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MAGAZINE

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33

INSIDE:

Untold stories

Professor Barbara Brookes and women's history

PLUS:

What's going on inside the Alpine Fault?
Outstanding alumnus recognised
School of Physiotherapy marks 100 years
Otago's sexy songsters

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33

5

Vice-Chancellor's comment

6

At fault

Otago geologists are drilling to gain a better understanding of the processes at work inside New Zealand's Alpine Fault

9

Foreign interests

Otago's Foreign Policy School has been canvassing issues of global significance for almost 50 years

12

Bonds of friendship

Tan Sri Dato Dr Haji Ahmad Azizuddin who has been awarded the Otago Medal for Outstanding Alumni Service

14

A woman's history

Professor Barbara Brookes has dedicated her career to a side of history previously untold

17

Physio centenary

Over the past 100 years the School of Physiotherapy has gone full circle

22

A writer in her residence

Alumna and former Robert Burns Fellow Fiona Farrell

25

Student life

UniVol volunteer Andrew Bird swaps student life for rural Vanuatu

26

Opinion

Professor Peter Crampton stresses the importance of research for New Zealand's future prosperity and well-being

34

Culture of scholarship

Scholarships help create an environment of excellence and diversity

28

InBrief

Research highlights

36

Books

38

UniNews

41

Hocken legacy

42

Alumni news

49

**Whatever happened to ...
... the Sextet?**





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Writers	Simon Ancell Peter Crampton Karen Hogg Nicola Mutch Natalie Poland Amie Richardson Sam Stevenson Ainslie Talbot Rebecca Tansley Mark Wright Nigel Zega
Photographers	Ross Coombes Ken Downie Alan Dove Bill Nichol Michael Roberts Graham Warman
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Please email database.alumni@otago.ac.nz
Telephone 64 3 479 4516

Editorial contact details

University of Otago Magazine
Marketing and Communications
PO Box 56
Dunedin 9054
New Zealand
Tel 64 3 479 8679
Email mag.editor@otago.ac.nz
Web www.otago.ac.nz/otagomagazine

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There has been considerable discussion around the world in regard to changes to government funding of university STEM subjects – science, technology, engineering and mathematics. In response to changing workforce needs, the UK made the controversial decision in 2010 to increase funding for STEM subjects while cutting funding to others. Earlier this year, the New Zealand government made a similar decision, increasing funding for STEM. Fortunately, unlike in the UK, funding to non-STEM subjects in New Zealand was not cut below 2012 levels, but in the absence of a CPI increase for non-STEM subjects, in 2013 there will be financial pressure on the humanities, commerce and social sciences.

Although Otago does not have a school of engineering, we do have expertise in many engineering- and technology-related subjects (e.g., surveying, bioengineering, software engineering); some of these areas may benefit from new funding. Our extremely successful science programmes will also attract some additional funding under the STEM system. But the larger question is, does the government's current emphasis on STEM funding come at some other, non-financial cost to New Zealand and the rest of the world?

As they earn their degrees, Otago students clearly acquire the skills they will need to succeed in their chosen profession, but they also learn other things that will help them to achieve their full potential as leaders in the local, national and international contexts in which they will ultimately work and live. What will a leader in the 21st century need to know in order to adapt and respond to the major challenges that are currently facing New Zealand and the rest of the world?

With respect to STEM subjects, in particular, it is no longer sufficient for students to simply acquire deep knowledge about science and technology. They must also understand the moral, financial and ecological impacts of new developments in these areas. Furthermore, Otago graduates have a scope of influence that extends well beyond their professional boundaries. As such, they will need to know enough about history, ethics and philosophy that they can contribute effectively to on-going debates about important social issues ranging from same-sex marriage to euthanasia. If they plan to live in New Zealand, our graduates will also need to

know something about the Treaty of Waitangi and the way in which partnership is both expected and valued in this country. If they plan to live outside New Zealand, as many of our graduates do, they will need to understand something about the wider political pressures that shape the world. In short, it is not sufficient for a university graduate in any discipline, whether it involves a STEM subject or not, to simply master their core area of expertise. The world our graduates now enter requires interdisciplinary, multidisciplinary levels of expertise, as well as the necessity to think critically, evaluate evidence and solve complex problems. In that world, a narrowly-focused education in any single discipline will limit, rather than enhance, employment and leadership opportunities.

As we move into this new funding environment at Otago, we will use the additional funding that is made available to our STEM subjects to continue to grow our capability in these areas, enhancing our ability to provide a world-class education in science and technology. We will also continue to translate our science and technology research into tangible, marketable products particularly in the areas where we have long-standing expertise. But, at the same time, we will jealously guard the other non-STEM subjects that we offer at Otago. When this University was founded in 1869, there were only four professors – between them, they taught mathematics, chemistry, philosophy and classics. From its inception, Otago recognised the importance of academic breadth. During these strained financial times, we recognise the government's need for a bit of additional workforce planning, but that planning must also incorporate the broader value of a university education. In the pages that follow, you will have the opportunity to sample some of the valuable contributions by researchers across all four of our academic divisions. The impact of the breadth of education that we continue to offer at Otago is further reflected in stories about the success of our current students and distinguished alumni.

Professor Harlene Hayne

Vice-Chancellor, University of Otago

At fault

Otago geologists are drilling into the Alpine Fault, looking at the physical processes at work and hoping to gain a better understanding of when an earthquake might occur.

Recent earthquakes in New Zealand and Japan have tragically demonstrated the immense devastation that can be caused by the planet's natural activity.

Geoscientists and engineers in New Zealand are at the forefront of assessing earthquake hazards and suggesting solutions to minimise the risks to people and infrastructure. Yet, despite, more than a century of scientific investigation, the underlying physical processes that control how earthquakes start, propagate and stop, remain elusive.

Now Department of Geology researchers are drilling deep into New Zealand's Alpine Fault to gain a better fundamental understanding of the processes involved and hopefully improve future earthquake risk management significantly. After successful shallow drilling in the Southern Alps last year, plans are being made to bore about 1.5 kilometres into the fault zone.

This fault was one of the attractions that lured Geology Head of Department Professor Dave Prior from the UK to Otago.

"New Zealand's Alpine Fault is the best place to study the physical processes that control earthquakes and Otago is the best place to work from," says Prior, who began researching the zone in the 1980s.

The current Deep Fault Drilling Project is partly funded by the International Continental Scientific Drilling Programme, a global organisation trying to get a better understanding of the earth's crust.

The outermost skin of Earth – the crust and the upper mantle – is made up of several rigid tectonic plates. The boundary of the Australian and Pacific plates runs along the length of New Zealand, with the east side of the South Island (the Pacific plate) moving south-west relative to the west side (the Australian plate).

The Southern Alps are the result of the Pacific plate also riding up over the Australian plate. Part of the boundary where the plates converge gives rise to the Alpine Fault, which stretches about 300 kilometres along the spine of the Alps, and has produced several large earthquakes over the last 1,000 years.

"The geology gives us the history," says Prior. "We have a record in the rocks and that record tells us that we are late in the cycle that builds up to an earthquake.

"We are confident that the fault is in a highly stressed state and there will be a big quake – but we don't know when. It could be tomorrow or in 10, 20 or 200 years."

The department is combining national and international co-operation with new research tools to try to find out more.

"As we learn more about the signals that tell us what state a fault is in, we might be able to make better assessments of how close to a state of rupture a fault is."

The Alpine Fault is geologically unusual in two ways, making it both easier to study and a prime candidate for drilling. Firstly, the active zone of earthquake initiation and rupture is relatively shallow – roughly less than 10 kilometres deep – and secondly, historical movements have exhumed rocks from all depths of the active zone to the surface.

"We've already collected examples of rocks that were active from the surface to as deep as 20 kilometres down, depths we are never going to access by drilling. But by going down as far as we can, we can compare the new material we find with what we have inferred to be going on," says Prior.

"Drilling means we can make measurements of environmental conditions that we can't interpret from a rock found on the surface. When we've measured actual conditions, then we can verify or modify our models in a realistic way."

Otago's Dr Virginia Toy is a co-principal investigator for the drilling project with Dr Rupert Sunderland of the Institute of Geological and Nuclear Sciences (GNS) and Professor John Townend of Victoria University, and

Professor Dave Prior:

“New Zealand’s Alpine Fault is the best place to study the physical processes that control earthquakes.”

Photo: Alan Dove

collaborators from around New Zealand and the world are supporting the project.

Otago’s analysis of rocks has received a boost with a new electron backscatter diffraction laboratory set up by Prior, who was an early pioneer in introducing the technique to earth sciences some 15 years ago.

“Rocks are aggregated crystals and the electron backscatter diffraction microscope works on these, mapping the distribution of crystals, which can tell us such things as the stress conditions in which a rock deforms.

“We can use electron microscopy to study rocks that have been deformed naturally and then apply the same techniques to rocks that we’ve squashed artificially in the laboratory and compare results.

“Fault zones are all about rocks deforming. In the top 10 kilometres rocks can break and slide past each other, rather like sand between two pieces of wood. Below 10 kilometres it’s hotter and rocks can bend and change shape without breaking.

“The drilling programme will help us take a material-science approach to understanding rocks and how they deform, allowing us to use analytical tools to help us understand the processes by which rocks can change shape and fracture and slide past each other.”

Prior’s own research into the properties of ice is analogous to the work with rocks, and may save time and effort.

“My experiments in ice may be only loosely related to the drilling programme,





Professor Dave Prior and **Dr Virginia Toy** examine core samples from the Alpine Fault.

Photo: Alan Dove

but they can explain a wide range of properties and problems. We can do more with ice than we could do if we tried to do the experiments with rocks, as ice is much easier to deal with.”

Comparisons with other well-researched fault lines can be useful to a point, says Prior.

“The deeper part of the Alpine Fault is almost certainly moving all the time – through processes such as dislocation creep and grain boundary sliding – but this is not reflected on the surface.

“In the San Andreas Fault, in California, you get obvious creep close to the surface, where zigzag breaks in fence-lines and roads show what is happening. But the majority of the fault surface in Westland shows no signs of any surface creep at all, which suggests that pressure is building up, because GPS monitoring shows that the underlying tectonic plates have a substantial rate of movement.

“As hotter rocks rise up from depth they create a steep geothermal gradient, resulting in a fault zone that is not so deep as the San Andreas Fault, for example.

“This easier warming results in thermally activated creep – so you don’t have to go so deep to find the Alpine Fault zone. As a result, the range of earthquakes that occur is different. There’s a reduction in the number of earthquakes, but they’re sizeable when they do occur.”

The drilling programme intends to extract rocks from as deep as 1.5 kilometres and use geophysical tools to measure such things as temperature, pressure and seismic and electrical properties, as well as placing instrument packages down the boreholes to continue to monitor those measurements.

“We need to see if we can get a better idea of the precursor signals for a major

event,” says Prior. “It’s similar to trying to understand how volcanic eruptions work and how imminent they are, but the advantage with a volcano is that we know where it’s going to happen and the signals are close to the surface.

“What we are doing is making sure the area is instrumented up so we can record what happens immediately before a major event. And, although we’ll only have this information after the event, we’ll then be in a better position to judge how well we can signal other similar events in the future.”

So what are the chances of picking when the next big one is coming?

“Even if we have a full understanding of the physics, there are elements that are chaotic,” says Prior. “My personal opinion is that we are never going to be able to predict earthquakes.”

NIGEL ZEGA

“We are confident that the fault is in a highly stressed state and there will be a big quake – but we don’t know when. It could be tomorrow or in 10, 20 or 200 years.”

Foreign interests

For nearly half a century the University's internationally-recognised Foreign Policy School has attracted academics, students, diplomats and government representatives alike to discuss issues of global significance.

It was an idea as simple as it was brilliant: put the world's leading thinkers on an aspect of foreign policy in a room with New Zealand diplomats, students and interested members of the public, and give them two days to thoroughly tease out a pressing global issue.

But in 1965, this eminently sensible idea was one that showed incredible foresight, says Politics Professor Robert Patman. "[University Extension lecturer] Arnold Entwisle was anticipating that New Zealand would have a more independent foreign policy role. He knew we needed to build institutions where

New Zealanders could share and form ideas. He fought like mad to set this up at Otago."

Now, 47 years later, the prescience of Entwisle's vision is proved by its longevity. For nearly half a century, the University of Otago's Foreign Policy School has brought together luminaries on topics from disarmament to the rise of China as an economic power.

It has hosted speakers from Roger Kerr (expanding on New Zealand's relationship with Australia) to Robert Watson (former chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate

Change, discussing food security) to Professor Shen Dingli (on China's nuclear and space programme).

It has alternated between exploring a local issue – such as the impact on New Zealand of the growing Asian economies (1975) – to grappling with global debates like the relative power of the nation-state (1996).

The papers presented are then fashioned into significant books, produced by leading international publishers.

But what sets the Foreign Policy School apart from other conferences is, perhaps, less those at the podium, as those asking questions. At least 25 per cent of attendees are staff from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, with the event a longstanding fixture on the government department's induction and professional development programme. Regarded as an indispensable opportunity for both new



Professor William Harris:

"The School provided the opportunity for ideas to be tested from a variety of perspectives, taking into account the latest in critical academic exploration of the issues, the reality of those working 'on the ground', while getting a gauge of public opinion."



Professor Robert Patman:

"We like to explore issues 'ahead of the wave', anticipating trends that will matter to our policy-makers."



Professor Steve Jackson:

The School was "an exceptional chance to look at some of the features of 'soft' versus 'hard' foreign policy".

and specialist staff to immerse themselves in critical issues of the day, the event is usually opened by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

And it's a point of honour for the School that attendance is relatively inexpensive for members of the public and even cheaper for students (the commitment to making the event as accessible as possible now sees the lectures as free podcasts on the University's iTunes page). There are typically 100 to 170 participants and no parallel sessions – so everyone can be part of every discussion.

The effect is that, in the comfortable confines of St Margaret's College, amateurs, academics and ambassadors can rub shoulders and engage in dialogues, formal and informal, that are rarely possible in today's structures of summits and conferences. In doing so, and with a format virtually unchanged for nearly 50 years, it's an echo of another era.

Professor William Harris, who convened this year's symposium on the uprisings of the Middle East, believes it's this mixture of intimacy and diversity that gives the School both its flavour and a singularly useful niche.

"The situation in the Middle East has evolved quickly and with a lot of inter-related issues that national representatives need to develop their positions on. Where is Egypt going? Does Libya look like it's going to work? Should the UN intervene in Syria? Where does New Zealand fit?

"The School provided the opportunity for ideas to be tested from a variety of perspectives, taking into account the latest in critical academic exploration of the issues, the reality of those working 'on the ground', while getting a gauge of public opinion."

It's good for academics to spend time with practitioners, he says, "and vice versa. We want the event to be as practically useful as possible".

Patman, who has taken the helm for six Schools over the past 15 years, agrees. "We like to explore issues 'ahead of the wave', anticipating trends that will matter to our policy-makers. For example, the 2011 School focused on science diplomacy, an emerging field looking at things like collective solutions to issues such as climate change. We see it as being an increasingly important element of foreign policy in years to come, but we're only beginning to understand what it means. The chance to gain a thorough grounding in this over a very short period of time is incredibly valuable."

And for policy-makers, much can be said for the value of having the right conversation at the right time. Dr Antony Wood, a committee stalwart from 1975 to 1998, recalls the 1982 School on New Zealand and Australia's changing relationship.

"It featured significant players from both sides of the Tasman, including Sir Frank Holmes and [Sir] Brian Talboys, right at the

time that the relationship was being negotiated and some of the key issues were hammered out. It's hard to say, but it's not unreasonable to think the School may have played a role in the agreements that were subsequently reached. It certainly won't have hurt."

Indeed, the relationship between the School and Ministry was strengthened during Talboys' years as a National MP and Deputy Prime Minister during the Muldoon Government. "Talboys had settled in Southland after the war and liked nothing more than bringing the suits from Wellington down south and showing them something of his patch," reflects Wood.

