

UNIVERSITY OF OTAGO MAGAZINE

OCTOBER 2011

30

INSIDE:

Otago's new VC

Professor Harlene Hayne

PLUS:

Alumnus' invention takes off
Top teacher Tony Zaharic
NZ's energy "opportunity"

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30

- 4 **Vice-Chancellor's comment**
- 5 **Gut reactions**
Researchers investigate possible causes of inflammatory bowel disease
- 9 **Teaching stars**
Biochemistry's Tony Zaharic adds to his tally of teaching awards
- 12 **The future**
Otago's new Vice-Chancellor Professor Harlene Hayne
- 16 **Opening windows**
When doors closed on alumna Diana Crossan, she simply climbed through the window
- 19 **The problem with cancer**
Mackenzie Professor of Cancer Medicine Bridget Robinson is thinking laterally about cancer treatment
- 22 **Opinion**
Dr Janet Stephenson and an "extraordinary" energy transition
- 24 **Learning at work**
The School of Business' internship programme
- 26 **High flier**
Alumnus Glenn Martin's jetpack invention reaches new heights

- 30 **InBrief**
Research highlights
- 36 **Hocken legacy**
- 37 **Student life**
- 38 **Books**

- 40 **UniNews**
- 42 **Alumni news**
- 50 **Whatever happened to ...**
... the Bibliography Room?



VICE-CHANCELLOR'S COMMENT



It is an honour and a privilege to succeed Professor Sir David Skegg as the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Otago. Professor Skegg's leadership was characterised by a commitment to excellence in research, teaching, and scholarship. Those values are the hallmark of any world-class university; under my leadership, they will continue to be the defining features of the University of Otago. As before, Otago will lead from the front at the highest level as the only university in New Zealand in which all of its senior academic leaders continue to be active in research, teaching, and the supervision of postgraduate students in addition to their administrative and managerial responsibilities.

My own commitment to these values comes from a 20-year academic career that began when my husband and I moved to Otago from the United States after completing our postdoctoral fellowships at Princeton. When we accepted positions as lecturers in the Psychology Department, we never thought that we would find ourselves still here two decades later, let alone with me as Vice-Chancellor. But the truth is that Dunedin has been a wonderful place to raise our daughters, Marea and Sara, and our careers have been more supported here at Otago than they would have been anywhere else in the world. I have now had the pleasure of teaching over 10,000 undergraduate students and of supervising over 50 Masters and PhD students. In the course of this experience, I have learned that Otago attracts the best and the brightest students from all over New Zealand and throughout the world. Naturally, I have

developed an immense pride in this university, and in its staff, students, and alumni.

While Otago, as New Zealand's oldest University, frequently celebrates its distinguished past, it is also a University that warmly embraces both the challenges and the opportunities that we face in the future. For example, our commitment to sustainability will be enhanced over the next few years as we increase our efforts in recycling and energy conservation in each of our campuses throughout New Zealand. We recently took an important step in this direction with the commission of the new William James Psychology Building. Formally recognised as a Five Star Green building by the New Zealand Green Building Council, the William James Building uses just a quarter of the energy and water of a conventional building. It has solar water heating, a renewable fuel boiler, a rainwater re-use system, and a green roof. I also believe that it is vitally important for our students to leave Otago with a clear understanding of the value of sustainability. Earlier this year, the University Senate approved a revised set of graduate attributes that includes environmental literacy. I look forward to working with students and with the Chair of the Environmental Sustainability Committee, Professor Carolyn Burns, as we find new ways to make our campuses cleaner and greener.

When I speak to prospective students about their expectations of Otago, many of them talk about their desire to receive a high quality education that will prepare them for a satisfying career. There is no doubt that Otago provides excellent training opportunities for a wide range of

professions in the humanities, sciences, commerce, and health sciences, but here at Otago, we are not only interested in preparing students for a career, we are also interested in preparing them for life. Our goal is to help students to become not just good employees or employers, but good citizens as well.

Given the peripatetic nature of our graduates, our efforts in these areas are all the more important; Otago graduates live throughout the world. The unique residential environment of the University of Otago in both the Colleges and in flats, teaches students many things about good citizenship that cannot be taught in a classroom. For this reason, we are currently developing a range of new non-academic initiatives that are intended to enhance this aspect of the special character of Otago.

As alumni, your enthusiasm, loyalty, and support for the University of Otago does not go unnoticed. Some of you have written cheques to support new academic chairs or important research initiatives. Others have provided support by giving their time or expertise when the University needs it. Many of you have also supported the University by sending your children and your grandchildren to Otago. For all of these things, we thank you.

In return, I want to remind you that long after you have graduated, you should still consider the University of Otago as your home. I invite you to visit our beautiful campuses whenever you have the chance, and I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible during my term as Vice-Chancellor.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading 'Harlene Hayne' in a cursive script.

Professor Harlene Hayne
Vice-Chancellor, University of Otago

Gut reactions

The incidence of inflammatory bowel disease is increasing; the social and health-care costs are high; there is no cure. Otago researchers are working to identify possible causes and to improve outcomes for sufferers.

Restaurant menus are increasingly offering specialist dishes for customers with dietary concerns. Growing numbers of sufferers of irritable bowel syndrome (IBS) are driving a demand for items without gluten or dairy. For them, diet is not a choice, like vegetarianism, but a necessity for good health.

This is everyday evidence that gut problems are on the rise. IBS is just one of them and is at the relatively minor end of the scale. Disturbingly, there's a worldwide increase in the far worse inflammatory bowel disease (IBD), which includes Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis.

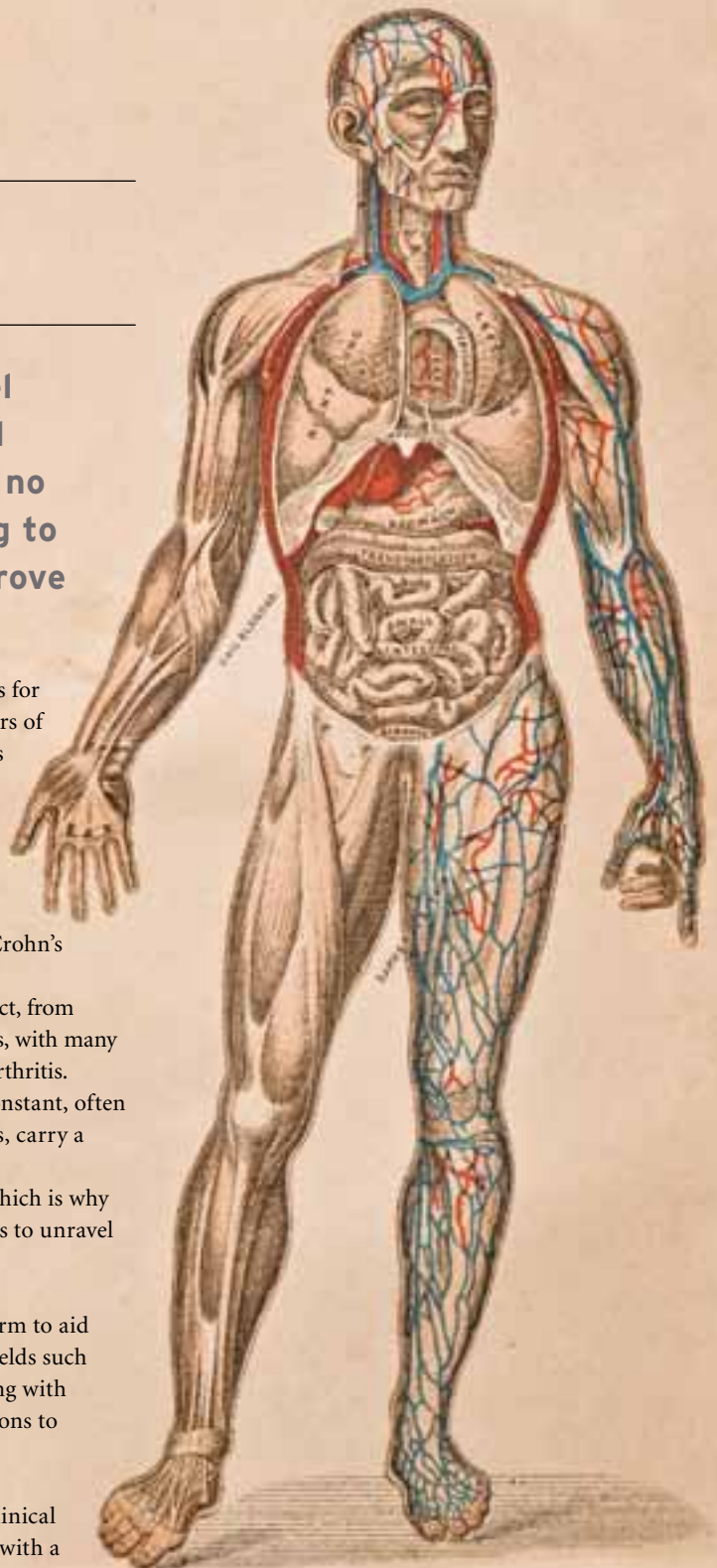
Crohn's disease can affect any part of the gastrointestinal tract, from mouth to anus, causing pain, diarrhoea, vomiting or weight loss, with many potential complications including skin diseases, tiredness and arthritis.

Ulcerative colitis largely affects the lower bowel, causing constant, often bloody, diarrhoea. Both diseases, but more so ulcerative colitis, carry a risk of later development of colorectal cancer.

There's no cure and the causes are still largely unknown, which is why multidisciplinary teams of Otago researchers are joining forces to unravel the mysteries of IBD.

The latest Otago-based initiative, the Gut Health Network (www.guthealthnetwork.com), is an information-sharing platform to aid collaboration that sees national and international experts in fields such as genetics, immunology, microbiology and physiology working with gastroenterologists, paediatricians, rheumatologists and surgeons to tackle IBD.

On the University of Otago's Christchurch campus, gastroenterologists Associate Professor Richard Gearry and Clinical Professor Murray Barclay (Medicine) have been collaborating with a large team since 2003.



As a young registrar, Gearry noticed a large number of young patients with IBD, which didn't fit with the existing data that suggested New Zealand had a low incidence of the disease.

Under Barclay's supervision, Gearry completed a PhD investigating the prevalence of IBD. His work with 1,420 patients – more than 90 per cent of Cantabrians with the disease – led to some 80 subsequent papers and continuing international research.

"Locally the disease affects about one in 250 people, so we were lucky to have such a good response," says Gearry. "Because our study had the numbers and was not just hospital-based, we've been able to make original findings and widen the research.

"It started with seeing so many young people with IBD – if you can help them at that time of life you are going to make a large difference – but has spread to show that the incidence of IBD in New Zealand is right up there. It's a major health problem."

Gearry's early findings caused concern because they appeared to show that the prevalence of IBD in New Zealand was comparatively high rather than low. Subsequent research has shown that each new international study tends to reveal higher figures than the last. That indicates that one country is not necessarily better or worse than another, but that the disease is on the increase

everywhere. New Zealand simply reflects the situation worldwide.

With no cure for IBD, sufferers have to live with it. Treatment often involves drugs and/or surgery to attempt to control the symptoms and keep it in remission, but IBD can lead to early deaths, particularly from bowel cancer.

"It's hard to monitor the costs in terms of health economics," says Gearry. "There are the direct costs of surgery and medicine – the latest drugs are better, but expensive – but there are far greater indirect costs in terms of people's quality of life and society in general.

"How do you put a dollar figure on missed opportunities such as schooling, jobs, relationships? It has to run into hundreds of millions."

The problems drive the hunt for causes and potential cures, but solutions are elusive. "With viruses, we can find and kill them, but we just don't understand what causes IBD."

Progress is slow. Current thinking suggests that a mixture of genetics and environment may hold the key.

"Our number-one risk factor at the moment is family history, but the rate of increase is so rapid it can't be explained by genetics alone, so the environment must be important too."

Breast-feeding for more than three months seems to have a protective influence. Smoking increases the risk for Crohn's disease.

"Increasingly, I'm thinking that the changes that may predispose people from their mid-teens to their mid-thirties to getting Crohn's disease may be in their early life – such as breast-feeding – affecting the nature of flora that inhabit the gut," says Gearry.

"There's a saying that genes load the gun, but environment pulls the trigger. Environment can push you over the threshold. We're finding many factors that are important, but they don't define a cause."

Without a specific focus, research continues on many interrelated fronts.

In Dunedin, Dr Rebecca Roberts (Biochemistry) has been collaborating with Gearry since 2003. She's investigated the degree to which IBD runs in families and has found that there is a very strong genetic component with Crohn's disease and, to a lesser extent, ulcerative colitis.

Researchers worldwide have identified more than 70 genes that relate to increased risk of Crohn's.

"The risk genes we are finding each have only a small effect and, even added together they can still only explain about 20 per cent of the heritability of Crohn's disease," says Roberts. "We still don't know about the other 80 per cent.

"The genetics surrounding Crohn's disease are hugely complex. We wanted to end up with a handful of genes that could explain it, but we've ended up creating more questions than answers.

"It seems very unlikely that we will ever be able to calculate the risk of developing Crohn's from a single genetic test. But knowing more about the genes does provide valuable clues as to the disease processes involved, which may help us to find better targets for drug therapy."

Genetic research into ulcerative colitis shows similar results, with almost 50 genes identified internationally, but the vast majority of risk is still not explained.

"There's a saying that genes load the gun, but environment pulls the trigger. Environment can push you over the threshold. We're finding many factors that are important, but they don't define a cause."

“We’ve found genes we never would have suspected were involved in risk until we tested them, so it’s a slow methodical process with no short cuts.”

No matter whether genes are added to the risk list or discounted, every bit of knowledge helps.

Genetically, IBD overlaps with a raft of other mainly autoimmune diseases, which could reveal something about shared pathways.

“Gene research may also help identify environmental triggers for the disease, which might allow preventative measures to be put in place to stem the onset of the disease,” says Roberts.

Recent research suggests that for people with a specific genetic background, the interaction of the bowel microflora with the intestinal immune system plays a significant role in IBD.

“We’d like it to be a single bug, but it’s not that simple,” admits Gearry. “There’s a lot of work going on in flora in the gut, which is another area where Otago has excelled over the years.”

Dunedin gastroenterologist Dr Michael Schultz (Medicine) has been working with host-microbe interactions in IBD in animal models for 15 years.

Early use of probiotic bacteria to treat mice had promising results, but they did not translate to humans. Further study of probiotics is still worthwhile, revealing much about the interaction between bacteria and the host, says Schultz.

“Probiotics can’t treat a patient with active symptoms, but may prevent someone in remission getting worse.”

Schultz is collaborating with Associate Professor Grant Butt (Physiology), looking at how IBD is related to intestinal permeability, sometimes called leaky gut syndrome.

“The permeability of the gut wall may influence IBD along with genetics, the immune system and microflora in the gut,” says Schultz. “There’s an increased risk of IBD if you have extreme problems with any one of the factors involved, or if you have a combination of overlapping small problems.

“Equally, surely, there are patients who have a genetic susceptibility to IBD, but, without a trigger for them, nothing will happen unless the balance is disturbed.”

So what pushes otherwise healthy people over the edge, especially in their mid-teen years, as Gearry discovered?

