

UNIVERSITY OF Otago

M A G A Z I N E

ISSUE 3: OCTOBER 2002

The Revered Rhodes Scholarships:
100 YEARS AND 45 OTAGO SCHOLARS LATER



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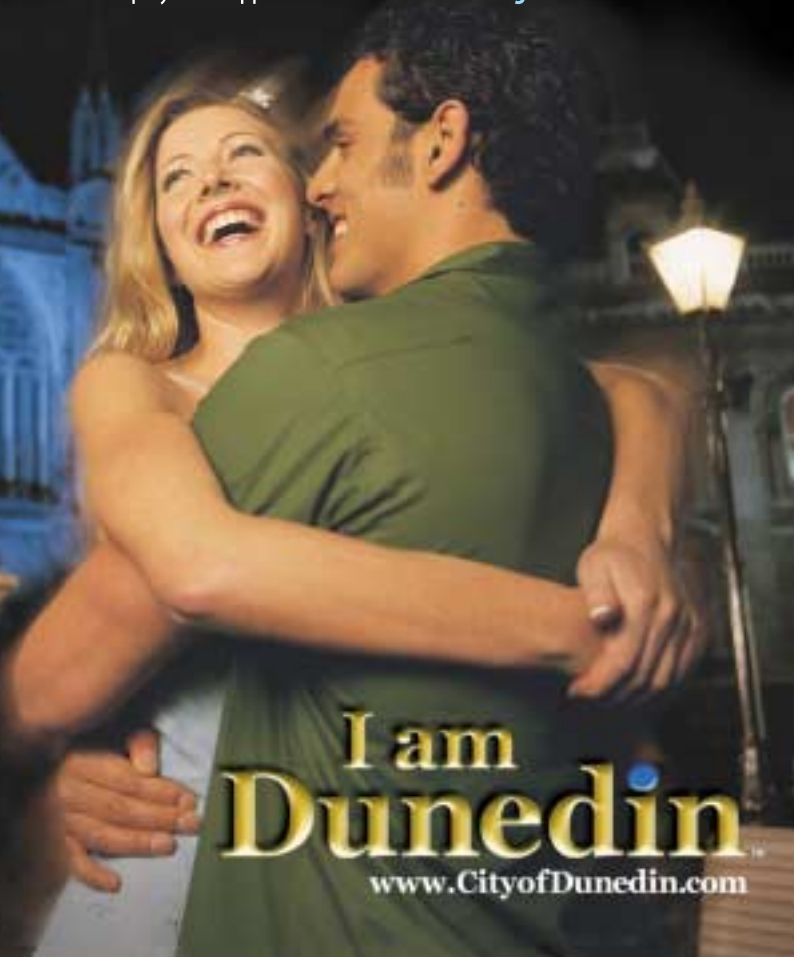
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VC's COMMENT

New Zealand's Universities at the crossroads

Keeping the University in a sound financial position is probably one of a Vice-Chancellor's most important tasks. Unfortunately, in recent years, it has not got any easier. We have only been able to achieve a solid financial position at the University of Otago by:

- Ruthless control of costs, often at the expense of long-term benefits to the University.
- Not spending as much as we should on maintenance of our buildings and equipment.
- Not investing as much as we should to enhance the University's academic infrastructure.
- Obtaining more income from external funding and commercial research.

My concern is that actions such as these are simply "door knob" polishing. They enable us to stay afloat but they do not strengthen the University as a teaching and research institution.

In so far as New Zealand's universities are concerned, Government policy during the past three years of literally forcing universities to accept a pitiful funding increase in return for not increasing tuition fees, is not in the long-term national interest. If we are to develop New Zealand as a knowledge-based society, we have to have a university system whose funding base is enhanced not eroded. Comparisons of funding in New Zealand with other developed countries, such as Australia, Canada and Singapore, to name a few, show that comparatively we have lost, not gained, ground.

The choice for the new government is clear: increase the funding available to New Zealand universities from either government sources, tuition fees or a combination of both; or be remembered as the government which presided over the permanent erosion of quality within New Zealand's university sector.

Dr Graeme Fogelberg
Vice-Chancellor
University of Otago

INBRIEF

RESEARCH INTO HOUSING INSULATION AND HEALTH



An Otago housing and health study is expected to make a significant difference to many. Staff (from left): programme manager Anna Matheson, Associate Professor Philippa Howden-Chapman, Professor Julian Crane and Michael Baker are involved in the extensive project.

Communities throughout New Zealand are benefiting from housing research being carried out at Otago's Wellington School of Medicine and Health Sciences. He Kainga Oranga, the Housing and Health Research Programme, is a partnership with community organisations.

Director Associate Professor Philippa Howden-Chapman and principal investigators Professor Julian Crane and Michael Baker of Otago's Wellington School of Medicine are studying about 1300 houses in seven different areas of New Zealand – Otago, South Taranaki, Eastern Bay of Plenty, Nuhaka/Mahia, Porirua, Hokitika and Christchurch – to investigate the health effects of insulating houses.

As well as studying the relationship between poor health and damp, cold housing, the researchers are looking at energy consumption, carrying out a cost-benefit analysis of insulation and investigating the effect of insulation on the production of

mould and household allergens. Programme manager Anna Matheson says baseline results were collected last winter from the uninsulated houses, as the first part of the three-year study. The houses of people in the experimental group have now been insulated and researchers are collecting data from this group. The houses of people in the control group will be insulated after September.

"People who live in overcrowded and poorly-heated housing tend to have more respiratory complaints and more admissions to hospital. Overcrowded housing is also associated with meningococcal disease."

Baseline data collected last winter showed about 70 per cent of participants taking part in the study reported their houses were cold, and about 40 per cent said they were cold and damp "mostly" or "always" during winter. The research is being funded by the Health Research Council and other organisations.

THE NOT-SO-CONVENIENT SIDE OF ELECTRONIC BANKING



Otago law lecturer Dr Struan Scott says people might be surprised to know where the law stands on stolen bank cards.

Zip zap, zippety zap. Another hard day on the EFTPOS.

It's quick, it's easy, but it's also fraught with danger.

Anybody peeking at your PIN and then stealing your bank card can instantly become you.

There are no signatures in cyberspace – those four digits are a passport to mess with your bank account.

But surely the bank will reimburse any stolen funds?

It's not that easy, says senior Otago law lecturer Dr Struan Scott. Scott and David Tripe of Massey University have contributed seven chapters on electronic banking to *Electronic Business and Technology Law* – a book and CD-ROM on the evolving world of e-commerce.

From the bank's point of view, it was you who withdrew that \$5000, which is where the finger-pointing of liability starts.

The big problem is "the electronic identity crisis" – the lack of verifiable written signatures.

And guess what? That account contract you probably didn't read obliges you to protect your card and PIN.

"There have been cases such as the student who left his card in a drawer and went to school and was held responsible for the thief's withdrawals."

Scott sees a case for government involvement in contracts between customers and banks, presently regulated by rules the banks drew up.

"It's getting that balance between protecting the banks and protecting the customer."

The book, in which Otago academics also discuss internet and telecommunications law, is aimed at anybody involved in e-commerce and is available online through publishers Butterworths.

BED SHARING ADVICE TO BE DEVELOPED



To bed share or not? Otago researchers consider the pros and cons.

About 10 per cent of mothers in New Zealand bed share with their babies, including 60 per cent of Māori and Polynesian mothers.