After a decade of nurturing, Arnold Entwisle retired, passing the torch to a committee of academics, although University Extension continued to provide administrative services until it was abolished. While the Department of Politics has now taken over responsibility for ensuring continuance of the School, over the years its directors have hailed from Economics, Physical Education, History, Psychology, Anthropology and Geography, as well as newer University specialty centres in Science Communication and the Centre for Sustainability: Agriculture, Food, Energy and Environment (CSAFE).

Once again, this variety has been forged into a strength and provides the School with some of its richest moments, believes Patman. One of the more memorable Schools, he says, was in 2006, under the theme Sport and Foreign Policy in a Globalising World. "There were definitely sceptics when we suggested it, but it was a spectacular success."

The School's director, Physical Education Professor Steve Jackson, remembers being presented with "total freedom to invite top international people to speak on a topic that I find so fascinating". With Chris Laidlaw as MC and journalist Andrew Jennings – who achieved both fame and powerful enemies when he exposed corruption in FIFA and the IOC – as a guest speaker, Jackson recalls the School as "an exceptional chance to look at some of the features of 'soft' versus 'hard' foreign policy".

"It's a significant issue when you consider there are more national Olympic committees than there are countries recognised by the United Nations."

Now, as the organising committee contemplates what to offer for its next School, Patman pays tribute to Arnold Entwisle. "His vision paved the way for what has become a full-blown, internationally recognised and very pleasant event. One journalist described it as a 'national treasure'. Really, it is."

NICOLA MUTCH

Aimee Jephson looks back on her early days with Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) and recalls "a very big learning curve". With a combined honours degree in Politics and Spanish and a Master of International Studies from Otago behind her, Aimee was placed in the Ministry's economic division in 2008. There, she was tasked with monitoring developments in the global economy and helping formulate New Zealand's policy response: "It was all rather daunting."

So, she was grateful for the induction programme that included a trip to Dunedin to attend Otago's 2009 Foreign Policy School. With the theme Dimensions of the Global Food Crisis, there was no shortage of touch-points with her new role. "There had been spikes in food prices in 2007 and then later in 2011, so it was great to get a better grounding in these issues. I was also responsible for co-ordinating New Zealand's engagement with the G20 where food security was on the agenda, and New Zealand was obviously interested in the agricultural issues surrounding this."

Jephson remembers the event as interesting, professionally relevant and including some "great speakers" – Professor Caroline Saunders' address on how New Zealand's food exports can help feed a growing global population stands out in her mind. But the School's benefits in helping her adjust to her diplomatic career were wider still. "It was a chance to make contacts, get to know my colleagues better, and get used to representing MFAT – and New Zealand – in a broader setting. I learned a great deal."

Bonds of friendship

Throughout an illustrious career in mining, business and politics, Tan Sri Dato Dr Haji Ahmad Azizuddin has maintained an ongoing relationship with his alma mater and was recently awarded the Otago Medal for Outstanding Alumni Service.

In 1951 when Ahmad Azizuddin made his way from rural Perak in northern peninsular Malaysia all the way to Dunedin to take up his studies at the Otago School of Mines, the journey took three days and three nights.

In a series of aerial “hops”, the young man travelled from Kuala Lumpur to Singapore, then to Jakarta, on to Darwin, and then Sydney before boarding a flying boat bound for Wellington. The final leg was a flight from Paraparaumu, north of Wellington, to Dunedin.

Sixty years on, in an era of everyday global travel and widespread cultural exchange, it is difficult to imagine the different world one of the University’s earliest Malaysian students encountered when he finally disembarked in his new home. For a start, it was cooler – Tan Sri Ahmad remembers sleeping with seven blankets on his bed and a bar heater positioned beneath it – and the young Muslim man had to quickly adapt to socialising with women.

Nonetheless, the young Ahmad readily slotted into the education that would prove the foundation for a successful career in mining, business and politics, and an enduring passion for the place where it all began.

Tan Sri Ahmad’s longstanding association with the University began when Malaysia’s Inspector of Mines recommended the Otago School of Mines as the place to train Malaysia’s future mining professionals. Among them was Ahmad Azizuddin, a villager raised by extended family members who was only able to attend University with the support of a Perak Malays Higher Studies Scholarship from the State of Perak.

Tan Sri Ahmad was 23 when he came to Otago. He had been educated in English, but was weak in chemistry and, after his studies were interrupted by the Malayan Emergency, he completed the four-year degree in five.

Today, at 84 years of age, Tan Sri Dato Dr Haji Ahmad Azizuddin remains one of the University’s most distinguished alumni and strongest friends. Earlier this year he was honoured with the Otago Medal for Outstanding Alumni Service because, in the decades since he graduated, he has maintained a close and supportive relationship with his alma mater. This includes being a founding member of the University’s Foundation for Malaysia and Patron of the University of Otago Alumni Association of Malaysia.

He has given financial support to the University’s Applied Earth Sciences Leading Thinkers project and the JB Mackie Centenary Prize, and has supported graduation ceremonies and alumni events throughout Malaysia.

Despite his illustrious career, Tan Sri Ahmad will more readily speak of the people he admires and who have mentored him – such as Malaysia’s former Prime Minister, Dr Mahathir Mohamed – rather than of his own achievements, which are numerous.

After graduation he returned home where he was soon after appointed to the position of Senior Inspector of Mines. In 1976 he entered politics, serving first as a Senator and later Speaker of the Perak State Legislative Assembly and State Assemblyman of the Belanja District. For his services to politics, Tan Sri Ahmad was decorated as a Dato by the Sultan of Perak and by the Agong to carry the title Tan Sri. In 2000, the University of Otago bestowed on him an Honorary Doctor of Laws.

All this is a long way from the front row of the first-year mathematics lecture, where the foreign-looking young man in the front row wearing a distinctive songkok first caught the eye of fellow student Harry McQuillan.

“He had a sort of aura about him,” recalls Dr McQuillan. “I was intrigued with the East, but I hadn’t much experience of foreigners and here was one right at the front of the pure maths class.”

The two went on to become great friends. Ahmad would frequent Harry’s

Roslyn house to supplement his diet at Arana Hall with some home-cooked meals. The pair would hitch-hike around the South Island, the novel experience of meeting total strangers a welcome one for the gregarious Malaysian who loved to meet and converse with people. Ahmad also loved Dunedin's Scottish heritage and, when he took to alternating his songkok with a tartan bonnet, McQuillan dubbed him "McAhmad".

Both men were members of the University's Tramping Club and a club camping trip to the Stewart Island is particularly memorable. "I can still see Ahmad on the rocks throwing out a fishing line and pulling in blue cod one after the other," says McQuillan.

Such early New Zealand wilderness experiences ignited an enduring love of the natural environment in the young Malaysian. Since his retirement from business, he has converted former mining acreage in Perak into the Clearwater Sanctuary, a wildlife refuge and golf resort. Here he has hosted several University alumni functions.

Alumni, Tan Sri Ahmad believes, provide crucial networks that not only help promote economic prosperity and social advancement, but also foster cross-cultural understanding.

"It augurs well for our society. It's the best thing that can happen to young people. Those who have done it – their attitudes are different, they've been exposed to life in all its diversity."

He agrees there is something unique about the bond Otago alumni share with each other and with their University. Malaysians were among Otago's first international students and he hopes new generations of Malaysian Otago alumni continue to sustain the connections he has supported for many years.

These days, Tan Sri Dato Ahmad divides his time between Perak and Kuala Lumpur, where he remains active in non-governmental organisations. He jokes that he still keeps to New Zealand time, rising several hours earlier than many of his compatriots.

When pressed for other memories of Otago, he recalls his first visit to a Dunedin beach, on his first weekend in New Zealand all those years ago. It was a warm day and the waves, he said, looked so inviting.

"I ran into the sea and then, well, I ran straight back out of it ... and never went back in!"

Otago's climate may well be cooler than Perak's, but Tan Sri Dato Dr Haji Ahmad Azizuddin remembers it warmly all the same.

REBECCA TANSLEY



Alumni provide crucial networks that not only help promote economic prosperity and social advancement, but also foster cross-cultural understanding.

- Tan Sri Dato Dr Haji Ahmad Azizuddin

Professor Barbara Brookes:
"To understand the present,
you have to understand
the past."

Photo: Alan Dove

A woman's history

Former Head of History and Art History
Professor Barbara Brookes is a leading women's historian. Over her 35-year career, she has published numerous books, articles and essays on a variety of women's issues, giving a voice to a side of history previously untold.

When a 17-year-old Barbara Brookes first walked through the gates of the University of Otago armed with a teacher studentship and a passion for the arts, she didn't expect to embark on a world-leading area of study.

But history has a funny way of repeating itself and, as the first Australasian university to admit women to study law, Otago was a natural home for women's accomplishment. In her fourth year of an honour's degree in history, the young Brookes started researching a topic that would take her in a completely new direction to the histories in the books she studied in high school.

"It wasn't until I began my dissertation [with Erik Olssen] on abortion that I really got interested in women's history," says Brookes. "At the time, it was a completely new field and I became fascinated that this whole history of fertility control hadn't really been told.

"I interviewed some of the women who had founded what was then called The Sex, Hygiene and Birth Regulation Society in the 1930s, and the stories they told me about the desperation of getting pregnant during the depression and arranging back-street abortions were just incredible. Here was this whole untold story. I wanted to know more."

With Olssen's encouragement, Brookes won a scholarship to the elite women's college, Bryn Mawr, in Philadelphia where she completed an MA and, later, a PhD.

"It was fantastic going to the States because that was really the beginning of a burgeoning interest in the study of women's history," says Brookes.

"I was able to do both women's history and the history of medicine with the people who were shaping

the field at the time. Before I went to the States, I was in Christchurch doing some relieving teaching, and I remember reading this article by Charles Rosenberg and Carroll Smith-Rosenberg called *The Female Animal*. It was about medical and biological views of women in the 19th century – and I ended up working with both of them."

Brookes' research for her PhD on abortion in England during the inter-war period (which later became a book) broke new ground in the study of history.

"I was often thought to be a sociologist because I was working on abortion and people didn't really regard that as a historical topic.

"It's hard to believe now, but it was really new at the time. I went to London to do the research in 1980 and there found a very active feminist history group and that was fantastic because there were people from England, New Zealand and America, and we all met up. We did a book together called *The Sexual Dynamics of History*. We felt that we were at the forefront of rethinking history around issues to do with women."

After being awarded her PhD on the day of her 27th birthday, Brookes received a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Otago. A year later, she was offered a full-time job in the Department of History.

Much has changed since Brookes first took up the post in 1983. The department has long since ditched the floating typewriter, while the papers on offer bring the study of history firmly into the present by embracing digital resources and offering a more diverse and interdisciplinary approach. Brookes, with her colleague Dr Dorothy Page, was behind introducing the first women's history course in the country

in 1986 but, 26 years later, the study has become so entrenched in the mainstream that it no longer needs its own papers.

"When we first wanted to introduce a course in women's history, there were still people saying, what about the men? – even though every other course that was taught was all about the men," Brookes says.

"Today, there are no specific women's history papers. That change has come about gradually as more people joined the department who thought about gender.

"We've had fantastic students and we've probably produced more research on women's history than any other department in the country – and that's something we're really proud of."

Brookes' own personal achievements within academia are extensive and varied. Not only to date has she produced nine books, including two collections on New Zealand women's history, 36 book chapters, around 50 journal articles, numerous conference papers, reviews and seminars, she has also sat on various academic committees, supervised countless PhDs, MAs and dissertations, and been instrumental in creating a community for women academics. Part of this was helping establish the Staff Women's Caucus at the University, ensuring women had collegial support. She is also the mother of three children and says the success of her career is, in part, due to the University of Otago's excellent childcare centre.

Brookes' interest in medical history (abortion was also a medical issue) has also led her to creating a more interdisciplinary approach to medical study through establishing the medical humanities' electives with her colleague Professor Charlotte Paul in

Preventive and Social Medicine. Started in 1996 through a Committee for the Advancement of Teaching and Learning (CALT) grant, Brookes examines the history of public health through film, one of 18 different humanities' papers compulsory for third-year medical students.

In 2004, Brookes became Head of Department. While she came to the role with extensive "University experience", she was faced with leading the relatively recently amalgamated Art History and History Departments and bringing the department into the digital environment.

"It was difficult for Art History – they went from being an independent unit to being part of a larger department," Brookes says.

"One of my aims was to get people collaborating together. We set up a regular 'work in progress' session where we would peer review each other's work. That's been really good for everyone, finding out what their colleagues are doing and building trust within the department."

One such collaboration has been the recently published book, *Early New Zealand Photography*, edited by History lecturer Dr Angela Wanhalla and Art History lecturer Dr Erika Wolf, which explores the development of New Zealand photography through 24 short essays on individual images.

"I wanted to play to the strengths of both departments and I think the book does that," Brookes says.

"We're the best department in New Zealand. Everyone here is research active, we're continuing to grow our postgraduate numbers and, increasingly, our reputation is attracting more international postgraduate students.

"When we were joined, students rarely did both subjects, but more students are now likely to do history and art history together and I think that's beneficial to both subjects."

Exploring new, innovative ways of teaching history as the department embraces the digital environment has also been a key aim under Brookes' watch. With the help of CALT grants, the department has grown its "visual" component to course work through papers such as the 200-level *Packaging the Past*, which explores history in the public realm through structures (such as monuments and buildings), documentary and film.

Brookes' expertise in archival research from hours spent gleaning court and police records, newspaper reports and medical journals for her PhD has been shared more recently with students through a new first-year paper, *Forensic Histories*, bringing a more practical dimension to history study. The paper teaches students how to use a variety of research skills, including extensive digital databases, to find out "how we know what we know".

"To understand the present, you have to understand the past," says Brookes. "That's true on a very small scale. In an

institution, you have to know how things run and why they did run a certain way, but it's also true of understanding things on a global stage.

"For a good deal of the 20th century, political and constitutional history were what mattered, but social history has brought the everyday life to the fore. It's no longer about remembering dates and names. It's an exciting change in how we study history now."

Brookes stood down as HOD this year after more than eight years in the job. Her latest project – a book on Anna Longshore-Potts, a member of the first graduating class of the Female Medical College of Pennsylvania – has brought a "nice circularity" to her career. When Brookes first started teaching Early Modern History following Michael Cullen's resignation, the future Deputy Prime Minister gave Brookes a 19th century book – by Longshore-Potts. Years later, when Brookes was looking for a seminar subject while in Canada, she typed Longshore-Potts into the online resource, *Papers Past*, and discovered her connection with New Zealand.

"She came to New Zealand twice and had crowded houses both times," says Brookes. "I want to look at the performance of medicine on the 19th century stage. Anna Longshore-Potts' journey from Philadelphia to New Zealand in 1883 was one I took in reverse, in 1977. It's a really exciting project.

"To be a good HOD you have to feel generous to everyone else, so you shouldn't do it until you're at that stage of your career when you can put everyone else's interests first. I was in a position to be able to do that and it's nice now to be able to take some more time for myself."

AMIE RICHARDSON

"We've had fantastic students and we've probably produced more research on women's history than any other department in the country - and that's something we're really proud of."

Physio celebrates 100 years

When the School of Physiotherapy marks its centenary next year it will be a celebration of 100 years of history that has seen the school go full circle - from being part of the University, then coming under the wing of the local hospital board, before becoming part of Otago Polytechnic. In the 1990s the circle was completed as the School again became a valued research-intensive part of the University of Otago.

The early days

At the time the School of Massage was established at the University of Otago in 1913 it was a natural fit with the University's existing Health Sciences Schools of Medicine and Dentistry. From the beginning, students came under a strong anatomy-based teaching model advocated by the Australasian Massage Association whose desire to have dissection as part of the learning process meant Otago was really the only option.

Masseurs were already an accepted part of medicine and, by the 1890s, they had a presence in all the main hospitals. Some doctors recognised the value of massage and electrical treatment, and wanted properly trained people.

The early years proved difficult, with staff leaving to serve in World War I and the Medical School was also under pressure. As a result, in 1915 the University handed the School to the Hospital Board where it remained for



A patient is treated in a Guthrie Smith suspension frame, School of Physiotherapy, 1949.
Photo: Hocken Collections Uare Taoka o Hākena, University of Otago.



