He's going to do it from the Japanese point of view. He's very eloquent, so I think it will be a very eloquent and very graceful production."

The Vice-Chancellor, in wanting to make this production accessible to a broad audience, has stipulated that tertiary and secondary school students should be able to book seats at \$10 a head rather than scrambling for last minute "student rush" seats. Bellingham hopes that it will be the first of many such University opera productions, and feels that there's too little professional opera on offer to Dunedin audiences: "You have to create an opera-going culture. If we can fill the Regent Theatre three times I will be delighted."

She hopes that you'll be exercising those tear ducts too: "You do want your audience to cry at the end – if the audience come out with tears in their eyes then by golly you've succeeded." And by golly they might just give us more – if this production meets box-office expectations, we'll be treated to another in a few years' time (possibly with the divine talent of Jonathan Lemalu centre stage). So, good Dunedin folk, come August you must speed yourselves to the Regent, let Puccini's sublime operatic score fill your ears, and, let there be many tears for Judy Bellingham.

ROGER WILSON

SHARPLESS

WHAT ROGER WILSON HASN'T DONE WOULD BE A more concise read than his many and varied involvements to date. One of the country's most seasoned professional singers, he's been a soloist for opera companies nationwide, holds the record of most principal roles (17) with the Wellington City Opera, and has sung alongside the likes of Sir Donald McIntyre, Dame Kiri te Kanawa and Peter Schreier.

It didn't start out this way though: when Wilson graduated from the University of Otago in 1967, it was with MA(Hons) in German (and in French the following year). Though he made his operatic début with the Dunedin Opera Company in *Gianni Schicchi* and *Amahl and the Night Visitors* just prior to his departure, it wasn't until he reached Europe that his musical career gained momentum. He studied singing at the Nordwestdeutsche Musikakademie Detmold and the Staatliche Hochschule für Musik in Cologne.

Three decades later, Wilson's been a soloist for the NZSO on many occasions, a National Recording Artist with Concert FM for 26 years, is an experienced recitalist, teaches both privately and as a part-time tutor at Massey University and the Victoria University Academy, and is an occasional music journalist and broadcaster.

Wilson's looking forward to bringing his baritone voice to the role of Sharpless: "It's great everyone's pitching in to this project with such energy. I'm just delighted to be doing something substantial in the old home town which I always visit with enormous pleasure."

TECWYN EVANS

CONDUCTOR

TECWYN EVANS IS, QUITE SIMPLY, CHUFFED TO BE returning to Dunedin for *Madama Butterfly*: "It's a wonderful opportunity for me to conduct another of Puccini's scores, and even better that I get to do it at home, in the Regent, with friends!"

Evans studied both composition and conducting at the University of Otago under Jack Speirs, and was Music Director of the Southern Youth Choir (which, according to his former singing teacher Judy Bellingham, he took to new heights). He was Composer-in-Residence with the Dunedin Sinfonia in 1995.

In 1997 he won a Fulbright scholarship to study conducting at the University of Kansas, returning to New Zealand the following year for a stint as Assistant Conductor for the National Opera of Wellington. He was soon lured away again – this time to the Glyndebourne Festival Opera in East Sussex, where he spent four years as chorus master. While there he prepared chorus work for conductors, and for live broadcasts on BBC Radio 3, Proms at the Royal Albert Hall, and TV presentations on Channel 4 and the BBC.

In 2000 he made his Glyndebourne Touring Opera début with performances of *La Bohème*, and his English Touring Opera début in 2002 with *Don Giovanni*. He conducted *Die Fledermaus* for the latter company this year, and was described by the Sunday Times as having "authentic brio and élan".

Now, he's looking forward to the musical challenges of this most loved opera. "Puccini's orchestration, which incorporates subtle oriental effects, punctuates the plot with touches of beauty and tragedy."

(MARIE) BIH-YUH LIN

SUZUKI

MEZZO-SOPRANO (MARIE) BIH-YUH LIN IS COMING ALL the way from Minneapolis/ Saint Paul, Minnesota to play Madama Butterfly's maid Suzuki: "I am very excited about performing for the audiences in Dunedin – my second home town – and that I have a chance to visit those teachers who helped me to grow so much when I studied in the University of Otago."

Lin completed a Bachelor of Arts (in Vocal Performance) at the Fu-Hsin-Kang College in Taipei in Taiwan in the 1980s, before coming to the University of Otago to undertake a Master of Music from 1996-98. It was during this period that she studied with Judy Bellingham, who well remembers her tenacity and single-mindedness: "She arrived here on her own with a two-year old son and no husband (because he stayed in

Taiwan), bought a house, settled him into playcentre – it was just phenomenal. She's an ex-Taiwanese Army major and was educated at the Military University, as was her husband. She's very single-minded and she works extraordinarily hard."

Currently living in the USA, Lin is completing a Doctor of Musical Arts (in Vocal Performance) at the University of Minnesota, studying with Clifton Ware and Wendy Zaro-Mullins.

Lin knows Yi-Lin Hsu (the soprano who will play Madama Butterfly) so this should add a note of ease to their stage chemistry. Lin's voice has been described as "warm and full" and Hsu's as "very velvety". Bellingham says, "The fact that those two know each other so well is going to bring an extra element of realism."

Claire Finlayson

Madama Butterfly Regent Theatre, Dunedin Aug 23rd 8.00pm, Aug 25th 6.00pm, Aug 27th 7.00pm. Preferential bookings for staff and alumni open on the 23rd June. Public sales open on 4th July. Tickets available at Regent Ticketek, tel: 03 477 8597 or online www.ticketek.co.nz



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PROFILE



Photo: Ross Coombes

Breast cancer researcher and clinician, Associate Professor Bridget Robinson

TWO THOUSAND WOMEN A YEAR GET BREAST CANCER IN New Zealand and Associate Professor Bridget Robinson sees many of them as part of her work at the Christchurch School of Medicine and Health Sciences. Yet, after more than two decades as an oncologist at Christchurch Hospital and a respected clinical researcher and teacher, she is adamant that managing breast cancer patients is not a depressing experience.

“Most women with breast cancer have very genuine concerns, and the most important thing is to explain clearly to them how their cancer is affecting them, and how they can be helped,” Robinson says, in a gentle but precise manner. “I

don’t find it depressing working in this area. The main thing is to really listen to women, not pretend to listen, and to set realistic goals for patients that can be achieved. It’s this kind of approach that provides the positive reinforcement and the satisfaction for both clinicians and patients.”

Certainly Robinson carries a big workload. Typically she does a 10-hour day treating patients, teaching fourth-year medical students, and is also the principal clinical investigator on two major research projects at the Christchurch School of Medicine and Health Sciences. In this sense, she is deeply committed to the public health sector and laughs when

questioned about private consultancy work: “I wouldn’t have the time” is the reply.

Last year, she was awarded the first ASB Breast Cancer Research Foundation grant of \$50,000 for breast cancer research into angiogenesis or the blood supply to tumours. This research is also funded from a variety of other sources including the Health Research Council, the Cancer Society and the Canterbury Medical Research Foundation.