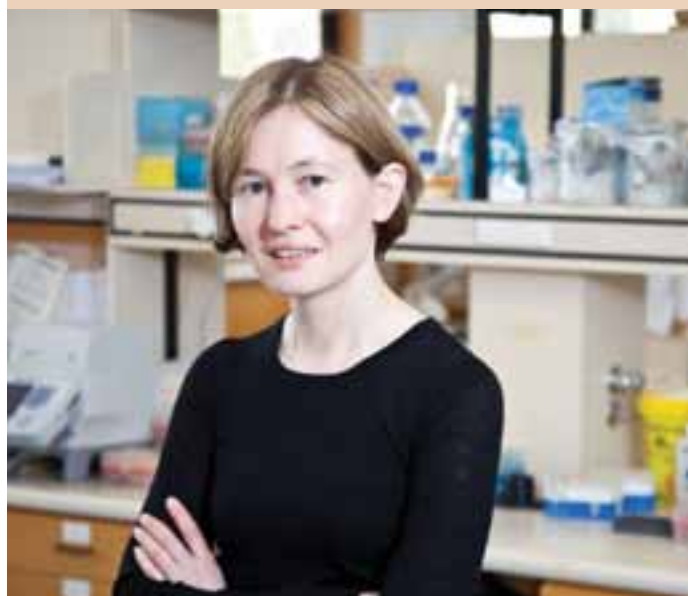
Experiments on mice bred to be genetically susceptible to IBD have included exposure to infection, stress and non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs. As the animal models developed severe colitis, the results are promising, says Schultz. The challenge is to see how the research translates to humans.

Investigations into leaky gut syndrome are also inconclusive at this stage.

“We know that increased intestinal permeability is seen in many autoimmune diseases and also in IBD. The significance of



Associate Professor Richard Gearry: “The incidence of IBD in New Zealand is right up there. It’s a major health problem.”



Dr Rebecca Roberts: “The genetics surrounding Crohn’s disease are hugely complex ... we’ve ended up creating more questions than answers.”



Dr Michael Schultz: “The permeability of the gut wall may influence IBD along with genetics, the immune system and microflora in the gut.”



Associate Professor Anita Nolan: “It looks as if the mouth signs could be a good predictive factor for detecting Crohn’s disease, as well as a possible way of monitoring its activity.”

this finding remains elusive. What comes first? Is the leaky gut cause or consequence?” asks Schultz.

“In IBD the inflammation is due to bacteria in the bowel. With increased intestinal permeability a lot of bacteria can bombard the immune system through the gut wall, leading to an overly aggressive immune response.

“A combination of factors may lead to too many problems for the system to cope. These are multifactorial disorders with many causes to manifest themselves. I think we will never find out that IBD is caused by just one problem.”

At the other end of the alimentary canal, Associate Professor Anita Nolan (Dental School) is working on finding ways to diagnose IBD before it flares up, when preventative treatment is comparatively effective.

Nolan was working as a doctor 15 years ago when she noticed a correlation between IBD and unusual oral lesions. She retrained as a dentist and has been gathering data to test her theories for the last two years.

“I couldn’t believe the coincidence between finding particular oral lesions in patients who went on to develop Crohn’s disease in the next 10 years.

“Now when we ask people who have got Crohn’s to recall if they had mouth problems when they were younger, about 60 per cent of them say ‘Come to think about it, yes’.”

Genetic studies support Nolan’s theory that the mouth shows signs of the disease long before the gut reacts. Common mouth ulcers affect some 20 per cent of the population, but they differ in appearance from the oral ulcers seen in patients with Crohn’s disease.

Oral signs are just one of a number of potential markers of Crohn’s disease, and may provide a useful indication of development or recurrence in the disease.

“There’s not yet enough clinical evidence to use oral signs alone as a diagnostic marker of Crohn’s disease. Investigations such as endoscopy remain the gold standard tests for diagnosing the disease,” says Nolan.

“We’re now at the exciting stage of crunching the numbers and it looks as if the mouth signs could be a good predictive factor for detecting Crohn’s disease, as well as a possible way of monitoring its activity.”

Patients could be taught to monitor their own mouth changes, so that they could identify at an earlier stage when they need to seek medical help for possible deterioration of their bowel condition.

“Early intervention before complications arise can change the natural history of the disease and make for a better quality of life. It could change the course of the disease for the patient and maybe help lead to prevention.”

Finding early signs of IBD is high on Gearry’s list of priorities. It’s part of his latest collaboration with Associate Professor Andrew Day (Paediatrics, Christchurch).

“Finding biomarkers for the disease, possibly from blood or faeces, may avoid invasive colonoscopies,” says Gearry. “We don’t mind doing them, but the patients are not so keen.”

NIGEL ZEGA

Teaching stars

Empathy, enthusiasm and encouragement characterise the teaching style of Tony Zaharic who this year added national honours to his tally of teaching excellence awards.

Biochemistry teaching fellow Tony Zaharic has a facebook fan page with 402 members.

Created by his students, it's a site where they can appreciate him today – "He was the most awesome lab supervisor! He actually made Bioc labs fun!" – and imagine a destiny yet to be fulfilled: "Tony Zaharic for President."

While acutely embarrassed by the page, Zaharic is becoming familiar with having praise lavished upon him by his students. He is a three-times winner of the OUSA Teacher of the Year award (2007, 2009 and 2010), the recipient of a University of Otago Teaching Excellence Award (2011) and this year also reaped national honours at Ako Aotearoa's Tertiary Teaching Excellence Awards, gaining an award for sustained excellence.

It would be an impressive record for any teacher, even those luxuriating in small classes of students sharing their specialist passions. But consider that Zaharic's main responsibility is to teach Foundations of Biochemistry, a Health Sciences First-Year paper that covers complex, unfamiliar and vitally important principles: it's a tough paper and the stakes are high.

He also teaches metabolism to "very discerning" third-year medical students

and second-year health sciences and non-health sciences students; and molecular biology in a first-year biology paper which is among the largest classes at the University.

So, earning their appreciation feels enormously rewarding for Zaharic – and matters to the University. While the research side of university life more often attracts headlines (and, with PBRF, funding), Zaharic's achievements celebrate academics' other roles, as teachers. They are a reminder that, for the vast majority of those who pass through the University, their experience is a taught one.

Indeed, as Zaharic knows only too well, a good lecturer has the power to influence the entire path of one's life.

When Zaharic started university in Australia, he wasn't much of a fan of biochemistry "and got the grades to prove it". In fact, the whole university experience was a bit of a fizzer and he quit after a year to work and travel. When he decided to give higher education another go, his plan was to study in New Zealand and avoid biochemistry altogether.

"I had signed up for a range of science papers, including only one biochemistry paper (because it was a prerequisite), but when I went to course approval Associate

Professor Merv Smith [a former head of the Department of Biochemistry] wouldn't sign the form. He crossed out one of the other papers and told me I had to do both biochemistry papers. That was the extent of my decision making!"

But what Zaharic experienced in his biochemistry classes changed his view of the subject forever. "I had never been taught in such an engaging way. I didn't even know it was possible."

So, when he took on a position as a lab demonstrator as a postgraduate student – an alternative to his weekend job pumping petrol – he knew that if he could offer nothing else to his students, he could at least provide enthusiasm. "I spent 12 weeks bouncing around the laboratory helping students. It was great fun, but I had no idea whether I was doing it right."

He must have been doing it right enough, as Zaharic was invited back the following year as a senior demonstrator, and this time was faced with another new experience: student assessments. The positive responses sparked a "light-bulb moment", he says. "This is really fun and maybe I am quite good at it, so perhaps I should do some more."

However, while Zaharic's teaching star was rising, his PhD was suffering. Months dragged into years as he juggled responsibilities including new babies and health concerns in his family – while his research "just wasn't going anywhere". When a position as a teaching fellow arose, Zaharic made the agonising decision to pull the pin on his thesis.

"If you can give students as many different paths as possible to your learning outcome, you've got a better chance of more of them getting there."

"This was a very low period for me. It was hard to shake a feeling of failure, that I hadn't made it." But, in doing so, Zaharic put himself in the shoes of around two thirds of the students he teaches, whose ambitions of entering medicine or dentistry at the end of their Health Sciences First-Year course are dashed.

"This can feel like the end of the road, like their dreams are over. And what I always try to communicate is that there are other options and life can involve pathways that you don't expect to find. I had to take a dose of my own advice."

Zaharic's empathetic and approachable manner features repeatedly in his student appraisals, with one of those who nominated him for the 2010 OUSA Teaching Award commenting, "Tony just makes it seem like it's OK to ask questions or for a bit of help, and he seems to understand our concerns and never makes us feel small".

Besides, Zaharic is the first to admit that thinking about concepts like enzymes (proteins that catalyse reactions) and how they can be inhibited can make your head hurt. So, he suggests, "Think about someone digging a hole instead. How fast might you dig if your spade didn't have a blade, or if you had one arm tied behind your back? Each of these situations represents a different type of enzyme inhibitor."

Zaharic's a firm believer in analogies. And anecdotes. And pictures, diagrams, written material, videos and podcasts. Indeed, the more ways he can think of to present a problem the better.

"My logic's pretty simple," he says. "When we develop a course, we know where we want students to end up in terms of their knowledge. We more or less know what level of knowledge they start with and we know very well that students have different learning styles. So my thinking is that if you can give students as many different paths as possible to your learning outcome, you've got a better chance of more of them getting there."

He calls this "teaching the whole class all at once, one at a time". And, contradicting those who argue that the "broadcast style" of the large lecture format found in universities epitomises the worst of modern teaching practice, Zaharic maintains that it's "perfectly possible to teach to individual needs in a large group".

Of course, he doesn't expect the lectures to stand alone. They are bolstered by Zaharic's tireless commitment to maintaining online discussion boards, producing podcasts, writing practice questions and scheduling extra question-and-answer sessions.

He describes himself as an "incurable tinkerer", constantly tweaking and innovating to make his courses more effective. For example, his desire to stop using up lab time taking tests and find a way to encourage students to practise calculations – a notoriously unpopular task – led to the instigation of online tests. "The tests are open book and students can repeat the test as often as they wish over a two-week period. Most

students get at least one question wrong and they need to repeat the whole test to gain full marks – all valuable practice in doing calculations¹.

All this monitoring and evaluation of his courses and relating them to student outcomes sounds a bit like research – and Zaharic suspects that if his PhD is ever reprised, it will focus on an aspect of science education.

"If they really want to pass, I believe I can get anyone through BIOC 192," he claims. Indeed, achieving this appears to be Zaharic's personal challenge to himself, a way of upholding his deeply-held conviction that "anyone who wants to succeed should not be left behind by the system".

"We are so fortunate in New Zealand that education is so accessible. But it's not really accessible if we set people up to fail. We have to recognise that our relatively open-entry criteria mean that we need to accommodate and support students who come to us with varying levels of preparation. I have never given up on a student who wants to learn."

One of his proudest moments, he says, was meeting an ex-student he had worked closely with – a single parent with a challenging background who had struggled to achieve her degree – now in a great job. "I'm not taking the credit; she's the one who did all the hard work. But the great thing about teaching is that it is possible to feel that, in some way, you can make a difference."

NICOLA MUTCH

¹ For a full explanation, refer to the February 2011 issue of *Akoranga*, <http://hedc.otago.ac.nz/hedc/resources/Akoranga.html>

Tony Zaharic: "I have never given up on a student who wants to learn."

Photo: Graham Warman



The future

Otago's new - and first woman - Vice-Chancellor, Professor Harlene Hayne, believes universities have a responsibility to make the work they do matter. She talks about career and family.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Harlene Hayne had a good feeling about the University of Otago from the moment she told her new boss, whom she'd never met, she was pregnant.

"Imagine the situation. It was 1991. My husband and I were both postdoctoral fellows at Princeton. The [then] head of Psychology Professor Geoff White had just hired us as lecturers at Otago, sight unseen, on the basis of materials we had submitted via email and fax.

"At some point during the conversation, I had to tell Geoff that, actually, I was five months pregnant. He never missed a beat. He immediately said, 'That's wonderful, congratulations', and he began telling me about the other young families in the department and how we could organise childcare on campus."

Wrapped up in this exchange were many of the reasons that would keep Hayne at the University for the next 20 years: an understanding of the value of parenthood; a vision of work-life balance; and the sense of being supported to succeed.

And if ever there were an argument for why it's great business practice to accommodate people's family commitments, Hayne is it.

In becoming the Vice-Chancellor, Hayne hopes to repay the University of Otago for "giving me a career I never imagined I would have". While at Otago, she has established herself as a world authority in the field of infant, child and adolescent memory research, generating a stellar publishing record, accolades, honours and credentials.

The list includes more than 80 refereed journal articles, 20 book chapters, a book on memory development, and editing and reviewing numerous international academic journals in the field of psychology.

She is a Fellow of the Royal Society of New Zealand and of the American Psychological Society, the past president of the International Society for Developmental Psychobiology, a member of the Board of Fulbright New Zealand, and the co-director of New Zealand Innocence Project.

She is the recipient of the American Psychological Foundation Robert L Fantz Award for Excellence in Infancy Research, the co-chair of the Office of the Prime Minister's Science Advisory Committee Working Party on reducing social and psychological morbidity during adolescence, a member of the New Zealand National Science Panel and

of the Innovation Board of the Ministry of Science and Innovation. In the past, she has served as an international adviser to the British Psychological Society in the development of guidelines on memory and law, and as a ministerial appointment to the Marsden Fund Council.

In 2009 she was made an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit (ONZM) for services to medical and scientific research, and a Fellow of the Royal Society of New Zealand.

It's a career motivated by passion and conviction, and a burning "desire to contribute to public good". Her work has included better understanding of babies' ability to learn and remember, and she has helped to establish better ways to interview children in both clinical and legal contexts.

She has questioned the concepts of repressed and recovered memories, and has contributed to a rethink of when – from the perspective of brain development – we should regard adolescents as adults.

(It has been joked that as her attentions moved from infant to child to adolescent research, her career simply tracked her children's lives.)

Now, the social responsibility of researchers – "to make the work we do matter" – is one of the key values she wishes to impart as Vice-Chancellor. "The lives we lead as academics are so privileged, especially here at Otago. I have always felt that with privilege comes responsibility."



Professor Harlene Hayne:

"I have been fortunate to work at an institution where my career has been gender-blind. I have neither felt pushed forward, nor held back, because I am a woman."

Photo: Alan Dove

Engaging with the public can be scary, she acknowledges, and adds that embracing the social implications of their research appears to come much more naturally to the younger generation of academics.

“It is a brave step to move out of the safe confines of these buildings and laboratories and apply one’s knowledge to real-world problems. But it is tremendously rewarding. This is an area I want to encourage and where I aim to lead by example.”

In doing so, Hayne intends to make the most of her profile, experience and position. “As the Vice-Chancellor, many organisations approach me looking for guidance. I can facilitate connections between the University and wider social institutions, including government, CRIs, the courts and schools.”

Of the public speaking commitments in her diary, she comments “as many are in my capacity as a researcher as are in my role as Vice-Chancellor”.

Indeed, given her CV, it is not surprising that Hayne continues to see herself as an academic first and an administrator second.

“The only reason I was even willing to throw my hat in the ring for this role was the assurance I could maintain my research activity.”

In this respect, Otago is continuing the approach it took with the selection of her predecessor, Professor Sir David Skegg, of appointing an active scholar to its most senior leadership position. Most of the top universities Otago likes to compare itself with do the same, Hayne notes.

Public engagement is also a way of “giving back”, she says, and honouring the community for its support.

“When you add up the Dunedin Multidisciplinary Health and Development Study, and the University of Otago, Christchurch Child and Adolescent Mental Health studies, and the work that has taken place in the Department of Psychology and elsewhere across the University, a significant proportion of what’s known about the minds and well-being of children is based on research conducted with the people of Dunedin and the South Island.”

Without willing participants, she knows, there is no research.

“The people of Dunedin and Christchurch have been extremely generous with their time,” she acknowledges.

In Dunedin, for example, we are fortunate that “It’s usually very easy for participants to travel to the University or for researchers to travel to participants’ homes or schools. Other universities just do not enjoy the support of the community we have at Otago, and it’s an important reason for why we have been able to make the contributions to the knowledge base that we have.”