For most families, this is a positive experience, but there is strong evidence that an infant bed sharing with a mother who smoked during pregnancy faces five times the risk of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS).

Dunedin School of Medicine paediatric and child health researchers are working to determine why bed sharing with a mother who smoked in pregnancy is dangerous. They also plan to create a set of research-based guidelines for parents.

Professor Barry Taylor, senior research fellow Dr Barbara Galland, honorary senior lecturer Dr David Bolton, PhD student Sally Baddock and junior research fellow Amanda Phillips have studied 40 Dunedin infants who slept with their parents in the home and another 40 who slept in cots.

Since the early 1990s, safety messages such as placing babies on their back have been directed at cot sleeping infants, but there is no such safety advice specifically for bed sharers, according to Baddock.

While there is proof that babies of smoking mothers are at risk of SIDS when bed sharing, several studies have shown no increased risk for infants of non-smoking mums, Baddock says.

The study will be published next year. Early results show bed sharing babies display a greater range of activity compared to sleeping in a cot, but the study team is still to assess what aspects of this activity may be linked to SIDS.

VITAMIN C NOT JUST FOR COLDS



Dr Margret Vissers has happened upon a discovery which explains the key role that vitamin C plays in cell death and ultimately people's well-being.

For medical scientist Dr Margret Vissers, vitamin C could be one of the big discoveries of her research career.

"For years, going back to Captain Cook's time and the battle against scurvy, it's been known that vitamin C through fruit and vegetables plays an important role in good health. The reason I'm excited is that I think my results may explain some of the devastating symptoms of scurvy."

The senior research fellow at Otago's Christchurch School of Medicine and Health Sciences has found that vitamin C plays a key role in a process called apoptosis allowing it to occur under adverse conditions.

"This 'programmed cell death' is vital for the proper functioning of our bodies and is essential for our immune systems, protecting us against many diseases, including cancer."

It was a totally unexpected finding, illustrating that science is often serendipitous.

"This result runs against the conventional wisdom regarding vitamin C and cell survival. Although it may seem paradoxical to suggest that helping cells to die is a good thing, the reason for this becomes more obvious when you understand that the clearing away of damaged and tired cells is what keeps us well."

Vissers' hypothesis is that vitamin C, particularly in our white blood cells, helps the process of apoptosis occur efficiently. Without this process the toxins in the bacteria-killing white cells would be released into the body with devastating consequences.

Vissers is now setting up an animal trial to demonstrate the importance of vitamin C to white cell function. The next challenge will be to understand how these reactions occur and how vitamin C provides protection against major diseases like cancer.

INBRIEF

IMPROVING SURVIVAL AFTER HEART ATTACKS



Drs Vicky Cameron and Barry Palmer have identified a gene that significantly increases the risk of death after a heart attack.

For medical researchers Drs Vicky Cameron and Barry Palmer, the answer to heart disease lies, not only in the head, but in careful and painstaking science at the laboratory bench.

Cameron and Palmer are researchers with the internationally-recognised Christchurch Cardioendocrine Research Group (CCERG) at Otago's Christchurch School of Medicine and Health Sciences. They recently identified a gene that significantly increases the risk of dying after a heart attack.

"We've been studying gene variants or polymorphisms in 1000 heart attack patients and are making very good progress. We've shown that a common polymorphism in one gene, called ACE, increases the risk of death after heart attack by up to eight times," Cameron says. "Now we're looking for other genes which play a part in this process."

Palmer is working on several other potential gene variants.

"The ACE gene analysis was done manually, but now that we have had our first success, we're hoping to automate screening and to build up to analysing one variant a month in our 1000 heart attack patient samples."

Most research overseas has concentrated on gene variants which cause heart disease or heart attacks, whereas the Christchurch researchers are looking at variants which affect progress or deterioration after heart failure or attack. Clinicians still have difficulty identifying which patients will need the most intensive treatment after heart problems develop, and this research will result in better targeting of appropriate therapy for those likely to develop heart failure in future.

CEO COMPENSATION UNDER FOCUS



Professor Glenn Boyle examines New Zealand companies' reactions since public disclosure laws came into effect in 1997.

New research by Professor Glenn Boyle from the School of Business suggests that New Zealand's economic growth could be impaired by excessive pay packages for chief executives.

In 1997, New Zealand companies were required to submit details of their CEO's financial compensation for public scrutiny. The research began in 1998 when the time was ripe for assessing the changing boundaries in company structure. The findings were published earlier this year, in a publication jointly authored by Warren McNoe and Aleksandar Andjelkovic.

For Boyle, the important issue in this area of corporate governance is whether shareholders need to know what their managers are being paid in order to enforce the optimal contract.

"The optimal contract theory holds that the best compensation package for CEOs should be linked to effort. As effort cannot

be measured, compensation is linked to company performance instead."

The research concluded that pay and performance were rarely related. While there are examples of under-compensation, on the whole CEOs are over-compensated in relation to company performance.

The findings suggest that economic growth and employment levels could fall if shareholders' investment funds are directed too heavily towards CEOs' salaries.

Since disclosure laws came into effect many companies have introduced internal auditing systems.

Boyle's next phase of research will examine the longer-term outcome. This will determine whether company performance improves when shareholders have better access to information.

STUDY COULD SHED LIGHT ON HIGH ROAD TOLL



Dr Dorothy Begg hopes survey information from young people at each stage of the licensing process may help reduce accident rates.

Despite New Zealand being the first country to introduce a graduated driver licensing system, we still have a higher death toll among young drivers than many other countries, including the United Kingdom, Sweden and Australia.

Why? A group at Otago's Injury Prevention Research Unit aims to find out through a longitudinal study. Still in its pilot stage, the study recruits young people when they sit their Learner's Licence test and follows them through their restricted and full licences.

Principal investigator Dorothy Begg says the aim of the pilot study is to put the research procedures in place and ensure that they work. "Tracing people is often a problem with follow-up studies, but this study uses the Driver Licence Database to follow up the new drivers. Wherever they go in New Zealand, they're still in the same database."

The main study, scheduled to begin in 2004, will assess attitudes to the licensing system, Begg says. It will also ask for quantitative details, such as the number of hours spent preparing for the Learner's Licence test, and the quality and quantity of driving experienced while on a Restricted Licence; for example, gravel roads, or peak city traffic. Traffic crash reports and hospital records will be accessed periodically to find correlations between survey answers and crash rates.

Begg hopes the results of the study will be used to influence driver-licensing policy and develop guidelines for driving supervisors to keep young people safer on the roads. Often these are "just based on intuition, rather than evidence".

GENE THAT PROTECTS AGAINST MALE VIOLENCE DISCOVERED



Dr Richie Poulton's team claims yet another world first with research that shows a gene which stops the cycle of violence.

A team of researchers from the University of Otago and the University of London has discovered a gene that may help to explain antisocial and violent behaviour in men.

The world-first research, receiving international acclaim, shows that a gene controlling an enzyme in the brain, in combination with a history of childhood maltreatment, is an effective indicator of future antisocial behaviour in males.

The study was carried out at the University's Dunedin Multidisciplinary Unit and involved examining a group of 442 male children from childhood to adulthood (26 years). Of the 442 subjects, 154 had been maltreated, 33 severely.