But although the demands on her life are heavy, she wouldn’t have it any other way. Like many clinicians involved in both research and teaching, Robinson sees these aspects of her professional life as symbiotic and mutually supportive. There is no doubt in her mind that her roles at the University of Otago have a positive and significant impact on her clinical expertise as an oncologist and on her patients. She says information from her work with patients is vital for laboratory research and vice versa. Increasingly, patients understand this, realising they are directly benefiting from the leading-edge research into breast cancer going on at the same site as Christchurch Hospital.

Research has always been an important professional interest for Robinson. She comes from a strongly scientific background with both parents involved in university education and research. “When I started at university, I considered going down the research path and also did a BMedSc. I became interested in cancer research while overseas and did further work on the blood supply to tumours while in the UK, so there has always been that interest. I enjoy working with a research team, revealing another piece of the jigsaw puzzle. Research can also be a change from helping cancer patients every day.”

Since 1997, Robinson and her colleagues have been investigating angiogenesis – the development of blood vessels in breast and bowel cancer tumours. The theory is to try to inhibit their growth by blocking the action of particular molecules which tumours use to develop new blood vessels and spread cancer to other parts of the body. This is a rapidly developing field of investigation and a number of research teams around the world are now working to try to understand how these cancer tumour molecules work.

A vital asset for this research is that the Christchurch School of Medicine and Health Sciences has one of the largest tissue banks in the country. Dozens of samples of tissue from breast and bowel tumours are held there, with patient consent, allowing researchers to work directly with human tissue rather than animal models.

Robinson’s other research project is specific to breast cancer. Again, using tumour tissue, the researchers are examining the genetic make-up of different tumours using sophisticated micro-array analysis. The aim is to characterize tumours by their genetic profile, allowing doctors more effectively to target treatment for particular types of tumours;

for instance, if they are particularly aggressive or have a higher probability of spreading.

Robinson says all this research is part of the improvement in the diagnosis and treatment of breast cancer, which is a positive indicator for the future.

“It is unlikely we’re going to have an earth-shattering breakthrough with this disease. But, over the last 20 years, we definitely are treating it better and have more weapons, if you like, at our disposal, including new cytotoxic drugs and new hormone treatments. Micro-array and genetic research is just another example of that progress.”

Although around 600 women a year still die in New Zealand from breast cancer, there are indications that the mortality rate is slowing down in the western world. Nevertheless, oncologists can spend a quarter to one third of their time on breast cancer; initial consultations with patients can be very time consuming.

“You can easily spend an hour talking to patients at this stage. And, of course, you are not only treating the patient, but the whole family, particularly if there are young children. Our clinics often run well over time and it can be exhausting,” she explains. “One of the hardest things about this job is dealing with requests for treatments which are not available, either because of cost or because they haven’t been clinically proven. People see things on the internet and say ‘why can’t I have that now?’”

Robinson believes the demand for cancer treatment will increase as New Zealand society ages and we need to develop new ways of treating people. Interestingly, she doesn’t discount the complementary use of alternative therapies, used alongside conventional medicine. But Robinson also warns there is not good evidence of their effectiveness: “Some are harmful and patients are advised about these.”

To relieve some of the pressures of her very busy life, Robinson swims twice a week and escapes to the “good life” at her home and two hectares at Charteris Bay on the other side of Lyttelton Harbour. It’s there in the weekends that she unwinds, spends time with her trees, some goats and sheep, her husband, friends and grandchildren.

She used to play competitive tennis, but recently an arthritic hip has meant that has been in temporary abeyance. “I’ve always been sporty, even going back to university days when I played for Otago in cricket and the University of Canterbury hockey team, so I’m looking forward to more tennis once my hip is fixed.”

Robinson is positive and quietly confident about her work, her teaching and research; aware perhaps that she is a fortunate woman. One who has the respect of her colleagues, is valued by the public she serves, making a positive difference every day as she helps people cope better with cancer. She strongly believes in communicating with her patients, in listening, and that the standard of care for breast and bowel cancer is as high in New Zealand as anywhere in the world.

Ainslie Talbot

FEATURE

THE BIG ONE

Exposure of the Alpine Fault plate boundary at the Martyr River, south Westland. Crushed fault rock of the Pacific plate occurs behind Professor Richard Norris (at right). To the left are fluvio-glacial or river gravels of the Australian plate. The sense of movement on the fault at Martyr River is predominantly strike-slip (horizontal), with very minor vertical displacement (Pacific plate uplifted).

THERE'S A BIG ONE BREWING ON THE WEST COAST – AND ACCORDING TO THE EXPERTS, THERE'S AROUND A 50% CHANCE IT WILL HAPPEN WITHIN THE NEXT 50 YEARS. SCIENTISTS INVOLVED IN MAPPING THE “HAZARD PROBABILITY” ALONG THE ALPINE FAULT ARE ALREADY WORKING WITH CIVIL DEFENCE, REGIONAL COUNCILS AND DOC IN THE LOWER SOUTH ISLAND TO PREPARE FOR AN EARTHQUAKE ON THE SCALE OF THE 1931 NAPIER “EVENT”.

SO WHAT'S HAPPENING? AND HOW CAN THEY BE SO sure? The Alpine Fault – some 650 km long - defines the boundary between the Australian and the Pacific tectonic plates. Like all the earth's plates, they are constantly on the move, but instead of sliding past each other, they're locked like a scrum and the strain is building. To the north, the Pacific plate is sliding down under the Australian plate, and in the south, the opposite is happening. Like even the best scrums, collapse is inevitable. With the plates grinding along at a rate of 4 cm a year, the rocks will fail and an earthquake of around magnitude 8 is likely. “Access to the West Coast is likely to be taken out,” says Otago University's Geology Professor Alan Cooper, “there'll be massive landslides, and major floods as rivers become blocked with debris and dams are released.” A tsunami is also on the cards, which could be significant for eastern coasts of Australia as well as New Zealand.

Cooper and Geology Department colleague, Professor Richard Norris, have been working with Institute of Geological and Nuclear Sciences (IGNS) geologist, Kelvin Berryman, since 1996 studying the fault and the active fault traces – places which have already ruptured and are most likely to break again. By excavating trenches across these active fault traces, the layers of sediment and fossil soils exposed can be sampled and dated to estimate when significant movement has occurred. “We know that during each of the last three significant events, the ground on one side of the fault moved horizontally eight metres relative to the ground on the other,” says Cooper. Dense bush in parts of Westland has made digger access tricky – “We've had to resort to a pick and shovel in places,” says Norris. As well as excavation in South Westland, sampling near Hokitika has been carried out by Canterbury PhD graduate Mark Yetton – “So we are able to compare results at either end of the fault,” says Norris.

The fossil soil extracted is not the only clue to the timing of catastrophic events, at least for the last 1000 years. Trees growing close to the fault line have sustained severe damage which is borne out by the growth rings. “They get badly shaken during surface rupture and their growth rates are stunted for several years,” says Norris.

A Lincoln University forest ecologist, Andrew Wells, has been looking at the age range of trees in a West Coast stand

of forest. By counting the rings in tree cores, he has found stands of trees typically date from 1460, 1630 or 1715 AD. These dates coincide with the rough estimates of when there were major earthquakes along the fault during the last 600 years. “Some of the big old rimu and kahikatea show the most recent major disturbance was in the early 1700s, while precise dating of disturbed mountain cedar place it at 1717 AD,” says Norris. “We're coming up to 300 years since that one so the probability of another on the same scale is high.” The next step is to core the trees at Milford Sound, with DOC permission, in order to determine the time of the last ground rupture. “By looking at the extent of dated ground ruptures along the fault,” says Cooper, “we can determine the magnitude of previous earthquakes. We can then use this information for future predictions.”