Lecture in progress, School of Physiotherapy, 1949.
Photo: Hocken Collections Uare Taoka o Hākena, University of Otago.

the next 60 years, although the Medical School continued to provide teaching in anatomy and physiology. Only eight students had enrolled in 1913, but by 1918–19 the intake to the School peaked at 20.

The School's existence remained tenuous up until the end of World War I and the arrival of James Renfrew-White, the first of a string of strong personalities who influenced and endorsed the future of physiotherapy. A Dunedinite, he worked with the British military and had trained in Britain where orthopaedic surgery was making major advances dealing with the many horrific war injuries. In keeping with a trend emanating from Europe, Renfrew-White saw there was a clear recognition of the need for various forms of physical rehabilitation.

Mary-Louise ("Louie") Roberts was appointed as the School's Sister in Charge in 1925 and retired only once the much-heralded Hanover Street building and physiotherapy pool was opened in 1946.

Although the term physiotherapist had come into vogue in the 1920s, it wasn't until around the time of the opening of the new building that the School of Massage became known as the New Zealand School of Physiotherapy.

The Hanover Street complex and its facilities were widely praised by visiting physiotherapists and orthopaedic surgeons alike with their state-of-the-art hydrotherapy, electrotherapy and gymnasium facilities which served to provide a quality education experience over the next 40 years.

Vice-principal Enid Gotts, who had arrived from Britain in the early 1930s, subsequently became head of the School until late 1964. Something of a character, she mainly taught electrotherapy and even sat exams to become an electrician so she could fix the machines.

The 1940s and post-war '50s were a time of growth and, by the early '60s, the School was taking up to 70 students each year. It was at this time that vice-principal Billy McLeod, a School alumnus, took

over and eventually oversaw the move from hospital to education institution-based training that placed the School under the Otago Polytechnic umbrella in 1976. This was part of a wider move to take the education of health staff away from hospitals, a move that also saw nursing training taken into the polytechnic system.

The School was based at the Forth Street Otago Polytechnic campus from 1988–96. A conjoint physiotherapy degree was established in 1991 as a prelude to the School moving back under the University's wing in 1996, taking history full circle.

The changing nature of practice and training

Being both long-serving staff members and alumni of the School, means deputy dean Dr Margot Skinner and senior lecturer Dr Gill Johnson have seen a marked change in the way physiotherapy is practised and, therefore, taught.

“The biggest change has been the move from a conditions-based methodology to using the knowledge base and what we call clinical reasoning,” explains Skinner. “This means understanding the research and knowing the evidence, making the assessment and then applying the best evidence to ensure the patient is managed in the optimal way.

“The whole emphasis these days is for treatment to be patient-centred and to empower the patient to actually take control of their own condition and educate them to have a strong participatory role in managing their own condition.”

Johnson says another major change has been a broadening of the profession’s scope to include areas such as occupational health.

“Sports medicine has also become a specialist area of practice, as well as mainstream musculoskeletal and orthopaedic and neurology and respiratory threads within our curriculum.

“We’ve always had an important role in women’s health, though the emphasis has changed dramatically. We’ve now got a much broader range of roles within the health-care system.”

Promoting physical activity in older adults also presents a shift, with a strong push towards exercise and physical activity, and promoting well-being.

Johnson says more advanced surgical techniques and better pharmacology mean patients tend not to spend prolonged periods of bedrest in hospital after sustaining a fracture.

“Nowadays they get up within two days with pins through the fracture and are then discharged. Although patients still need rehabilitation, it is different because they are generally much more mobile and do not suffer from the many problems associated with prolonged bed rest.”

Skinner noted non-communicable diseases associated with lifestyle, such as obesity, diabetes and cardiovascular disease, have become more prevalent.

“Physiotherapists will continue to have a really strong role in managing people who have those conditions but, importantly, also in preventive education and management.

We have to teach the curriculum in a way that will enable the students to be able to be effective in managing such diseases into the future, not just the present,” she says.

“One of the current things which I think is going to evolve for the next generation is what we call interprofessional education, where various professions learn to work together and understand each other’s contribution a lot better. That means more positive outcomes for the patient in the long run.”

Into the next 100

Even before Professor David Baxter came to Dunedin in 2005 to take over as Dean, he was well-acquainted with the reputation of the Otago School of Physiotherapy. He says the School has



Professor David Baxter:

“We have a nexus here based upon the synergy of practice, research and teaching – a lot of schools don’t have that.”



Dr Margot Skinner:

“The biggest change has been the move from a conditions-based methodology to using the knowledge base and what we call clinical reasoning.”



Dr Gill Johnson:

“We’ve now got a much broader range of roles within the health-care system.”



Practice at the School of Physiotherapy today.

well-recognised mana and prestige, and New Zealand physiotherapy is very well respected internationally.

“The biggest change for the School over the past 10 years, particularly around its move back into the University, has been its research development which is truly spectacular.

“In the very first PBRF exercise, the independent assessment of research quality, this School was rated a 0.3: by 2006 it had achieved a rating of 3.0.

“There are very few schools of

physiotherapy (or physical therapy as it is known in the USA) within so-called research-intensive universities. We are very fortunate to be in such an institution – and one which has such a strong focus on research-informed teaching for its students.”

Baxter says the School’s clinics are another of its unique features.

“We have a nexus here based upon the synergy of practice, research and teaching – a lot of schools don’t have that.”

This emphasis on research-informed teaching and practice is important at a time where the role of the physiotherapist is expanding into new areas, and into practice specialisation for experienced practitioners.

For example, UK physiotherapists with postgraduate training have recently been granted limited prescribing rights and can also perform joint injections, rather than patients having to go to an orthopaedic surgeon. The registration board for New Zealand is also moving

The centenary celebrations

100 YEARS OF EDUCATION,
RESEARCH AND PRACTICE



The School of Physiotherapy will mark its centenary with both alumni celebrations, and an International Scientific Conference “PhysioForward”, 3-6 April 2013. Celebrations will include tours and displays, as well as plenty of time for alumni to catch up with each other.

The Centennial Conference will be held 5-6 April and is planned as the key event to take the

School into the next 100 years. It will feature leading international keynote speakers as well as local academics, and cover a wide range of research in key areas of health care.

For more information please go to:

<http://physio.otago.ac.nz/centenary/default.html>

towards the recognition of specialist physiotherapists.

“Physiotherapists have, for some time, been autonomous practitioners: they don’t need a doctor’s referral, so they can assess, diagnose, prescribe treatment or refer on to other specialists,” he says. “Such specialisation would allow some physiotherapists to provide a higher level of care for those patients who require such management and – potentially – to realise efficiencies by taking over more specialised roles and responsibilities.

“That would also take some of the pressure off our busy doctors by having a designated specialist role for physiotherapists who can do a range of things, some of them delegated from physicians and other specialists.”

Beyond this, an important new development for the School is the recent approval to start an honours year, which will begin in 2013, the School’s centenary year. This will provide the most able students a clearer path on to postgraduate study and research in physiotherapy.

A review of postgraduate programmes is also underway, Baxter explains.

“There are two drivers to that. One is to make it more flexible for busy clinical professionals. And two, to align it more clearly with the national-level move to specialist practitioner, as part of which physiotherapists will need at least a master’s degree to become a specialist.”

MARK WRIGHT

Physio alumni make their mark

The Otago School of Physiotherapy alumni include many leaders of the profession – people who have risen to prominent roles, leading the profession in clinical practice, heading and even launching physiotherapy schools overseas, and taking prominent roles with leading sports team. They are too numerous to list, but Dr Jennifer Pryor and Peter Gallagher are two fine examples of the high achieving graduates of the School.

Dr Jennifer Pryor

It was supposed to be some OE employment, but little did Jennifer Pryor know that time as a junior physiotherapist at Brompton Hospital, London, in 1973 would open the door to many exciting professional opportunities.

Pryor graduated from the New Zealand School of Physiotherapy (Dunedin) in 1970 and was already drawn to cardiothoracic physiotherapy after a final-year clinical posting to Christchurch where she came under the tutelage of physiotherapist Bernice Thompson and cardiothoracic surgeon Heath Thompson. They had developed a technique using forced expiration and breathing control to clear mucus from the airways of medical and surgical patients.

After 18 months she returned to Christchurch, but maintained her links to what was to become Royal Brompton and Harefield Hospitals. A visit in the late 1970s produced clinical research, published in the *British Medical Journal*, showing that Thompson’s technique was more effective than two other airway clearance regimens.

Pryor took a permanent post at Brompton in 1986, and pursued further research and academic work including a Health Executive MBA, then a PhD. Many more peer-reviewed publications followed, along with chapters in text books and the editorship of two prominent texts, well known to Otago physiotherapy students, *Physiotherapy for Respiratory and Cardiac Problems* and *Respiratory Care*. She has

also found herself in demand speaking at national and international conferences, and teaching in many different countries.

“Looking back I don’t think we, New Zealand physiotherapists, appreciated how leading edge we were, owing in no small way to our excellent relationship with the medical profession, and nor did we appreciate how excellent our training had been.”

Peter Gallagher

All Blacks physiotherapist Peter Gallagher describes himself as one of the “last of the Mohicans”, having been a member of the final year of the Otago Polytechnic-based Diploma of Physiotherapy in 1992.

In many ways he was able to enjoy the best of both worlds, going on to do a Master of Health Sciences at the University of Otago, graduating in 2005.

Like most physiotherapists, he started his working life in hospital physiotherapy before heading from his home town Dunedin to Christchurch where he soon began to do weekend work with SportsMed.

“I loved the hospital and loved hospital practice, but then going into the community and finding that there was a niche for me in sports rehabilitation, that was really what took me down the sport path.”

His first rugby appointment with the Canterbury Rugby Academy then led to a role with the Highlanders and, eventually in 2005, the All Blacks role – time enough to be involved in two World Cups and a Lions’ series.

It is an incredibly busy role, but Gallagher has no doubt that the training he received has served him well and made him more disciplined.

“There were high expectations. You had to work hard and you were surrounded in a very competitive environment with other people who were very passionate about becoming physios and you had passionate people teaching you. So it was a very stimulating and demanding learning environment.”

A writer in her residence

Otago alumna Fiona Farrell has come a long way since co-founding *The Oxford Strumpet* back in the 1960s. This novelist, playwright, poet, essayist and journalist has added numerous awards, fellowships and residencies to her long list of literary works.

Writers' residencies don't usually come with cafés attached. Offices, always. Accommodation, sometimes. Espresso? Never.

Which is odd, when you think about it, given the amount of literature generated in coffee houses the world over. The screech of a steam wand, clinking crockery and the background thrum of conversation provide an ideal soundtrack for the solitary occupation of writing.

Luckily for novelist, playwright, poet, short-story writer, essayist and journalist Fiona Farrell, the three-month University of Otago Wallace Residency comes with a café just 22 steps down a winding staircase from the residency apartment. Plus there's an art gallery showcasing one of New Zealand's largest collections and – right next door – a primary school.

To the south-west, the industrial sprawl is framed by the Pah Homestead's trees into an attractive composition in which planes hang above the Manukau harbour like heavy seagulls. The *melée* from the school playground tumbles through the sash windows. It's here, above the coffee drinkers and art viewers at the TSB Bank Wallace Arts Centre – removed from, but connected to, the

people of Auckland – that Fiona Farrell writes.

All this is a long way from the Banks Peninsula bolt-hole where Farrell usually resides, a solid 1½-hour's drive from Christchurch CBD where her red-stickered apartment awaits an insurer's verdict. So the Wallace Residency, set up for Otago Arts Fellowship alumni and other creative scholars associated with the University, also offers her an interlude from post-earthquake life.

Even so, Christchurch is the ever-present elephant in the room that is best talked about first, for the events of the last two years have not only changed the city's collective psyche for good, they have also created the kind of circumstances that fascinate observers of the human condition.

Farrell has, in collaboration with photographer Juliet Nicholas, produced a non-fiction work, *The Quake Year*, based on interviews with earthquake survivors. A collection of essays and poems, *The Broken Book*, a finalist in the 2012 New Zealand Post Book Awards, was also the product of the broken city. But Farrell is still intent on observing the positives – the creativity and the resilience of people

– that this brutal time has revealed.

"It's fascinating watching what happens when everything is shaken to pieces," she says. "Seeing how people respond – it's a riveting kind of drama. That's what I'm writing about."

Farrell is South Island-born, the daughter of an Irish Catholic, horse-loving, gambling, socialist father, and a Scottish Presbyterian mother raised on a farm just outside Dunedin – fertile soil for a budding wordsmith. Raised in Oamaru, she headed to the University of Otago where she enrolled in a Bachelor of Arts while residing in a York Street boarding house, St Margaret's College and flats. It was, she remembers, a time of discovery: of words, of boys, of herself.

After graduating in 1968, Farrell moved to Oxford with her PhD student husband, Russell Poole. She enrolled to study Art History at the University of London, but neither of them would complete their respective degrees. It was the time of war protests and performance poets, of Mini cars, mini skirts and maxi coats, of touring the countryside in search of Romanesque churches and listening to seminal bands like The Who perform at the Hammersmith Palais and the first of the big outdoor rock concerts.

"I get a bit bored listening to my generation talk about [the 60s]," she admits. "But it *was* fantastic. It was just so alive."

Oxford was a magnet for antipodean and American scholars – the likes of Paul Callaghan and Bill Clinton. Kevin Clements, who would later take up the Foundation Chair of Peace and Conflict



Fiona Farrell: "I like that feeling of shifting gear completely. Writing a poem and writing a play are such totally different experiences."

Photo: Ken Downie

Studies at Otago, was there. Together as part of a collective – that favourite word of the '70s – that included her husband, University of Otago Press publisher Wendy Harrex, Bridget Williams – later to found Bridget Williams Books – and economist Geoff Bertram, Farrell was involved in launching a broadsheet called *The Oxford Strumpet*.

"We all dobbed in 10 quid to start it," she recalls. "It was several pages, printed and stapled, typed up on a Remington portable. We re-used Fat Freddy cartoons, which were the big thing at the time, with no worries about copyright. Then Wendy and I stood on street corners and sold it."

After the second issue the printer was threatened with closure, the authorities at Oxford threatening to take all their work away from him. But with a spirit of protest that could only belong in the '60s he refused to be deterred. *The Oxford Strumpet* was still in existence in 1990 when some of its contributors contacted one of the New Zealand founders to find out about the publication's genesis.

"I think they thought it was produced by a bunch of Leninists, Trotskyites, Marxists or whatever – everybody was an '-ist' of some sort back then," says Farrell, "but it was actually a bunch of New Zealanders who got it going. I'm quite proud of that."

The couple moved to Canada, where Farrell enrolled in a doctorate at the University of Toronto to study the work of T S Eliot. Soon after, however, she had her first child and the degree morphed

into an MPhil in drama. The beginnings of her passion for the spoken word – as well as the written – were emerging.

Today Farrell is well known for both. Her play *Chook Chook*, commissioned by the University of Otago, is one of Playmarket's most requested scripts. Her poetry, strongly rhythmic, has appeared in prestigious anthologies and her long form prose – including novels such as *The Skinny Louie Book* and *Mr Allbones' Ferrets* – dances on the page with the energy of spoken words.

"I get very bored, very quickly," she says of the variety in her work. "I couldn't bear to write the same kind of book over and over again. Sometimes I've been told that's a disadvantage, because I don't build up a predictable range of work – I'm not just doing murder books or romances, for example. But I like that feeling of shifting gear completely. Writing a poem and writing a play are such totally different experiences."

"Drama is fixed in time and it's very high impact, because it's not just your words. How it looks on the page is one thing, but how it's going to look on the stage is another."

"But I also like being able to think about things at length and have complete control of the whole effect. That's why I like the novel and non-fiction – that feeling of sitting down and taking a couple of years to really think about something, in-depth."

Farrell has been widely recognised for her work. In 1995 she held the Katherine Mansfield Fellowship in Menton, France,

and in 2006 the Rathcoola Residency in Ireland. She received the New Zealand Prime Minister's Award for Fiction in 2007 and was the Robert Burns Fellow at the University of Otago in 2011. In 2012 she was appointed an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit for services to literature – a slightly unlikely honour, she quips, for the daughter of a man more aligned with the IRA than the British royalty.