Approximately 85 per cent of the severely maltreated children with low levels of the enzyme, MAOA (monoamine oxidase A), developed antisocial behaviours. This included convictions for violent crimes and antisocial personality disorders.

Few of those with the gene producing high levels of MAOA, developed antisocial behaviours, despite being maltreated. Study Director Dr Richie Poulton says this suggests that the gene protects against the cycle of violence.

"These findings may explain why not all victims of maltreatment grow up to victimise others," says Poulton. "It is possible that some genes may promote resistance to stress and trauma."

Maltreatment (as defined in the study) took place in the first 10 years of life. It included rejection by the child's mother, frequent changes of primary caregiver, physical abuse resulting in injury, and sexual abuse. Many of the children had experienced more than one of these forms of maltreatment.

INBRIEF

FISH GENES HELP ESTABLISH RIVER FLOW HISTORY



Dr Graham Wallis's work with whitebait genetics has shown that the Nevis River, which flows north, actually once flowed south.

Dr Graham Wallis's interest in biology goes back to his childhood in England, where he collected and catalogued local flora with the dedication of a natural historian.

When he came to Otago 14 years ago, he was in awe of the untapped bounty of New Zealand's flora and fauna - much of it still unknown and unnamed.

Through the process of analysing various populations of fish, deep genetic differentiation was discovered in what was regarded as a single species of galaxiid, otherwise known as whitebait, in South Island river systems.

A Marsden grant was awarded for a three-year study, which was concluded in 2001. The project combined evolutionary genetics and geology to answer more fully the questions each discipline asks regarding New Zealand's natural history.

It is only recently, with developments in DNA analysis,

that additional independent genetic data have allowed scientists to make progress.

The degree of mapping made possible with genetic sequencing allows evolutionary geneticists to support the hypothesis that, for example, the Nevis river 'capture' (formation of the river head) occurred around one million years ago, at the time of the uplift of the Southern Alps.

The genetic relationships of galaxiid fish establish greater certainty in this past river-flow picture proposed by geologists. Wallis's research has firmly concluded that the Nevis river, which currently flows north into the Kawarau gorge, once flowed south into the Nokomai river. Fish in the Nevis are found to be closely related to fish in the southern river system rather than the northern, which provides an accurate, historical genetic picture to support the geological evidence.

A FIRST FOR ECOTOURISM



Department of Tourism lecturer Anna Carr is encouraging the debate on ecotourism in New Zealand.

A paper in ecotourism operations is to be offered by the Department of Tourism for the first time next year - just one of the outcomes of a two-year investigation into ecotourism completed last year.

The project looked at visitors to ecotourism attractions - their environmental values and demographic profiles. It is the latest Foundation for Research Science and Technology (FRST) funded project with national implications to be released by the department.

Otago Tourism lecturer Anna Carr says the information is invaluable for understanding visitors' expectations, satisfaction and behaviour. "Ecotourism contributes significantly to the nation's economy. The more we understand, the more successful this country's operations will be."

Ecotourism attractions are a subsector of nature-based tourism attractions, Carr says, and can be broadly defined as "environmentally and socially sustainable, and

assisting with the conservation of the area".

"Operators want to make sure their area continues to be attractive to visitors and they are generally advocates for conservation in some form. There are a number of ways they can enhance or contribute to the conservation of the area. They might be assisting with research, visitor education, wildlife regeneration or revegetation programmes, for example, or keeping beaches clear of litter."

While the project was undertaken primarily for marketing purposes, it has also become a springboard for further debate about what constitutes ecotourism and how it can be developed.

An Ecotourism, Wilderness and Mountains conference held at Otago in August included a public forum on ecotourism.

It attracted more than 200 delegates including overseas interests.

UNRAVELLING MUSICAL RIDDLES



Mozart Fellow Michael Norris: already an accomplished performer and international composer.

For a man not yet nudging 30, Mozart Fellow Michael Norris has already scooped his goodly share of Brownie points.

He's had works performed across the globe, secured a handsome swag of awards and commissions, and, in June of this year, his first symphony was offered up to hungry Dunedin ears by the Southern Sinfonia (he was their Composer-in-Residence in 2001).

A sax player himself, Norris has spent much of his Mozart year writing music for contemporary chamber ensemble, flute and piano, solo guitar, symphony orchestra, and chromatic gamelan and saxophone quartet.

When asked what stupendous heights he'll seek next, the Norris brow furrows a little. Composers thrive off commissions, see, and these are easier to come by if you are good at brazen self-promotion or have a high-octane personality à la Gareth Farr. Beyond the cosy nook of

residency programmes – of which there are three at most available in New Zealand in any one year – Norris will be at large in the fickle world of music. He's philosophical about this, knowing he can fall back on his computing nous between ebbs and flows.

When the topic of creative inspiration is broached, Norris cuts the Muse off at her whimsical knees: "I guess I'm one of those people who loves puzzles and problem solving," he says. "When composing, you're using equal amounts of experience, knowledge, creativity, logic, emotional control and lots and lots of hard work."

Beyond the drudge, ah - those golden moments: "When you hear those sounds for the first time, it all seems worth it. It's like giving birth, only you're allowed to throw away the baby if you don't like it!"

NEW APPROACH TO FLIGHT TRAINING COULD SAVE LIVES



Otago's Dr David O'Hare is saving lives through NASA-funded research which draws on past accident scenarios to train pilots.

Dr David O'Hare's own experience of flying alerted him to the lack of case-based learning for trainee pilots.

O'Hare studies human decision making processes in aviation at the Department of Psychology's Cognitive Ergonomics and Human Decision Making Laboratory.

His NASA-funded research programme takes the unique approach of looking at previous accident scenarios and seeing how pilots learn from these.

"The NASA study is simply based on the idea that we can learn from experience. It is self-evident that this is a valuable way of learning."

Despite this, aviation training has always concentrated on the technical side of flying, handling the aircraft, meteorology and navigation.

The latest research uses multimedia based training systems to provide pilots with the information they need for the follow-up simulated flight trials.

The study follows pilots' responses in risky situations to determine what and how they learn from the case studies.

O'Hare has, so far, found results suggesting case study learning has to match the simulated flight in great detail. Success diminishes if, for example, minor features of the flight change.

Further research will decide whether the match between case studies and simulations has to be exact, or if other factors influence outcomes.

These findings will help NASA implement new learning tools and better training systems for pilots and reduce the number of fatalities in general aviation.

FEATURE

IF THIS WERE AN AMERICAN UNIVERSITY, SAYS OTAGO'S POSTGRADUATE ADMINISTRATOR MARGARET SYKES, WE'D BE SINGING THESE SORTS OF STATS FROM THE ROOFTOPS.

HOME OF 45 RHODES SCHOLARS SINCE THE SCHEME BEGAN. Of the years when scholarships have been awarded, half have included an Otago student. Just over a quarter of all New Zealand Rhodes scholars came from Otago.

It's a record that, in terms of raw numbers, keeps company with some of those listed in the top 10 of the best performing US colleges. In the five years from 1997 to 2001, Otago produced as many Rhodes scholars as Washington University (ranked sixth in the US), and more than either Princeton or Georgetown Universities.

Yet, while our US counterparts advertise their Rhodes records proudly – with some going as far as to employ full-time “scholarships advisers” to coach their candidates and boost their prospects – New Zealanders are more likely to play it cool.