A longer record of disturbances will also give a better idea of the probability of future events. Records of movement along the San Andreas Fault in California, for instance, document the last 10 major quakes. Hopes are riding on the Geology Department's new supercooled magnetometer to provide some of the earlier links in this chain of disastrous events. “The key to palaeomagnetism is the fact that the earth's magnetic field is periodically changing,” says Dr Gary Wilson, the man behind the new research facility. “Fossil magnetism in rocks and sediments is an indicator of the earth's magnetic field at the time they were laid down. With the magnetometer, we should now be able to determine accurately the fossil magnetic direction which will allow us to work out the amount of bending or buckling in the rocks before and after rupture.”

Sophisticated global positioning satellite technology (GPS) is also being used to record the build-up of elastic strain as the plates move against each other. A number of measurement stations have been set up along the fault and even small displacements of a few centimetres can be measured.

But for all our sophisticated techniques, predicting earthquakes is still “a black art”, says Cooper. “The Chinese thought they could do it,” he says, “and though they were successful once, they've failed, along with the rest of the world, on every other occasion. All we can say with any certainty is that there's a 35-50 % chance the next major event is likely to occur in the next 50 years.”

Dianne Pettis

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Frances Hodgkins (1869-1947)
Double Portrait c.1922-25
 Oil on canvas: 610 x 770mm
 Hocken Library:
 Charles Brasch Bequest

ART IN A COLD CLIMATE

THIS PORTRAIT, FOR ALL ITS LYRICAL USE OF COLOUR and stylistic flourish, was born of “bad days of narrow means”. The bold artistic fancies of Frances Hodgkins were squeezed from a financially arid life – her correspondence of the time reveals the constant dulling strain of “living on hope and credit”, especially during the bitter cold of English winters.

In a letter back to her mother in New Zealand in 1920, Hodgkins wrote: “I have sold and pawned every stick I have, bar bed and table to keep the wolf from the door. It simplifies life – that’s one way of looking at it. As long as I can pay for paint and canvas I would part with anything. I have hung on so long by the skin of my teeth I suppose I can hang on a bit longer...if life is not so very full of meat and comforts it at least does not lack variety or friends or experience.”

Though she received some income from teaching art privately, she relied heavily on financial support from friends

during these lean years. Hannah Ritchie and Jane Saunders – the women who feature in *Double Portrait* – were two such pupils and friends who sped food parcels and money to Hodgkins whenever their own finances allowed. They also helped her find temporary work as a fabric designer in Manchester – a job that utilised her decorative flair.

Double Portrait wears the lively influence of modern French art – something the artist imbibed during trips to France – and is especially close to the flat, highly patterned work of Henri Matisse.

A Hodgkins oil recently fetched \$451,000 at a New Zealand auction. Had that sort of support been available to her in her own lifetime, the hours whittled away in worry over basic living expenses might have yielded ever more Hodgkins treasures. Oh the tyranny of hindsight.

Claire Finlayson

HOCKEN LIBRARY GALLERY EXHIBITIONS

24 May – 5 July 2003

• Michael Armstrong

12 July – 4 October 2003

• J.T. Thomson

11 October – 12 December 2003

• Dr Hocken & the Māori

Entrepreneurship in New Zealand ...



Photo: Becky Nunes

EMMA LAWFORD TALKS BUSINESS

I ALWAYS WANTED TO BE A LAWYER. MY PARENTS used to call me “Judge Wapner” (after a Judge in a crass 80s American TV programme called *The People’s Court* which filmed live court hearings, much like Judge Judy), not because I watched the programme, but because I questioned them incessantly.

So it seemed only natural that I progress to the next level and go to Law School; but to which one? Well, I wanted to experience the South Island, so it was a toss-up between Canterbury and Otago.

Eventually I chose Otago. Admittedly, the thought of spending five years in a city that seemed to have the longest winters was rather daunting, especially for such a homebody. Nevertheless, five years passed, taking me back to Auckland to embark on my career.

I was keen to pursue a career that complemented both of my degrees (Law and Commerce). So I ended up as a tax consultant at a top chartered accountancy firm (and no, it wasn’t Arthur Andersen). But to be honest, I didn’t really like it.

With a change of heart I moved to Hesketh Henry, an Auckland commercial law firm, to pursue a career as a business and taxation solicitor.

Why then is a lawyer writing about entrepreneurship you ask?

Well, over the past year I have been involved in an exciting new development for both Hesketh Henry and the legal profession – ‘Spark!’, a team of young business-minded solicitors that provide legal services in plain English to innovative and talented entrepreneurs.

We wanted to find ways to assist entrepreneurs and their growing businesses – a niche market that is largely overlooked by other commercial law firms that tend to focus on larger, more traditional businesses ... and larger fees!

We brainstormed at length and concluded that to help entrepreneurs we needed to learn more about what they do, how they operate, and what they need (and want). This meant visiting their businesses, building a relationship with them beyond that of client and lawyer, working with them not for them, and being accessible.

In addition, many entrepreneurs believe that commercial law only caters for big businesses – we wanted to dispel this myth. Entrepreneurs need to be aware of the legal issues that face them at whatever stage their business is at.

WHAT MAKES AN ENTREPRENEUR?

Schumpeter (1934) saw the entrepreneur as someone who is innovative; someone who “does things differently”.

In my opinion, an entrepreneur is someone who is creative, intelligent and passionate about what they do. They also have strong business acumen and the desire to succeed. Many successful New Zealand entrepreneurs have these traits.

As a nation, we are not afraid of being different. In fact, we applaud ingenuity and inventiveness. We also have a strong entrepreneurial heritage. Examples of successful New Zealand entrepreneurs include John Britten who invented the fastest motorcycle in the world at the time, Ernest Rutherford who split the atom, Stephen Tindall who established The Warehouse, and Dunedin’s very own Ian Taylor who founded Animated Research Limited, the creator of “Virtual Spectator”.

SUPPORT SYSTEMS

Having entrepreneurial traits is a good start. But entrepreneurs also need the following key support systems in order to grow their businesses:

- Access to Funding
 - Educational Support
 - Commercial Experience
 - Perseverance.
-

ACCESS TO FUNDING

Access to funding is an essential part of starting and growing a business, even more so when launching a business offshore. However, it is one of the main challenges that face entrepreneurs.

It is therefore crucial that a new venture has financial support from both debt and equity providers that typically come in the form of venture capitalists, banks and other financial institutions. For example, Industry New Zealand assists new ventures by providing them with various grants when a viable business opportunity arises.

But it shouldn’t stop there. Entrepreneurs also need more support from the government to assist them with their cashflow, such as tax incentives and lower tax compliance costs, the latter of which has already been considered.

EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT

Entrepreneurs also need educational support, which may range from university papers to business planning courses and/or seminars that cater for entrepreneurs, similar to those now offered by the School of Business at Otago.

Other support systems may include venture development specialists, expatriate involvement, private sector support (such as The Tindall Foundation) and mentoring programmes such as The Icehouse Limited in Auckland, which focuses on incubating entrepreneurs and their businesses to a level that prepares them for the real world.