Such achievements, she says, validate the work of writers everywhere, while fellowships such as the University's Robert Burns Fellowship and Wallace Residency ensure writers get long periods of time, uninterrupted by smaller "paying" jobs and the day-to-day demands of home life, to nurture larger works. In short, they make an important contribution to our literary landscape by enabling writers to concentrate on what they do best.

After this residency, Farrell returns to Canterbury and expects to re-engage with the debate about aspects of Christchurch's rebuild. She will also recommence her regular visits to Dunedin, where her daughter is currently studying medicine, a journey that always involves an obligatory pit-stop in Oamaru for a McGregor's mutton pie. Which proves that you can take the writer out of the South Island, but you can't take the South Island out of the writer – even if she has enjoyed a three-month stint above in-house espresso in Auckland.

REBECCA TANSLEY

Fellowships such as the University's Robert Burns Fellowship and Wallace Residency ... make an important contribution to our literary landscape by enabling writers to concentrate on what they do best.

Small changes: big difference



UniVol volunteer Andrew Bird is enjoying living and working on the Vanuatu island of Espiritu Santo.

In February, Andrew Bird swapped life at Otago for the idyllic Vanuatu island of Espiritu Santo.

He is one of 11 students this year taking part in the UniVol programme, and has been living and working with the Ni-Vanuatu people on a research farm to the north of Luganville, Vanuatu's second biggest town.

The farm aims to find ways to improve the local production of root crops, coconuts, bananas, cocoa, coffee, vanilla and peppers, as well as livestock, and to disseminate this knowledge into the small rural communities. With a background in farming, a recently completed degree in environmental management and economics, and a long-standing interest in VSA, Andrew was perfect for the job.

"Building on the work done by an earlier volunteer, my key role is to help train the new head stockman to manage the livestock alone and to maintain breeding and stock rotation programmes that have been introduced. A big part of this is teaching new computer skills for farm recording and planning, and general management."

As well as working, Andrew has become part of the community. Living

in a small two-bedroom house which he describes as a definite step-up from most student flats, he has learned to speak the local pidgin English called Bislama, joined the football team and helped organise a rodeo event which doubled as an opportunity to share his farming knowledge. Fishing trips, barbecues and birthday parties with other volunteers and ex-pats have helped make his time in Vanuatu "truly awesome".

"After about three months here I could really start to see how I could make a difference. It's not so much the big changes, but little things such as improvements in stock-handling that can be implemented every day, better time management and the making of realistic daily plans. These are the sorts of things that will be easy for the farm workers to continue to do after I leave.

"VSA volunteers and Kiwis in general are really well accepted and respected here. But while I am trying to teach new skills, I have found that I am learning even more. I have proved that I can learn a new language, I have made new friends, gained a new sense of perspective and have learned the freedom of a society without all the cotton-balling and rules that impinge on everyday life."

UniVol is a collaboration between the University of Otago and VSA (Volunteer Service Abroad), and the brainchild of Professor of Geography Tony Binns who had run a similar programme at the University of Sussex, in the UK.

Since UniVol began in 2007, 46 selected students have travelled to developing countries, living and working in local communities, equipped with a combination of university-learned knowledge, practical skills, energy and enthusiasm. Placements have included developing countries in Africa and Asia, but more recently the focus has been in the Pacific.

Students come from Otago's Department of Geography and all are required to be studying development studies to the 300-level or higher. They take a year off from academic life and spend 10 months in the field, undertaking a range of development projects such as community education, administrative tasks, farming and carpentry.

Binns says the programme has been a resounding success and was expanded in 2010 to include development studies students from Victoria University, Wellington. "Most students adapt quickly to their new environment, learning the local language and developing close relationships within the community."

It's been a win-win project for all involved, he says. Students gain invaluable life experience in areas closely related to their studies; the communities in which they are working gain from their knowledge and skills; and VSA - whose volunteers are typically in their 50s - benefits from their youthful enthusiasm and the positive relationships that are built between the students and the local communities.

"These students make great ambassadors for both New Zealand and the University of Otago."

Important foundations

Earthquakes have taught us plenty about the importance of foundations, and also the importance of what's above ground in terms of fit-for-purpose building design and materials. And if we didn't know it before September 2010, we do now: however brilliant the building design and materials might be, they count for little unless the foundations are well planted and secure.

And so it is with New Zealand's future. A healthy population is a prerequisite for true prosperity, and research is essential if we are to achieve long-term health gains for all. The ongoing excellence and effectiveness of our health promotion efforts and our health-care system are entirely dependent on good science. Science has underpinned the major advances in health over the past century, including vastly disparate areas such as our understanding of safe potable water, urban design, the almost magical complexity of the immune system, the human psyche, pharmacology and so on. In solving the major challenges which face New Zealand and the globe, now and in the future, there is no question that we are absolutely dependent on high-quality science combined with deliberative and inclusive social debate.

Similarly, New Zealand's aspiration for a knowledge-based economy is dependent on research and education. Without stretching the metaphor past breaking point, research and education are the foundations upon which innovation and economic success

rely. Without a foundational pipeline of science-literate graduates, research scientists – social, epidemiological and biomedical – and bottom-up research there will be no real innovation.

New Zealand's health research is world-class and must stay this way. This is not a nice-to-have; it is a must-have. Health research makes numerous direct and indirect contributions to New Zealand society. As illustrated in the following three examples, health science graduates populate New Zealand's science, food, primary industries and businesses with trained individuals.

Professor Tony Macknight gained his medical and his research degrees from Otago. He is now a director and scientific consultant at AD Instruments, which is based in Dunedin. AD Instruments provides computer-based data acquisition systems for research and education. ADI systems have also been used for data acquisition and analysis by the world's best academic, government and private organisations. The company was founded and is run by Professor Macknight's son, Michael, himself an Otago graduate in computer science, who responded to the gap in the market identified by his father.

Dr William Rolleston also gained his medical degree from Otago. He is

now chief executive of South Pacific Sera, a South Canterbury biotechnology company that produces top-quality donor animal blood, serum and protein products for use in therapeutic, cell culture, microbiology and immunology applications around world. He is also a director of several other enterprises and was previously the provincial president of South Canterbury Federated Farmers. He chairs the Innovation Board of the Ministry of Science and Innovation (now MoBIE).

John Forrest graduated from Otago with a PhD in physiology. He is now the owner operator of Forrest Estate Winery and Vineyards. The Forrest Winery was launched in 1988 and was one of the first 10 wineries in the Marlborough region. John was honoured as New Zealand Winemaker of the year in 2000 and as runner up Entrepreneurial Farmer of the Year in 1999.

Research is not a predictable, linear process and, because of complex causal networks and long time lags, the social and economic paybacks from health research are not always easy to identify or define. The foundational research carried out in universities two decades ago is now reaping rewards and benefits which seem remote from the original effort and

“New Zealand's health research is world-class and must stay this way. This is not a nice-to-have; it is a must-have.”



Professor Peter Crampton:
“If we aspire to a prosperous future with a healthy population and an increasingly knowledge-based economy our health research foundation is vital.”

Photo: Alan Dove

inspiration. Similarly, the basic science of today will lead to outcomes in decades to come which we can't currently anticipate.

Professor Tony Reeve and his group conducted 20 years of basic discovery work in the Otago Cancer Laboratory, largely funded by the Health Research Council. During this time, the laboratory was instrumental in introducing the latest genetic technologies to New Zealand and in training a series of talented researchers. The culmination of this research led to the establishment of Pacific Edge Biotechnology Ltd, a successful biomedical company specialising in the discovery and commercialisation of diagnostic and prognostic technology for the early detection and monitoring of cancer.

Professor Warren Tate, the 2011 Rutherford Medal winner, has pursued a 40-year career in basic discovery science focused on how proteins are synthesised in living cells. He has made ground-breaking discoveries in understanding the fundamental elements of cell biology. However, in the last six years a serendipitous finding has made a huge

contribution to health research with potential applications for preventing and treating HIV-1 and neurological diseases such as Alzheimer's.

The Christchurch Heart Institute at the University of Otago Christchurch has been contributing to cutting-edge research around heart disease for more than 20 years. The accumulated basic science knowledge of this group of scientists and clinicians has achieved critical mass in recent years, leading to multiple international partnerships and a series of patented biomarkers that are presently undergoing commercial development.

Our experience tells us it is essential that researchers and scientists take the trouble to inform communities and politicians about the processes which lead to science-generated knowledge and advancement. Knowledge creation is not a linear process of problem identification, option analysis and solution. Rather it is a messy process built on the sheer hard work and perseverance of discovery science. This, together with measures of serendipity and the ability to identify

unforeseen connections, over time leads to what we know as the advancement of scientific knowledge. This complex process cannot be directly purchased or legislated for, but propitious conditions can, and should, be set up and supported. This requires long-term investment and commitment to sustaining a solid science foundation.

New Zealand's record for supporting health research funding is not especially encouraging. Compared with, for example, Australia and the UK, we invest relatively modestly. In these times of economic constraint, it is essential that our communities, politicians and governmental agencies understand the importance of, and support, the research and science infrastructure which provides New Zealand with its world-class health research. If we aspire to a prosperous future with a healthy population and an increasingly knowledge-based economy our health research foundation is vital.

Professor Peter Crampton
Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Health Sciences)
University of Otago

Coroners' findings to be evaluated

What is the nature of New Zealand coroners' recommendations and are they being acted on to help save lives? Dr Jennifer Moore and Professor Mark Henaghan (Faculty of Law) intend to find out in a Law Foundation-funded project that will review all coroners' findings and recommendations from July 2007 to June 2012. They will also interview coroners and organisations that are sent recommendations.

There are approximately 29,000 deaths in New Zealand each year, of which about 20 per cent are reported to the coroner. Most years there are around 1,334 inquests which result in some 212 recommendations. New Zealand needs an efficient and effective coronial system, Henaghan says, highlighting where avoidable deaths occur and introducing measures to prevent recurrence.

It is common for those who have lost family members through preventable death to ask the coronial system to ensure that this does not happen to others, says Moore. New Zealand families believe and hope that coroners' findings and recommendations can "make a difference to saving people's lives".

Coroners have expressed concerns that agencies are failing to take their recommendations seriously, but are all their recommendations possible to implement? Moore asks.

"Are all coronial recommendations deserving of

implementation? Should mandatory regimes for follow-up to coronial recommendations be part of New Zealand law? Any such law reform must be evidence based, not merely anecdotal. An empirical and legal evaluation of whether coroners' findings have the potential to save New Zealanders' lives is well overdue."

The Otago project will be undertaken in collaboration with Coronal Services, taking account of overseas experience.



Professor Mark Henaghan and Dr Jennifer Moore: "Should mandatory regimes for follow-up to coronial recommendations be part of New Zealand law?"

Audit measures human impact

It has long been known that human habitation has had a dramatic effect on New Zealand's flora and fauna, but new research aimed at providing an audit of our prehistoric animal species is revealing some unexpected results.

Professor Jon Waters' (Zoology) three-year project is expected to reveal the impact of human arrival on native New Zealand species and initial findings show that human-related extinctions have been widespread.

"Since their arrival, humans have eliminated nearly half of our original native bird species and, of the remainder, a large proportion are threatened."

More unexpectedly, research indicates that several of our "native" species are new arrivals, having introduced themselves in the last few centuries. These current animal populations, which were once assumed to have survived the arrival of humans, are actually exotic species that have apparently filled niches left by declining and extinct mainland populations.

New research conducted by PhD student Catherine Collins suggests that the sea lion currently present on the Otago Peninsula is genetically distinct from New Zealand's prehistoric sea lion. "They were once found all around New Zealand, but after humans arrived there was an extinction and re-colonisation event.

The current animals are from the sub-Antarctic population which is creeping back to mainland New Zealand."

Waters explains that human protection can enable species to re-establish themselves in New Zealand.

"Potentially a full audit could alter future conservation policy. I think it teaches us that if species have gone extinct and been replaced it is a dynamic system, but also that if we change our ways nature can recover to some extent."



Professor Jon Waters: "Humans have eliminated nearly half of our original native bird species ..."

Women's IQ on the rise

The move to modernity is being credited for the way women's IQ scores now match and, in some cases, exceed men's.

In one of the chapters of his new book, *Are We Getting Smarter?*, Emeritus Professor Jim Flynn, has attempted to settle a long-standing argument about the comparative IQs of the sexes.

Flynn has focused on data using Raven's Progressive Matrices, an IQ test that is less affected by verbal skills, where women have an advantage.

He found six nations with sufficient data and, in five of them including New Zealand, women either matched men or exceeded them. On average, women had an IQ of 100.7 compared to men at 100.

"One shouldn't exaggerate the significance of that," says Flynn. "It may be that women are more self-disciplined during the test and, although their intellectual capabilities equal men, they get a very small bonus in that they might check their answers more thoroughly or try harder - this sort of stuff. So I would say the evidence shows that women equal men."

The sixth nation was Israel and Flynn says it was significant that women from highly orthodox Jewish backgrounds, about 20 per cent of the population, are not given a chance at modernity.

Their mean IQ of about 90 dragged the national IQ for women down to about 98.

"There has to be equal emphasis on education for women and professions have to be open to women, and in the five countries where that was true, the women made as good scores or slightly better than men."



Emeritus Professor Jim Flynn: "I would say the evidence shows that women equal men."

Mana Māori and Christianity

A book tracing Māori engagement with mainstream Christianity has been the product of widespread collaboration across University of Otago departments, as well as academics, church leaders and iwi around the country.

Mana Māori and Christianity (Wellington: Huia Press, 2012) is jointly edited by Dr Hugh Morrison (Education), Dr Lachy Paterson (Te Tumu), Dr Brett Knowles and Professor Murray Rae (Theology and Religion). They drew material from 14 different contributors for the 322-page book, including a number of Māori scholars, as well as non-academics who could recount their history.

"It is really significant, too, in that very little has been written about Māori engagement with mainstream Christianity," Paterson explains.

"There are quite a few books on Rua Kenana, Ratana and people like that, but not a lot's been done on Māori interaction with the Anglican Church, the Catholic Church, the Presbyterian Church and Methodists."

Morrison says it also ranges over more recent trends rather than just dealing with historical topics.

"We've got people writing about Pentecostal denominations in the last three or four decades. One chapter is about Destiny Church which is a hot topic in a sense. Another chapter covers

Mormon or Latter Day Saints' engagement with Māori and that's not been written about very much."

Rae says Māori were by no means passive recipients of the gospel: they were active adapters, even within mainstream denominations.

"In the mainstream churches it manifest itself in extreme discomfort - with all these offshoots from mainstream churches that forged a distinctive Māori expression of the gospel."



Dr Lachy Paterson, Professor Murray Rae, Dr Hugh Morrison and Dr Brett Knowles: Their book explores Māori engagement with mainstream Christianity.

Engaging in games

Teaching young children skills in self-control may provide a better and longer lasting alternative to existing treatments for ADHD (Attention-Deficit/ Hyperactivity Disorder).

Dr Dione Healey (Psychology) has developed a programme called ENGAGE (Enhancing Neuro-behavioural Gains with the Aid of Games and Exercise) to help develop self-control in pre-schoolers by using common childhood games that involve core self-control skills. A trial has been completed with a group of three to four-year-old children rated as more hyperactive than 92 per cent of children their age. Parents played the prescribed games with their children for 30 minutes a day over five weeks. Following this, they rated their children as being significantly less hyperactive, aggressive and inattentive than before. Neuropsychological measures were also improved.

"We found that changes in behaviour were related to changes in neurocognitive functioning. There were also positive relations between improvements in behaviour and neurocognitive functioning, and the amount of time spent playing the games."

The children's behaviour was monitored for the following year and parents continued to rate this as significantly better than before the intervention and the same as immediately after ENGAGE. "This indicated that the effects of the intervention were

lasting, which was most exciting," Healey says.

Within the school-aged populations studied, existing treatments for ADHD - medication and behavioural management training - have been found to lack lasting effects. When the treatment stops the symptoms return.