“It's just not as hyped here,” Sykes comments. “Rhodes scholarships are not even particularly widely known about within the student population, and certain groups of students – commerce students, for example – rarely apply at all.” She speaks of potential candidates who weigh the cost of taking a few more years of study against the relatively lucrative salaries they can quickly earn in their chosen professions.

“What they underestimate,” believes Sykes, “is the degree to which gaining a Rhodes scholarship can move you into an entirely new sphere, in terms of your professional and personal potential.”

Bill Clinton was a Rhodes scholar. So are a full third of those employed at the New Zealand branch of management consultancy giant McKinsey and Co. Jack Lovelock, David Kirk and Sir Arthur Porritt are among Otago's illustrious Rhodes alumni.

Says Sykes: “The opportunities that arise for Rhodes scholars – the company they keep, the contacts they make, the experiences they have – can be truly, truly outstanding.” It's this suggestion of being granted access to lofty realms that continues to cloak the Rhodes scholarship scheme in a kind of romantic mystery. Add in some Kiwi modesty – meaning few people know the Rhodes scholars that live among us – and the enigma prevails.

NOW, ON THE CENTENARY OF RHODES'S DEATH, the University of Otago Magazine has tracked down some of those Oxford-enhanced alumni – one from each decade, more or less – to find out more about the lives that lay in store for the chosen ones.

The 87 Rhodes scholarships awarded yearly to bright young things from throughout the Commonwealth, Germany and the United States, (three to New Zealanders), are the legacy of British imperialist and diamond magnate Cecil John Rhodes (see story page 14). The scholarship pays for two to three years of Oxford education.

R H O D E S

T H E M A N

T H E V I S I O N

T H E S C

When Rhodes died in 1902, his will unveiled a vast and imaginative scholarships scheme. A dream to create opportunities for individuals across the globe – those with the right blend of intellect, athleticism, morals and confidence, that is – to study at Oxford and thereafter “esteem the performance of public duties as [their] highest aim”. Their careers, he hoped, would contribute to the progress of society, and promote world peace.

This would be funded by his fortune of some £3.5 million, which, by 1996, had swelled to a collection of assets valued at over £145 million.

A century on from its inception, it remains this emphasis on the well-rounded individual that has set the Rhodes scholarship apart. Rhodes specified that the students elected “shall not merely be bookworms”, describing other qualities including “success in manly outdoor sports” and “sympathy for the protection of the weak”.

Times change, and more liberal interpretations have been accepted. Those who have achieved in the arts now get a look in. As do women: in 1976 an Act of Parliament forced a change in the will to bring it into line with sex discrimination legislation.

And, as NZVCC scholarships manager Kiri Manuera explains, the calibre of Rhodes scholars is such that their success rate is high. Few fail to complete their programmes at Oxford, many go on to make valuable contributions to society. New Zealanders perform particularly well.

“In fact,” she says, “the success of the Rhodes model is now seeing it emulated by other scholarship programmes, even those with a stronger academic emphasis. People are finding that, to achieve in many fields these days, you not only need a good brain, but good leadership skills as well.”

Manuera is responsible for the administration of the scholarship in New Zealand, and assists the national secretary to co-ordinate the selection committee to ensure the Rhodes

Trust’s guidelines are met. The panel of seven is made up in careful proportions of academics, business people, men, women, ex-Rhodes scholars, non-Rhodes scholars, Māori and the Governor General.

Manuera describes the notoriously gruelling selection process, which takes place over a two-day period at Government House, as an event in itself: “An amazing meeting of the most impressive young people.”

Her role is also to be a point of contact for, and provide support to, applicants throughout the selection process, “up to and including offering advice on what to wear to the cocktail party!”

“The women always look wonderful; the men wear suits.” But, she says, it is the essence of Rhodes candidates that they can look after themselves at such events. “You can see them, working the room. Occasionally someone will come and sound me out, to see if I have any influence, and when they realise I don’t, they’re off again.”

Manuera also sits in on the interviews the following day – a forum, she says, where the women tend to shine, and Otago applicants stand out for their communication skills.

In this regard, Manuera puts some of the success of Otago students down to the keen eye of the University’s preselection panel. “They seem to judge well what kind of qualities the panel will respond to.”

So what are the qualities of a successful candidate? “The selectors stick very closely to the principles defined in Rhodes’s will,” replies Manuera. “Someone who is extremely intelligent, but also has a real charisma.”

“Confidence is important. People who can take a position and support it confidently do well.”

But, Manuera quickly adds, the magic formula is more complicated than that. “Equally, it’s important not to appear too confident. You need to be humble too. It’s a fine line.”

ES

SCHOLARS



Photo courtesy: The Rhodes Trust

A ROUGH DIAMOND

CECIL JOHN RHODES (AS IN RHODESIA): STATESMAN, MISOGYNIST, TYCOON – THE VISIONARY BEHIND THE MOST COMPREHENSIVE, INDEPENDENT SCHOLARSHIPS SCHEME IN HISTORY HAD OTHER CLAIMS TO FAME. AND NOT LEAST OF THESE WERE HIS CLAIMS TO DIAMONDS.

Born in Hertfordshire, England, in 1853, Cecil Rhodes left for Natal at the age of 17 to try his hand as a cotton farmer. Before long, however, “diamond fever” had overcome him. Starting out humbly, as a speculative digger, Rhodes joined forces with influential friends and set about a project of amassing the entire collection of De Beer mining claims. Once done, he set his sights on Kimberley, becoming embroiled in an aggressive bidding war and eventually paying more than £5 million (something like NZ\$60 million today) for the major shareholder’s stake in the mine.

But his dodgiest-of-all-dealings involved those with Ndebele leader, King Lobengula. Invoking a Treaty of Friendship, Rhodes’ agents coerced the king into accepting a mining concession that would allow white men to dig “a big hole”. In the process, Lobengula signed away the rights to his kingdom.

By 1891, De Beers Consolidated Mining Co controlled 90 per cent of the world’s production of diamonds.

Rhodes’ business career, meanwhile, had been taking place alongside his political one. In 1890, he was instated prime minister, and virtual dictator, of Cape Colony. In this post, he implemented educational reforms and sensible agricultural policies, as well as legislation allowing only wealthy and educated people the right to vote. Very few blacks qualified.

But his ultimate vision, which developed to almost mythic proportions, was to “paint the map red”, imagining a British dominion “from Cape to Cairo”. It was in the midst of this vast expansionist programme to the north that Rhodes became implicated in an ill-judged attempt to overthrow Transvaal president Paul Kruger. The raid failed, disastrously, and Rhodes was forced to resign all his posts. In 1897, the British House of Commons pronounced him guilty of “grave breaches of duty as a prime minister”.

Rhodes died in 1902 from heart disease, in Rhodesia. His fortune was left to public service, and most has been devoted to his famous annual scholarship scheme.

And while his will forbade discrimination on the grounds of race, and has provided opportunities for many non-white students, researcher Andrew Winlerd (University of Heidelberg website) doubts this was Rhodes’s original intention: “Rhodes did, after all, once define his policy as ‘equal rights for every white man south of the Zambezi’. Later, under liberal pressure, ‘white’ was changed to ‘civilised’”.