In addition, many corporates now actively encourage innovation, for example, Telecom and Carter Holt Harvey which have set up venture capital funds for this purpose.

COMMERCIAL EXPERIENCE

Successful new ventures require innovative ideas coupled with commercial experience – they are businesses not just ideas.

An entrepreneur therefore needs to know their stuff. They need to be in touch with their own business environment and establish networks, contacts, experience and credibility to operate a successful business. They also need to display competence and self-confidence in order to gain the support of their employees, business partners, customers, suppliers and funding sources. Above all, they must believe in themselves and want to succeed.

Entrepreneurs also need to be first to the market by identifying new technologies that either improve their existing products and/or services or create new products and/or services for existing markets.

At some stage they also need to consider expanding into new markets, both domestic and offshore (particularly if they have outgrown the domestic market). This is often a big hurdle. For some, the Australian market is the next step as it is similar to the New Zealand market and is less challenging than the US market, for example, which has complex trade regulations.

PERSEVERANCE!

It is often claimed that up to 50 per cent of entrepreneurs “fail” (a word that has a very subjective meaning) within the first five years of operating their businesses. However, entrepreneurs cannot afford to fear failure. It is their ability to capitalize on failure that differentiates them from the rest. They are willing to take risks. If they “fail”, they bounce back, learn from their mistakes and get on with the job.

Take Ernest Rutherford for example: I doubt he woke up one day, decided to split the atom and got it right the first time!

A positive attitude towards venture failure is therefore important. It is better to have tried but failed, than to have not tried at all.

To sum up, I believe that entrepreneurship is alive and well in New Zealand. New Zealand entrepreneurs have the right attitude. They think outside the square, they are not afraid to take risks, they are confident and they want to succeed. Furthermore, although entrepreneurial assistance is still in its infancy, there seems to be sufficient support here to allow enthusiastic, innovative and motivated people to succeed.

Emma Lawford was at Otago from 1994-1998. She completed a Bachelor of Commerce in Finance and a Bachelor of Laws. Emma now works at Hesketh Henry, an Auckland commercial law firm, as a business and taxation solicitor.

GLOBAL SEARCH FOR NEW VICE-CHANCELLOR

A worldwide search is now underway to find an able successor to Vice-Chancellor Dr Graeme Fogelberg who, after 10 years of outstanding leadership, will retire in 2004.

An Advisory Committee comprised of students, staff and Council representatives has been established to oversee the search, with a view to making an appointment recommendation to the University Council by the end of the year. The services of Bell McCaw Bampfylde have been retained to assist the University in its search.

It is expected that the new Vice-Chancellor will take up the role in the second half of 2004.

"We have allowed enough time for an international search and an exhaustive selection process to ensure that we find a high calibre individual to lead this venerable institution," said University Chancellor Mr Eion Edgar.

Expressions of interest, or the names of suitable people who might be approached to ascertain their interest, are welcomed. These should be forwarded to: Liliias Bell, Bell McCaw Bampfylde, tel: 64 4 499 5051, email: vcotago@bmb.co.nz

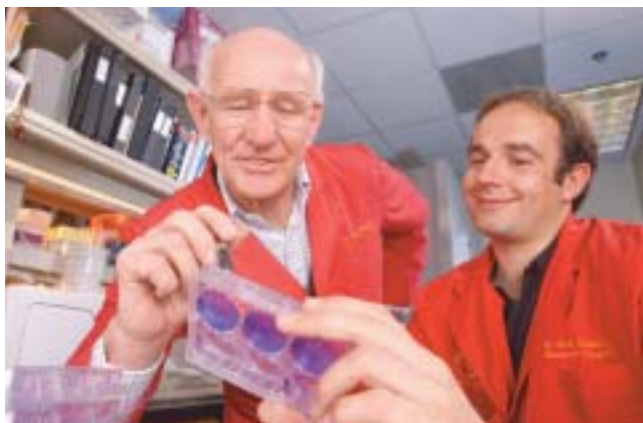
OTAGO GRADS RACE TO FIND HONG KONG BIRD FLU VACCINE

Technique has implications for SARS treatment

It's the cough that's rattled the world.

But while SARS is grabbing the headlines, it's not the only potentially deadly disease that has been encountered in Hong Kong in recent months.

A team of Otago-trained researchers now based in Memphis Tennessee has raced to develop a vaccine for the killer bird – and now human – virus that originated in the crowded streets of Hong Kong at the same time as SARS. The



Virus busters: Otago graduates Dr Robert Webster (left) and Dr Richard Webby

speed of the vaccine development, which took a mere four weeks, is also seen as having potentially significant applications in the similar fight against SARS.

Dr Richard Webby, a 1999 microbiology graduate, led a team of researchers in the laboratory of another graduate, Dr Robert Webster, who is now the director of the World Health Organisation collaborating centre at St Jude Children's Hospital in Memphis.

Working around the clock, the team used a technique called reverse genetics to develop a vaccine quickly, completing in a matter of weeks what usually takes years. Two genes from the bird influenza virus were mixed with six genes from another virus inside a cell, modifying the Hong Kong virus genes so that they could no longer cause the disease. This process, explain the researchers, makes the virus much safer to use in a vaccine.

Furthermore, the technique has implications for a SARS vaccine, says Professor Sandy Smith, head of Otago's Microbiology Department.

"In theory, you should be able to do the same for SARS, provided it doesn't start to mutate or change, as many viruses do," he said in an interview with the *Otago Daily Times*.

The modified bird flu virus has been sent to Atlanta and London for testing in preparation for human trials.

MĀORI LANGUAGE FOSTERED

In an effort to make the University more welcoming to Māori and to help preserve a minority language, Māori students will soon be allowed to write assessments and exam answers in their own language.

It's all part of a new Māori Language Policy initiated by Te Tumu, the University's School of Māori, Pacific and Indigenous Studies, and it's believed to be the first such comprehensive policy adopted by a New Zealand tertiary institution.

"The University of Otago was one of the later universities to establish a Department of Māori Studies," says Professor John Moorfield. "We have now caught up and are setting a lead for other universities. Te reo Māori is a minority language, and if the culture is to survive and flourish, then the language must be encouraged."

The University will also provide a full fees subsidy to all staff who take up Māori language papers. "We hope the number of staff who speak Māori will steadily grow," says Professor Moorfield. "Ideally there will be someone in every department who is bilingual in Māori and English."

UNICOL ROOMS TO EASE ACCOMMODATION DEMAND

An extra 100 rooms will be added to University College as part of efforts to address an unexpected accommodation shortfall experienced this year.

Last month, ground was broken on the \$6.6 million construction project which will provide two new four-storey 50-room blocks ready for students to move into by the start of the 2004 academic year.

Vice-Chancellor Dr Graeme Fogelberg says that as the number of first-year students from outside the local area continues to grow, it is increasingly important to make sure that the University is able to provide more of the high-quality Hall accommodation which is a key element of the Otago experience.

HIGH-TECH TOOLS POWER OTAGO RESEARCH

Otago research received a significant boost through two recent major equipment purchases.

A powerful new \$1 million microscope will cement Otago's status as one of the leading microscopy facilities in Australasia, while a state-of-the-art DNA analyser will advance the University's internationally acclaimed research into the genetic basis of diseases – in particular, rare, devastating childhood conditions.