Maintaining this quality of research in spite of tightening research funding is among the challenges facing Hayne in her new role.

While she says the University has withstood the impact of the global economic downturn “comparatively well”, other financial threats include increases in insurance premiums following the Christchurch earthquakes, not to mention the pressing need to rebuild the Christchurch campus.

Finding funding solutions is about being creative, strategic and open-minded, Hayne believes.

As Deputy Vice-Chancellor, she led initiatives in commercialising research in areas including biomedical technology, and sees further potential for promoting Otago’s research capabilities to international markets. Development campaigns, to fund specialist chairs and research centres, enable further opportunities.

“It is a brave step to move out of the safe confines of these buildings and laboratories and apply one’s knowledge to real-world problems. But it is tremendously rewarding. This is an area I want to encourage and where I aim to lead by example.”

“Knowing you are part of the story young people are writing about their lives is a very motivating reason to come to work each day.”

Stepping into this role, Hayne recognises the historical fact that she’s Otago’s first woman Vice-Chancellor, but the attention that has been given to her gender still surprises her.

“I have been fortunate to work at an institution where my career has been gender-blind. I have neither felt pushed forward, nor held back, because I am a woman. And because it’s been a non-issue for me, I tend to forget about it, so it always takes me aback a bit when I am asked to focus on it.”

Credit, she believes, is due as much to the man in her life as the women who paved the way before her.

“I am lucky that my husband has always been willing to do more than his share of raising our children while also pursuing his own highly successful academic career.

“By focusing exclusively on the challenges that women face in pursuing their careers, we risk marginalising the large number of fathers who are now facing a very similar balancing act.”

For her part, Hayne describes juggling her many responsibilities not so much as work-life balance, as “work-life blur”.

“My personal and professional lives have always morphed together. It is more of a stress to me to separate them. I have marked papers while sitting in a parking lot waiting to collect a child or while watching netball or field hockey games. My kids have spent many hours entertaining themselves or doing their homework in my office.

“Like so many other kids of academics at Otago, my children have learned to be extremely comfortable in a university environment.”

At one level, it’s a matter of being practical. “Having a family-friendly workplace is a significant reason why some of the brilliant minds at this University prefer to work here than anywhere else.”

But it’s also another way in which Hayne lives her commitment to children’s health and wellbeing. “Jobs are important, but family is more important.”

And now, as the leader of an organisation which is built upon the aspirations of young people as they transition into adulthood, Hayne knows how important it is to “create an environment where students can try on different personalities and take some risks, but where they can do so safely, knowing that people are looking out for them”.

At the end of the day, many of Hayne’s views about being Vice-Chancellor have been shaped by her research experience. For example, in her field of memory research, there is a phenomenon referred to as the “reminiscence bump” — “that is, when we ask adults to recall their lives, they have increased recollection for events that occurred during their adolescence and very early adulthood.

“What this means is that many of the students at the University of Otago will be filling their own autobiographies with

memories of events that they will carry with them throughout their lifetimes.”

In this way, universities, literally, shape people’s futures. Says Hayne, “Knowing you are part of the story young people are writing about their lives is a very motivating reason to come to work each day”.

NICOLA MUTCH

Opening windows

The “loud” glass ceiling did not stop Diana Crossan, the former probation officer, senior public servant and insurance executive, who is now New Zealand’s Retirement Commissioner.

When Retirement Commissioner Diana Crossan was offered the job, the first thing she wanted to do was change its name. Unfortunately her job title is cast in legislation, but she has succeeded in getting the name of the commission changed to the Commission for Financial Literacy and Retirement Income. It is, she explains, a much more accurate reflection of what her office does.

After a short time with Crossan one quickly gets the feeling that she takes no prisoners – if the expression is forgivable given that she started her career in the Probation Service – but in the nicest possible way. She comes across as incredibly upfront, but is also unfailingly approachable and generous.

A mainlander who was born in Akaroa, grew up in Wanaka and spent her teenage years in Pleasant Point in South Canterbury, New Zealand’s Retirement Commissioner embodies that kind of matter-of-fact pragmatism and can-do attitude that some people these days would like to seal inside tins and sell.

Which probably explains, at least in part, how Crossan came to be hand-picked for a job that is not short on frustrations. For example, in July, Prime Minister John Key dismissed the commissioner’s recommendation that the eligibility age for New Zealand

Superannuation be gradually eased upwards by two years from 2020 to 2033 in order to keep our ageing nation’s superannuation bill affordable. Yet Crossan takes the rejection on the chin.

“It’s the issue of three-year politics compared to 30-year strategies. Retirement strategies have to be long term. Politicians have to win elections. We work with those time frames and they work with three years.

“I have the same philosophy I’ve had all my life,” she explains. “If the door closes I’ll climb through the window.”

The analogy gives some insight into the tenacity Crossan clearly possesses. Inspired at the age of 14 by the story of British prison reformer Elizabeth Fry, the young Diana set her heart on being a probation officer. Her experiences as an AFS exchange student in North Carolina in 1968 – the year in which both Robert Kennedy and Martin Luther King were assassinated – further influenced her passion to work for social good.

She completed a degree in geography at Otago in 1971 and began work in the Probation Service, casting around for a postgraduate qualification in social work that would assist her career advancement.

Crossan learned of a postgraduate diploma at the University of Swansea in Wales and set about saving the money that would enable her to attend. When

she arrived, however, she found she’d been mistakenly advised that she could pay the usual British resident fees (an experience which has informed her unshakeable commitment to properly informing people about future financial commitments).

Stuck in Swansea on a course she could no longer afford, she wrote to businesses and educational organisations back in New Zealand seeking assistance. They declined, but Roy McKenzie (who was later knighted for his services to the community) sent Diana a personal cheque from his New York bank account.

It was the beginning of a long association between Crossan and the philanthropist which lasted until his death in 2007 and resulted in Crossan’s appointment to positions on the boards of the McKenzie Education Foundation and the Roy McKenzie Foundation and to the chair of the J R McKenzie Trust, making her the first female and first non-Rotarian to take the role.

Crossan returned to New Zealand with her postgraduate qualification and continued in the Probation Service until she encountered, what she describes as, the “loud” glass ceiling. So she started climbing through windows, moving into the public service where she served first as head of the equal employment opportunities unit within the State Services Commission, then as director of policy at the Ministry of Education and finally on the senior management team of the Department of Justice.

Over this time she attended the Advanced Executive Programme at the Kellogg Institute of Management

in America's Northwestern University and the New Zealand/Australia Government Management Interchange Programme at Monash University.

In the mid-1990s Crossan was asked to join the group charged with designing the first state-owned enterprise to splinter from the Electricity Corporation of New Zealand – the future Contact Energy. When the general manager of the hydroelectric power station at Clyde opted to stay with ECNZ rather than join the fledgling SOE, Crossan was asked to step into the role.

"The guy who picked me up had been acting general manager for a week before I got there," she recalls. "So I said to him, 'You must be really pissed off that I've come to take over'. His reaction was, 'I've never had a woman boss before', but what I'm sure he wanted to say was 'I've never had a boss who's not an engineer before – what the hell are you doing here?'"

"He tells me that I took him into my office and said, 'You and I will get on a lot better if you stop using words I don't understand'. I banned some words, apparently, and he came back into my office and said 'Diana, we can't do our job without using the word megawatt'."

The job at that time, she says, was all about realigning people who had, until that point, worked for a behemoth government department and helping them adjust to a new era.



Diana Crossan: "I have the same philosophy I've had all my life. If the door closes I'll climb through the window."

“Diana clearly demonstrated a real vision and energy, and the ability to convince people to listen and discuss difficult ideas. She’s had a huge impact on the savings issue.”

– Steve Maharey

Crossan’s next role called on similar skills. It was the late 1990s and the Australian-owned insurance company, AMP, hired her to transform the way in which their agents did business, moving from a traditional agent approach to one that was more technology-based and in line with newly emerging requirements for financial advisors. A fixed-term contract turned into a full-time role and she was so successful she was seconded to do the same thing in Britain.

When she returned to New Zealand in 2001 student debt was looking set to cripple a generation of New Zealanders. A businessman offered Crossan a contract to develop a solution that would help families save for their children’s tertiary education. The initiative was close to launching when it was rendered obsolete by the Government’s decision to remove interest from student loans, by which time Crossan had been offered the position of Retirement Commissioner.

Aspects of the product, she points out, ended up in Kiwisaver and the work also formed the basis for Ngāi Tahu’s popular savings scheme, Whai Rawa Ltd, of which she is chair.

As the upcoming name change suggests, the Retirement Commission is not just about retirement.

“I was looking for someone who would take a broad vision of the issues around retirement,” says Steve Maharey, who offered her the position when he

was Minister for Social Development and Employment. “Diana clearly demonstrated a real vision and energy, and the ability to convince people to listen and discuss difficult ideas. She’s had a huge impact on the savings issue.”

One of the commission’s key mandates is to lift the financial knowledge of all New Zealanders from the age of five. Crossan and her team are currently working with the Ministry of Education, NZQA and ERO to promote financial literacy in our schools and tertiary education, and the commission undertakes triannual national surveys to gauge the level of New Zealanders’ financial knowledge and planning.

The jewel in the commission’s crown is, of course, *sorted.org.nz*, the independent, online financial guide of which Crossan has overseen considerable expansion and about which she is regularly asked to speak all around the world. The site is widely acknowledged as world-leading and Crossan quips that the OECD’s Director of Finance now rolls his eyes at every mention of what has become the international community’s benchmark in online financial education tools.

Crossan took on the Retirement Commissioner role on a part-time basis to enable her to fit in board commitments such as Whai Rawa. She currently spends one day a fortnight chairing a government working party

aimed at establishing payroll giving, for example, and, in a voluntary capacity, is on the board of Refugees in Business.

Her commission responsibilities include providing advice to the Government regarding retirement income policies and she represents New Zealand on the OECD International Network on Financial Education.

Crossan is enthusiastic about the opportunities her role gives her to have input in the area of financial literacy internationally. She’s not usually prone to nervousness, but admits to just a touch in 2009 when addressing the US Commission for Financial Literacy, chaired by the US Treasurer – the person whose signature is on every American banknote – and held in what is called the Cash Room in the US Treasury.

“The room is marble and is dripping with chandeliers,” Crossan recalls. “I climbed up a staircase to a podium like I was about to preach and as I went to start I thought, ‘Hey, I’m from Pleasant Point, how did this happen?’”

Crossan claims to have been “lucky”, but it’s clear that’s not the answer to the question. The former probation officer, senior public service official, power plant boss and insurance executive simply kept climbing through windows whenever there weren’t any open doors.

REBECCA TANSLEY

Professor Bridget Robinson:
“I see it as my role to think laterally about future treatment services and how to innovate.”

Photo: Ross Coombes



The problem with cancer

Mackenzie Professor of Cancer Medicine, Bridget Robinson, believes there needs to be a fundamental shift in the way cancer is treated.

Professor Bridget Robinson was first attracted to the field of oncology because of the daily medical mysteries it presented.

“I was initially drawn to the puzzling aspect of oncology. Patients’ conditions are so different, so interesting. Treating each person was like solving a puzzle.”

Her first experience of oncology came as a trainee intern in the 1980s. She

was hooked. Robinson has worked as a medical oncologist and undertaken laboratory and clinical research in the area ever since, discovering that helping patients understand and live with cancer is as rewarding as solving their challenging medical problems.

In August 2010, her expertise was acknowledged with her appointment to the newly-established

Mackenzie Chair in Cancer Medicine. The position is funded by the Mackenzie Charitable Foundation.

The chair is responsible for supporting cancer research at the University of Otago, Christchurch, and integrating research with Canterbury’s clinical services.

Since taking up the chair, Robinson has remained a practising medical

oncologist, treating patients for half her time, but now spending more time on research and teaching.

And it has been a challenging first year. A few days after her appointment, Christchurch was hit by the first of a series of devastating earthquakes.

The September event, followed by February's 6.3 'quake, displaced her research staff, halted much laboratory work and adversely affected many of her patients' personal lives. It also had a major impact on the learning environment for medical students.

"It's been a pretty challenging first year in the chair, but I see it as a blip on the radar. In fact, it makes me more committed than ever to seeing through plans for a dedicated cancer centre."

Robinson's vision is to be one of the driving forces behind a centre at Christchurch Hospital, which would be a base for cancer treatment and research, as well as support and information from relevant non-government organisations.

It would be a place where cancer patients could come not just for their appointment with a specialist for chemotherapy or radiation treatment, but to see people from the Cancer Society and get more information about cancer and related issues such as wigs and support facilities, she says.

Scientists involved with cancer research would also be closely connected with patients and clinicians.

First steps towards this vision have already been undertaken. Robinson

is the chairperson of the Canterbury Cancer Network which links scientists and clinicians managing cancer, as well as community cancer support organisations and the public.

Robinson says she hopes when Christchurch Hospital is rebuilt – sometime in the next decade – the Cancer Centre will be a central part of it. The centre would also promote the greater involvement of primary care for cancer patients. However, she says demand for oncology services is already close to the hospital services' capacity.

"I see it as my role to think laterally about future treatment services and how to innovate."

Future treatment of a larger ageing population and subsequent increase in

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"This [shift in thinking about cancer treatment] would make cancer more like heart disease or diabetes where much of the care and follow-up is in the community. People don't need to see a specialist very often."

the number of cancer cases will need to be managed differently, Robinson says.

"This will involve more patients treated in the community and other health professionals being trained to do many roles which are now being done by specialists."

An example of this could be specialist community-based oncology nurses who would be involved in the care of patients on chemotherapy as well as up-skilling other nurses. This would free up the specialists to cope with more complex problems.

Robinson says a fundamental shift in thinking about cancer treatment must occur – and this is not unprecedented in the treatment of major diseases.

"This [shift in thinking about cancer treatment] would make cancer more like heart disease or diabetes where much of the care and follow-up is in the community. People don't need to see a specialist very often."

Cancer research at the University of Otago, Christchurch, will continue to play a large part in the future of cancer treatment, Robinson says.

"We can learn from international research, but we need to apply it to our community. Being part of international clinical trials testing new treatment approaches keeps all of the clinical teams up to date and provides the highest level

of care for our patients. In Christchurch our laboratory cancer research uses patient samples, collected using the Cancer Society tissue bank, and is inspired by patient problems."

Funding from the Mackenzie Charitable Foundation has already been used to undertake important new research. It partially funds a clinical PhD student who is exploring the development of blood clots in patients starting chemotherapy. It also helps fund a Christchurch-trained scientist who has just returned from overseas to boost cancer genetic research.

The remainder of the funds is being used to underpin a research group that specialises in understanding the role of blood vessels supplying cancerous tumours, low oxygen in cancers and the role of inflammation. This group, with clinical leadership from Robinson, was responsible for setting up, and subsequently maintaining, the Cancer Society tissue bank. This is a repository of high-quality samples of cancerous tissue, collected under ethical guidelines for research purposes.

Since being appointed to the chair, Robinson has become more involved in the teaching of medical students.

"Cancer is not an isolated area. It cuts across all specialties such as surgery, general medicine and general practice.

It is a very common problem and one which clinicians will see more and more in future. Because of this, every medical student needs a thorough understanding of cancer treatment and issues for patients and their families."

Medical students now spent more time in the oncology outpatients' service, critically reviewing clinics and doing oncological case histories.

Robinson says cancer is still often viewed, even by some medical professionals, as a bit "taboo".

"Some health professionals find it difficult to see cancer as the same as other illnesses, and as problems to solve to help the patient."

Robinson hopes that giving medical students more experience in the field of oncology may de-stigmatise cancer in future – and that some of those enquiring young minds may decide to commit themselves to an "exciting" career in oncology treatment and research just as she did several decades ago.