Healey says that the initial success of the ENGAGE programme is preliminary, but the results indicate that it may help to prevent hyperactivity in the pre-school years from developing into ADHD.



Dr Dione Healey: [Parents] rated their children as being significantly less hyperactive, aggressive and inattentive than before.

Gone Curling opens doors

***Gone Curling*, produced by Master of Science Communication students Rachael Patching and Roland Kahurangi, continues a run of success for the Centre for Science Communication.**

The documentary, filmed in Central Otago last winter, was recently selected from 491 films to be one of three finalists in the Newcomers category at the prestigious Wildscreen Festival, which is held in Bristol every two years.

"The festival is the Oscars for natural history, wildlife and environmental films, so the other entrants are mostly people in the industry working for Discovery, National Geographic, or their own companies, often with budgets of hundreds of thousands - not students working with \$NZ3,000," says centre director, Professor Lloyd Davis.

He describes the film, which deals with global warming and its effects on the lives of people involved in an "old and quirky" sporting tradition, as "technically competent and beautifully shot".

Gone Curling continues a long history of success for the centre, with student films making every Wildscreen final since 2006. Since the master's programme began in 2002, 96 graduates have produced 62 films and gained 43 international awards.

"The film is a very New Zealand story ... so we were absolutely

thrilled that the festival organisers recognised its potential," Kahurangi says.

Patching is now working on two short films and a feature-length movie with her production company, Predator Films. She credits the film with giving her strong industry credentials.

"It acts like a calling card and gives me a reason to create relationships with industry professionals."



Professor Lloyd Davis (right) with **Roland Kahurangi** and **Rachael Patching:** Their film deals with global warming and its effects on the lives of people involved in an "old and quirky" sporting tradition.

RWC left well-being unchanged

While the on-field action during last year's Rugby World Cup enthralled many, Dr Mathew Parackal (Marketing) was crunching numbers to see if the event enhanced national "well-being".

Parackal is analysing data from a sampling frame of more than 200,000 New Zealand consumers to see whether an event that was designed to generate economic activity influenced well-being, which in economics is a measure of personal and social fulfilment rather than production and consumption indicated by Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

While GDP figures showed an increase of between 0.3 and 0.7 per cent in retail, accommodation and restaurant activity, well-being remained unchanged.

"From the grand opening, emotions were high and this momentum was sustained even after the final. But well-being measurements in the week following the final were no different to those of the previous weeks," Parackal says. "This observation confirms well-being's homeostatic nature; it is not affected by external changes. The Rugby World Cup was good for New Zealand, but did not affect well-being, at least for the consumers in this study."

Early indications from his studies suggest well-being may be a better gauge of quality of life than a strictly "dollar-terms" measure,

such as GDP. New Zealand's well-being measurements are slightly below international standards, but solutions may start locally.

"The Dunedin City Council has released a draft social well-being strategy. The key challenges are improving living conditions and providing opportunities for people in lower socio-economic groups to earn enough to meet basic needs. Implementation of this strategy will generate data to shed light on the well-being versus GDP debate."



Dr Mathew Parackal: His studies suggest well-being may be a better gauge of quality of life than a strictly "dollar-terms" measure.

Deep brain stimulation may reinstate memory

Although Professor Neil McNaughton (Psychology) calls it an "extremely simple idea", his research into an area of the brain involved in the control of memory has a wide number of potential applications.

McNaughton's team has recently shown that deep brain stimulation can reinstate theta activity in the hippocampus, which could repair memory deficits in brain disorders ranging from traumatic brain injuries to epilepsy and dementia.

"What we've found is that if you block the theta rhythm in the hippocampus you get memory problems and if you put the rhythm back with a particular type of stimulation, memory may return.

"We know that the type of stimulation used and, particularly, the frequency matters but we do not know the details so our project is actually very simple: find out what pattern works best."

Brain stimulation is already used in a number of disorders such as Parkinson's disease.

"What makes our work different is that we are putting a rhythm - that can be recorded from a functional part of the brain - back in, rather than just waking up certain areas with stimulation."

The research will map parameters for successful stimulation that could be put to immediate use.

A Neurological Foundation Grant of \$95,000 awarded in July this year has been critical to the study. The research is sufficiently "technically tricky" that it would not be possible without their funding.

"The grant is crucial. It allows us to take the theoretical model and push it to the point where it can go from pre-clinical to clinical."



Professor Neil McNaughton: "... if you block the theta rhythm in the hippocampus you get memory problems and if you put the rhythm back with a particular type of stimulation, memory may return."

Breastfeeding benefits

Research from the Asthma and Allergy Cohort Study Group has provided further convincing evidence of the benefits of breastfeeding.

There has been considerable debate over this issue in the scientific literature, but this study of 1,105 infants in Christchurch and Wellington over six years demonstrates that breastfeeding – particularly exclusive breastfeeding – has a strong protective effect against children developing asthma or wheezing up to the age of six years.

This protection is even stronger in those infants who are atopic; that is, those who have allergies and are, therefore, more vulnerable. Exclusive breastfeeding for three months brought their risk down to that of non-atopic children.

“These are very robust and convincing results which support a global public health message to breastfeed to prevent asthma,” says lead author Dr Karen Silvers (University of Otago, Christchurch).

“If every infant in this cohort had been exclusively breast-fed for six months, as is recommended by the World Health Organization, asthma would have been reduced by 50 per cent at

two years, 42 per cent at three, 30 per cent at four, 42 per cent at five and 32 per cent at six years.”

The study shows a waning of the impact of breastfeeding after four years, which Silvers says is to be expected as children are exposed to other risk factors as they age.

“However, the fact that exclusive breastfeeding protects well beyond the exclusive breastfeeding period – after the introduction of foods or other drinks – is remarkable.”



Dr Karen Silvers with Ava and Leo: “The fact that exclusive breastfeeding protects well beyond the exclusive breastfeeding period – after the introduction of foods or other drinks – is remarkable.”

Street smoking increases risk

Smoking on city streets significantly increases the level of dangerous and unhealthy fine particulates in the ambient air around smokers.

Public health researchers from the University’s Wellington campus measured air quality as they passed 284 people smoking on the footpaths in a Lower Hutt shopping centre.

They found when smokers were observed, at an average distance of 2.6 metres, there was an average 70 per cent more fine particulates in the air (PM2.5 or less than 2.5mm in diameter) than when there were no smokers.

When standing next to a smoker, the mean fine particulate pollution level was 16 times the background level, with a peak of 26 times the background level.

Study co-author Dr George Thomson says city councils should do more to help protect the health of pedestrians, and especially those in outdoor pavement seating, by implementing smokefree policies for shopping areas.

“They should be particularly concerned about protecting bar and restaurant workers who frequently have to breathe in second-hand smoke.” Other benefits of smokefree streets would be decreased street cleaning costs from less cigarette-butt litter, a better public image, the reduction of second-hand smoke drifting into shops and offices, and reducing the normality of smoking.

Thomson says the problem of smoking on city streets is being addressed internationally with a growing number of cities successfully adopting smokefree policies for at least some outdoor parts of shopping areas.

The study has been published in the international journal *Health & Place* and the research was funded by the Cancer Society of New Zealand.



Dr George Thomson: City councils should do more to help protect the health of pedestrians ... by implementing smokefree policies for shopping areas.

Energy saving for SMEs

Is there a will and a way when it comes to energy saving among small to medium enterprises (SMEs) in New Zealand?

Dr Sara Walton (Management) hopes to answer that question by examining the way SMEs use energy and their attitudes to it, using the Energy Cultures Framework developed by Otago researchers.

A pilot study, designed in conjunction with the University's Energy Cultures team, is examining the energy habits of eight Dunedin companies across a range of industries that employ fewer than 19 people.

"Interestingly, we are finding that these companies' energy spend is less than five per cent of the total cost of production so they are not terribly interested in the energy spend because they have bigger fish to fry."

However, she says it is important for the country, in terms of reducing total energy consumption.

"We want to understand what it would take to change the perception of energy being an overhead they cannot change, to something they can actually be quite smart about - especially given that energy prices are going to continue to increase and could become a much more significant part of the cost of production."

Walton and colleagues are also working in partnership with Durham University in the UK which has a similar study underway, although UK SMEs have up to 50 employees.

"We will compare our initial results with theirs to see if there are any similarities. The UK is quite different in terms of some of the subsidies you can get for energy technology."



Cle-Anne Gabriel and Dr Sara Walton: "We want to understand what it would take to change the perception of energy being an overhead they cannot change, to something they can actually be quite smart about ..."

Health boards questioned

New Zealand's unique system of elected health boards has been found wanting in a just launched book *Democratic Governance and Health* (Otago University Press).

The book, co-authored by Professor of Health Policy Robin Gauld (Preventive and Social Medicine) and Assistant Professor Miriam Laugesen, at Columbia University Mailman School of Health, looks back at the history and performance of elected health boards in New Zealand, the only country in the world with such a model across an entire health-care system.

Gauld says the system doesn't necessarily produce boards with the skills to drive complicated organisations with budgets, in some cases, in the realm of billions of dollars.

"They should have a really solid brief and knowledge and understanding of the practice of health-care quality improvement and patient safety which internationally is a number one issue in health-care services."

Currently, four of the 11 members are appointed, providing the government with a way to get the necessary skill mix.

Gauld also questions whether the public are interested, given the low voter turn out, and points out that the boards are there to serve the government first and foremost - the public is a secondary concern.

"We believe a much more restricted number of elected members should be the way forward and those elected members should have a specific objective of representing the public. Their job would be to act as a conduit for members of the public wanting to have issues voiced at the board table."



Professor Robin Gauld: "... a much more restricted number of elected members should be the way forward and those elected members should have a specific objective of representing the public."

Culture of scholarship

Each year the University of Otago offers scholarships to the value of around \$20million, variously covering fees, accommodation, travel and associated learning and research costs to students studying at both the undergraduate and postgraduate levels.

Some are funded by the University itself, but a large number have been donated by business and private individuals, many with alumni connections and with a strong interest in fostering excellence and diversity not only among New Zealand's next generation of professionals, but this country's future citizens as well.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Harlene Hayne believes scholarships are vital to the University, helping to attract the best and brightest students, creating a cohort of excellence that others want to join.

"I make no apologies for the fact that Otago is an academically-led university and, in recent years, we have made it both harder to get in and easier to get thrown out. We have to create an environment based on scholarship that encourages the brightest students to come here, rather than go somewhere else.

"Our scholarships programme does a pretty good job of doing this but, at the same time, the University is equally committed to providing opportunities for academic high achievers who do not have the financial resources to come here.

"We do not want financial circumstances to be a barrier to young people with potential. We want to be the best university, but accessible

to everyone. For these young people, gaining a scholarship will be a life-changing experience, as it was for me."

The young Hayne did very well academically at high school, but the private, elite liberal arts college, Colorado College, was beyond the financial means of her family. Gaining a scholarship to this institution "changed my life". Hayne spent four years there and, in September this year, the college awarded her an Honorary Doctor of Science – a neat full circle.

Hayne's comments about the importance of scholarships are echoed by OUSA president Logan Edgar. "Too often we see talent wasted when a student can't afford to come to university, even with the current Student Loans system. There are always extra expenses like travel, course material and textbooks that a scholarship can cover and really make studying a more viable option.

"And, for existing students, gaining a scholarship to pursue further study is a massive encouragement. This not only makes the decision to continue studying more appealing by making it financially easier, but also provides that boost that can keep you going, knowing that someone is backing what you do."

This is not a one-way street. Donors also receive an enormous sense of satisfaction. John Pickering, who is a trustee and secretary of the Priscilla Sandys Wunsch Scholarships, describes this role as a "privilege".

The scholarships were established by trust deed on the death of Miss Wunsch



Professor Harlene Hayne:

"We do not want financial circumstances to be a barrier to young people with potential."

in 2000 in memory of the years she enjoyed as a student at the University of Otago, graduating with a BA in 1945. The scholarships are for Taranaki students from families with limited resources or special needs to help them with their costs of study, accommodation and travel.

"Not only is it rewarding to ensure the investments of the trust fund are secure and grow each year so that it maintains its current level of income, there is the personal joy in knowing that so many enthusiastic local students have been given the opportunity to achieve their dreams without a huge student loan that could otherwise impede their future.

"Many of the students like to keep in contact. They are proud of their Otago degree and grateful for the financial support they received from the Priscilla Sandys Wunsch Trust as they know they would not be in the position they are today without that help."

The University of Otago currently offers scholarships to foster undergraduate and postgraduate study across all academic disciplines. In addition, there are scholarships that encourage and recognise particular talents – such as in cultural pursuits – specific areas of expertise, ethnic diversity and for those with disabilities.

To contribute to the University's scholarships programme, a number of options are available. For further information, please contact the Development and Alumni Relations Office:

Tel +64 3479 4516

Email alumni@otago.ac.nz

Web alumni.otago.ac.nz/supportotago

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“My scholarship was amazing and gave me a great head-start at University. It meant that during my first and second years I didn’t have to work part-time to pay for the cost of rent and living at a Residential College. Instead, I was able

to concentrate on my studies and achieved exceptional results. And this high academic achievement subsequently provided me with numerous postgraduate scholarship opportunities, as well.

“Post-university life is now so much easier as the scholarships have meant that after completing an honour’s degree in biochemistry and a PhD, my student loan is less than the cost of one degree!”

Gemma Dickson, Priscilla Sandys Wunsch Scholarship

“The scholarship was a bonus in my first year of University to feel that people believed in me and were prepared to support me through my study. I certainly felt relieved and grateful that my future loan obligations would be reduced. This helped me to focus on doing the courses I enjoyed most, which was really useful in my first year as I tightened up exactly what degree structure I wanted to pursue.

“The scholarship certainly helped me on my way to choosing and graduating with an LLB (Hons) and a BA in politics which led me, during University, to summer-clerk work experience with law firm Russell McVeagh and, after graduating, a position clerking for Judges in the Court of Appeal and Supreme Court in Wellington. I am now just beginning my study towards an LLM at the New York University School of Law, and am thankful for all the help I received getting here.”

Alex Latu, Alumni Scholarship

“The scholarship I received enabled me to achieve my goal of completing a Bachelor of Commerce and Bachelor of Science in just 3½ years, without any financial pressure. It gave me the best experience of university life I could ever have imagined.



“As a result of the scholarship, I didn’t need a student loan and was able to save some money from my part-time job as a

tutor and residential assistant in a residential college, and now run my own small business. Without this scholarship I wouldn’t be where I am today.”

Sok Phou, First in Family Scholarship

“Being a fortunate recipient of a University of Otago scholarship has enabled me to more easily focus on both the coursework processes and research dissertation requirements of a Master’s Degree in Physiotherapy (endorsed in Manipulative) which I was recently awarded with Distinction. It has also this enabled me to light a way for the many bright Māori into tertiary education, particularly a career path in physiotherapy – currently, fewer than four per cent of all registered physiotherapists in Aotearoa identify as Māori. This is cornerstone to the aspirations I have for our people, and which will ultimately assist in enhancing the wellness of our whānau.



“Looking forward, I can now see a career path beyond my current clinical role ... into one of academia at one of Aotearoa’s most prestigious universities, a role I had previously thought was beyond this Tāne Māori from the bush.”

Ricky Bell (Ngā Puhi, Ngāti Hine, Ngāti Hau), Coursework Master’s Scholarship

“I am currently a second-year French and theatre studies student, and this year I was accepted into the prestigious British American Drama Academy’s Midsummer in Oxford Program 2012. This is a highly selective – by audition – intensive acting conservatory run by the Yale University School of Drama and UCLA, and held at Magdalen College Oxford in July/August. The focus was on classical acting and Shakespeare, taught by leading British and American theatre practitioners.

“I was the only actor representing New Zealand and the experience I gained was invaluable in my pursuit of a career in the theatre. This opportunity was absolutely amazing and I remain grateful to the University of Otago for my first-year scholarship which, no doubt, played a supporting role in my acceptance to the Oxford programme.”