The Field Emission Scanning Electron Microscope and accompanying Cryo unit and x-ray detector will enhance research and teaching for many different departments, while also attracting potential external collaborative research partners.

A Transgenomic WAVE machine – based in the laboratory of eminent paediatric genetics researcher Professor Stephen Robertson – also represents a significant investment, providing a rapid, efficient and fully-automated system for identifying disease-causing mutations within DNA.

OTAGO ENROLMENTS UP

This year's University roll is showing impressive growth with numbers already up 5.1 per cent on 2002. As of April, 17,631 students were enrolled, compared to 16,779 at the same time last year.

Leading the way was first-year Health Sciences with a 22 per cent increase and an overall equivalent full-time student (EFTS) growth of 4.4 per cent. The other divisions' enrolment figures also grew significantly: 6.1 per cent higher in Humanities, 7.3 per cent in the School of Business and a 6.4 per cent increase in Sciences EFTS.

The reason?

"We're more effectively getting the word out about the Otago advantage," says Marketing and Communications

Director Phil McKenzie. "Dunedin is an increasingly attractive destination, the teaching is excellent, the student experience is unique, and an Otago degree is highly regarded."

DENTAL THERAPY ATTRACTS ALASKANS

A group of Alaskan students, representing a range of indigenous cultures of the region, began study in Dental Therapy at the University of Otago this year.

The six US students enrolled in Otago's two-year Diploma of Dental Therapy course include Athabascan and Tshimpshian Indians and Inupiat and Yupik Eskimos.

They are to be Alaska's first Dental Health Aide Therapists (DHAT) in a new initiative under the state's rural Community Health Aide (CHA) programme, with the University of Otago acting as the sole education provider for the DHATs.

Important factors in the decision to choose Otago included the internationally-recognised high-quality nature of the programme and its "special emphasis on equipping students to care for and promote oral health in rural communities with different cultural needs," says Dental Therapy Programme coordinator Helen Tane.

School of Dentistry Dean, Professor Peter Innes, says the arrangement to educate and train the students represents a logical extension of the School's ongoing efforts to internationalize its teaching in addition to its international reputation in research.

It is hoped that the project will be a long-term one, lasting at least five years.

SOME INTERESTING STATISTICS FROM THE ANNUAL REPORT...

Did you know that the University in 2002:

- attracted international students from 78 countries around the world
- gained over \$51 million in external research funding
- spent nearly \$8.5 million on scholarships
- controlled 25,616 hectares of land
- employed nearly 3,000 full time equivalent staff
- had its largest ever number of Doctoral students enrolled (723)
- had 1/3 of its student roll coming from home areas in the North Island
- held a library collection of 2,657,734 items
- nearly doubled its off-campus computer and telecommunications traffic to 13,230,306 megabytes of information
- produced 2,269 research articles.

UNICLIPPINGS

APPOINTMENTS

Dato' Professor Dr **Hashim bin Yaacob** (BDS 1974) as Vice-Chancellor of the University of Malaya.

Professor **Malcolm Grant** (LLB 1970, LLM 1973, LL.D 1986) as Provost and President of University College, London.

Rod Carr (BCom (Hons) 1981, LLB (Hons) 1983) will take over as CEO of Jade Software Corporation in August.

Professor **John Campbell** (MB ChB 1969, MD 1983), Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, has been elected President of the New Zealand Medical Council.

Professor **John Langley** (BA 1974, DipComHealth 1982, PhD 1985), Director of the University's Injury Prevention Research Unit, has been appointed to the government's Injury Surveillance Ministerial Advisory Panel.

Dame **Judith Mayhew** (LLB 1970, LLM 1975, HonLLD 1998) has been elected as the next Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Royal Opera House in London, and also as Provost of King's College, Cambridge.

Dr **Earl Naumann**, international expert on customer loyalty, as Director of Graduate Programmes at the University's School of Business.

Associate Professor **David Gerrard** (MB ChB 1977) as Chairman of the New Zealand Sports Drug Agency Board.

OBITUARIES

Emeritus Professor **Marion Robinson** (79) (BHSc 1945, MHSc 1946). An international leader in trace-element research and former head of Human Nutrition (1985-1988), Professor Robinson's excellence in research and teaching was recognised through a personal professorship in 1980.

Emeritus Professor **Margaret Dalziel** (86) of English. Pioneering scholar, dedicated teacher and valued administrator. She served as Dean of Faculty of Arts & Music (1971-1973), Pro Vice-Chancellor (1975-1977), Chairman of the English Department (1978-1980) and University Council Member (1975-80).

Dr **Yogesh Patel** (60) (MB ChB 1965), Head, Endocrinology Division of McGill University Hospital Centre in Canada. A highly regarded biomedical researcher, Dr Patel won the Medical Research Council of Canada's Distinguished Scientist Award in 2001.

Dr **Robin Law** (47) Geography Senior Lecturer. Dr Law was an internationally-respected geographer with wide academic and community interests.

Dr **William Sewell** (51) (PhD 1978), Burns Fellow 1981-83. Best known as poet and editor, Bill Sewell was German Teaching Fellow and Lecturer (1974-81) and managing editor of University of Otago Press (1986-88).

Dr **Nicola Grimmond** (66), formerly of Zoology. Especially noted for her skill as a teacher and for her dedicated committee work. Among many other contributions, she served on the University Council as elected staff representative (1978-82 and 1991-1996).

Associate Professor **Kaj Westerskov** (83), formerly of Zoology. A noted ornithologist, he established Otago's highly regarded Postgraduate Diploma in Wildlife Management.

Dr **David L Murray** (60), recently-retired Geography Senior Lecturer. As an expert hydrologist, innovative teacher and enthusiastic field worker, Dr Murray contributed greatly to the understanding of the role of water in New Zealand's environment.

Dr **Edwin (Ted) Fawcett** (75) (MB ChB 1952), retired Physiology lecturer. In addition to his duties at the medical school, Dr Fawcett was a respected consultant anaesthetist who created a citywide Christian aid organisation.

Professor **William John "Jack" Campbell** (81) (BA 1946, MA 1947), internationally-influential educational psychologist. Education lecturer at Otago (1952-1955).

ACHIEVEMENTS

Dr **Robin Stuart** (BSc (Hons) 1980) was conferred with a DSc in December for his work on high-precision electroweak physics, while Emeritus Professor **John Barsby** (Classics) had a LittD conferred for his internationally recognised contribution to classical studies. Professor Barsby's work was also recognised through an ONZM in the New Year's Honours List.

Malcolm Templeton (BA 1943, MA 1944), a distinguished diplomat, public servant, academic and author was conferred with a LittD in May.

Professor **Charles Higham** of Anthropology has been awarded a prestigious James Cook Research Fellowship. He will work on a book on the origins of the ancient civilisation of Angkor in Southeast Asia.

Associate Professor **Sally Brooker** of Chemistry has been named as winner of the Federation of Asian Chemical Studies (FACS) Distinguished Young Chemist Award. She is only the second New Zealander to win the award.

Associate Professor **Christine Thomson** (BHSc 1968, MHSc 1969, PhD 1973) of Human Nutrition has received a Science

and Technology Award for services to science, in recognition of 30 years research work on the importance of selenium in human nutrition.