KIM THOMAS

An extraordinary transition

Dr Janet Stephenson urges New Zealand to use its natural advantages to be at the forefront of the “energy and environmental revolution”.

It doesn't feel urgent. But it is. Our way of life in the 21st century has been powered by two centuries of burnt fossil fuels and, as a result, our children are facing a future of climate-induced chaos. Unless, that is, the countries of the world can make an extraordinary transition.

Globally, fossil fuels supply more than 80 per cent of the energy used to support modern life, are embedded in virtually every food, product and service, and power most transport and electricity generation. But can we afford to keep using them? The chief economist of the International Energy Agency, an organisation respected for its conservative and measured reports, has recently said that staying within a maximum global temperature rise of two degrees is now becoming extremely unlikely without “bold, decisive and urgent action, very soon” to significantly reduce emissions resulting from the use of fossil fuels.

Professor Lord Stern, of the London School of Economics, warns that warming beyond two degrees “would disrupt

the lives and livelihoods of hundreds of millions of people across the planet, leading to widespread mass migration and conflict. That is a risk any sane person would seek to drastically reduce.”

As New Zealanders, what is the story that we will tell our grandchildren? That we were so locked into the current system that we were unable to take action? That we needed to keep using fossil fuels at an ever-increasing rate to keep up economic growth? That we stuck with business-as-usual because it was easier? Sorry about the mess we've left behind?

Or do we tell the story of a transition to a low-carbon energy future?

If New Zealand sticks to business-as-usual, four main risks are apparent.

Climate risk: As with all nations, New Zealand faces serious risks from the impacts of climate change. We also place risk on the rest of the globe by contributing to climate change, primarily through the use of fossil fuels, but also through agriculture. Being a hobbit-sized country with a small population means our total emissions are minor compared

to other nations. On the other hand, our emissions per person are near the top of the global scale.

Energy security risk: New Zealand also faces risks from increasing prices and/or availability of fossil fuels. Transport is particularly vulnerable: internal freight and personal transport, as well as international trade and tourism. More invisible risks lie in the embedded fossil fuel energy in products and services, and the impact of price rises on these.

Dependency risk: New Zealand's dependence on fossil fuels and their associated infrastructures means a lack of nimbleness to shift to other energy solutions if we need. This lock-in exacerbates the energy security risk.

Image risk: New Zealand's “clean green” global image is of immeasurable economic value to the export and tourism sectors, yet is immensely vulnerable. This could be at risk if, for example, New Zealand was to invest heavily in the prospecting and development of fossil fuel reserves, or failed to play its part in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

New Zealand has much to gain from addressing all four risks simultaneously through a system-wide change to a low-carbon energy system. This would involve markedly reducing dependence on fossil fuels in all aspects of the economy and society in a systematic transition.

“What is the story that we will tell our grandchildren? That we needed to keep using fossil fuels at an ever-increasing rate to keep up economic growth? That we stuck with business-as-usual because it was easier? Sorry about the mess ...”

Dr Janet Stephenson:

“New Zealand’s ‘clean green’ global image is of immeasurable economic value to the export and tourism sectors, yet is immensely vulnerable.”

Photo: Bill Nichol



A hugely advantageous starting point is that New Zealand is far less reliant on fossil fuels for electricity and heating than most other developed nations. Around 70–75 per cent of our electricity is from renewable sources and most household heating is from electricity or biomass, so we have minimal lock-in to fossil fuels in these areas. Transport is probably the biggest challenge, with radical changes required including fuel types, vehicle technologies, infrastructure, urban form and personal habits. Excellent models of low-carbon transport systems are commonplace in Europe, and particularly inspiring in Sweden which has committed to a fossil-fuel-free transport system by 2030.

Other elements of the reconfiguration include the widespread adoption of energy-efficient technologies and practices by households and businesses; increasing renewable electricity generation to close to 100 per cent; small-scale energy generation by households, communities and businesses; greentech investments; smart grids; changes to law and policy; and, underlying all of this, a shift in the way people think about and use energy in their everyday

lives, and the application of research, innovation and thought leadership from all disciplines.

This is not a green dreamland. The International Energy Agency, historically viewed as a bastion of conservatism, now calls for a global “energy and environmental revolution” to hold climate change at less than two degrees. It states that this would involve an abrupt reversal of present emissions trends between now and 2030. By 2020 – only nine years away – energy efficiency will need to account for 65 per cent of total expected global CO₂ abatement. The rest of the answer lies mainly in ramping up renewable energy (18 per cent) and nuclear power (13 per cent) – although the nuclear power figure is now unstable given the roll-on effects of Fukushima. The contribution of biofuels and CCS (carbon capture and storage) to CO₂ abatement by 2020 is expected to be negligible and, whilst they do increase by 2030, energy efficiency remains the major contributor.

Opportunity knocks for New Zealand. Far from trying to ignore the twin-headed hydra of energy insecurity and climate change, we should see it

as a huge opportunity to build on our natural advantages and be amongst the world’s front runners in system-wide transformations. Research in every field – commerce, humanities, sciences and medical science – is needed to inform the change and, possibly most importantly, collaboration across disciplines to bring multifaceted perspectives on the multifaceted problems facing us.

By being at the forefront of the “energy and environmental revolution” we would not only address the four risks, but release a hot-bed of technical and social innovation. As Stern has convincingly argued in *The Economics of Climate Change*, the benefits of strong early action on climate change outweigh the costs and these changes should be implemented while economies are still relatively buoyant.

New Zealand has much to gain from being early off the block and the world has much to gain from the evidence of how a farsighted country achieved an extraordinary transition.

DR JANET STEPHENSON
Director, Centre for Sustainability:
Agriculture, Food, Energy, Environment

Learning at work

The School of Business' internship programme is a double success. It is providing valuable experiences for students and forging new relationships for the school.

It is a long-standing tension – finding that fine line between being an academic institution and a vocational training place.

Where that line lies will vary from department to department and from division to division, but the University of Otago's School of Business believes it has found an ideal mix through its undergraduate internship programme – the only undergraduate programme of its type in New Zealand.

Designed for students who have completed their second year of study, the internships range from six to 15 months, offering positions with a variety of companies around the country.

Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Dean of the School of Business, Professor George Benwell, recognises the tension, but can see the benefits.

“Are we here to get kids a job or are we here as an educator? Are we an academic institution or an employment agency? There is some stretch and pull there, but there's enough evidence internationally that if you give students an exposure to the workplace then they turn out better academic results; they become better students and they become more rounded people in the community,” he says.

School of Business administration director Claire Ramsay and the

Internship Programme academic leader Dr James Henry visited overseas programmes, such as the highly successful Aston Business School in Birmingham and the University of Aberdeen Business School.

While Aston sends out its entire second-year programme of about 1,000 students each year, the Aberdeen programme struggled, says Ramsay.

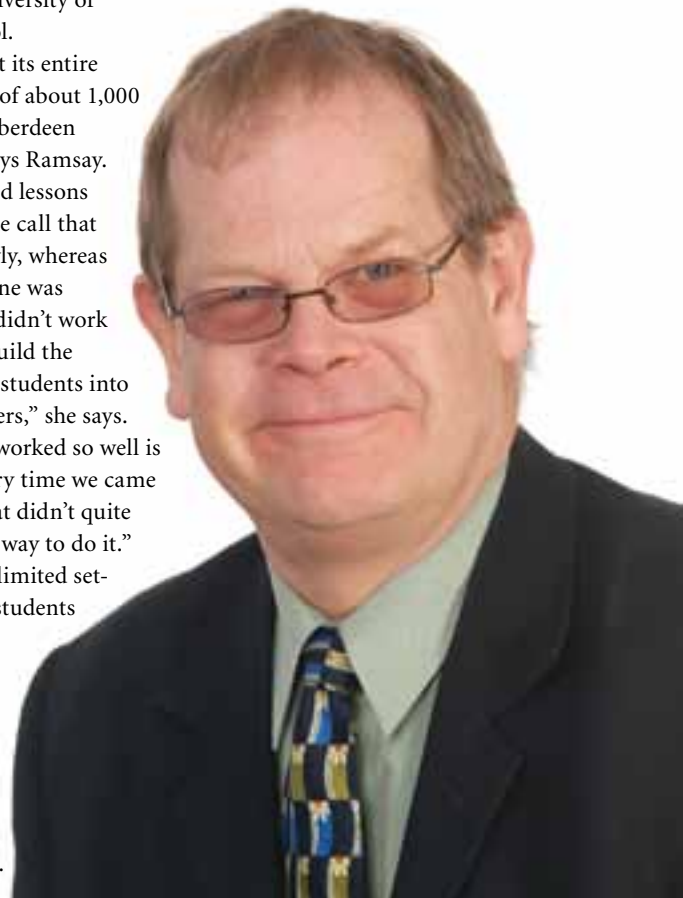
“So we learned the good lessons and the bad. We made the call that we would grow ours slowly, whereas Aberdeen decided everyone was going out to do it, but it didn't work for them. You've got to build the relationships and get the students into it as much as the employers,” she says.

“One of the reasons it worked so well is that we staged it and every time we came up against something that didn't quite work we devised a better way to do it.”

In the first year, with limited set-up time, they placed six students while last November a further 13 students took up internships. This year, the programme's third year, they have 24 students in a training programme in preparation for next year.

“If you give students an exposure to the workplace then they turn out better academic results; they become better students and they become more rounded people in the community.”

- Professor George Benwell



Benwell says students mature greatly through the experience.

"They understand what it is to be professional, what it is to be on time, what it is to support others to achieve – life skills that students of 18 or 19 don't know," he says.

"The teamwork one impressed me most. For most students academic life is competitive, but they understood in the workplace that this is how life is. The problem is only going to be solved if we work in a team."

Even though it adds another year to their degree, international evidence suggests students are much better off than a graduate with a year of work behind them. "Somehow their last year here is just so much better and they are a better product."

Benwell says the programme's other great strength is that through it they are building relationships with the business world, having so far visited 700 companies.

"We've been a bit bunkered – isolated. In principle, there is nothing wrong with that because we are an academic institution, but, equally, if we are going to make a difference to the economy then that, in part, has to be connected to business," he says.

"There have been so many positive feedbacks, not just from the internship companies, but other places and people. It seems all those little things are starting to give a positive impetus to relationships and to the standing of the University of Otago School of Business in the community. These young people are playing a part in lifting the standing, profile and acceptance of the school."

MARK WRIGHT

Internship Programme co-ordinator Julie Pearce says they aim to fit the needs of the businesses involved.

"When we meet businesses, we talk about them having a business need. They have to be prepared to identify that need, develop a job description that fills that need and they, then, become partners in the programme."

Those jobs are advertised within the programme, paid at market rates and are an employment situation rather than a placement programme. Internships cover a range of areas from finance and accounting to marketing.

Initially, they look for students with at least a B+ average, but they also acknowledge that personality, application and enthusiasm are important too, says Pearce.

Interns also take a two-part academic paper – a piece of research and a reflective log which they have to undertake regularly and send to their School of Business mentor. The research is aligned to their area of interest and is agreed to by their academic mentor and the business mentor at their workplace.

"The student does a presentation to the business on their findings so that the company is offered something in return."



Andrew Baillie was one of the students who went through the first year of the internship, in 2010, working for KPMG in Wellington from March that year until returning to Otago last February.

"I got to do much more than any other student I've spoken to. I was rotated around the audit, tax and business advisory divisions and got a basic knowledge of each. It wasn't just doing paperwork either. It was actually doing real accounting," he says.

"I wasn't there long enough to learn everything, but I felt as though I learnt a lot. The best thing was I learnt how to be an employee of that organisation, how to interact with staff and how to interact with clients."

Baillie says the almost year-long internship has helped make him sure that he wants to continue with accounting.

Richard Westney, senior HR manager, KPMG, says they were delighted to be involved with the programme which is different from their traditional summer internships.

"It has given us an opportunity to rotate the students through our main service lines during their time with us, which is not a luxury our summer interns have. I think this gives the students a unique experience to have alongside their studies.

"Andrew became part of the 2010 graduate intake for his induction and built good relationships with that group in Wellington. He was certainly valued very highly by the divisions in which he worked, and I know he's found it an extremely valuable experience from a study perspective now that he's back at Otago."

Such was the success of the initial programme, KPMG has taken two more interns this year.

High flier

After years of dreaming and sacrifice, biochemistry graduate Glenn Martin's jetpack is finally taking off.

Otago graduates are well known to achieve to the highest levels, but none has done it quite like Glenn Martin, inventor of what is hailed as the world's first practical personal jetpack.

As a biochemistry graduate, Martin might not have been expected to make his mark in aviation history, but he credits his study at Otago for launching him into a world of possibilities.

"I could not have done this without my science training at Otago. Biochemists can do anything."

Martin's jetpack has proved itself in flight trials and attracted international attention, including contracts worth millions of dollars. It's the result of a lifelong dream for Martin, who admits that accusations of being obsessed are reasonably justified.

The dream began when he was a Wakari five-year-old, frightened of the dangers of crossing a busy road to school. At a time when science-fiction series *Thunderbirds* and *Lost in Space* were on television, Martin decided a jetpack would be a safer way to get there.

Fast forward to university. At the end of a sociable night at the Captain Cook, Martin and his friends fantasised about using a flying car or a jetpack as an alternative to staggering home to their student flat.

The next morning Martin ensconced himself in the sobering warmth of the University Science Library and began



Glenn Martin:

"So many people feel they have to leave the country to do something interesting, but they don't. We need to change that attitude and create companies in New Zealand that stay in New Zealand."

Photo: Ross Coombes



researching jetpacks. Initially it was just an intellectual exercise, but then he found himself sneaking into maths and physics lectures in his spare time.

In the 1950s, aviation giant Bell had produced a rocket belt that could allow a lightweight pilot to fly as high as 150 feet – around 50 metres – for 26 seconds. That wouldn't even have transported Martin junior to primary school.

In the 1980s at Otago, Martin worked on his jetpack at nights and weekends. He learned to hang glide. He bought a computer and taught himself programming to crunch the numbers. He read up on inventors, concluding that their greatest stumbling block was the business side of things.

So, after graduating in biochemistry and taking a short OE, he turned his back on an obvious career as a university scientist and joined a pharmaceutical company as a sales rep to learn about the commercial world.

A few successful years in a "real job" bankrolled him to work full-time on a prototype jetpack and, when the money ran out, Martin joined the biotech industry to keep the funds rolling in.

With every spare dollar needed for the project, sacrifice was the norm.

"There were lots of low points. Ninety per cent of it is just hard slog," he says. "Financially it was hard for my family, missing out on holidays, not having a better car or house ..."

But Martin had total support, as evidenced by the fact that his prototype jetpack's first test pilot was his wife, Vanessa. "She's nuts like me so it works for us."

By now the project needed big money. Martin approached friend Richard Lauder, who had completed an Otago MBA, and knew his way round finance.

In 2003 emerging technology investment company No 8 Ventures backed Martin's growing team, a board of directors was formed and Martin Jetpacks emerged from the garage and started to prepare for the world spotlight.

But even Martin wasn't prepared for what happened at their official launch in the USA in 2008. He'd always envisaged

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the jetpack as recreational transport in the same vein as hang gliders and microlight aircraft.

“One thing I screwed up on was launching it into the niche aviation market at an air show. I thought it would be just a specialist thing for people like me, but it attracted huge interest.

“Within 24 hours of the launch we had visits from the Pentagon and then the Europeans were contacting us saying they’d found out about us from the Israelis ...”

Media coverage went ballistic, with the jetpack making 970 television appearances in a day and governments and military men beating a path to Martin’s door.