Aislinn Furlong, Performance Scholarship

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Butterflies of the South Pacific

Brian Patrick and Hamish Patrick, October 2012

It is easy to misjudge butterflies as fragile flying insects. However, their distribution across a wild and expansive Pacific Ocean proves otherwise. Butterflies can fly thousands of kilometres.

The South Pacific is a vast expanse of ocean with tiny island groups and scattered islands. From Kiribati, Tuvalu and Fiji in the west, to French Polynesia and Hawai'i in the east, this book

surveys (and discovers) the butterfly inhabitants of these tropical islands. The butterflies of temperate New Zealand to the south are also included.

With a foreword by John Tennent, of The Natural History Museum, London, this useful book describes and illustrates almost 100 butterfly species and includes about 300 photographs of butterflies and their habitats.



Far from 'Home'

The English in New Zealand

Edited by Lyndon Fraser and Angela McCarthy, September 2012

The English have been on the move globally since around 1600. For almost 200 years, they have been migrating to New Zealand, yet relatively little has been written about their experiences.

Covering a wide range of topics - from drinking and literature to mental health and Māori understandings of Englishness - this book brings together leading international scholars and prominent local researchers to explore

issues at the very heart of research into human mobility. Why did the English-born people decide to emigrate? What factors shaped their migration and adaptation? How might we best describe and explain their experiences?

Contributors: Stephen Constantine, Lyndon Fraser, Marjory Harper, Angela McCarthy, Lachlan Paterson, David Pearson, Greg Ryan, Janet Wilson.



Democratic Governance and Health

Hospitals, Politics and Health Policy in New Zealand

Miriam J Laugesen and Robin Gauld, October 2012

New Zealand is the only country in the world where elected health boards have long been a core feature of the health-care system.

The influence of the district health boards is vast. In 2011, they were responsible for much of the \$12 billion in public expenditure directly funded by taxpayers via the Ministry of Health. They also made all major decisions as to how health services were configured in the areas they serve, including which services were to be funded and for whom, and where they should be located.

The boards are conceptually important and aspirational for policy-makers and communities across the world grappling with issues of how to increase public participation in health care. This book traces their development, analysing the history of democratic governance of health care, how boards have functioned, the politics surrounding their reform and the idea of local democracy in health-care decision-making. It contains valuable lessons for policy-makers in New Zealand and other countries interested in public participation in health care. (See page 33.)



Harbour

Photographs by Alastair Grant, October 2012

An alumnus of the University of Otago, orthopaedic surgeon Alastair Grant was given a Kodak camera by his father at the age of 12 and has enjoyed photography ever since. He has exhibited at galleries in Auckland, New Plymouth and Wellington.

After working in Taranaki for many years, Grant travelled the great inland harbours of the west coast of the North Island, creating a photographic record of these under-appreciated regions.

The harbours are drowned river valleys. They differ greatly in size,

but share a similar climate, with prevailing westerly winds. Settled by Māori in the 13th and 14th centuries, they have played significant roles in our history. Today the Manukau and Porirua harbours support large urban populations and commercial activities, while the others are less populated and more remote. To this day, marae dot their shores.

Alastair Grant's evocative photographs have captured the unique atmosphere of these great waterways and their people.

For further information and more books:

Otago University Press

Email university.press@otago.ac.nz or visit www.otago.ac.nz/press

Books by Otago alumni

Little Truff, by Ann Russell, AM Publishing, December 2011.

The Troopers' Tale: The History of the Otago Mounted Rifles, edited by Don Mackay, Turnbull Ross Publishing, March 2012.

Patearoa at War, by Jim Sullivan, Rock and Pillar Press, April 2012.

Flight Path Dunedin: A History of Aviation in Otago, by Jim Sullivan, Dunedin International Airport, May 2012.

The Occupiers, New Zealand Veterans Remember Post-War Japan, by Alison Parr, Penguin Books, March 2012.

Reforming Worship: English Reformed Principles and Practice, edited by Julian Templeton and Keith Rigli, Wipf & Stock, 2012.

Global Health: An Introduction to Current and Future Trends, by Kevin McCracken and David R Phillips, Routledge, London and New York, June 2012.

Death by Tartar Sauce: A Travel Writer Encounters Gargantuan Gators, Irksome Offspring, Murderous Mayonnaise and True Love, by Jules Older, Older Unlimited, 2012.

Living a Laptop Lifestyle: Reclaim Your Life by Making Money Online, by Greg and Fiona Scott, Ecademy Press, 2012.

Supercooling, edited by Peter Wilson, Intech publishers.

A Journey to Paradise, by Joan Songaila (nee Irwin), self published.

Under New Stars: Poems of the New Zealand Exile, Karl Wolfskehl, translations by Andrew Paul Wood, Margot Ruben, Dean and Renate Koch, edited by Friedrich Voit, New Holloway Press, 2012.

Africa: Diversity and Development, by Tony Binns, Alan Dixon and Etienne Nel, Routledge, London, 2012.

Historic Treasures of the South, by John Hall-Jones, Craigs Design and Print Ltd, 2012.

Gone Missing, by Douglas Coop, 2011. (*All proceeds of sale are to go to the Family and Friends of Missing Persons Charitable Trust, Aotearoa.*)

A Short History of Rugby League in Australia, by Will Evans, Slattery Media Group (Melbourne), August, 2012.

The Phoenix Song, by John Sinclair, Victoria University Press, September 2012.

Alumni:

If you have recently published a book email the editor at mag.editor@otago.ac.nz

Christchurch campus appeal takes off

An appeal supporting four of the best research and teaching projects at the University of Otago, Christchurch, got off to a flying start last month with an anonymous donation of \$5 million to the Christchurch Heart Institute fund.

The donation will go towards the institute's world-leading work in discovering and trialling new tests and treatments for various forms of heart disease. Formerly known as the Christchurch Cardioendocrine Research Group, the institute has a record of making ground-breaking discoveries and exciting breakthroughs are on the horizon.

One example of its work is the development of a blood test to diagnose and monitor heart failure. The test saves the lives of hundreds of thousands of people each year.

The three other funds forming the appeal are:

- The Centre for Free Radical Research fund, to support this internationally-recognised leader in understanding free radicals and how they contribute to diseases such as cancer
- The Carrell-Espiner Fellowships fund to support postdoctoral fellowships or clinical training fellowships for young and able science, medical, nursing or allied health graduates across all areas of health
- A fund to support a world-class simulation centre that provides a safe environment for future carers to practise clinical and professional skills before performing them in real-life medical scenarios.

Research funding success

In recent months Otago researchers have been awarded more than \$54 million by the Health Research Council (HRC) and the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) to pursue a variety of world-class projects.

In the annual HRC funding round, researchers from across the University's Dunedin, Christchurch and Wellington campuses were awarded more than \$27 million for 16 contracts including four major multi-year programmes, eight projects and four grants to up-and-coming researchers. The initiatives range from investigations into the genetic basis of deadly diseases to community-level interventions to create healthier home environments.

Otago researchers also gained more than \$27 million in the MBIE's 2012 Science Investment Round, which supports research and science aimed at achieving social and environmental, as well as economic, benefits for New Zealand.

The nine Otago-led projects funded cover areas including improved infant formula, energy efficiency, urban futures and developing innovative technologies and tools in medical and other spheres.

Top teaching award for Otago Pharmacy academic

School of Pharmacy senior lecturer Dr **Rhiannon Braund** was named the 2012 recipient of the Prime Minister's Supreme Award for Tertiary Teaching Excellence.

Dr Braund was selected as the supreme winner in the 2012 Tertiary Teaching Excellence Awards for her dedication to both her profession and her students. Her citation noted that she "aims to 'future proof' her students for the new roles developing for pharmacists as experts in medicines. She also sets high standards to ensure they graduate as safe, caring and competent professionals.

She adopts innovative problem-based learning strategies, where students are encouraged to 'solve the puzzle for themselves'."

Dr Braund also plays an active role outside the classroom in the planning and design of pharmacy courses across New Zealand and Australia. At a community level, she volunteers in the New Zealand Police DARE program to teach primary children about safe handling of medications.

Associate Professor **Anthony Robins** (Department of Computer Science) also gained a Sustained Excellence in Tertiary Teaching Award.

University's economic impact tops \$1.5 billion

The University's latest annual Economic Impact Report indicates that estimated direct expenditure of the institution, its staff and students was \$889.9 million in 2011, and that the downstream effect, or total economic impact, of this direct expenditure is \$1.648 billion.

The figures take into account expenditure and economic impact across all of the University's locations, with activity through the main campus in Dunedin accounting for the vast majority of both expenditure and economic impact.

The report calculates a total value added to Dunedin by the University of \$779.3 million, equating to an estimated 16 per cent of the city's gross domestic product (GDP). It estimates the total value added through the Otago's Christchurch campus at \$44.7 million, and through its Wellington campus at \$41.2 million.

Neurosurgery professor appointed

A leading Belgian neurosurgeon and brain researcher, Professor **Dirk De Ridder**, has been appointed as the University's inaugural Neurological



Foundation Professor of Neurosurgery and will take up his position in February.

In 2010, an expert panel set up by the government

recommended establishing New Zealand's first academic unit for neurosurgery. Professor De Ridder will head the Dunedin-based unit and spend 50 per cent of his time as a neurosurgeon at the city's hospital and 50 per cent on research and teaching.

Professor De Ridder has been on the neurosurgical staff at Antwerp University Hospital, one of Belgium's leading hospitals, since 2000. He is currently a Professor of Neuromodulation and Neurosurgery at Antwerp University and is a founder and director of both a brain research centre and a tinnitus research initiative in Antwerp.

Health Sciences Pro-Vice-Chancellor Professor Peter Crampton said Professor De Ridder is ideally-equipped to lead the development of an academic neurosurgical centre of excellence and will be an invaluable addition to Otago's existing body of world-leading researchers working in the neurosciences.

In January, an ongoing public campaign was launched by the Neurological Foundation in conjunction with the University and Southern DHB, to raise \$3 million to fund the Chair in Neurosurgery in perpetuity. As of September, more than \$2.7 million has been raised. To donate to the campaign or to find out more, go to www.chairofneurosurgery.org.nz

Appointments

Dr **Gavin Clark** as director of the University's Research and Enterprise Division. Dr Clark's previous role was

industrial liaison director for the Biopharmaceutical Bioprocessing Technology Centre at Newcastle University, UK. Among his previous roles, he was director of commercialisation at Massey University (2003-2007).

Mr **Tuari Potiki** as the University's director of Māori Development. Mr Potiki was previously general manager strategic operations at the Alcohol Advisory Council of New Zealand (ALAC). His previous roles



include social development manager and deputy chief executive at the Ngāi Tahu Development Corporation.

Leading medical ethicist Dr **John McMillan** as the next director of the



University's Bioethics Centre and Professor of Bioethics. Dr McMillan is an Otago graduate who is currently Associate Professor in Ethics, Law and

Professionalism at Australia's Flinders School of Medicine.

Professor **Gary Wilson** (Marine Science) as the inaugural director of the New Zealand Antarctic Research Institute. This new institute's goal is to strengthen Antarctic research capacity in New Zealand, through international collaboration on multidisciplinary research projects.

Associate Professor **Nicola Taylor** as the Alexander McMillan Professor of Childhood Studies and director of the University's Centre for Research on Children and Families.

Otago Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Sciences) and oceanographer Professor **Keith**

Hunter as a director on the Board of NIWA.

Professor **Sylvie Chetty** as the University's Professor of



Entrepreneurship and director of its Centre for Entrepreneurship. Professor Chetty was previously based at Massey University's Albany campus. She has been researching the growth and

internationalisation of small and medium-sized enterprises in New Zealand and other countries for more than two decades.

Awards/Achievements

One of the world's leading



philosophers of science, Professor **Alan Musgrave** (Philosophy), is the latest recipient of the University's highest research honour, the Distinguished Research Medal.

Professor Musgrave is an eminent scholar whose contributions to the philosophy and history of science have been highly influential internationally.

Researchers at the **NIWA-University of Otago Centre for Chemical and Physical Oceanography** are the inaugural recipients of the University's Research Group Award. The award recognises outstanding research performance at a high international level by a research group led from the University. The centre is a recognised world leader in the field of understanding of the chemistry of the oceans' interactions with carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.



University of Otago Vice-Chancellor, Professor **Harlene Hayne**, pictured with her undergraduate research supervisor Emeritus Professor Carl Roberts, was awarded an Honorary Doctor Science by her alma mater, The Colorado College, US.

Otago's Early-Career Awards for Distinction in Research went to four highly promising University of Otago staff members. Dr **Michael Knapp** (Anatomy), Dr **Andrew Clarkson** (Anatomy and Psychology), Dr **Sian Halcrow** (Anatomy) and Dr **Haxby Abbott** (Surgical Sciences) were selected on the basis of their outstanding research achievements.

Internationally recognised poetry scholar Dr **Jacob Edmond** (English) became the latest recipient of the University's Carl Smith Medal and Rowheath Trust Award. The award and medal recognise outstanding research performance of early-career staff at the University.

Associate Professor **Poia Rewi** (Te Tumu) was named overall winner in the 2012 OUSA Supervisor of the Year Awards and Dr **Katherine Black** (Human Nutrition) won New Supervisor of the Year.

Otago BCom student **Helena Langer** won the Global Leader Award at the ninth annual Global Enterprise Experience competition. The event aims to develop future global leaders with skills in management across cultures, time zones, world views and different levels of wealth and poverty.

Professor **Jim Mann** (Edgar National Centre for Diabetes and Obesity Research) was honoured with the European Association of the Study of Diabetes' inaugural Himsworth Award in recognition of his important and long-standing research contributions.

Professor **Charles Higham** (Anthropology and Archaeology) was awarded the Sir Grahame Clark medal for 2012 by the British Academy. The medal recognises his excavation work in South-east Asia where he has sought to understand the origins of civilisations over two decades.



Associate Professor **Anthony Robins** (Computer Science), Dr **Rhiannon Braund** (Pharmacy) and Associate Professor **Steve Dawson** (Marine Science) were recipients of the University's Teaching Excellence Awards.

Dr **Suetonia Palmer** (Medicine, Christchurch) became the first New Zealander to win a L'Oréal For Women in Science 2012 Fellowship for achievements in improving the treatment of people with chronic kidney disease.

Dr **Rogelio Guede** (Languages and Cultures) won the Premio Interamericano de Literatura Carlos Montemayor 2012 for his novel '41'. The award recognises the best novel published in Spain and Latin America between 2010 and 2011.

The following recent Otago graduates or students have Fulbright New Zealand awards to support study in the US. Fulbright-Ministry of Science and Innovation Graduate Awards went to **Sophie Briggs**, **Sam Cormack** and **Frank Pega**. **Renee Wikaire** gained a Fulbright-Ngā Pae o Te

Māramatanga Graduate Award. General Graduate Awards went to **Michael Dobson**, **Alex Latu** and **Peter Martin**.

Emeritus professors

The following staff members have been granted the status of Professor Emeritus by the University Council: Professor **Margaret Baird** (Microbiology and Immunology), Professor **Alan Cooper** (Geology), Professor **John Hannah** (Surveying), Professor **Richard Norris** (Geology), Professor **Tony Reeve** (Biochemistry), Professor **Gerald Tannock** (Microbiology and Immunology), Professor **Geoff White** (Psychology), Professor **Bastow Wilson** (Botany).

Obituaries

Former University of Otago Vice-Chancellor Sir **Arthur Beacham** (98). Sir Arthur first visited the University on a fellowship in 1956 and returned as Vice-Chancellor in 1963, holding the position for three years. He led fundraising initiatives for the building of University College. He received an Honorary Doctor of Laws from Otago in 1969.

Emeritus Professor **John Mackie** (101). Affectionately known as "Captain Jack", he was originally a lecturer in the School of Mines who, in 1963, became the first head of the University's Surveying Department. He is widely credited with establishing surveying as a profession in New Zealand. He was awarded an OBE in 1995 and an Honorary Doctor of Science by the University in 2000.

Eamon Cleary, an expatriate Irish businessman whose generosity enabled the University to establish a Professorial Chair in Irish Studies, died last month. After moving to New Zealand in 1996, his love of Irish music, culture and history continued as strong as ever and was, in part, the prompt for his decision to fund the chair.