Dr **Robert G. Webster** (BSc 1954, MSc 1956) has received the Twelfth Annual Bristol-Myers Squibb Award for Distinguished Achievement in Infectious Diseases Research. Dr. Webster, who holds a Chair at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee, received a US \$50,000 cash prize and a commemorative silver medallion for his influenza research.

Junior Research Fellow **Logan Walker** of the Cancer Genetics Research Group at the Christchurch School of Medicine and Health Sciences has received a New Zealand Society for Oncology emerging researcher award.

The University's Information Services Building received a City Development Award from the Otago Chamber of Commerce in recognition of its value to Dunedin City and its heritage.

FELLOWSHIPS/SCHOLARSHIPS

Associate Professor **John Dawson** (LLB(Hons) 1980, BA(Hons) 1977) of Law has been awarded the inaugural Law Foundation International Research Fellowship to study legal aspects of compulsory community psychiatric care in other countries and to integrate this material with his work on this subject in NZ.

Dr **Somrutai Winichayakul** (PhD 2002) of Biochemistry has been awarded a two-year Agricultural and Marketing Research and Development Trust (AGMARDT) post-doctoral fellowship to investigate ways of preventing flowering in ryegrass.

Dr **Henrik Kjaergaard** of Chemistry has been awarded a prestigious Japan Society for the Promotion of Science Invitation Fellowship for Research in Japan to further his collaborative work with the Okazaki National Research Institute.

University of Otago sports scientist, **Craig Palmer** (BPhEd(Hons) 1998, MPhEd 2002) of Physical Education was recently awarded a \$50,000 Prime Minister's coach professional development scholarship.

Emeritus Professor **Richard Dowden** of Physics has been made a Fellow of the American Geophysical Union. Professor Dowden received this honour for his pioneering work in worldwide lightning monitoring.

EMERITUS PROFESSORS

Three former University of Otago professors have been appointed to the status of Emeritus Professor. They are: Professor **Ian Hodgkinson** (BSc 1960, MA 1964, PhD 1970) of Physics, Professor **Peter Holland** of Geography and Professor **Erik Olssen** (BA 1964, MA 1965) of History.

ANNUAL FUND 2003

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Please return this form to:

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 Or visit www.annualfund.otago.ac.nz to make your gift online
 — it's easy, fast, and secure.

OUT THERE

REVIEW

There are a good number of books on the plants and animals of this country's inshore waters; *Deep New Zealand* is, I believe, the first to take us off the edge of the continental shelf and beyond. At this distance from shore, seas can plunge to as much as 10 km and it is this little known and rarefied zone that is the material of *Deep New Zealand*. The author reminds us just how close we are to these deep places when he suggests that most of us will be living closer to a giant squid than our national emblem the kiwi.

The seascape is extraordinary at these depths; hills, valleys, channels, methane seeps, seamounts and hydrothermal vents. To the organisms that live there and have been shaped by the unusual forces that surround them, it is home, and home is mostly cold and dark. Add extreme pressures experienced at depth and it leads to an ecology every bit as complex and vulnerable as is found in most terrestrial habitats.

The book's 16 chapters look at creatures from radiolarians to cnidarians (hydroids, corals, jellyfish, sea anemones), comb jellies to molluscs and more. There's phytoplankton made up of organisms so small that a microscope is required, with many displaying both animal and plant characteristics.

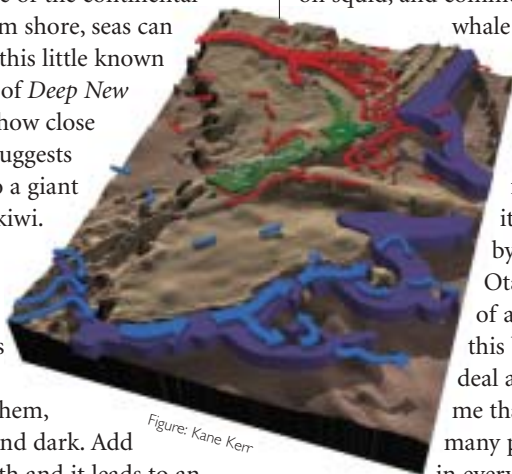
IN THE DEEP

Snaggletooths, bristlebellies and loosejaws are just a few of the fishes mentioned. Batson includes some spectacular statistics on squid, and comments on what the stomach of a dead

whale can tell us about its travels. The last four chapters cover marine reptiles, seabirds, whales and dolphins, and fishing and the future.

This is a book out of the ordinary for a number of reasons. It is a first in its field in New Zealand, and it is written by a student who continues his studies at Otago. And unusually, there are four pages of acknowledgements at the beginning of this book. I read them all. It told me a great deal about the ethic behind this work. It told me that the author set out, with the support of many people, to create the best possible book in every respect from researching and writing to illustrations, both photographic and graphic, to editing, design and finally printing. He managed to achieve all of these things and more. It is a great contribution to the literature on the natural history of New Zealand.

John Darby



Deep New Zealand - blue water, black abyss. Peter Batson. Canterbury University Press, \$49.95.

RECENTLY PUBLISHED BOOKS OF UNIVERSITY ALUMNI

A History of the Churches in Australasia, Ian Breward, Clarendon Press, Oxford, 2001

Barron Saddle - Mt Brewster: A climbing guide to the Ben Ohau, Sealy, Neumann, Main Divide, Barrier, Ohau, Huxley and Hooker Ranges, Ross Cullen, New Zealand Alpine Club, 2002

Birth, Death and Points Between: 50 Patient Years, Richard Stone, Steele Roberts, 2003

Dumber: Poems, Mark Pirie, ESAW, 2003

Reading the Will: Satires/Poems 1992-2001, Mark Pirie, Sudden Valley Press, 2002

Swing and Other Stories, Mark Pirie, ESAW, 2002

The Ballad of Fifty-one, Bill Sewell, HeadworX, 2003

The Shark Bell, Christine Johnson, Penguin, 2002

Toku Tinihanga: Selected Poems 1982-2002, Michael O'Leary, HeadworX, 2003

Vegetation of New Zealand, Peter Wardle, Reprint, Blackburn Press, Caldwell, New Jersey, 2002

Unlevel Crossings, Michael O'Leary, Huia Publishers, 2002

UNIVERSITY OF OTAGO PRESS

For further details contact: university.press@otago.ac.nz

Ghost Net, by Lynn Davidson, 2003

Millionaire's Shortbread, Mary-Jane Duffy, Mary Cresswell, Mary Macpherson & Kerry Hines, 2003

Money Makes You Crazy: Custom and Change in the Solomon Islands, Ross McDonald, 2003

The Heather and the Fern: Scottish Migration and New Zealand Settlement, Tom Brooking & Jennie Coleman (editors), 2003

The Hong Kong Health Sector: Development and Change, Robin Gauld & Derek Gould, 2003

EXHIBITIONS

A Passion for Plants: Botanical Art from the Shirley Sherwood Collection, Smithsonian, Washington, March 27 – September 2, 2003

Alumni: written a book, produced a CD or held an exhibition lately? Email the editor at mag.editor@otago.ac.nz

ADVANCEMENT



Photo: Alan Dove

Otago University Development Society Trailblazer Scholarship recipient Riki Cribb.