“As more people got interested the goal posts shifted. They wanted other features and so we had to develop the jetpack to fit the market. But the more we develop it the easier it becomes to get funding.”

The Christchurch-based Martin Aircraft Company began working on two main versions of the jetpack – manned and unmanned. Potential clients saw great value in an unmanned version, which could be flown by computer.

“Developing fly-by-wire actually made manned flight much easier,” says Martin. “Now it’s the easiest aircraft to fly in the world. Top military test pilots who’ve flown it agree. We even took five people off the street to test it and, by the end of the day, they were hovering. It takes 15 hours to do that in a helicopter.

“About 80 people have flown it and they’ve all come away from the experience with big smiles on their faces.”

Manned flight is currently restricted to low altitude hovering until Martin’s team can complete the development of a revolutionary parachute that will fill the safety gap between conventional chutes and being able to bounce land from a short distance off the ground.

“Within 24 hours of the launch we had visits from the Pentagon and then the Europeans were contacting us saying they’d found out about us from the Israelis ...”

“Every other aircraft has a point where they are sensitive to failure, such as passenger jets immediately on take-off or helicopters above the point where they can just bang down on their skids.

“The jetpack can parachute down from 300ft or bang down like a helicopter, but we’re developing a parachute system to cover the distance in between. We will be the first aircraft that will have safety cover throughout its whole range.”

In unmanned parachute tests at 400 feet this year Martin took advantage of having clearance to take a jetpack to a record 5,000 feet (about 1,500 metres), although it is designed for an 8,000-foot ceiling.

An earlier five-minute manned flight had already proved the jetpack’s potential, and current versions will probably have a range of about 50 kilometres at a maximum speed of 100 kph and a price tag around \$US100,000.

With a joint venture signed to supply China with 500 jetpacks a year for emergency response teams, and negotiations under way with seven military organisations around the world, the future is sky high.

Now Martin’s company is considering going public to develop a range of jetpacks from small recreational versions to medium and large ones for military use.

“The demand is there. What customers want to see is a factory of 100 people and 20 jetpacks on the shelf they can choose from – but we’re still a small team and we need money to make that happen.

“I’d like to see it grow as a New Zealand company, an investment for New Zealand shareholders. It’s not going to stop developing. Has Ford ever stopped developing cars?”

Martin would like to see customers flying round in his jetpacks within the next two years – and he’s proud to be putting New Zealand on the map.

“New Zealand is really good at inventing things. The achievements of Otago University are a great example of that.

“We need to encourage more businesses to come out of the clever people who graduate from our universities. We need to encourage entrepreneurship.

“So many people feel they have to leave the country to do something interesting, but they don’t. We need to change that attitude and create companies in New Zealand that stay in New Zealand.”

As far as Glenn Martin is concerned, the sky isn’t the limit.

NIGEL ZEGA

Calculated risk

The complexities of financial markets are lost on most mortals with a mortgage and a salary.

However, even financial wizards can find it difficult to calculate the many risks of investment. But now they have a new tool to help understand the risks involved with financial products, thanks to Otago's Dr Hai Lin (Accounting and Finance).

Lin spent five years collaborating with researchers at two American universities to develop and test a new theory, and their resulting paper has won a prestigious award in the finance sector.

The Peter L Bernstein Award honours extraordinary and compelling research published in any of *Institutional Investor's* 10 market-leading journals over the past year.

Lin's article, *Dissecting Corporate Bond and Credit Default Swap Spreads*, appeared in *The Journal of Fixed Income* in 2011. His team combined a search of the literature with some of their own ideas to propose their theory and then tested it against empirical data, both to help explain it and to ensure it was reasonable and consistent with those data.

"Investors face a lot of risk," says Lin. "We've used a scientific approach to study how many risks contribute to the price of securities in corporate bond markets."

"It should give us a better understanding of how those markets work."

"Winning the award is great news for us. Getting such a good result will give us much more confidence for the future."

Now Lin is working on a similar study to better understand risk in the fixed income market, with particular emphasis on the corporate bond market.



Dr Hai Lin: "We've used a scientific approach to study how many risks contribute to the price of securities in corporate bond markets."

Disease migrations

Salmon farming is a global industry worth billions of dollars. The management of diseases is a major cost to this industry and many of those diseases are transmitted to farmed salmon from wild populations travelling past on their migration routes to and from freshwater spawning sites.

However, the risks run both ways, as Dr Martin Krkosek's (Department of Zoology) research demonstrates.

"Mathematical models are central to epidemiology and fisheries, but there's not been a lot of crossover until now," he says.

"By combining such models with large datasets, we are learning that the impact of infectious disease on aquaculture, fisheries and marine ecosystems may be huge."

The main parasite Krkosek looks at is the parasitic copepod known as the salmon louse. In Norway, Scotland and Chile, sea lice are now resistant to many common pesticides, requiring more costly development of vaccines.

"Millions of farmed salmon live in net pens on the migration routes of wild salmon. Sea lice in the farms ultimately originate from wild adult salmon, but the bioamplification of lice in farms

can then spread to wild juvenile salmon, which are only about three centimetres long when they venture out into the ocean," Krkosek explains.

"Louse infections of these wild juvenile salmon can be lethal."



Dr Martin Krkosek: "The impact of infectious disease on aquaculture, fisheries and marine ecosystems may be huge."

Let there be light

Built in the 2nd century, Rome's Pantheon remains one of architecture's outstanding achievements. Its columned porch leads to a huge, circular interior, free of columns and spanning a space almost half the length of a rugby field, roofed by a dome that towers above the marbled floor. Architects have sought to emulate this structure ever since.

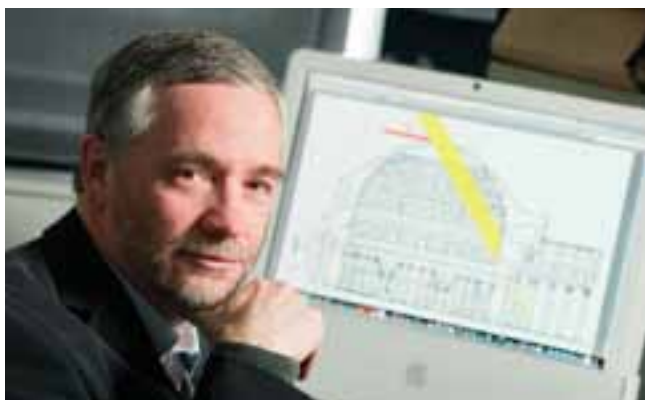
Because the Pantheon has only one entrance - and this faces north - direct sunlight can enter only via the eight-metre hole in the apex of the dome. The play of the sunlight in the interior has fascinated artists for centuries, but only recently have scholars suspected a deeper meaning to this light.

Otago's Professor Robert Hannah (Classics) and Giulio Magli (Milan Polytechnic) have discovered that the Pantheon and the midday sun are intimately connected, expressing through architecture a relationship between the cosmos, the emperor and time.

Hannah explains that on the mid-point of the sun's annual cycle - at the equinoxes - when day and night are in balance, and at the mid-point of the day - at noon - the sun strikes the mid-point of the height of the Pantheon at the juncture of the wall and the domed ceiling.

"The Romans believed that the equinoxes signified both celestial balance and the appropriate place where the emperor, in apotheosis, should find his place in the heavens to keep the cosmos in balance."

Hannah and Magli have shown that before the Pantheon, the place of Nero - his Golden House - made equal play with the sun, a domed roof and time. They hope to further investigate these links in the coming year.



Professor Robert Hannah: The Pantheon and the midday sun are intimately connected, expressing through architecture a relationship between the cosmos, the emperor and time.

Prostate protein potential

Early, accurate detection of prostate cancer has the potential to make a huge difference in terms of treatment and survival.

Dr Elspeth Gold (Anatomy) says New Zealand has one of the world's highest rates, with about 3,000 new cases and 600 deaths per year.

"If picked up early enough it is imminently treatable and there is no reason that you need to die of it. But when the cancer gets outside the prostate and settles somewhere else, treatment options are limited."

The current diagnostic blood test, PSA (prostate specific antigen), shows only that someone has prostate disease and not whether they have prostate cancer.

"Even if you have prostate cancer, broadly there are two types. One is the latent type in which, effectively, old age will get you before it does. The other form is aggressive and life-threatening so has to be treated very early.

"Ideally I'd like to find a diagnostic test that tells you early which form you've got."

In investigating potential diagnostic tests and possible therapies, Gold's main focus is a protein called activin C.

"There is more of it in aggressive prostate cancer than there is in benign disease. We don't know why - is it causative or does it just happen to be there?"

"If it's causative, then we may be able to target it therapeutically. Or, as it's increased in prostate cancer and not benign disease, we can use it as a diagnostic marker that is specific to prostate cancer."

Gold's work is funded by a three-year HRC project grant.



Dr Elspeth Gold: "There is more of it [activin C] in aggressive prostate cancer than there is in benign disease."

Science of science fiction

Cloaking – it sounds like something out of *Star Trek* or even *Harry Potter*, but University of Otago mathematicians are working on the science behind the science fiction.

The field, known as transformation optics, was initiated in 2006 with the construction of the world's first cloaking device by researchers at Imperial College in the UK and Duke University in the US.

Central to transformation optics and cloaks are metamaterials, which consist of little antenna-like resonators that mimic the atomic behaviour of naturally occurring materials.

Dr Robert Thompson (Mathematics) likens it to light passing through a lens or prism and being bent by the atomic structure of the glass.

"When light passes through the metamaterial it interacts with these tiny antenna in much the same way as it would interact with the atoms in the glass."

Theoretically, these antenna could be shaped or arranged to direct light around an object and send it on in the direction it was going as if nothing was there.

"Mathematics is needed to specify the desired behaviour of the light rays and provides a recipe that tells you what metamaterial you need to build to make that behaviour happen."

Professor of Applied Mathematics Jörg Frauendiener says cloaking has been achieved in the microwave spectrum and for tiny areas in a single part or colour of the light spectrum, but is limited by technology.

"It's a matter of improving these resonant materials to make tinier and tinier structures to push the range up to visible light. That is an engineering challenge."



Professor Jörg Frauendiener and Dr Robert Thompson: They are using mathematics to explore the field of transformation optics.

"Lurking" answers

The world is changing so fast it is difficult to keep up.

Many professionals used to be able to choose to either develop specific expertise or become generalists, but now busy organisations expect everyone to know everything.

That's impossible, of course, but cyberspace means it is possible to source answers to almost anything from almost anywhere with a few clicks of a mouse.

Management PhD candidate Fa Martin-Niemi is researching how online networks are being used to share knowledge like never before.

She interviewed software developers to shed light on the arcane world of online networks, where geeks gather to glean answers to problems they can't solve within organisations.

"There are many layers of participation," says Martin-Niemi. "Some regulars keep these forums going and ensure they are safe places to visit, while others come with questions and leave when they have answers."

"It's no longer necessary to spend a long time cultivating trust. As most visitors to particular forums share similar backgrounds, it's ok to just drop in and out without having to develop relationships."

Martin-Niemi spent months "lurking" – web-speak for visiting

sites without joining in – to fathom the intricacies of forum life, yet most of her interviews of participants were in person, both in New Zealand and in the US, where she had once worked as a software developer herself.

"People used to be able to develop their expertise within organisations, but the expectations of them now make that impossible. Fortunately, social networking over the web has come to the rescue."



Fa Martin-Niemi: She is researching how online networks are being used to share knowledge.

The sound of reading

Phonics – the “sounding out” of words – may be more of a hindrance than a help in children’s long-term ability to read.

Research undertaken by Associate Professor Claire Fletcher-Flinn (College of Education) together with Dr Brian Thompson (Victoria University) has shown that children learn to read by storing words in the brain, with phonics instruction not necessary past the initial stages of reading, if at all.

They found that six-year-old Scottish children taught via phonics read more slowly than children taught through New Zealand’s more book-centred approach. At the ages of eight and 11, they also performed worse in deciding whether words were real or not.

Scottish university students were also worse than their New Zealand counterparts at reading new or unfamiliar words that do not follow regular taught letter-sounds.

Fletcher-Flinn says explicit phonics instruction appears to leave a “cognitive footprint”, resulting in a long-term disadvantage when the reader attempts new words.

“These findings suggest we need to look beyond any claimed short-term advantages of particular teaching methods, and take into account longer-term effects when considering the merits of different approaches to teaching reading.”

The researchers then studied Japanese children learning to read. They found the same processes occurred for their writing system based mainly on syllables, as for New Zealand children learning to read English.

“This indicates a general learning process for learning to read, regardless of the way the language is written,” says Fletcher-Flinn. She says children need a vocabulary of print words connected to words in their spoken vocabulary.



Associate Professor Claire Fletcher-Flinn: Explicit phonics instruction appears to leave a “cognitive footprint”, resulting in a long-term disadvantage when the reader attempts new words.

Valuing values

Values. It is one of those topics few academics seem to want to talk about in relation to their teaching. But Associate Professor Tony Harland (Higher Education Development Centre) and bioethicist Dr Neil Pickering (Bioethics) have combined to co-author *Values in Higher Education Teaching*.

“At present there is something missing from higher education,” says Harland, “and it is an explicit understanding of how teaching is valued and how to teach values.”

Pickering says the thing that attracted him to the project was that it was going to have a concrete feel to it, using extensive and intimate interviews with leading academics from all over New Zealand.

“Rather than just talking about values in an abstract way, Tony’s idea was to interview people and write semi-fictional narratives based on what they said. This seemed to me to be a fantastic way of making these things real and concrete, so it wasn’t just another abstract diatribe on theoretical issues in education.”

They argue that everything an academic does and every choice they make reflect their values and can make a huge difference to students as they go out into the world.

“If universities did address this issue very carefully we would be adding value to a student’s education, and the way we make a difference in the world is by increasing the number of students who are values-aware and willing to act on their values, whatever they may be,” Harland says.



Dr Neil Pickering and Associate Professor Tony Harland: “The way we make a difference in the world is by increasing the number of students who are values-aware and willing to act on their values.”

Fashion identity

Fashion, while not the usual fabric of academic endeavour, can provide unique insights into identity.

Professor Hilary Radner (Film and Visual Culture) and art historian Dr Natalie Smith looked at innovative Dunedin brand Nom*D in both international and local contexts. While Smith's focus was the links between art and fashion, Radner's grew from her study of "chick flicks" which, she says, purvey an homogenous view of global feminine fashion. They wanted to see if fashion might also create a national or local identity.

They found that while Nom*D has a reputation within the larger fashion environment, with links to international fashion conceptualists, it also contests that global culture, breaking accepted norms and, instead, reflecting strong local influences and local following.

"In her designs Margarita Robertson, creative director of Nom*D, asks us to think about the history of clothing in Dunedin, by using motifs from the past such as the checked shirt of the Central Otago farmer or stencilled labels based on the motifs of long-gone Dunedin tailoring firms," Radner and Smith explain.

Nom*D reflects the fact that its designer is a South Islander located in Dunedin. Styles nod to the street-wear conventions of Dunedin's music culture and student population, an ageless

androgynous body shape, multi-possibility garments and vintage influences. This local inflection attracts and retains local clientele, connecting them to their community and illustrating the importance of the local in the production of global style.

The research culminated in the publication of a catalogue and an exhibition, "Nom*D: the Art of Fashion", sponsored by the Eastern Southland Gallery, Gore, and Otago's Centre for Research on National Identity.



Photo: Southland Times

Professor Hilary Radner and Dr Natalie Smith: They have looked at Dunedin brand Nom*D to explore links between fashion and identity.

Suicide and the web

In response to New Zealand's relatively high suicide rate, mental health professionals have recently expressed concern about the impact of social media and the internet. However, a study by psychiatrist Professor Sunny Collings and student Christopher Kemp (now at the University of Washington) has shown the positives may outweigh the negatives.