Leo Bensemann, *Untitled* [St. Bathans], c. 1966, oil on board, 484 x 717mm. Bought with the assistance of Hocken Endowment Fund. Hocken Collections Uare Taoka o Hākena.



Doris Lusk, *St Bathans*, c. 1942, oil on board: 470 x 523 mm. Bought with the assistance of Hocken Endowment Fund. Hocken Collections Uare Taoka o Hākena.

St Bathans compared

Two paintings, recently acquired by the Hocken, depict scenes of St Bathans, a historic settlement in the Maniototo, Central Otago, established in 1863 to service the area's new goldmines. Although the dates of these two paintings are separated by more than two decades, the artists who painted them had much in common.

The landscape paintings of Doris Lusk and Leo Bensemann draw inspiration from several of the same regions of New Zealand's South Island – Central Otago, Canterbury and Nelson, the area where they both eventually settled. The two artists met after Lusk moved from Dunedin to Christchurch, where Bensemann was living, in 1941. Bensemann was already a member of the progressive art collective known as The Group when Lusk joined in 1943. During the following decades they became close friends and, in the 1960s, the pair went on many painting excursions together, including several trips to Central Otago. St Bathans was a subject that recurred in Lusk's work from the 1930s to the 1960s, but one that only appears in Bensemann's work after 1960, when he began to focus on landscape painting.

Lusk's painting primarily shows the town's historic buildings – the iconic

Vulcan Hotel and the St Bathans Post Office, an elegant two-storeyed timber structure. She also depicts the Blue Lake that was formed by a deep crater, the result of gold-mining activities, which slowly filled with water after the 1930s. While Lusk's reference to the settlement's mining history is subtle in this painting, another of her paintings completed about the same time, titled *Sluice Mine, Near St Bathans* (1942), is more overt as it depicts the water pipes used in gold sluicing.

Lusk's depictions of the countryside have often included documentation of how human activities – as varied as the Benmore hydro-electric power station and tobacco farming in the Nelson region – have impacted on the natural appearance of the land. In *St Bathans* the bare chalky hills that circle the lake's edge highlight the environmental effects of mining, in particular soil erosion.

Bensemann's work *Untitled* [St Bathans] is similar to Lusk's painting in its colour, bold execution and implied conservationist message. Fascinated with the stark and devastated landforms left behind by invasive gold-mining activities, Bensemann exaggerates the pale and rugged surfaces of the denuded landscape. His pristine white hills

accentuate the untidy array of broken and rusted metal pipes in the foreground, while a gray shadow cast over the industrial debris left by miners adds historical drama to the scene.

No doubt Bensemann's eye was attracted to St Bathans' scarred landforms for their surrealist potential, and because they reminded him of the bare rock backgrounds found in the Renaissance paintings of Giotto and Bellini, which he fondly admired.

NATALIE POLAND
Curator of Pictorial Collections,
Hocken Collections

HOCKEN EXHIBITIONS

Hocken Gallery
Picture This: Recent Art Acquisitions
until 10 November 2012

Art in the Service of Science:
Dunedin's John Buchanan
22 November 2012 – 9 February 2013

Nick Austin: 2012 Frances Hodgkins
Fellow – opens 15 February 2013

Correction

Hone Tuwhare's first book of poetry, *No Ordinary Sun*, was published in 1964 by Blackwood and Janet Paul, not Caveman Press as stated in the last issue of the *Otago Magazine*.



Alison Finigan:
Head of Alumni Relations

A word from the Head

2012 has been a very busy year for the Alumni team, especially those of us involved in events organisation, with a full schedule of alumni receptions held in New Zealand, Australia and South-east Asia, and more to come in Canada, the US and UK before year's end.

These events are always popular, but this year we have had to cap numbers in many venues due to record demand. The opportunity to meet old friends in an atmosphere of Otago nostalgia is always a big drawcard, but this year the presence of the new Vice-Chancellor, Professor Harlene Hayne, has been an added attraction for alumni interested in hearing her plans for Otago's future.

The demand this year has encouraged us to think about new ways of connecting face-to-face with alumni in New Zealand and around the world, so watch out for a new-look events programme in 2013 that will include smaller, more informal functions, in addition to the large-scale cocktail format currently offered. More information on this will be available in the February issue of this magazine.

Other developments planned for next year include new ways to connect with alumni which we hope will make the information we send more targeted and relevant for you. One of these includes plans to provide access on-demand to University expertise via podcasts and live streaming of lectures direct to alumni. These initiatives are aimed at adding value to the relationship that alumni enjoy with the University of Otago by providing targeted information to alumni sectors that is relevant to career, social and educational aspirations.

We are also interested to get your ideas on how you want to see the alumni programme develop. Feedback from

you will help us ensure we are working in the right directions to meet alumni needs and expectations. You can do this via a survey on our website www.surveymonkey.com/s/otagoAlumniEvents. We look forward to hearing from you.

Supporting Otago

Thank you to the Otago alumni who have generously supported the 2011–2012 Alumni Appeal. Each year, as well as supporting a number of key research projects, a proportion of the appeal funds undergraduate scholarships. This year, thanks to the generosity of alumni in New Zealand and overseas, the University was able to fund an additional 15 undergraduate scholarships and a similar number of fees-only scholarships, as well as a wide range of commemorative scholarships, prizes and awards to which alumni kindly donated.

This year the Alumni Appeal will not take place in November as in previous years. Instead, we are concentrating on preparations for the 2013 appeal that will coincide with the February issue of the *Otago Magazine*. It will support exciting projects that will put the University at the forefront of national and international education, research and development. You may also notice new services and benefits for our alumni and friends, and changes in the ways in which we will engage with you and ask for your help – donating is not the only way in which you can support Otago.

Scholarships will continue to be a major focus of the 2013 appeal, as the University considers them to be a vital investment in our country's future.

For more details on research projects and scholarships supported by alumni donations, or if you would like to donate to the University, please visit alumni.otago.ac.nz/supportotago

International networks

Alumni of the University of Otago in America, Inc (AUOA)

The University of Otago's interests and activities in the United States are overseen by the board of the Alumni of the University of Otago in America, Inc (AUOA). The board is a grant-funding body which generously supports scholarships and research projects at the University. These include projects in international health, viral research, support for an annual geology field school, prizes in physical education and physics, and support for students undertaking exchanges at partner universities in the United States.

Earlier this year the board granted a considerable sum to endow a scholarship for first-year students who, without funding assistance, may not be able to access tertiary study. Professor Murray Brennan, president of AUOA, is very appreciative of the contribution US-based alumni have made to the board's activities: "We are encouraged by



Professor Murray Brennan

our achievements in the last year which have resulted in the completion of the endowment of this important scholarship. In particular, we are grateful for the bequest from Dr

John McGibbon, a regular and long-term contributor to our efforts, without whose support this scholarship would not have been possible."

The board also organises the annual University of Otago alumni function which will take place on 3 November at the New Zealand Embassy in Washington, DC. This year's speaker is Dr Fenella France, a textile science graduate who is chief of the Preservation and Testing Division at the Library of Congress (featured in the June 2012 *Otago Magazine*). If you haven't yet RSVP'd, please email functions.alumni@otago.ac.nz to register.

For more details on the board and its activities, as well as information on how to support the University, please visit www.alumniuoa.com

University of Otago Canadian Network

The University's Canadian Alumni Network has been helping Otago students on exchange in Canada to settle into life in their new cities. Students at the University of Toronto, the University of Western Ontario and the University of Alberta have all benefited from this initiative, which was established by Toronto alumni Brian Merrilees and Allan Portis. As well as acting as an Otago "welcoming committee" to Canada-bound exchange students, the network provides financial support by way of the Canadian Alumni Travel Award, granted annually. Currently, three awards are available, but there are hopes to grow the award as other Canadian-based Otago alumni become aware of the scheme.

Spencer Grover, an Otago politics and psychology student who went to Toronto on exchange in 2011, was one who benefited from the generosity of Canadian alumni during his first few weeks in Canada: *"Last year I was the recipient of the Canadian Alumni Award. This was a tremendous privilege and I am absolutely smitten by the kindness of the*

Otago alumni, both individuals and the community at large. Together they allowed me to have a life-changing experience at the University of Toronto. Brian and Allan welcomed me into their homes and brought a little part of Kiwi to Canada. I will be forever grateful for their tremendous generosity and I would like to thank all those who helped."

Canadian alumni who wish to contribute to the Canadian Alumni Travel Award scheme can visit the University's secure payment website at secure-www.otago.ac.nz/alumni/donations and follow the instructions. Alternatively, you may send a money order in New Zealand dollars to the Development and Alumni Relations Office, PO Box 56, Dunedin 9054. In each case you will receive a receipt acceptable to Revenue Canada and the Canadian dollar equivalent on your credit card or bank account will be tax-deductible.

For further information visit alumni.otago.ac.nz/Canada

For further information please contact:
Brian Merrilees
brian.merrilees@otagoalumni.ac.nz
416 489 4300

Allan Portis
allan.portis@otagoalumni.ac.nz
416 489 7721

The University of Otago Foundation for Malaysia

Members of the University of Otago Foundation for Malaysia continue to work for the University, particularly supporting the Malaysian student community. The foundation funds an annual award in recognition of the efforts of a Malaysian student whose contribution to the community over the year has been outstanding. The winner of this year's Foundation for Malaysia Award is Amy Donsyos, who was the Otago Malaysian Student Association

(OMSA) Sports Officer in 2011 and had overall responsibility for organising the annual Bersatu Games, an important national Malaysian student event which Otago hosted last year. This year she is Vice-President of OMSA.

Amy wrote recently to express her appreciation to the foundation: *"I would like to take this opportunity to thank the alumni for selecting me for this award. It is a great honour and it has been a pleasure to be able to contribute to the Malaysian community at Otago."*



The Malaysian Alumni function held in Kuala Lumpur on 29 June was the setting for a very special event to honour distinguished alumnus and long-serving University of Otago Foundation for Malaysia Director Tan Sri Azizuddin, who was presented with the Medal for Outstanding Alumni Service by the University's Vice-Chancellor Professor Harlene Hayne. (See alumni profile story pages 12-13.)

The University of Otago UK and Europe

The London-based committee of the Otago University UK and Europe Network supports the University in many ways, from acting as our representatives in a city that is the mecca for so many new graduates on their OE, to supporting us with fundraising through the Alumni Appeal and other avenues.

One of the committee's most important functions is to strengthen networks of alumni in London and beyond to provide social and professional opportunities to help Otago people get connected with others who share the same background. A key occasion on the calendar this year is the annual UK and Europe alumni reception, which is being held in London on 8 November, in the Penthouse Suite of New Zealand House in the Haymarket, London. If you haven't already registered, please do so as soon as possible to avoid missing out. Details are on the alumni website at alumni.otago.ac.nz/events, or email functions.alumni@otago.ac.nz

For information about regional alumni networks in your area visit the Alumni and Friends website alumni.otago.ac.nz/networks

Events, reunions and University celebrations

Alumni events 2012

Washington Saturday, 3 November
London Thursday, 8 November

Reunions

If you are planning a reunion, email functions.alumni@otago.ac.nz for the latest reunion guide.

2012

MB ChB Class of 1997 reunion

19–21 October, Dunedin.

Contact Rochelle Phipps at rochelle.phipps@gmail.com

BDS Class of 1962 reunion

23–25 October, Dunedin.

Contact Barbara Dallimore at pbdall@xtra.co.nz

MB ChB Class of 1992 reunion

2–4 November, Dunedin.

Contact Ben Wilson at benkpw@ihug.co.nz or Hamish Leslie at hld@xtra.co.nz

MB ChB Class of 1987 and 2nd-year Class of 1982 reunion

16–17 November, Wellington.

Contact Susie Harichandran at bettyhari@xtra.co.nz, Nigel Willis at nigelwillis@xtra.co.nz or Mythi Ponnappa at Antoniadis@xtra.co.nz

MB ChB Class of 2002 reunion

17–18 November, Wellington.

Contact Janine Stevens at jtsnz@yahoo.co.nz or phone 021 485 232

Physiotherapy Class of 1960–1962 50-year reunion

10–11 November, Dunedin.

Contact Molly Fulton at jimandmollyfulton@ihug.co.nz or Judy Wilson at judwil@kinect.co.nz

2013

University of Otago Christchurch School of Medicine, 40 years:

“The Christchurch Experience”

20–22 February, Christchurch.

Contact Virginia Irvine at Virginia.irvine@otago.ac.nz or visit www.otago.ac.nz/christchurch

MB ChB Class of 1955 reunion

8–10 March, Christchurch.

Contact John Musgrove at john.musgrove31@gmail.com

MB ChB Class of 1963 reunion

15–18 March, Wellington.

Contact Peter Dukes at pmdukes@clear.net.nz

MB ChB Class of 1953 diamond jubilee reunion

22–24 March, Napier.

Contact Bruce Ritchie at bruceritchie5@gmail.com

BDS Class of 1968 reunion

22–25 March, Queenstown.

Contact Don Wallace at donwal@xtra.co.nz

School of Physiotherapy centenary and conference

3–6 April, Dunedin. Please visit

www.physio.otago.ac.nz

To ensure you receive an invitation to the alumni event and conference, please contact database.alumni@otago.ac.nz

School of Pharmacy's 50th jubilee

12–14 April, Dunedin.

Contact database.alumni@otago.ac.nz

Arana College 70th anniversary

Date tbc, Dunedin.

Contact database.alumni@otago.ac.nz

2014

MB ChB Class of 1974 reunion

Date tbc.

Contact Judy Bent at JudyB@adhb.govt.nz

2015

MB ChB Class of 1964 reunion

8–11 April, Dunedin. Contact

Colin Fitzpatrick cbfitz@ihug.co.nz or

Alex Dempster alex.dempster@sclabs.co.nz

Studholme College centenary celebrations and reunion

Date tbc.

Contact database.alumni@otago.ac.nz

Carrington College 70th anniversary reunion

Date tbc.

Contact Robyn Madden at robyn.madden@otago.ac.nz

Further information for all upcoming events, reunions and celebrations, including RSVP details, can be found on the Alumni and Friends webpages at alumni.otago.ac.nz/events. Alternatively you can contact us at functions.alumni@otago.ac.nz or phone 03 479 4516.

Recent alumni events

Samoa, 4 June, Fale, University of Samoa, Apia



Auckland, 21 June, Lion Foundation Event Centre, Auckland Memorial Museum



Singapore, 28 June, NZ High Commissioner's Residence



Sydney, 17 August, NZ Residence, Roseville



Alumni in the news

University of Otago alumni were well represented at the 2012 London Olympics, with 12 athletes competing and 21 officials and support staff attending the games. Special congratulations to **Nathan Cohen** and **Hamish Bond**, who both commenced BCom degrees at Otago, for their gold medals in the rowing: men's double sculls and men's coxless pair respectively. Otago alumni **Phillipa Gray** (BSc 2010) and **Chris Ross** (MPlan 2012) also represented New Zealand in cycling at the London 2012 Paralympic Games, with Phillipa winning gold in the women's pursuit, silver in the road cycling time trial and bronze in the women's B 1km time trial.

Professor **Terence Dennis** MNZM, FNZAH, FRSNZ (MusB(Hons) 1978) – the William Evans Professor of Music – had the honour of partnering Dame Kiri Te Kanawa for a special Royal Recital for the Outward Bound Trust hosted by the Duke of Edinburgh,

Prince Philip, and held in the Grand Salon at Frogmore House, Windsor on 5 March. Professor Dennis enjoys a close recital collaboration with Dame Kiri – last year they gave recitals in Hawai'i, Melbourne and Brisbane, and in April they continued their series of critically acclaimed recital tours with five more sold-out concerts in Australia.



HRH Prince Philip, Professor Terence Dennis and Dame Kiri Te Kanawa at Frogmore House.