Riki Cribb is one of five recipients of scholarships awarded in 2003 to students who are the “first in family” to attend university. These scholarships are supported by the Otago University Development Society, the Alexander McMillan Trust and the J & L Callis Charitable Trust. The scholarships are part of Leading Thinkers, the University’s Advancement Programme that was launched last year to advance the University by investment in students and staff.

TRAILBLAZER

THROUGH MY EARLY YEARS OF SECONDARY SCHOOL, I had just been an average student. Up until the start of my fifth-form year, I always perceived School Certificate to be the highest qualification that someone could obtain. I was not aware of anyone in my family who had previously gained School Certificate and that seemed to be the academic pinnacle to me.

During my fifth-form year – through the careers advisory and with the help of teachers at my school – I began to realise School C was a mere starting point academically and to work in desired professions would require success at higher levels of secondary school and university. With this knowledge came a new direction and determination for me to achieve at school and eventually obtain a degree. I was awarded several trophies and prizes from Upper Hutt College. Some of these included outstanding commitment, co-dux, excellence in sciences; I was also named deputy head boy.

Ever since that fifth-form year, I have always wanted to study at Otago. I wanted to study physical education because I was interested in and enjoyed all aspects of sport. Otago offered a renowned BPhEd course and I also wanted to experience the student lifestyle of Dunedin. My main barrier was the cost.

I am thankful to have received an Otago University Development Society Trailblazer Scholarship. It has allowed me to overcome the financial barriers I faced, as well as the stress and difficulties associated with having limited money. I found out about the scholarship via an Otago liaison officer in Wellington. I was delighted when I was notified of my successful application and felt relief and joy knowing I was being given a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that rewarded my hard work.

I’m thoroughly enjoying the student lifestyle and atmosphere. I’ve made a lot of new friends and enjoy meeting new people. Everyone is helpful and also academically minded. I am already involved in many sporting and cultural hobbies. I have met a lot of the older Māori students through the Māori Centre, and they are helpful and supportive. I am studying towards a BPhEd and also taking first-year psychology and Māori papers. When I graduate I plan to be employed in the sports industry. My main areas of interest are sports psychology, sports management and sports prescription.

Riki Cribb

Find out more about Otago’s scholarships at www.otago.ac.nz/study/scholarships

You can help by contributing to scholarships, library resources or research at Otago by sending a gift to the University of Otago Foundation Trust, University of Otago, P.O. Box 56, Dunedin, New Zealand or give online at www.annualfund.otago.ac.nz

Refer to p.37 Annual Fund 2003.

ALUMNI

Alumni events 2003

A heavy alumni schedule during the first half of the year has drawn over 1000 alumni and their partners to events in six New Zealand cities, and in Brisbane and Kuala Lumpur.

Around 100 guests enjoyed a summer evening at 2003's first alumni event, at **Timaru's** Seven Oaks Reception Centre on 4 February. The Timaru-raised Dean of Law, Professor Mark Henaghan, contributed to the event's local flavour.

The balmy weather continued into March for receptions held over two weeks in **Hamilton, Tauranga, Nelson** and **Napier**, with 120-150 guests attending each function.

At Hamilton's Le Grand Hotel on 5 March, guests were surprised and impressed by the numbers of Otago alumni now in the region. Numbers have grown considerably since the University's last Waikato event, in 1994. There was similar surprise at numbers at Tauranga's inaugural Otago alumni event, where a lively mix of disciplines and ages at Mills Reef Winery belied the region's reputation as a retirement haven.

After a number of alumni gatherings in Nelson over recent years, many old acquaintances were renewed on 12 March at the Honest Lawyer Country Pub. That the area is

prospering was reflected in the high number of recent arrivals, something also evident in Napier on 13 March, where Steve Lunn (LLB 1974) provided valuable local support.

Functions in May at Wellington's InterContinental coincided with the annual lunch for graduate employers, and alumni appreciated the presence of over 20 Otago academics attending the three events. On Thursday 8 May, the pre-1990 alumni were interested in reports on the twenty-first century university, while an ebullient crowd of more recent alumni created an authentic Otago ambience on the Friday evening.

Otago's first overseas event for the year was the University's first-ever event in Queensland, and the local alumni greeted the University party enthusiastically at **Brisbane's** Stamford Plaza on 14 February. Around 400 alumni were invited; around 130 guests attended, several travelling a considerable distance to be present. Queensland's alumni profile is dominated by former Health Sciences students, and the many health professionals there welcomed the opportunity to talk about people and developments in the field with the Division's Assistant Vice-Chancellor, Professor Linda Holloway.

Brisbane, 14 February 2003



Catherine Rosenberg, John O'Connell, Lynne Bulloch, Maurice Rice



Professor Linda Holloway, Linda and Clive Bayley, George and Valerie Davies, Gill Parata



Peter Bosen, Michelle Williams, Scott Frew

Wellington, 8 May 2003



James Dakin, Carol Grant, Lindsay Haas, Alastair Grant



Diana Crossan, Jenny Hickman, Helen Smith



Kay Farrar, Freda Walker

Photos: Happy Memories Photo Co.

Photos: Lance Lawson

ALUMNI

Pacific Islands alumni also appreciated the opportunity to reconnect with the University at functions held in March at New Zealand's High Commissions in **Suva** and **Apia**, during the visit to Fiji and Western Samoa of the Assistant Vice-Chancellor Humanities, Professor Alistair Fox. Such was the enthusiasm that the Alumni & Development Office and Pacific Islands Centre are working with local alumni to set up alumni chapters in those countries.

In contrast to the new ground of Brisbane, the **Kuala Lumpur** function on 1 April was charmingly familiar territory for the Vice-Chancellor and the Head of Alumni & Development, Gill Parata. Held once more at the New Zealand High Commissioner's Residence, the reception was co-hosted by the Acting High Commissioner, David Pine – fortuitously an Otago graduate himself (LLB, BA (Hons) 1994), as is the Commission's Second Secretary, Stuart Dymond (DipWLM 1991, Dip Tour 1996, MTour 1998).

Though younger alumni generally met each other for the first time at the function, many older guests have had long and close friendships with the University. Those present included several highly distinguished Malaysian alumni, numerous members of the University of Otago Alumni Association of Malaysia, and even visitors from New Zealand with Malaysian connections dating back many years.

The University of Otago alumni web pages, www.otago.ac.nz/alumni, feature reports and photos from alumni events.

Wellington, 9 May 2003



Dr Graeme Fogelberg, Jo Shaw, John Landells (back), Professor Mark Henaghan, Greg Lewis



Libby Taylor, Millie Nolan

ALUMNI FUNCTION SCHEDULE 2003

The University is halfway through its 2003 alumni schedule, but there are still many events left for this year. Updated information on these and any other activities added to the programme is posted on the University website at www.otago.ac.nz/alumni.

We welcome all alumni at any alumni function throughout the world, but for practical reasons, invitations are sent only to those known to be within travelling distance of the planned function. Please keep us up to date as you move around. There's an easy online change-of-address form on the alumni web page.

For information on alumni events, please email functions.alumni@otago.ac.nz. For other information, including how to apply for the University of Otago Westpac Visa Card or contact lost friends or classmates, see www.otago.ac.nz/alumni or call the Alumni Office, +64 3 479 5649.