"Our research demonstrates, for the first time, that pro-suicide websites are rare on the internet, not easily accessed and mainly based in the US. They've essentially been marginalised, are hard to find through hyperlinks and are, therefore, weak in impact," says Collings.

In contrast, internet websites dedicated to positive information about suicide are more prominent. These include sites from health NGOs and government agencies, providing information on suicide prevention, support and advocacy.

"However, there's a need for support sites to be more visible through facebook and Twitter, and the use of hyperlinks to similar sites," she says. "Policy sites need more obvious links to support sites which are of key interest to people wanting information."

The strength of this study is that, through the use of an automated web "crawler", it covers a broader swathe of the internet than previously possible. This allows researchers

to analyse not only the immediate search results, but also hyperlinked sites and the authority of those sites in the network.

"We constructed complex diagrams which measure the networking structure and the relative impact of various suicide sites, providing a map of communication pathways through hyperlinks."

New research will further examine the relationship between suicidal behaviour and internet usage.



Professor Sunny Collings: "Pro-suicide websites ... have essentially been marginalised and ... are weak in impact."

Psychological shake-up

More than 30 years of data on the psychological well-being of Christchurch Health and Development Study participants will underpin new research into the impact of the Canterbury earthquakes.

Professor David Fergusson and his team have been granted almost \$4 million by the Health Research Council to continue their longitudinal study until participants are aged 35.

The study, which began in 1977, has tracked the lives of more than 1,000 people from infancy to their early 30s.

An important component of this latest stage of the study is understanding how being in Christchurch for the major earthquakes affected the mental health of participants.

Fergusson says the detailed information previously collected on participants provides a unique research opportunity.

"About half the people from that cohort were not in the city for the earthquakes so we will be able to see the different effects which stem from the amount of exposure to the earthquakes that people have had."

Mental health would be a main focus, including incidence of depression and post-traumatic stress disorder. But other factors would also be examined.

"We'll look at things like housing conditions, job loss, stress and anxiety, and also other pressures on these people or families."

Fergusson says that, as many of the participants are now aged in their 30s and have children, he and his team will also be able to examine the impact of the 'quakes on another generation.

The data could be used to anticipate what psychological trends were to be expected after a large natural disaster.



Professor David Fergusson: "We will be able to see the different effects which stem from the amount of exposure to the earthquakes that people have had."

Waste not ...

Dr Miranda Miroso is no stranger to Otago: she completed her undergraduate and postgraduate studies in French and Marketing (PhD) here, and worked at CSAFE before taking up a post in the Department of Food Science. Her primary area of interest is consumer behaviour and food choice, in particular, consumer movements and food activism.

Working across disciplines, she has recently helped establish the Food Waste Innovation Research Group, involving researchers from Food Science, Applied Sciences, Marketing, Sociology and Gender and Social Work.

She is currently investigating the drivers of household and commercial food waste to identify where change could occur.

Research to date shows that some of the barriers to more proactive behaviour are very simple, practical things - which, she says, is good news as practical barriers are often easier to overcome than philosophical ones.

"For businesses, it may be as simple as having someone come and collect scraps for their pigs.

"In terms of domestic food waste, there appears to be a lot of confusion over 'best before' and 'use before' and 'sell by' dates on foodstuffs. Sometimes people discard perfectly good food simply

because it's past its 'sell by' date - a date that's there for retailers rather than consumers."

The next step is to evaluate a number of different ways to reduce food waste and/or increase waste recovery efforts in these contexts.

"Reducing food waste makes so much sense in every way - economically, socially and environmentally - so this really is an exciting area to be working in."



Dr Miranda Miroso: "There appears to be a lot of confusion over 'best before' and 'use before' and 'sell by' dates on foodstuffs."

Inside story

What was it like inside Mount Eden Prison in the early 1960s? A manuscript discovered among intrepid New Zealand businessman Ernie Webber's papers tells a colourful story.

Himself a prisoner, Webber encouraged the writing of another inmate, Bert Pimley, whose novel *The Rock Orchid* is based on experiences inside. According to Webber, prison authorities applied "some viciousness" when they discovered the manuscript, which they destroyed. Another copy was smuggled out and Webber later tried to get it published. He was unsuccessful, but the typescript survives amongst his papers, along with related letters and illustrations. The title refers to a character who resembles the beautiful, but parasitic rock orchid.

The following excerpts have original spelling and punctuation (the names used are fictional):

Officer [...] was certainly a pathological study. Any time the women in the female division started a riot, he went across wearing a boxing glove on one hand, to knock a little sense into them. [He] got great satisfaction from this, mostly because he could not hurt his hand with the glove on it, nor leave marks on the women, but even if he did, who would believe such accusations, levelled at a responsible officer?



"If you get shifted to the basement, try not to get the 'craps'," advised Horne. "Why? Is that bad?" Pintal wanted to know.

"It's bad enough. There's over ninety men living down there, and only one crapper. Of course, you could always use the pot in the cell if you liked."

Also in the basement was the shower-

house, kit-locker, and the "pound", that dismal row of cold, empty punishment cells reserved for bread and water victims.



The receiving officer, banned all comics that had guns in them, and all cheap books that had guns or half-dressed women on the covers. This was New Zealand's toughest prison, not a Boys Home.

The officers in the sentry towers whiled away the tedious daylight hours furtively reading cow-boy books ...

The magazine Man, a harmless monthly as also was the magazine People. But if one looked about enough, both of these editions could be found somewhere in the prison. The New Zealand weekly scandal paper, Truth, was definitely off-limits ... although a copy could usually be had, if perhaps a few days late.

Webber's papers came to the Hocken 20 years ago, but it was only during recent work that *The Rock Orchid* and other treasures came to light. Cyril Ernie Richard Webber (1906-1983) was an equally colourful character. He was involved with the McCarthy investment scandal of the 1930s, sold munitions in China during World War Two, and invested in forestry and other ventures back in New Zealand. He had passions for travel, entertaining, railways and book collecting, and was part of New Zealand's underground gay culture – the reason for one of his two spells in prison. All of these aspects of his life are canvassed in his varied collection of personal and business papers of over 10 shelf metres.

DAVID MURRAY

Assistant archivist, Hocken Collections



From Webber, Cyril Ernie Richard: Papers (MS-3333/197 and 198).

HOCKEN GALLERY EXHIBITIONS

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History. Memorabilia, publications, photographs and scrapbooks illustrate Otago's contribution to the development of rugby.

Until 18 February 2012

Ralph Hotere: Zero to Infinity.

This show highlights milestones and lesser-known moments in the prodigious career of this significant New Zealand artist.

Top honours



Winners of the NZLSA President's Trophy: Top row (left to right): Kate Lawson-Bradshaw, Tiho Mijatov, Louis Chambers, Josh Pemberton, Rob Clarke. Bottom row (left to right): Tom English, Alice Osman, Sam Welsh, Hannah Drury, Alex Boock.

The talents of Otago law students have been highlighted in competitions both here in New Zealand and in Australia.

At the annual Australian Law Students' Association conference, held in Sydney in July, Otago students reached the finals in three of the four contests they entered. Louis Chambers and Alice Osman went on to win the mooted contest - last won by Otago in 1992 - and Alex Boock and Robert Clarke won the client interviewing competition. Kate Lawson-Bradshaw came second in the witness examination contest.

This was Otago's best overall result in 19 years of competition at the Australian event, all the more creditable given the tough competition. More than 500 law students from Australia, New Zealand Asia and the UK were taking part.

Building on this success, Otago students went on to take top honours at the recent New Zealand Law Students' Association (NZLSA) competitions, held recently in Hamilton. New Zealand's six law schools and, for the first time, a number of Australian schools were competing. In spite of the increased competition, Otago won the President's

Trophy for the best overall performance for the third successive year.

Clarke and Boock added to their Australian success by again winning the client-interviewing contest, fourth-year students Josh Pemberton and Tom English took out the negotiation competition, and Tiho Mijatov and Hannah Drury won the junior mooted. Lawson-Bradshaw came third in witness examination.

These successes are the culmination of months of work by the Otago students who all won their respective categories in the Faculty of Law's own competitions held early in semester one.

Faculty of Law Dean, Professor Mark Henaghan, says their achievements are significant, reflecting well on both the students and the quality of their legal education. In a highly competitive environment, Otago students demonstrated "outstanding skills".

"They worked hard, and were strongly supported by their teachers and each other. One of the strengths of the Law Faculty is that we are very much a community who work together to bring the best out in each other."

Track and field athletes Marshall Hall (discus) and Roseanne Robinson (race walking) (below) were named University of Otago sportsman and sportswoman of the year, respectively, at the annual blues awards ceremony last month, recognising their national achievements earlier this year.

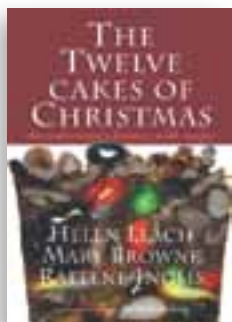
Psychology and commerce student Hall won his third New Zealand senior men's discus title in March; this is his second successive University sportsman of the year award. Robinson, a third-year physical education student, won a national athletics title in the 3,000 metres walk and was accepted for the 2011 Academy Otago programme.

Southern Steel and Otago netballer Te Paea Selby-Rickit was named University of Otago Māori sportsperson of the year and the Otago Uni Freestyle Sports Club (which has evolved from the Alpine Sports Club) received the award for OUSA sports club of the year. The Graduates' Association outstanding contribution to sports award went to squash player Ross Haines.

Honorary blues were presented to former Vice-Chancellor Professor Sir David Skegg and Chief Operating Officer John Patrick.



Photo: Sharron Bennett



The Twelve Cakes of Christmas

Helen Leach, Mary Browne, Raelene Inglis, November 2011

Festive cakes have been made in December for at least 2,000 years. Seventeenth-century English cookbooks include "twelfth cakes", full of expensive ingredients like raisins, almonds, sweet wine and candied peel, but made like fruit-breads, with yeast.

In the 18th century, butter and sugar were creamed together for the first time. The Victorian age saw Twelfth Night customs give way to those of Christmas Day: the first English recipe to be called "Christmas cake" was Mrs Beeton's. In the colonies, growing demand for rich Christmas

cakes resulted in the renaming of a range of recipes. Plum cakes, rich fruit cakes and wedding cakes were all co-opted.

The Christmas cakes of the 20th century are a special focus of this book. Their histories are tracked, but the authors also show how New Zealand and Australian cooks modified each recipe and developed new variations. Mary Browne's adaptations of historic recipes, presenting the 12 cakes of Christmas, are a feature of this book.



Making Our Place

Exploring land-use tensions in Aotearoa New Zealand

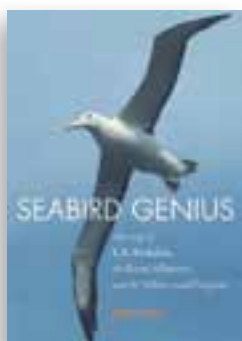
Co-edited by Jacinta Ruru, Janet Stephenson and Mick Abbott, August 2011

Fascinated with the interplay of people and place, the editors invited New Zealanders from differing backgrounds and disciplines to explore some of the stories and sites of conflict and change to be found amongst our sacred, historic, rural, urban and coastal landscapes.

The authors are from fields as diverse as architecture, ecology, design, history, planning, law, theology and tourism. Their essays are on wind-farming, wahi tapu, dairying, public landmarks, iwi management, surveying, rural land,

Māori and Pākehā place names, rural-residential-coastal development, foreshore and seabed, and the conservation estate. And they move around the country: to Taranaki, Central Otago, Waikato, Whanganui, Auckland, Northland, Taieri and the Mackenzie Country.

They tackle subjects of heated public debate and divisive legal battles, always engaging with the question: are there better ways to reconcile the tensions inherent in our struggles with the land and each other?



Seabird Genius

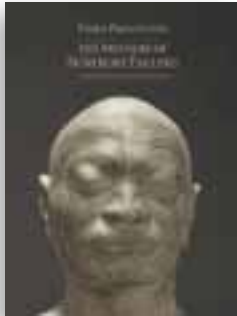
The Story of L E Richdale, the Royal Albatross and the Yellow-eyed Penguin

Neville Peat, November 2011

This is the first biography of Lance Richdale, who achieved international fame as the father of Otago's albatross colony from 1936 and for his research on the behaviour of the yellow-eyed penguin and the sooty shearwater, or muttonbird - *Time* magazine dubbed him "the Dr Kinsey of the penguin world".

An itinerant agricultural instructor and nature study teacher, Richdale spent his weekends, holidays and evenings undertaking major, meticulous and time-consuming research on

penguins, albatrosses and several petrel species. His study of the muttonbird was achieved during prolonged solo camps on tiny Whero Island in Foveaux Strait, where the wind blew straight from Antarctica. Neville Peat researches the traces left by this shy and obsessed man for some answers to two questions: why? and what drove him? The Richdale legacy is a nature tourism industry in Dunedin and the longest-running seabird population study in the world.



Fiona Pardington The Pressure of Sunlight Falling

Edited by Kriselle Baker and Elizabeth Rankin, June 2011

Showing over the summer at the Dunedin Public Art Gallery is an exhibition of spiritually powerful photographs of life casts made on the third Pacific voyage of the French explorer Dumont d'Urville, from 1837 to 1840.

These are reproduced in this book, with accompanying essays by leading scholars in Pacific history on subjects as diverse as the voyage, phrenology and cast-making, and the identity of the Māori casts.

The casts were made just before the invention of photography. To preserve likenesses of people by making casts of their heads, D'Urville chose to take on the voyage an eminent phrenologist,

Pierre-Marie Dumoutier. When the expedition returned to France, the casts were displayed and later stored in the Musée de l'Homme in Paris, to be joined eventually by other casts from Dumoutier's collection, including those of the d'Urville and Dumoutier families.

Fiona Pardington has researched and photographed about 50 casts of Māori, Pacific and European heads, including those of her Ngāi Tahu ancestors. The book will appeal to anyone interested in 19th century encounters between voyagers and the peoples of the Pacific, or contemporary art and photography.

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

Making Sheep Country: Mt Peel Station and the Transformation of the Tussock Lands, by Robert Peden, Auckland University Press, May 2011.

More Than You Know: Albert Moore, an autobiography by Albert Moore, edited by Rachel Ovens and Maurice Andrew, forward by Lloyd Geering, epilogue by Rachel Ovens. Rachel Ovens and Jonathan Moore (publishers).

After the Dream: Black and White Southerners Since 1965, by John Salmond and Timothy Minchin, Lexington, University Press of Kentucky, 2011.

New Ways of Organizing Work Developments, Perspectives and Experiences, edited by Clare Kelliher and Julia Richardson, Routledge.

Gunns Of Whataroa: A Pioneering Family In South Westland New Zealand, by Richard Rawstron, Rawstron Publications Co. Ltd.

A History of Economics and the Development of Commerce Degrees at the University of Otago 1871-2009, by Lyall McLean, July 2011, OUR Archive (download free at <http://hdl.handle.net/10523/640>).

The Ghosts of Iron Bottom Sound, by Sandy Nelson, HarperCollins Publishers, August 2010.

Alumni:

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

Health research boost

Otago researchers have gained \$27.5 million in funding in this year's Health Research Council funding round to pursue 22 world-class health research proposals.

The funding supports research across the University's campuses in Dunedin, Christchurch and Wellington and covers three major ongoing programmes, 16 projects and three feasibility studies.

The three programmes supported include the long-running and highly successful Christchurch Health and Development Study which has been closely tracking a group of 1,265 people born in the city in 1977. A further \$3.19 million in funding over the next five years will allow researchers to look at areas ranging from the consequences of mental disorders for lifecourse outcomes to the consequences of the Canterbury earthquakes.