Mr **U Myint Thein** (BE 1960, ME 1962) has been decorated with a



U Myint Thein (right) receiving his award from the President of Myanmar, January 2012.

prestigious Wunna Kyaw Htin award for services to the mineral industry. The award – an honour given in recognition of government service – was presented by President U Thein Sein of Myanmar at a ceremony in Naypyidaw earlier this year. Myint Thein came to Otago in 1957 on a Colombo Plan scholarship, graduating with a Master's Degree in Mineral Engineering from the Otago School of Mines in 1962. He returned to his home country of Myanmar, where he worked in the mining and engineering industries, working his way up to Deputy Minister at the Ministry of Mines, a position he held for 14 years before

40

Years of Research and Teaching
1973-2013

UNIVERSITY OF OTAGO, CHRISTCHURCH

(Formerly Christchurch School of Medicine)

Our 40th anniversary celebrations will be held on 20-22 February 2013.

Register to join us at
www.otago/Christchurch
or virginia.irvine@otago.ac.nz

We have also launched a fundraising appeal to support some of our best research and teaching projects.
www.otago/christchurch/about/appeal

Celebrations include:

Social events

Wednesday 20 February	re-opening of main building
Thursday 21 February	opening of Nicholls Clinical Research Centre
Friday 22 February	anniversary dinner

Scientific sessions

Wednesday 20 February	clinical research presentations
Thursday 21 February	biomedical research presentations
Friday 22 February	public health research presentations, keynote speaker and Professor David Fergusson's Distinguished Research Medal Lecture

Visits

Thursday 21 February	laboratories
Friday 22 February	Simulation Centre

retiring in 2006. During his career, Myint Thein contributed significantly to the development of mining in Myanmar, and was instrumental in the development of an iron and steel industry there. He has shared his expertise as a consultant, participating in UN programmes in developing countries. U Myint Thein described his time at Otago as “the best and most enjoyable days of my life”.

Alice Petersen (BA(Hons) 1992, MA English 1994) has been receiving sensational reviews for her first collection of short stories, *All the Voices*



Cry (Biblioasis, 2012). The book has been long-listed for the Frank O'Connor International Short Story Award, while other stories have

variously been shortlisted for the CBC Literary Awards, the Journey Prize, the Writers' Union of Canada competition and the Metcalf Rooke Award for fiction. Petersen now lives in Montreal with her husband and two daughters.

www.biblioasis.com/alice-petersen/all-the-voices-cry

You can activate your own @otagoalumni.ac.nz email address by registering as a member of Your Otago Link. Visit the Alumni and Friends webpages at www.alumni.otago.ac.nz

Alumni appointments

Dr **Tony Baird** ONZM (MB ChB 1966) was appointed the president of the New Zealand Medical Association in June.

Jude Hanan (BA 1993) has recently been appointed to the position of Social Media and Emerging Tools Strategist at the World Bank in Washington.

Lynn McKenzie (BA 1980; DipPlan 1983) was appointed President of Zonta International at the organisation's annual convention in Torino, Italy, in July.

Queen's Birthday Honours

Alumni and staff recognised in the Queen's Birthday Honours include:

Knight of the New Zealand Order of Merit (KNZM): The Hon. Dr **Michael Cullen**, for services to the State.

Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit (CNZM): Mr **Owen Jones**, for services to literature; Professor **Peter Skegg**, for services to medical law; Professor **Christine Winterbourn**, for services to science.

Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit (ONZM): Mrs **Robyn Broughton**, for services to netball; Mr **Shane Cotton**, for services to the visual arts; Ms **Fiona Farrell**, for services to literature; Mr **Nigel Latta**, for services as a psychologist; Professor **John Shaw**, for services to the health sector; Ms

A message for Physical Education alumni

The School of Physical Education wants to keep connected with all graduates via its electronic newsletter. This newsletter is produced twice a year and covers past and current alumni news and events at the school. If you haven't received the newsletter and wish to receive future issues, please send your personal email address to pe.alumni@otago.ac.nz. The latest issue is available at physed.otago.ac.nz/alumni/newsletters.html

Bridget Williams, for services to publishing.

Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit (MNZM): Dr **Peter Foley**, for services to health; Dr **James Judson**, for services to intensive care medicine; Dr **Bruce Morrison**, for services to medicine and the community; Mr **Trevor Shailer**, for services to sport and the community; Colonel **Hugh Trengrove**, for services to forensic science.

Queen's Service Medal (QSM): Mrs **Rosemary Acland**, for services to the community; Mrs **Jan Anderson**, for services to education; Mrs **Joyce Beck**, for services to the community; Ms **Nirmala Nand**, for services to the community; Mr **James Strang**, for services to New Zealand–Nepal relations.

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Alumni story

Otago revisited

At the end of 1963, having completed Cambridge O-level studies aged 15 years, I was living in a small village on the slopes of Mount Kilimanjaro when I received the news that I had been offered a scholarship to continue my studies in New Zealand. In 1964 I went to New Zealand under the Special Commonwealth Aid to Africa Plan (SCAAP).

I studied at New Plymouth Girls High School for two years in preparation for university. I then went to the University of Otago where I completed my studies in 1968 and graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in May 1969. Since Tanzania needed science teachers, I continued my studies at Christchurch Teachers College in 1969 to train as a biology teacher.

At the end of 1969, I returned to Tanzania and was posted to teach biology and general science at Moshi Secondary School where I worked with teachers from Germany, Britain, Canada and Norway. After some years, I transferred to the International School Moshi, which is a multinational school with over 30 countries represented. Here I teach integrated science to junior classes and International Baccalaureate biology to the senior classes. The programme was quite challenging but, because of the exposure and training I received in New Zealand, I was able to adjust quite quickly to the new curriculum. I have been teaching at the school for over 30 years. During this period I was granted an exchange to the Lester Pearson United World College on Vancouver Island in Canada and have attended many training workshops in a number of countries.



The Nyka family visit Alumni House. From left: David Nyka, Angela Nyka, Vida Ndilanha (nee Nyka), Elly Nyka, Ruth Nyka, Saeli Nyka, Stephen and Aisa (nee Nyka) Muya.

Studying in New Zealand has had a big impact on my life. I met my husband, Saeli Nyka, also from Tanzania, in New Zealand as he had received a scholarship under the SCAAP programme two years prior to me to study Bachelor of Engineering (Mechanical) at Canterbury University. We were married in Christchurch in 1969. On returning to Tanzania we wanted our children to have an international education and therefore sent them to the International School in Moshi. One daughter completed a medical degree in Tanzania; another completed a degree in accounting and economics in Tanzania while the two younger daughters have studied in the United States. One completed an architectural degree and is now working as an architect in Dar-es-Salaam.

When our youngest child, David, was considering his tertiary education we decided that he should follow in our footsteps and study in New Zealand. He gained admission to both Canterbury and Otago Universities and

opted for Otago due to its reputation for law studies. Saeli and I were very excited to take all our family to New Zealand to attend David's graduation in December 2011 when he was awarded the degrees of Bachelor of Law and Bachelor of Commerce in finance from the University of Otago. It was quite emotional coming back to New Zealand after 42 years and we had such lovely memories of the place. It was great to see David following almost the same steps I followed as we marched down George Street! After the graduation we all piled into our hired van to show to the rest of the family the beautiful New Zealand countryside that we had enjoyed so much ourselves.

My husband and I are very grateful to the government and people of New Zealand for providing us with the scholarships that changed our lives and the lives of the many Tanzanian people with whom we have subsequently been in contact.

Elly Nyka (nee Lema)

... the Sextet?

In the YouTube clip, the capella version of *The First Day of Christmas* sounds just as it should: the tempo is *andante*, the key is F major, the harmony pleasing. But it isn't long before the traditional carol morphs into something altogether ... different.

For the six clown-costumed singers onstage are not a troupe of carollers.

They are, instead, the University Sextet, a group that has – more or less for the last 100 years, and more or less in the same number and format – entertained Otago Capping Concert audiences with risqué and satirical lyrics set to well-known tunes. In the process, they have become an Otago institution and are today the only University-based group of their kind in the southern hemisphere.

When their Christmas medley segues into *Deck the Halls*, the Sextet's penchant for double entendre comes to the fore, the singing clowns harmonise, their dead-pan expressions counterpointed by the occasional suggestive gesture. Off-camera, the audience explodes with laughter. The lyrical content probably shouldn't be reproduced in this publication – in fact, the Sextet stopped

printing their song sheets in the 1970s for this reason.

Since then it can be said that the University Sextet has mastered the art of smutty, tongue-in-cheek lyrics while steadily improving the quality of their vocal delivery. Indeed, much of the Sextet's success, commentators surmise, lies in its somewhat incongruous ability

in 1903. It later became a quintet and, for the first time, in 1912 a sextet. With a World War I hiatus and fluctuating numbers thereafter for several years, the Sextet wasn't a regular Capping Concert fixture until the early 1920s.

From these earliest of days, the Sextet was characterised by controversial lyrics – in particular from the pens of the late

Keith Stronach and Dr Nigel Eastgate, whose lyrical contributions continued long after their formal association with the group ended. However, it is thought that the multi-part harmonisation, now synonymous with the Sextet, was not introduced until the 1970s and that, prior to this time, most of the music was sung in unison with piano accompaniment.



The Sextet 1922, with pioneering plastic surgeon Sir Archibald McIndoe second from left.

Photo: Hocken Collections, Uare Taoka o Hākena, University of Otago,

to deliver sexually and politically controversial content via a vocal approach more commonly associated with church choirs and the salon music of the upper classes than the bawdy music-making of the masses.

International conductor and former Sextet member Tecwyn Evans, in a 1994 fourth-year dissertation, traced the genesis of the group back to a quartet that first appeared in the capping review

There were two likely reasons for this development. Firstly, the rise of acts such as The King's Singers popularised the multi-part or "choral" approach. But, more importantly, the singers coming into the Sextet were more technically skilled and versed in choral arrangement. Until then, their predecessors had nearly always been medical, dental or law students – including many who went on to be prominent in their fields – who

were able singers but, from the '70s onwards, the Sextet was increasingly dominated by musically-trained students, often with considerable experience in choirs.

Today the list of former Sextet members includes some of New Zealand's musical elite, including Roger Wilson, Martin Snell, Simon O'Neill, Jonathan Lemalu and Tecwyn Evans. Members from earlier days, Alastair Brown and Alastair Stokes both went on to reach the finals of the Mobil Song Quest. Dunedin's musical dynasty, the Madden family, boasts an incumbent as well as several past members. Third placegetter in the 2012 Lexus Song Quest and winner of the recent *Otago Daily Times* Aria Contest, tenor Alexander Wilson, is the group's current convenor.

Dunedin baritone and former mayor Peter Chin recounts how his membership of the Sextet was largely responsible for his assimilation into the student culture of which the sheltered Chinese New Zealander had, until that time, little experience.

"In 1958 I went to the Capping Concert in His Majesty's Theatre and it was tremendous, with these guys in clown outfits and tails. So I went to audition for the capping chorus and one of the auditioners asked if I'd like to audition for Sextet.

"So I went along and got in, and it was a complete social mismatch. The other guys were all smooth dental and medical students, but I'd grown up in a family where there was no English spoken at home. I'd had nothing to do with European girls – I didn't know how to talk to them. And drinking wasn't part

of Chinese culture, so that was a novelty in the first year, too. In fact, the Capping Concert backstage was aswill with beer. The Sextet used to get half a dozen bottles of beer each – the big bottles. I've prided myself since those days in never having a drink before I go onstage."

Simon O'Neill recounts the time, in 1993, when the Sextet was invited by the

quite witty, but the audience did not. By the time we got to *The Man I Love* you can imagine the hate that started coming.

"My brother and my friend started up with 'Simon's a wanker', and soon 40,000 people were chanting it. By the third song they started throwing beer cans. The empty cans couldn't reach us, but unopened, full cans had the range. We

would look out into the crowd and suddenly the silhouette of a missile would appear, coming towards us.

"I remember Tecwyn catching a can right in front of his face and flicking it open with his thumb. Then we all drank some really quickly. I always think nothing in my career in opera will ever be worse than that day."

Today the group's culture is more abstemious than it was in the days when the Sextet's backstage refreshment was sponsored by the Robbie Burns pub, but their lyrics continue to raise eyebrows. Chin believes the Sextet's latter day lyrical content takes the sexual subject matter too far beyond the realms of innuendo.

"Political farce is fun, but with sexual farce you have to be very careful," says Senior Lecturer in Voice and long-time friend of the Sextet, Judy Bellingham. "You can't

get away with smut unless it's brilliantly done. A lot of people are offended by it, but they're students and it's a student show, although I have been encouraging them to sing standards, too, because they need a wide repertoire."

Wilson admits it's a challenge coming up with lyrics and arrangements for



The Sextet and friend 1975.

Photo: Hocken Collections, Uare Taoka o Hākena, University of Otago,

Otago Rugby Football Union to perform as "warm-up" for the Bledisloe Cup match.

"Carisbrook was pumping," he recalls. "We followed the Poggin' Scroggin' Bush Band onto the stage and you can just imagine how six men in clown costumes went down. So we started singing our numbers and thought we were being

six parodies every year. Some they do themselves, the responsibilities being divided according to the particular skills of the members at the time, while for others they might get help – the Department of Music’s Professor John Drummond was a long-time Sextet arranger, for example.

From a vocal point of view the Sextet comprises two tenors – one often singing in alto – two baritones and two basses, singing in up to six-part arrangements. Internally, there is a strict hierarchy that has been observed for decades. This comprises the convenor, sub-convenor, goat herders and goats, who are the newest members. According to current member Laurence Mossman, who completed an ethnography of the Sextet in 2011, this enables traditions to be retained in a group whose various members come and go, sometimes from year-to-year.

“Sextet culture is passed down each year and maintained by its members,” Mossman notes. “This emphasises the senior members’ responsibility to

communicate these values to the new members.

“The hierarchy [also] acts as a system of seniority and leadership within the group that is understood and carried out by all the members, much like musical directors, head choristers and section leaders in a choir.”

“The hierarchy does work well,” says Wilson. “Older members know how the ball rolls and pass the knowledge on to the others, and that’s one of the most important factors in how the Sextet survives.”

Currently the Sextet receives a small amount of funding from OUSA to cover the cost of costume repairs and make-up. Recently they commissioned new clown costumes – a necessary initiative given the increasingly threadbare state of the old costumes, but one that will deprive new members of the delight of donning the same costumes that Jonathan Lemalu and Simon O’Neill once wore.

Bellingham believes that, particularly given its longevity, the Otago Sextet is quite possibly unique in the world.

“They are also great male role models,” she adds. “To have six guys up there singing a capella, when in New Zealand it’s just not the done thing for males to do that, I think it’s great.”

“The Sextet is an institution,” says Evans. “It has so many unique characteristics and those lucky enough to have been part of it during their time at University always remember the hilarity they and the audience enjoyed.”

But the final words surely belong to the 1946 University Sextet, sung to the tune of the air *Mighty Lak’ a Rose*:

*Just a note of music
Just a stave of song
Keeps the heart from wearying,
The day from growing long –
Though you may be troubled,
Never you forget
Gladness is redoubled
By the Varsity Sextet.*

REBECCA TANSLEY

With thanks to all interviewees and, in particular, to Tecwyn Evans for access to the dissertation which provided information on which this article draws.



The Sextet 2012. Photo: Sharron Bennett

EXPLORING WHĀNAU-BASED SOLUTIONS TO MĀORI YOUTH SUICIDE

MY PLACE IN THE WORLD

Rangatahi Māori have one of the highest youth suicide rates in the world. Suzi Wereta believes a solution to this challenge lies at a grass roots level. She suggests that if we better understand how Māori perceive suicide and suicidal behaviour, and explore the responses that might be possible within whānau, then we have a chance of alleviating the dire statistics.

Suzi says the wonderful support at Otago has helped her in this quest. Te Huka Mātauraka (The University's Māori Centre), the network of kaiāwhina Māori, Te Roopū Māori (Māori Students' Association), Te Tumu (School of Māori, Pacific and Indigenous Studies), and the University's graduate services have all sustained her. With their support, she hopes her journey will one day help save young lives.

*Kia kaha, kia māia, kia manawanui koutou
me piki ki runga i te waka mātauranga.*

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SUZI WERETA
(NGĀ RAURU)

PhD candidate in Sociology, Gender and Social Work