San Francisco	Thursday	12 June 2003
Vancouver	Friday	13 June 2003
Toronto	Tuesday	17 June 2003
New York	Thursday	19 June 2003
London	Tuesday	24 June 2003
London	Wednesday	25 June 2003
Melbourne	Thursday	24 July 2003
Whangarei	Monday	18 August 2003
Auckland	Tuesday	19 August 2003
Auckland	Wednesday	20 August 2003
Sydney	Friday	19 September 2003
Dunedin	Tuesday	7 October 2003

ALUMNI

REUNIONS



The 2003 reunion schedule makes it clear that alumni still value keeping up with their closest Otago associates, and will travel huge distances to do so.

Decade anniversaries are the most popular excuse for getting together, and the Alumni & Development Office is busier than ever keeping up with an inspiring range of reunions.

Medical alumni lead the reunion stakes: there have already been gatherings of the classes of 1948, 1953, 1962, 1966 and 1983-4; 1957 is being considered. Other regroupings scheduled for the year include the 1983 BDS class, St Margaret's College residents and Home Science students from the early

1950s, 1964's Physical Education class, Otago's rugby league players, and a 30-year flat reunion.

And that's just those we know about. Many groups have kept up such good networks that they don't need the University to get in touch with each other. However, the Office can help with ensuring your class list is complete, and contacting people who may be missing.

If you're coming back to campus for your reunion, we can also advise on accommodation, venues and University events of note. We can provide campus tour guides, examples of other reunion programmes and information on the University. Afterwards, we would be delighted to include reports on your reunions on the alumni web pages.

For advice on your reunion, or to advertise it on the University website, please contact Karin Warnaar, 03 479 5649, or Louise Lawrence, 03 479 6521.

For information on medical class reunions, please contact Mrs Ellen Hendry, 03 479 7416.

SOMETIMES YOU WANT MORE graduation THAN MEMORIES

birthdays

anniversaries

thank you

christmas

mothers' day

fathers' day

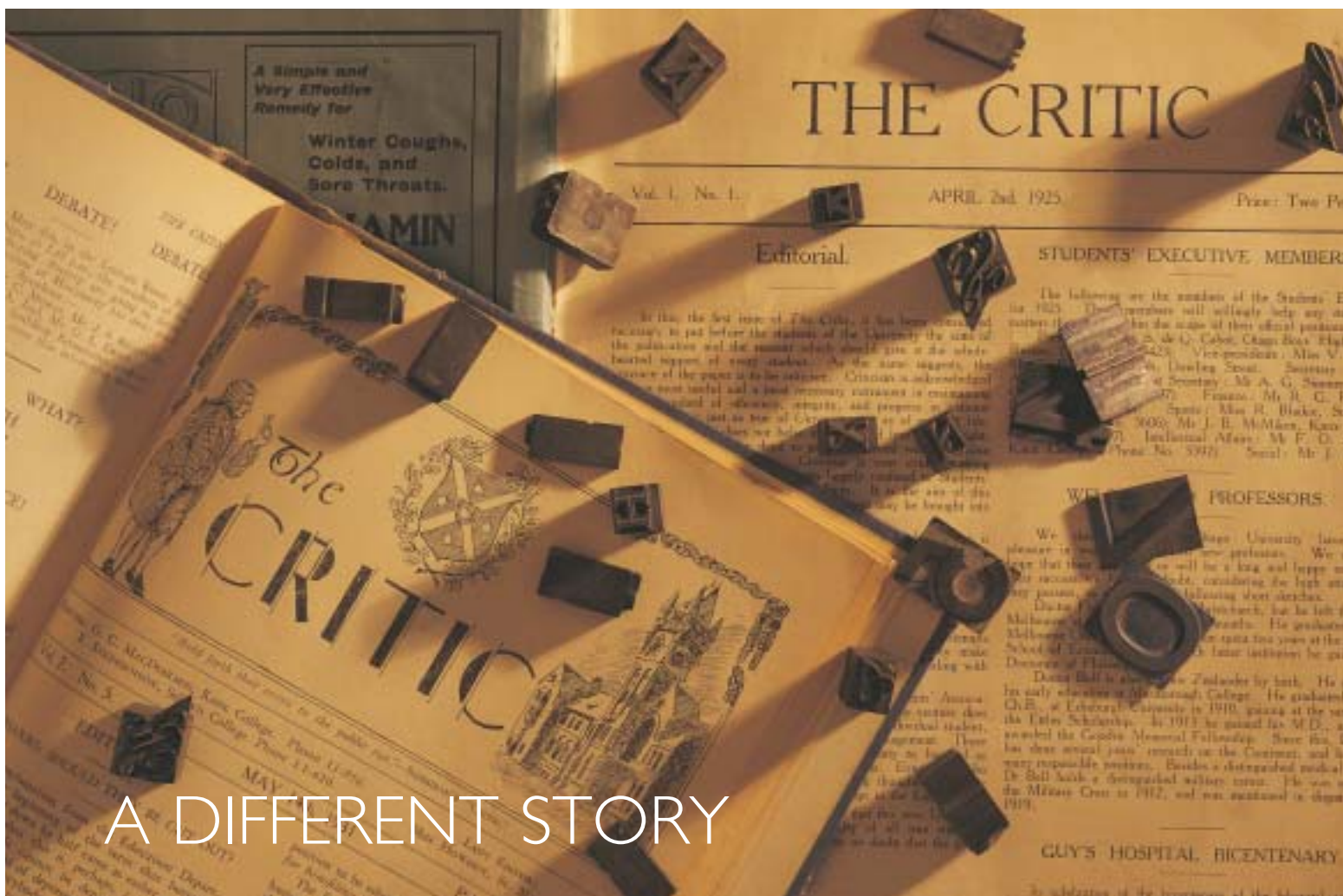
The University of Otago Archway Shop stocks many different items of memorabilia – something for every occasion.



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WHATEVER HAPPENED TO



A DIFFERENT STORY

Critic-Te Arohi: A proud history of looking left.

THE OTAGO DAILY TIMES IT'S NOT.

After three-quarters of a century, *Critic-Te Arohi* student newspaper is still striving to be different.

According to editor Patrick Crewdson: “We actively endeavour to not be like the ODT and other mainstream media. We’re not contemptuous of them but we’re filling a different niche. We like to consider ourselves alternative media – irreverent, intelligent, funny, and relevant to students.”

Critic-Te Arohi began in 1925, as *The Critic*, promising “criticism” while espousing the conservatism of the time. But by the thirties it was developing a reputation as left-wing.

“It’s historically been a left-wing publication, and I guess it still is,” says Crewdson. “Many of the staff are left-wing, although our volunteer writers have a wide diversity of political opinions.”

There are just 11 staff, most of whom are part-time, although Crewdson can call on around 150 volunteer writers to help fill the weekly editions, which boast a circulation of 5500 and a readership probably three times greater.

“Some people come to us to get experience,” he says. “Some people come to us already able to write and very talented. *Critic* is a training ground for students – giving them experience so they can decide if they want to get more training at media schools or in the industry.”

It’s worked for Crewdson. After a year as news editor and two years as editor “*Critic* has convinced me that I want to go into journalism as a career.”

He’ll be following previous editors who have gone on to media careers, such as political pundit Chris Trotter, who edits the *New Zealand Political Review*.



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