OTAGO RHODES SCHOLARS

- 1905 Allan Thomson BSc (1903), DSc (1912) - Geology
- 1906 Robert Farquharson BSc (1905), MSc (1906) - Geology
- 1907 Colin Gilray BA (1907) - Literature
- 1913 Frederick Miles BA (1912), MA (1913) - Mathematics
- 1921 Hubert Ryburn BA (1920), MA (1921), Hon LLD (1962) - Theology
- 1923 Arthur Porritt did not complete at Otago, Hon LLD (1968) - Medicine
- 1924 Robert Aitken MBChB (1923), MD (1939), Hon LLD (1969) - Medicine
- 1928 Charles Sharp BA (1927), MA (1928) - English and Classics
- 1929 Wilton Henley did not complete at Otago - Medicine
- 1930 James Dakin BA (1929), MA (1930) - Modern Languages
- 1931 Jack Lovelock did not complete at Otago - Medicine
- 1932 Geoffrey Cox BA (1931), MA (1932), Hon LiD (1999) - Law/History
- 1934 Norman Davis BA (1933), MA (1934), Hon LiD (1984) - English Language and Literature
- 1935 Lester Moller LLB (1935) - Law
- 1936 Dan Davin BA (1934), MA (1935), Hon LiD (1984) - English Language and Literature
- 1947 R.O. Davies BSc (1947), MSc (1948) - Physics
- 1950 Derek North MBChB (1951) - Medicine
- 1952 Graham Jeffries BMedSc (1950), MBChB (1953) - Medicine
- 1952 Hugh Templeton BA (1951), MA (1952) - History
- 1954 Ken North BMedSc (1952), MBChB (1954) - Medicine
- 1955 Colin Beer BSc (1953), MSc (1956) - Zoology
- 1959 Graeme Rea BA (1958), MA (1959) - English
- 1960 Julian Jack BMedSc (1957), MMedSc (1958), PhD (1961), Hon DSci (1999) - Medicine
- 1966 John Baird BSc (1966) - Mathematics
- 1968 Chris Laidlaw BA (1965), MA (1968) - Geography
- 1970 Murray Jamieson BMedSc (1970), MBChB (1979) - Medicine
- 1972 David Skegg BMedSc (1970), MBChB (1972) - Medicine
- 1973 Tony Raine BMedSc (1971), MBChB/BA (1973) - Medicine
- 1975 John Matheson MBChB (1974) - Medicine
- 1976 Derek Hart MBChB (1975) - Medicine
- 1981 Christine French LLB Hons (1981) - Law
- 1982 Nancy Sturman MBChB (1982) - Medicine
- 1985 David Kirk MBChB (1985) - Medicine
- 1988 Ceri Evans MBChB (1987) - Medicine
- 1990 Prudence Scott MBChB (1989) - Medicine
- 1992 Susan Lamb BA Hons (1992), LLB Hons (1992) - Law & Political Studies
- 1992 John Danesh MBChB (1992) - Medicine
- 1993 Jennifer Martin MBChB (1993) - Medicine
- 1995 Jennifer Cooper LLB Hons (1995), BA (1995) - Law and English
- 1996 Andrew Lonie* BSc Hons (1995) - Mathematics
- 1998 Jane Larkindale BSc Hons (1998) - Plant Biotechnology
- 1999 Damen Ward BA Hons (1999), LLB Hons (1999) - History and Law
- 2000 Clare Beach BA Hons (1999), BA Hons (1999) - English and French
- 2000 Sally McKechnie BA (1999), LLB Hons (1999) - History and Law
- 2002 Rachel Carrell BA Hons (2002) - Linguistics and Political Studies
- 2002 Chris Curran BA (2002), LLB Hons (2002) - Law and English

Notes:

Some of the earlier Rhodes Scholars do not have Otago degrees because their degrees were conferred on them by Oxford. Many Rhodes continued on to complete other degrees from other universities. We have listed only their Otago degrees.

* Scholar elect

WHO ARE THESE SCHOLARS?
WHAT BECOMES OF THEM?
THE FOLLOWING EIGHT PROFILES
INCLUDE ONE OTAGO RHODES
SCHOLAR FROM EACH DECADE
SINCE THE 1920s.

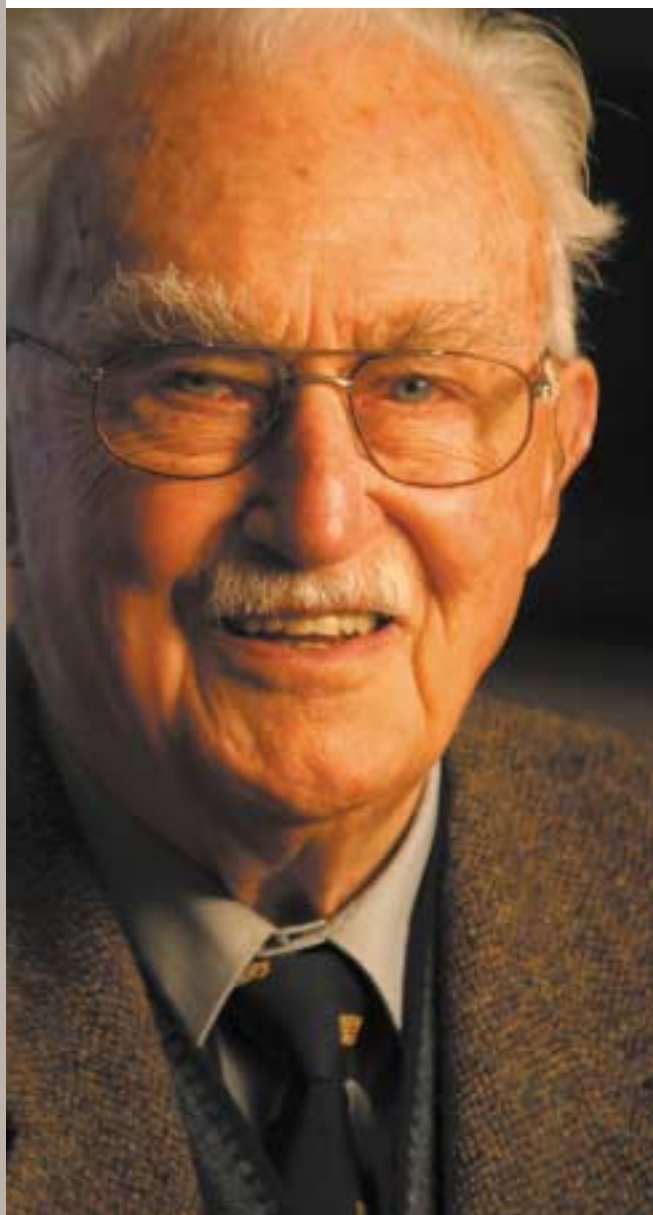


Photo: Nick Servian

RHODES 1930

James Dakin

BA Otago (1929), MA Otago (1930),
BA Oxon (1932), DipAnthro (1933),
MA (1971)

THE UNIVERSITY OF OTAGO'S OLDEST SURVIVING RHODES, former Knox College resident Jim Dakin, has a twinkle in his eye as he recalls an elaborate student prank.

He and a group of friends had set up a fictitious lecture – ostensibly by the former Knox College master, Ernest Merrington.

Inviting only people who did not know the prominent theologian, the plan was to advise the lecture audience that he was ill, then to read his “prepared speech notes”. Only, the speech was to be a parody.

Things went wrong when a staff member visited a friend who had been invited. “See you on Tuesday at Ernie’s lecture,” the friend threw into the conversation.