Two existing programmes have also gained three-year extensions. One, also based at the Christchurch campus, involves predicting onset and outcomes in coronary heart disease and research to develop a range of specific tests for acute cardiac injury. The second programme focuses on genetic risk factors of common chronic conditions such as abdominal aortic aneurism, gout and inflammatory bowel disease.

Among the other projects are topics including research into early detection of urological cancers, prevention of weight regain in people with obesity, treatment for Alzheimer's disease, polycystic ovarian syndrome, housing conditions and bronchiolitis, and colon cancer screening.

Study members honoured

The study members who have made the Dunedin Multidisciplinary Health and Development Study world famous were honoured through a civic award earlier this year.

The award recognises the commitment of more than 1,000 people born in Dunedin in 1972 and 1973 who have had their lives mapped in the study. Study director Professor Richie Poulton accepted the award from Mayor Dave Cull on their behalf.

As one of the most detailed studies of human health and development ever undertaken, the participants' progress has been tracked since birth. Researchers are currently assessing members at age 38.

A hallmark feature of the study is its extremely high retention rate with members coming back to the city for their one-day assessments from wherever in the world they are currently living.

Robertson Library opened

The University's Robertson Library was recently officially opened by the Prime Minister following its \$10 million redesign and refurbishment.

Formerly known as the Bill Robertson Library, the facility became part of the University after the Dunedin College of Education and University merged in 2007. The redevelopment was jointly funded by the University and the Crown, resulting in a second storey of library space and a redesigned modern and landscaped building frontage on Union Street.

New facilities include extra study spaces for students and student groups, enhanced online access, new windows providing natural light, a new social area extending to a landscaped courtyard and a total refurbishment throughout.



Otago ranks well

The University continues to feature as one of the world's leading universities, according to recent international and national rankings.

Otago was one of only two New Zealand institutions to feature in the top 300 of the internationally respected Shanghai Jiao Tong Academic Ranking of World Universities and was the only one in the country to improve its placing in the 2011-2012 QS World University Rankings.

The University also performed well in a recent national assessment of the educational performance of New Zealand's tertiary sector.

Otago was first among New Zealand universities for qualification completion, and for the retention of students in study in the Tertiary Education Commission's (TEC) second annual set of educational performance indicators. In addition, the University was one of three universities to achieve the highest completion rate for papers, of 87 per cent.

Appointment

Dr John Crump has been appointed the inaugural McKinlay Professor of



Global Health at the University's Centre for International Health. Dr Crump is an Otago graduate who currently heads a research centre in Tanzania for the Duke University Medical Center and

the Duke Global Health Institute. This new professorial chair was established through the generosity of a Dunedin couple, Stuart and Marylyn McKinlay.

2012 Arts Fellows

The latest recipients of arts fellowships at the University were

announced last month. They are Dunedin poet and novelist **Emma Neale** (Robert Burns Fellow), Auckland artist **Nick Austin** (Frances Hodgkins Fellow) and Wellington composer **Robbie Ellis** (Mozart Fellow). Christchurch children's writer and poet **James Norcliffe** is the University of Otago College of Education/Creative New Zealand Children's Writer in Residence.

Achievements

Six academic staff members have been recognised through the University's latest Early Career Awards for Distinction in Research. The recipients are Dr **James Crowley** (Chemistry), Dr **Peter Fineran** (Microbiology and Immunology), Dr **Dione Healey** (Psychology), Dr **Shinichi Nakagawa** (Zoology), Dr **Clare Strachan** (Pharmacy) and Dr **Shieak Tzeng** (Surgery and Anaesthesia, Wellington).

Dr **Tara Duncan** (Tourism) won the OUSA Supervisor of the Year Award. The New Supervisor of the Year Award was Dr **Karen Broneus** (National Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies), while divisional awards went to Dr **Greg Anderson** (Anatomy), Dr **Christoph Matthaei** (Zoology), Dr **Greg Rawlings** (Anthropology and Archaeology) and Dr **Kirsten Robertson** (Marketing). Graduate Research Services Director Dr **Charles Tustin** received an Honorary Supervisor of the Decade Award for his contribution to supervision of students at Otago.

The University's 2011 Teaching Excellence Awards went to Dr **James Maclaurin** (Philosophy), Associate Professor **Craig Rodger** (Physics) and Biochemistry Senior Teaching Fellow **Tony Zaharic**. Mr Zaharic also gained an award for sustained excellence at the national Tertiary Teaching Excellence Awards (see pages 9-11).

Professor **Allan Herbison** (Physiology) was selected as the 2011 recipient of the Triennial Medal of the Physiological Society of New Zealand. The medal is awarded in recognition of

distinguished physiological research for the previous five years by a member of the society.

Dr **Dione Healey** (Psychology) also received the New Zealand Psychological Society's GV Goddard Award for early career achievement and excellence in research and scholarship in basic psychological science.

Professor **Jim Mann** (Human Nutrition) was awarded an honorary doctorate by South Africa's North West University. Professor Mann received the degree for his contributions to the prevention and treatment of non-communicable diseases, and his contributions to the fields of medicine and nutrition.



Associate Professor **Poia Rewi** (Te Tumu) won the 2011 New Zealand Society of Authors E H McCormick Best First Book Award for Non-Fiction for *Whaikōrero: The World of Māori Oratory*.

Dr **Clinton Golding** (Higher Education Development Centre) gained an award for teaching excellence in the 2011 Australian Awards for University Teaching for his work while based at the University of Melbourne.

Obituaries

Associate Professor **David Clark** (70). Regarded as a consummate pharmacology teacher at the University for more than 35 years, he was also an internationally respected researcher and honorary consultant to the World Health Organization.

Dr **Boris Popoff** (79). An accountancy teacher for more than 30 years at the University, Dr Popoff was a prolific writer who published several textbooks and was the first person to graduate with a PhD in the subject from Otago.

Dr **Robert Smith** (78). A greatly respected lecturer responsible for teaching first-year Chemistry over several decades at the University, Dr Smith left an indelible mark on the discipline at Otago.

Scholarships/Fellowships

Dr **Peter Fineran** (Microbiology and Immunology) has gained a five-year Rutherford Discovery Fellowship to develop his research career and support his investigations into bacterium-viral interactions.

Drs **Sarah Young** (Pathology) and **Chris Jackson** (Medicine) are co-recipients of a three-year Freemasons Oncology Fellowship to support their research into cancer immunotherapy. The Otago Masonic Charitable Trust also awarded Paediatric Fellowships to Otago students **Rebekah Luo**, **Jody Porter** and **Tamsin Roberts**.

Honorary Doctorate

In August the University conferred the honorary degree of Doctor of Literature on leading New Zealand poet and writer **Brian Turner**.



Emeritus Professors

The following staff members have been granted the status of Professor Emeritus by the University Council: **Geoff Wyvill** (Computer Science) and Sir **David Skegg** (Preventive and Social Medicine).



Alison Finigan:
Head of Alumni Relations

A word from the Head

In July 2011 Professor Sir David Skegg stepped down from the role of Vice-Chancellor of the University of Otago after seven years of outstanding service. Throughout his term he showed an unflagging commitment to Otago's alumni that was noted with appreciation in the many accolades sent on the occasion of his retirement. As an alumnus himself, he has a profound understanding of the ties that bind alumni to the University and this personal experience never failed to make a deep impression on all who met him. I know that alumni will join with me in thanking Professor Skegg for his inspired leadership. We are very much looking forward to introducing his successor, Professor Harlene Hayne, to as many alumni as possible at Otago events now being planned for 2012.

In June, a delegation from the University led by the Chancellor, John Ward, travelled to Malaysia to attend a reception for alumni at Ipoh, north of Kuala Lumpur. This was a delightful occasion where many good friends with strong links to Otago came together to celebrate their connections. However, it had special significance for two people who met on their very first day at the University, in February 1951, and whose friendship has flourished for 60 years. Tan Sri Ahmad Azizuddin and Harry McQuillan never lost touch after they graduated and their friendship is a shining example of the lifelong bonds shared by many people whose paths first crossed at Otago. Harry writes of their long friendship in this edition's alumni story.

Supporting Otago

Alumni Appeal

As in 2010, the Alumni Appeal for 2011 offers alumni the choice of supporting undergraduate scholarships or any one of four research projects:

- The Alpine Seismic Research Project, Department of Geology
- The Sir John Walsh Research Institute, Faculty of Dentistry
- The National Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies
- The Centre for Entrepreneurship, School of Business.

Funds raised in 2010 have enabled the University to award generous grants to these projects, helping researchers to advance knowledge in key areas for the benefit of the local and global communities. Alumni generosity also provided 16 deserving students with scholarships to help them in their first year of study at Otago, an example of how students from the past can help today's students become alumni of the future.

The overall total from fundraising activities supported by the Alumni Office in 2010 amounted to nearly \$500,000, which includes the proceeds of a number of departmental appeals administered by the office. The University is grateful to alumni and friends whose generosity has contributed so much to advancing research and scholarship at Otago.

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

Otago's international networks

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

The Board of the AUOA continue to work hard to support the University's efforts in research and teaching. The board is preparing to launch a fundraising campaign in the US which, among other projects, will focus on providing needs-based scholarships for undergraduate students who may face difficulties in undertaking tertiary study.

As well as offering grants to support study and research, the board organises an annual event, held in a different US city each year. The 2011 event takes place in Philadelphia on Saturday 5 November, at the Palomar Hotel. These events are always very popular and a great chance for US alumni to catch up with the latest news from their alma mater.

For more information, please visit the Alumni and Friends website at www.alumni.otago.ac.nz/events

Alumni and Friends wishing to support the AUOA, Inc please contact:
Neil Matheson
Huntsworth Health, 800 Township Line Road
Suite 250, Yardley, PA 19067
Phone: 215 550 8302
Email Neil.Matheson@hhna.com

or Jennifer Carson
Email Jennifer.Carson@hhna.com

University of Otago UK

The trustees of the Otago University Trust UK are committed to supporting the University in Great Britain and Europe through fundraising efforts and by hosting an annual alumni reception in London, which is always very well

supported. This year it takes the form of a black-tie dinner to be held on Thursday 10 November in the House of Commons Members' Dining Room.

The Otago Appeal is sent each year to alumni and friends in the UK and Europe and the support the University receives from the other side of the world is humbling. This year we are pleased to be able to offer appeal supporters a credit card payment option. For further information, please contact Mistelle Jack, mistellejack@gmail.com

The University of Otago Foundation for Malaysia

The Annual General Meeting of the University of Otago Foundation for Malaysia was held at the Clearwater Ecosanctuary and Resort on 3 June. The AGM followed a buffet lunch attended by more than 60 alumni and their families, who enjoyed catching up with the latest news from Otago as reported by the Chancellor, John Ward. Guests were particularly pleased by the success of the Otago Malaysian Students' Association (OMSA) in winning the Otago University Students' Association Society of the Year Award. Tuang Wern Bock, president of

the OMSA who led the group to success in the competition, was the winner of the inaugural Foundation for Malaysia prize in 2010 which recognised the outstanding contribution she has made to the well-being of Malaysian students currently studying at Otago. The foundation confirmed the prize will continue for 2011.

The University of Otago Canadian Network

Canadian alumni activities have gained momentum in recent months following the establishment of the Canadian Travel Awards programme earlier this year. The programme was instigated by Toronto alumni Allan Portis and Brian Merrilees, who are enthusiastic about encouraging the next generation of Otago students to experience study in Canada.

This year 24 Otago students travelled to Canada as part of the Otago Global Exchange Programme to study at Otago's partner universities. Thanks to the Travel Award, three of these students received \$NZ2,000 each to assist with expenses and it is hoped that this might be expanded in the future.

Allan and Brian are now co-ordinating links to enable Canada-based alumni to meet the students coming to their area. Host universities are Brock, Dalhousie, Mt Allison, University of Western Ontario, Queens, University of Alberta and the University of British Columbia.

Canadian alumni who wish to contribute to the Canadian Alumni Travel Award scheme can visit the University's secure payment website at <https://secure-www.otago.ac.nz/alumni/donations/> or send a money order in New Zealand dollars to the Development and Alumni Relations Office, PO Box 56, Dunedin 9054. In either 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 www.alumni.otago.ac.nz/supportotago or contact

Brian Merrilees
brian.merrilees@utoronto.ca
416 489 4300

Allan Portis
allanportis@gmail.com
416 489 7721

For information about regional alumni networks please visit the Alumni and Friends website
www.alumni.otago.ac.nz/regionalgr

Upcoming celebrations, events and reunions

2011

Light Blues Association Auckland dinner, 22 October, Northern Club, Princes Street.

Contact john.burke@otago.ac.nz

Edmonton alumni reception, 25 October, Edmonton.

MB ChB Class of 1991 reunion, 29–31 October, Dunedin.

Contact Vicki Cunningham
timc@ihug.co.nz

Toronto alumni reception, 2 November, Faculty Club, University of Toronto.

Philadelphia alumni reception, 5 November, Palomar Hotel, Philadelphia

London alumni reception, 10 November, Members' Dining Room, House of Commons.

MB ChB Class of 1986 reunion, 11–12 November, Wellington.
Contact Sally novak-talbot@paradise.net.nz or Mary maryenglish@xtra.co.nz



Lorraine Isaacs presents **Tuang Wern Bock** with the OUSA Society of the Year Award.

ScienceTeller Science Communication Festival, 15–19 November, Dunedin.

ScienceTeller is a celebration of storytelling and science dedicated to documentary filmmaking, writing and other creative media. The festival is open to the public and a limited number of free passes to festival events will be available to alumni. Information about how to win free passes will be emailed to alumni living in Dunedin and Otago. For further information about the festival and programme, visit www.scienceteller.com

2012

MB ChB Class of 1959–1960 reunion,
March, Napier.

Contact Michael Fogarty
forgarty1@ozemail.com.au

MB ChB Class of 1970 reunion,
2–4 March, Nelson.

Contact John johnliz.emanuel@gmail.com

MB ChB Class of 1962 reunion,
6–9 March, Queenstown.

Contact Allan allan.viv@paradise.net.nz

Hayward College 21st anniversary (invitation only), 10 March, Dunedin.

Hayward College memorabilia wanted – College T Shirts 1997–2002. If you would like to loan your shirt to go on permanent display at the college, please contact the College on 03 479 5520.

MB ChB Class of 1953 reunion,
23 March, Wellington.

Contact Graeme Sharp
graemesharp@paradise.net.nz

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

MB ChB Class of 1972 reunion,
30 March – 1 April, Nelson.
Contact Karen McLean
karen@encore-events.net.nz

BDS Class of 1964,
5–7 April, Dunedin. Contact Denis Cosgrove
dns.cosgrove@gmail.com

University of Otago, Christchurch 40th anniversary, 5–7 September, Christchurch.

Contact virginia.irvine@otago.ac.nz or phone 03 364 0038.

MB ChB Class of 1997 reunion,
19–21 October, Dunedin.
Contact Rochelle Phipps
rochelle.phipps@gmail.com

Dominican Hall reunion,
6–7 October, Dunedin.
Did you live in Dominican Hall during your studies at Otago? If so, please contact us at alumni.otago.ac.nz so that we know who you are.

2013

MB ChB Class of 1963 reunion,
15–18 March, Wellington.
Contact Peter Dukes
pmdukes@clear.net.nz

School of Physiotherapy centenary and conference, April, Dunedin.

To ensure you are on the Physiotherapy mailing list to receive an invitation to the alumni event and conference, contact alumni@otago.ac.nz

MB ChB Class of 1955 reunion,
date to be advised, Christchurch.
Contact john.musgrove31@gmail.com

School of Pharmacy centenary and conference,
date to be advised. Contact
pharmacy.manageradmin@otago.ac.nz

Sextet centenary reunion,
May, Dunedin.
Contact alumni@otago.ac.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
2015 date to be advised.