“The fat was well and truly in the fire,” Dakin recalls from his Wellington home. “They were not amused.”

Dakin has plenty of other 1920s’ Otago memories, from water bomb battles to having to wait till late January for exam results because marking was done in England. That latter difficulty continued until the start of the war, he says, when a boat carrying papers had been sunk: “The university learnt the practice wasn’t safe.”

Dakin graduated with a Bachelor of Arts, majoring in French and Latin in 1929, in the process impressing his lecturers enough to be selected as one of 1930’s two Rhodes Scholars. At Oxford, he passed his New Zealand Master of Arts in French and a British Bachelor of Arts in French and German.

After two years of study Dakin decided it was time to “get out into the world”, and chose the British Colonial Service. The choice harked back to his Rhodes scholarship interview: it had been recommended to him by interview panel chairman Governor General Sir Charles Fergusson.

The decision to join was also partly in response to the Depression – there were “very few jobs and little prospect”.

After a year’s preparatory course studying law, anthropology and Swahili, Dakin began his working life as an assistant district commissioner in Uganda.

The then British protectorate became his adult world. He lived and worked there for the next 20 years, met his first wife and raised his four children there.

When war broke out, he served with the Kings African Rifles in Kenya then with the military administration in Ethiopia, before returning to Ugandan service positions – district commissioner and, later, commissioner for community development.

“My main work was preparing local Africans towards running their own affairs, especially in local government,” he remembers.

Keen to give his children a New Zealand education, Dakin took early retirement and returned down under in 1953, taking a position in adult education in Oamaru – work he saw as having parallels with the community development work he had led in Uganda.

His new employer was Otago University.

In 1958, he moved to similar work in Auckland before taking on a director’s position in Wellington that continued until his retirement.

Retirement? Already the author of books on the trend towards secularisation and on New Zealand education, Dakin is in his spare time continuing a lifelong interest in humanism.

The 93 year old is also working on a book on adult education - leading him to reflect that his whole life, from a governor general’s recommendation at Otago, has led him in one direction.

Alan Samson

AS A PROFESSIONAL JOURNALIST, Sir Geoffrey Cox reported first hand on major historical events of the 20th century – from Stalinism in the Soviet Union to Hitler's rise to power, the Spanish Civil War to the final days of victory in Europe.

As New Zealand's Chargé d'Affaires in Washington in 1943, he served on the Pacific War Council and masterminded New Zealand's first public relations campaign in the US.

And as an early television journalist, he pioneered the high standards which our own news teams occasionally still live up to.

All in all, not bad for a man whose Rhodes scholarship allegedly rested on pigs.

In *Eyewitness, a memoir of Europe in the 1930s*, Cox recounts his Rhodes selection interview. Governor General Viscount Bledisloe, it seems, had given him a thorough grilling on the vagaries of swine farming.

"He was probing as to whether I had held down real jobs, or was merely dressing up farm holidays to look like a true working experience of the land," guessed Cox. But his expertise on the best diet for Berkshire-Tamworth crosses evidently confirmed something to the Governor General; in 1932 he set sail for Oxford.

The 1930s were a ripe time to travel abroad for a journalistically-minded young New Zealander. Like many young Kiwis, Sir Geoffrey based himself in England, making jaunts to destinations such as Russia, Germany and Vienna during his university vacations. His adventures included a

beating at the hands of a gang of Nazis, serving voluntarily for three weeks in a Nazi Youth Labour Camp and witnessing the Nuremberg rally. Cox was less than impressed with the varieties of European dictatorship he saw.

Oxford, meanwhile, was proving a mixed experience. On one hand, Cox relished the freedom – indeed the demand – for critical thought. Yet, within the context of European events, he described Oxford as "suffocatingly remote from the realities of the world outside... behind a rampart of Kantian philosophy and anchovy toast for tea".

Cox was not destined for the intellectual cloister. Writing about his continental experiences provided him with a way into journalism from which he didn't look back. He reported from the frontline of the Spanish Civil War, slipped out of Paris as the Germans moved in, and chronicled the Russian invasion of Finland in 1940. Cox also served with the 2nd NZ Division in Greece, Crete, North Africa and Italy, as well as fulfilling diplomatic duties during the war.

Following demobilisation, Sir Geoffrey returned to journalism, first as a correspondent for News Chronicle, and then in the new medium of television with the Independent Television News. It was here that Cox's vast experience and democratic ideals helped shape the concept of television journalism. He was knighted, for services to journalism, in 1966.

Although Cox gained fame for the insights he offered into the hotbed of European politics, he maintains his career was, in fact, founded on egalitarian ideals gained during his mainstream kiwi upbringing. Further, his family had long instilled in him the principle that "you should try to play some part in shaping the events of your times, and not merely see life in terms of making your way in it".

Looking back to 1932, it was not so much a case of a New Zealander gaining a Rhodes – rather Oxford, and the world, gaining an exceptional New Zealander.

Christan Stoddart

RHODES 1932

Sir Geoffrey Cox

BA Otago (1931), MA Otago (1932),
BA Oxon (1935), Hon LitD (1999), MBE, CBE, Kt

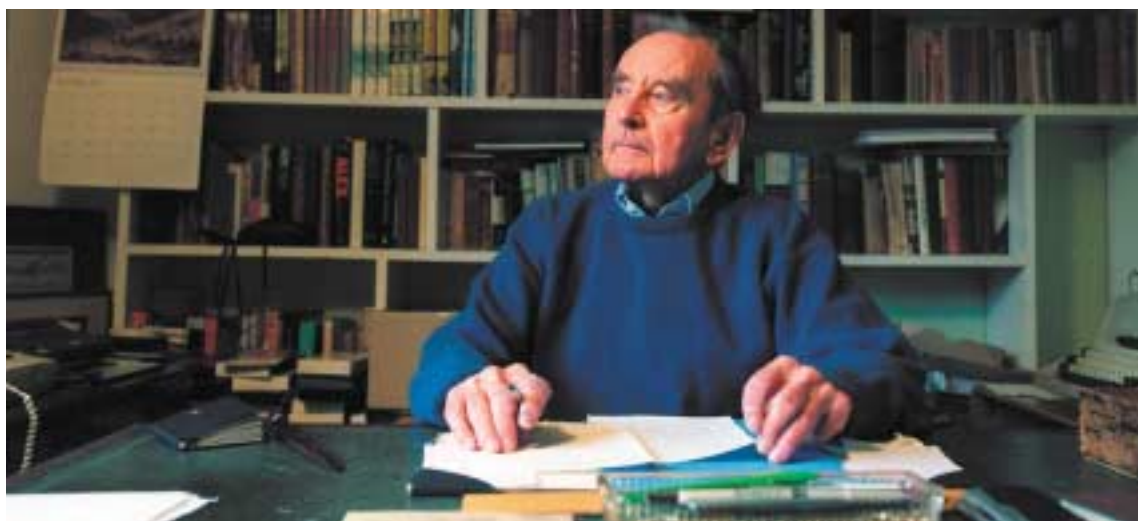


Photo courtesy: Gloucestershire Echo

LEADERS IN THE MEDICAL PROFESSION, the North brothers, Derek and Ken, have held a number of distinguished positions between them. But together, they hold another. They are Otago's first and, to date, only sibling recipients of the Rhodes scholarship.