Contact database.alumni@otago.ac.nz to be added to the Studholme College mailing list.

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

Alumni events 2011

Ipoh, 5 June, Clearwater Sanctuary and Golf Resort



Sydney, 2 September, the State Library of New South Wales



Aquinas College reunion weekend, 16-18 September, Dunedin



Dunedin, 24 September, the Link, University of Otago



Alumni news



Justice **Pamela Tate**.

Justice **Pamela Tate** (BA(Hons) 1979) achieved high honours in Australia last year when she was appointed as a Judge of the Court of Appeal of the Supreme Court of Victoria. Previously Pamela served as the Solicitor-General for Victoria for seven years. At the private Bar she specialised in constitutional and administrative law and became Senior Counsel in 2002. She has appeared regularly in constitutional law cases before the High Court of Australia and has also served as Special Counsel to the Human Rights Consultative Committee. After graduating from Otago in 1979, Pamela received a three-year Commonwealth Scholarship from

the British Council to study Philosophy at Oxford University, graduating with a B.Phil. Following a period teaching Philosophy at Otago, she moved to Australia where she received a first-class honours degree in Law from Monash University in 1988.

Contemporary Music alumna **Anji Sami** (MusB (Endorsed) 2004) has joined forces with sisters Madeleine and Priya to form the Sami Sisters, whose brand of nostalgic/country/ 50s girl group/80s Morrissey/90s Spice Girls music boasts an ever-increasing following. Recent debut performances in Sydney and Melbourne drew rave reviews. Career

40

Years of Research and Teaching
1973-2012

UNIVERSITY OF OTAGO, CHRISTCHURCH

In 2012 the University of Otago, Christchurch celebrates 40 years of research and teaching.

Christchurch alumni, be part of the celebration.

5-7 September, 2012.

The celebrations will also be an acknowledgement of the impact of Canterbury earthquakes on staff and students, and recognising our bright future.

Keynote speaker:

Sir Michael Marmot, world-renowned health inequalities researcher and advocate

Wednesday 5 to Friday 7 September:
Scientific Sessions

Thursday 6 September: Alumni Reception
Friday 7 September: Anniversary Dinner

For more information and to register:
go to www.otago.ac/christchurch
or email virginia.irvine@otago.ac.nz



The Sami Sisters: **Anji** (top right), **Madeleine** and **Priya**.

highlights so far include opening for Rufus Wainwright, Don McGlashan and Kasey Chambers. Anji has been performing solo for some time and won a b-Net award in 2006 for her EP El Dorado. www.thesamisisters.com

Anna Cottle (née Marshall) (BSc (Genetics) / LLB 2006), a qualified barrister and solicitor in New Zealand, has recently passed the Bar exam in California, a wonderful achievement given that the California Bar exam is amongst the toughest in the US. Prior to moving to the US, Anna spent two-and-a-half years in the UK where she qualified as a solicitor and worked in Oxford and Nottingham. She is currently working for a law firm in Santa Barbara specialising in corporate



Anna Cottle.

and business law. Anna joins a very select group of alumni qualified to practise law on three continents.

THE UNIVERSITY OF OTAGO MAGAZINE IS AVAILABLE ONLINE AT

www.otago.ac.nz/news/otagomagazine/

and is sent - by post or email - to Otago alumni and friends wherever they are in the world.

Please email database.alumni@otago.ac.nz

- to update or change delivery address
- to read the Magazine and other alumni communications electronically
- to receive an email notification when a new issue of the Magazine is placed online
- to receive just one "household" copy of the Magazine

KEEP IN TOUCH

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PO Box 56 Dunedin

Physical address

Alumni House
103 St David Street
Dunedin

Tel 64 3 479 4516

Email alumni@otago.ac.nz

Web www.alumni.otago.ac.nz

Wellington writer **Mark Pirie** (MA 2001) has recently edited a compilation of New Zealand poems about cricket. Entitled *A Tingling Catch*, the collection has a foreword by Don Neely and is published by Mark's own company HeadworX. Mark is now working on a New Zealand poetry archive.

Otago graduate **Mindy Chen-Wishart** (LLB (Otago) BA(Hons) (Otago) MA (Oxford) Barrister and Solicitor New Zealand) had the honour of being selected to deliver the Hochelaga lectures at the University of Hong Kong in October 2010 and gave a seminar titled "Legal Transplant of Undue Influence: Lost in Translation or a Working Misunderstanding?" In this she noted that the English law of undue influence is overwhelmingly accepted as the applicable law in Singapore. After completing undergraduate degrees in Law and Arts at Otago, Mindy went on to study for an MA at Oxford. She returned to Otago to take up a position as a senior lecturer in Law, followed by two years as the Rhodes Visiting Research Fellow at St Hilda's College, Oxford. She now holds the positions of Senior Fellow of Law at Merton College and Reader at Oxford University, and is also Director of Undergraduate Studies in Law. She is currently on a major working party that is reviewing contract law in Asian societies.



Mindy Chen-Wishart.

Alumni stories

Seeing, doing, returning ...

When I'm asked to describe what I do, I have to use a sprawling range of words – I'm a playwright, screenwriter, actor, producer, researcher and entrepreneur.

If you want to see my work in action, look out for a theatre around the country that's producing one of my plays, or turn on the TV to see me in the latest series of *Go Girls*, or take a trip to the Oceania exhibition at City Gallery in Wellington and hire the iPod video guide that I've created with my mobile content company, Mozivision.

Such a mercurial way of working required a very mercurial way of training. I chose to study Theatre at the University of Otago because of the facilities and the freedom offered by Allen Hall Theatre.

Imagine a perfectly set-up theatre space, with all the equipment you could ever need, and being handed the keys with an invitation to "have a hoon".

The constant churn of Lunchtime Theatre meant that there would be two shows a week, every week, in which I'd be either acting, writing, operating the lighting board, banging up a set or, if I was lucky, simply watching. That didn't include the dozens of evenings doing similar things in venues around Dunedin ranging from the Regent Theatre to the dank basement of a friend's flat.

The Mothra Short Film Festival provided similar DIY opportunities on screen. I now run a content creation company with John Ong, the flatmate I wasted months with travelling around the country, shooting and editing films with names like *Being John Campbell* and *Laughtrack: the Benjamin Docker Story*, both of which went on to win the Mothra for Best Video.



Arthur Meek: "Such a mercurial way of working required a very mercurial way of training."

It was the ideal mix of seeing and doing. In industries defined by the doers, the University of Otago gave me the perfect start.

I'm excited to be returning to Dunedin in November to see my former lecturer and now colleague Lisa Warrington direct a reading of *Charles Darwin: Collapsing Creation* as part of the week-long ScienceTeller Festival. The play was commissioned in 2009 as part of the celebrations to mark the 150th anniversary of the publication of *On the Origin of Species*. It's about the dilemma that Darwin faces between loyalty to his family and his duty to humankind as he discovers an idea with the power to change the world, and the power to destroy the very people he loves most of all.

After years of listening to Lisa tell me to just get on and do it, it'll be fun to sit back and watch her doing all the work.

ARTHUR MEEK
(BA 2004)

60 years of friendship: 1951 to 2011
Tan Sri Dato' Dr Haji Ahmad Azizuddin
(BE 1955, HonLLD 2001) and **Dr Harry**
McQuillan (BSc 1955)

I first met Ahmad Azizuddin in February 1951 at Professor Gabriel's pure mathematics lecture. I spotted him sitting in the front row wearing his distinctive traditional Songkok Muslim hat. After the lecture I made contact with this engaging character, never dreaming that our meeting was the commencement of a friendship which would continue for more than 60 years.

During our university years, Ahmad was a frequent visitor to my home in Dunedin where my mother always had a "good feed" ready for us. Vacation times saw us hitch-hiking around Southland and Otago. The OU tramping club trip to Stewart Island in 1953 was a memorable occasion when Ahmad and I shared a tent and fished off the rocks for blue cod. By the end of it all we were bonded friends.

Ahmad returned to Malaysia in 1957 and soon became Chief Inspector of Mines. I completed my studies in the UK and, after graduation, trained with Shell before being assigned as an exploration geologist mapping jungle areas of Brunei and Sarawak. I managed to catch up a few times with Ahmad, whose career in tin mining was progressing fast. He was also interested in politics and eventually rose to become Speaker of the House in the State Government of Perak. Meanwhile, I was posted to Iran in 1959 to work on mapping large tracts of the Zagros Mountains on horseback with a team of mules and Bakhtyari tribesmen labourers. Ahmad and his wife Asmah

paid us a visit in 1971, by which time I had been appointed Associate Professor of Geology at Pahlavi University Shiraz. They were then on the Haj pilgrimage to Mecca.



An enduring friendship: **Tan Sri Dato' Dr Haji Ahmad Azizuddin** and **Dr Harry McQuillan** in 1971.

The advent of the Islamic Revolution in 1979 saw my departure from Iran and a return to Nelson. In the 1980s and '90s Ahmad and I kept in close contact. During that time, I saw him convert his former mining acreage into the Golf Resort of Clearwater Sanctuary where endangered birds and reptiles have found a home. He held several important corporate posts and received honours from the Sultan of Perak and Malaysia's King. We worked together in China on a joint venture oil exploration project and, later, had an oil exploration concession

near Gisborne. I attended Ahmad's Otago Honorary Doctorate capping ceremony in Kuching, Sarawak and, some years later, was proud to propose a toast to him on the occasion of his 80th birthday.

Ahmad has been a strong supporter of Otago School of Mines' reunions and some of the most memorable of these were held in Malaysia. Last year the miners met again in Nelson for the celebration of Emeritus Professor J B Mackie's 100th birthday, after which Ahmad and I returned to Otago where we visited old haunts and relived the golden days of youth.

Ahmad and I share a passion for exotic places. One of these was the last watchtower at the western termination of the Great Wall of China which we reached after driving from Urumqi, getting lost in a dust storm in the Gobi Desert on the way. Ahmad once sent me a postcard from Timbuktu, but the closest I could get was a rickety signpost on the northern edge of the Sahara desert indicating "49 days to Timbuktu by camel".

In June this year, at a University of Otago alumni event held at Clearwater, Ahmad and I celebrated 60 years of friendship. It was a time for reminiscing and recalling the many experiences we have shared around the world.

What a chance meeting at an Otago University lecture can lead to is something to wonder at. Tan Sri Dato' Dr Haji Ahmad has been a great fellow to know.

DR HARRY McQUILLAN
(BSc 1955)

... the Bibliography Room?

Each year –in August-September – the University’s Printer-in-Residence programme celebrates the ancient and honourable tradition of handcraft printing, using technology that was substantially unchanged for some 500 years, but has become all but obsolete in recent decades.

The programme began in 2003, but has its origins in the “bibliography movement” of the 1950s and ’60s that set out to preserve the printing technologies of the past. Through the media of hand-set type and hand-operated printing presses, bibliographers demonstrated how the literary texts of the past were transmitted – with printers as the intermediaries – from author to reader. This focus gradually expanded to encompass a wider sociological study of print culture – or the history of the book.

Bibliography rooms and academic courses were springing up in English-speaking countries around the world. Dr Keith Maslen, who was a lecturer in Otago’s Department of English, and David Esplin, the then University Reference Librarian, shared an interest in early printing and in 1961, with the support of their colleagues, resolved to establish a bibliographical press at Otago.

For four years they operated out of the old washhouse at the back of Cameron House (then home of the English Department) in Leith Street where University College now stands, before moving to the Library building in 1965.

Equipment for the Bibliography Room was gathered from a variety of sources.

“Because jobbing printers of mid-20th century Dunedin were still using cold metal types and still possessed other equipment from the 19th century, it was possible to reproduce, on a small scale, technology remarkably unchanged over some 500 years,” Maslen says.

The first press – an Albion handpress (foolscap size) – came from the Otago Museum. Built in London in 1845, it may have belonged to Henry B Graham, the first printer in Otago, and was later owned by Crown Print. This was joined by a rare and magnificent Royal Columbian “Eagle” handpress, donated by J B Laing and believed to have been brought to Dunedin in the mid-1860s.

Later additions were a Phoenix treadle-platen press from Dunedin Print, a Vandercook proofing press and a small Adana table-top handpress.

Type – predominately Garamond – was similarly gathered from a wide variety of sources, including John McIndoe Ltd and the Otago Daily Times, and, more recently, some Gill from John McGlashan College.

True to the commitment to create an authentic printing workshop, chapel rules were drawn up and a register of users kept.

While much of what was printed was ephemeral – posters, invitations, Christmas cards – there were also larger projects such as *Octonary*, poems by

Charles Brasch, and numerous works from Otago’s Burns and Frances Hodgkins Fellows – James K Baxter’s *The Lion Skin* and *Jerusalem Sonnets*, and Hone Tuwhare’s *Come Rain Hail* with a cover by Ralph Hotere. Just as writers offered scripts, Maslen says artists jumped at the opportunity to use the flat-bed presses for printing wood-blocks and linocuts.

Teaching was always a primary focus and each year groups of senior English students set and printed text, first under Maslen’s tutelage and then, following his retirement in 1991, Dr Shef Rogers. In recognition of his services to literature and bibliography, Maslen was appointed an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit in the 2011 New Year Honours.

Now housed in a purpose-built room in the new Central Library, the Bibliography Room has been renamed the Otakou Press and is managed by Special Collections Librarian Dr Donald Kerr. It was he who initiated the Printer-in-Residence programme to foster the skill of book-making, both within the University and the wider arts community.

A pilot programme was established in 2003, with Auckland printer Tara McLeod producing two works – Charles Brasch’s ... *A great warm feather bed* and *A Haggis of Verse*, a compilation of works by seven poets with a Dunedin connection. Such was its success that it has become an annual event, for which Kerr pays tribute to the trust and vision

2011 Printer in Residence John Denny with the Royal Columbian "Eagle" handpress.
Photo: Alan Dove



of the then University Librarian Michael Woolscroft.

In addition to McLeod, who returned in 2006 and 2009, printers Caren Florence, Alan Loney, Dr John Holmes and Brendan O'Brien have hand-set limited edition volumes of works by writers such as Ruth Dallas, Lewis Carroll and Brian Turner. Some works have been previously unpublished and others specifically created for the programme, most with some Otago link. Illustrators have included David Elliot, Inge Doesberg, Marilyn Webb and Simon Kaan.

There was an apt symmetry in 2005, when O'Brien printed the book form of *Pine*, with words by Bill Manhire and artwork by Ralph Hotere. The original

Pine work was produced by Hotere in the Bibliography Room in 1974, based on Manhire's weekly postcards from London.

Kerr says the programme is strongly supported and totally self-funding, with almost all editions – usually 100 copies – sold out. More than a month before Auckland-based John Denny was to take up the 2011 Printer in Residency, around one third of his hand-set publication of poems by Peter Olds with images by Kathryn Madill had already been pre-sold.

KAREN HOGG

"The Bibliography Room Press 1961-2005: a Short History and Checklist", *Script & Print: Bulletin of the Bibliographical Society of Australia & New Zealand*, 30:3, 2006 [2007], 155-73.

In August, the Humanities Division approved the establishment of a Centre for the Book, making Otago the first university in New Zealand to have such a centre. By fostering research, promoting book activities such as conferences, publications and workshops, and liaison with other local, national and international institutions, the centre will stake a claim to be a centre of excellence in book history and print culture.

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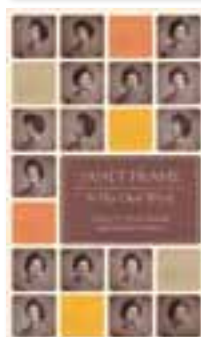
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