From Otago to Oxford to careers in medicine, their lives have, at times, mirrored each other. But Derek and Ken play down their influence upon one another. They explain that it was, in fact, Ken, the younger brother, who had first planned a career in medicine; Derek was originally on track to follow their father's footsteps and enter law.

The brothers agree that sharing a profession has been a pleasure, with many family occasions spent discussing the ins and outs of the medical world.

"You mustn't think we're these tiresome, studious types," adds Ken. "We have always had a great deal of fun."

And, as the *University of Otago Magazine* soon discovered, despite their similarities, each man has his own story to tell, and has left his own mark.



Photo: Craig Potton

DR KEN NORTH

DR KENNETH ALFRED KINGSLEY NORTH, Ken to his friends, is a softly-spoken, modest man enjoying retirement with his wife Katharine, in the country near Nelson.

It's a different life to his distinguished career in medicine but one that takes him back to his roots as a young boy who enjoyed the country life in Hawera. Although he was only four when his family shifted to Auckland, he fondly remembers country holidays there.

After attending King's College he headed to Otago Medical School in 1949, a time he recalls as challenging but "good old days". He enjoyed the college life, taking an active part in the University and becoming president of the Students' Association. He played rugby, was a keen pole vaulter and won the Otago Ski Championship while there.

But he wasn't just there for fun and took time out from Medical School to complete a Bachelor of Medical Science in a field that interested him. His professor of physiology, Jack (later Sir John) Eccles who went on to receive the Nobel Prize, inspired Ken to undertake cutting edge research in the field of neurophysiology, specifically on neuro-muscular junctions and how they worked.

North returned to Medical School, completed his studies in 1954, was subsequently awarded his Rhodes Scholarship and, in 1955, headed for Oxford.

It was an exciting time in life when he worked under Sir Howard Florey (who developed penicillin) and completed his Doctorate of Philosophy.

RHODES 1954

Ken North

BMedSc Otago(1952), MBChB Otago(1954),
DPhil Oxon (1957), FRCP London (1960),
FRACP (1964)

He returned to clinical medicine at the Radcliff Infirmary Oxford (where he met his future wife) and later at the Hammersmith Hospital under the distinguished New Zealand endocrinologist Russell Fraser.

North and Katharine returned to New Zealand in 1962 when he took up a position as Medical Tutor and later consultant in endocrinology and Director of the Medical Unit in Wellington.

In 1970, he wrote a report for Victoria University, advocating a full medical school in Wellington. The government of the time, however, could not be convinced.

Their refusal to establish the School, alongside the couple's long-held desire to return to the United Kingdom, led the family to make the major lifestyle change of moving back to England in 1972.

"It was a big step," North remembers, "moving to a new country, with four children and no job lined up." He soon gained a position as a consultant in Reading at the Royal Berkshire Hospital and remained for 14 years until opting for retirement at the age of 58.

And although it seemed a radical move at the time, Katharine had always fancied going farming. So the couple bought a smallholding in Devon, and took yet another new direction in life.

That was more than 10 years ago, before the pull of children and grandchildren in New Zealand brought them home to the country life in Nelson.

Judith Petheram

RHODES 1950

Derek North

MBChB Otago (1951), DPhil Oxon (1953),
FRACP (1957), FRCP London (1962), CBE



Photo: Alistair Guthrie

PROFESSOR DEREK NORTH

WHEN DEREK NORTH BECAME A STUDENT, he was joining the only medical school in the country – 40 years later, he would head the second.

Originally from Auckland, Professor North joined med school in 1946. Two days after his final exams North was on a ship to England as one of the two New Zealanders granted a Rhodes Scholarship that year.

Professor North completed a Doctorate of Philosophy at Oxford as part of the scholarship, and then completed his training in clinical medicine. Six years later, he returned to New Zealand with his wife Alison, whom he'd met at Otago, and two children.

“Before the war, there had been some concern that Rhodes scholars succeeded and stayed abroad. But I always wanted to return and there were some great opportunities at home.”

For two years he worked as a tutor specialist, before becoming the head of the University of Otago's new Auckland-based Medical Unit.

Ten years later, with the establishment of the University of Auckland's medical school, North was appointed Professor of Medicine – a post he kept for more than 20 years before becoming dean.

“Establishing the school was the highlight of my career. It was a satisfying task to create a fully effective school of medicine.

“It was very exciting as it was a clean sheet of paper – making it easy to implement new ideas. Indeed, Otago followed many of our ideas. It is a good example of competition working for both.”

North says there was competitive rivalry between the two schools, but it was all in good fun.

“Nearly all the senior professors have known each other since med school at Otago, and at the beginning everyone was from Otago. Both schools have always got on extremely well.”

As testament to his belief in both, two of North's five daughters studied medicine at Otago, while two others studied medicine at Auckland.

With a history of medicine and academia spanning more than five decades, North says he looks back on his Rhodes scholarship as a chance to step outside medicine.

“All my friends at Oxford were in other faculties. It was a broadening experience as I met people from different countries and disciplines. We also felt part of world affairs, as Rhodes House used to run seminars with eminent people who would come to talk about issues.

“I've kept in touch with many of my Oxford friends, and they've all had very interesting and quite different jobs. For example one is former Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser, while another used to head the news agency, Reuters.”

In 2003, Oxford will celebrate the centenary of Rhodes scholars. For this scholar, it will bring back memories of an event while he was in Oxford in 1953 – the 50th Rhodes celebratory dinner.

Catherine Gunn

Photo: Alistair Guthrie

MENS SANA IN CORPORE SANO (a healthy mind in a healthy body), would have to be John Baird's motto. Setting aside for a moment the list of directorships that keeps him fully employed, and the illustrious CV as managing director of Ceramco, Goodman Fielder Wattie (NZ) and Quality Bakers, this former Rhodes scholar believes in keeping the body as healthy as the mind is active.

Three times a week, he walks down to where his kayak is stored near his Torbay home and takes to the sparkling waters of the Hauraki Gulf in the chilly winter sunrise. Only 18 months ago, he swam the Rangitoto to St Heliers event; he's run marathons and teamed up with his daughter Natalie for a coast-to-coast ("before she got too old"). Cycling gets a look in, and he's completed the round Lake Taupo road race. Rugby is a longstanding passion, and his skill on the field accompanied his academic career. Played for Otago (university and province) and Canterbury, played for Oxford as soon as he arrived, in '66 and '67, and then for Yorkshire while he worked for Reckitt and Colman UK, his first job. He only gave up playing at the age of 32 when he broke his shoulder, but the passion is still there, and he's been a director of the Auckland Rugby Union since 1995.

So why all the exercise? He laughs, "I like eating and drinking, so I have to get as many calories out as I take in." But seriously, he adds, "If you're fit you feel great and you enjoy what you're doing more and you're able to do more."

And he's certainly done a lot. It was a fast track from his first job as product manager, through to marketing manager for Watties, then Managing Director of Quality Bakers,

Goodman Fielder Wattie (NZ) and Ceramco. Now he's a part-time member of the Waitangi Tribunal and recently completed a Bachelor of Arts in Māori Studies. His management and strategic skills see him busy with a raft of directorships, with preparatory work and monthly meetings, plus additional projects he might be called upon to be involved with. His management skills were mainly learnt on the job. After a BSc in maths and statistics at Otago, he studied engineering at Oxford, where he graduated BA ("Every undergraduate degree at Oxford is a BA," he explains), then went to work for Reckitt and Colman in a marketing position. "At least with an engineering degree, they knew I was numerate," he says wryly. He still remembers the first management course R&C sent him on, and the skills learnt have formed the basis of where he is today.

So...how useful was his University education? "I believe a university degree indicates a level of intelligence and a level of hard work. But more important is the ability to work with others, to be part of a team, to motivate people. It doesn't matter how bright or right you are, if you can't persuade others, then you won't achieve much."

Voluntary work for Project K – a charity that helps maximise youth potential – is another interest of John Baird's, who sits on the organisation's board.

"You have to have a target," he says. He's not talking business now; he's trying to find a kayaking event he can take part in. Another challenge, something new, something to keep the mind busy, and the calories at bay.

Liz MacIntyre

RHODES 1966

John Baird

BSc Otago (1966), BA Oxon (1967), BA Auckland (2001)



RHODES 1972

David Skegg

BMedSc Otago (1970), MBChB Otago (1972),
DPhil Oxon (1978), OBE, FRSNZ

DON'T GET HIM WRONG – Chair of Otago's Department of Preventive and Social Medicine Professor David Skegg says he enjoys a good collegial relationship with those at the Auckland Medical School. But he's pleased the School didn't exist back in the 60s.

"If Auckland had had a medical school, no doubt I would have stayed there, and never experienced the Otago student life. My life could have turned out very differently."

Skegg spent several years living at Knox College, studying medicine and playing rugby for a medical school team. His final year at Otago – the year prior to his taking up the Rhodes scholarship – was also the year he made the decision to pursue a career in epidemiology. Both personally and professionally, he could not have made a better choice.

"Oxford, for anyone, is a valuable, life-changing experience," he explains. "But for me it was doubly so, because at the time I was there, the university was a world centre for epidemiological research."

Sir Richard Doll, for example, famous not least for discovering the link between smoking and lung cancer, became Skegg's research supervisor, guiding his studies into the safety of medicines and cancer epidemiology.

"It was such a stimulating environment," he recalls. And so he stayed, teaching and researching at Oxford until 1980. Then, aged just 32, he returned to New Zealand to take up the chair of preventive and social medicine at Otago.

This was, in part, a lifestyle decision for Skegg. He wanted to live in New Zealand and loved the natural environment of Dunedin. He and wife Keren – now a senior lecturer in psychiatry – have raised two daughters here.

Meanwhile, Skegg's career has barely wavered from the path laid down at Oxford. He now focuses on the safety of contraceptives, and the epidemiology of breast and cervical cancers. His recent work includes a major study into claims that vasectomy – a procedure performed more often in New Zealand on a per capita basis than anywhere else in the world – is linked to prostate cancer. The Otago results, released this year, found that no such link exists.

But scientific research is only one aspect of public health; how that science is applied is quite another. And in roles including chairman of the BSE expert science panel, consultant to the World Health Organization and, formerly, chairman of the Public Health Commission, Skegg has sought to ensure the message of scientific research is not lost in the translation.

Following his involvement in the Cartwright Inquiry, and as an expert witness in the Gisborne cervical screening debacle, Skegg has been an outspoken voice in relation to New Zealand's strategies to control cancer – or lack thereof.

He cites a recent paper, in which he and a colleague compared the incidence and mortality rates of certain cancers in Australia and New Zealand. "In breast cancer most notably," he reveals, "the incidence rates are similar in the two countries, but you are more likely to die of the disease if you live in New Zealand."

So what are we doing differently?

"Who knows? We have no way of telling at present. There is no coherent system in place to collect the information that's needed."

It's a frustrating conclusion, but Skegg prefers to describe it as challenging. In fact, there is nothing in his manner to suggest a man in any way beleaguered by bureaucracy. Rather, while discussing his research, he wears an expression of wide-eyed enthusiasm, genuine excitement about the progress that's being made.

"We are actually very well supported, and well funded. And important gains have been made. Really," says the man who was awarded an OBE in 1990 for his services to medicine. "I feel lucky to work in a field which can benefit so many people."

Nicola Mutch



Photo: Alan Dove



RHODES 1981

Christine French

LLB Hons Otago (1981), BCL Oxon (1983)

CHRISTINE FRENCH, who in 1981 became Otago's first woman Rhodes scholar, won the prestigious award by just being herself – partly by accident.

"When I arrived at Wellington, I was shown into a room where everyone chatted for a while. It wasn't until later I realised I had been talking to the selection panel!"

She believes now that her low-key approach, and willingness to take people at face value, may have worked to her advantage. It was a personality trait, however, which did not adjust readily to the class system she found alive and well in Oxford.

"In New Zealand," French reflects, "when people ask what school you went to, it's to see if you have any common acquaintances. There, it's to make judgments on your social position."

As an Antipodean import, she found herself able to exist outside of this specific social hierarchy. But it was not the only time the culture of Oxford would sit uneasily with French.

"By Otago standards, I was quite swotty," she says. "But at Oxford, there were people who would spend 12 hours a day in the library."

However, says French, "I felt as a Rhodes, I had a duty to gain a wider experience than just an academic one." A butterfly specialist, she joined the swimming team, travelling to inter-university meets around Britain every weekend. She also competed in Malta, in pools that were "just roped off parts of the sea".

Later, her Oxford Bachelor of Civil Law successfully completed, she toured Europe a little longer. She then

returned to her hometown of Invercargill, joined her family law firm, and – apart from a brief stint teaching professional law at Otago in 1988 – has worked there ever since.

Perversely perhaps, returning to her southern roots has earned French a degree of notoriety. She recalls a dinner with other ex-Rhodes scholars, during which she became aware she was being talked about at the other end of the table.

"Finally these people sent a delegation down the table and said, 'Christine, is it true? You're living in Invercargill?' as though it were the most outrageous thing in the world."

But French rejects such prejudice, talking instead of the opportunities that have arisen from working in a small, close practice. The possibilities, very early in her career, of taking on major cases. Less pressure to ensure that every hour spent on a case can be recouped in fees. Involvement with organisations – the Law Society, for example – that seek wide geographical representation.

Furthermore, she says, "I swim three kilometres every day before work. I get a lane to myself in an Olympic-sized pool, and I don't have to get up extraordinarily early to manage this."

French also points out that "part of what Rhodes had in mind was that people should take their skills back to their communities. I do feel an obligation, a loyalty to this area."

"Not that it's an obligation," says French, who has held positions on community trusts, school boards, as a swimming coach, and on the Otago University Council and Rhodes preselection panel. "It's a privilege."

Nicola Mutch

RHODES 2000

Sally McKechnie

BA Otago (1999), LLB Hons Otago(1999)



Photo: Blake McDowney

DURING HER OTAGO DAYS, something was clearly in the water of Sally McKechnie's Duke St flat. One flatmate gained a Rhodes the year before Sally won hers, another a Fulbright, another a PhD scholarship to Sydney University, while her then boyfriend made it to the final round of the Rhodes.

Bright sparks them all, law students, a scientist, and debaters. Their dinner parties involved endless, vigorous discussions about world politics. "To me," says Sally, who spent five years at Otago working towards a Bachelor of Arts in History and an honours degree in Law, "that's what being at university was all about.

"And as a community, we were quite aware of the scholarships that were available." So, when Sally embarked on the arduous application process, involving "about 400 zillion forms", she did have some idea what she was in for.

Six referees. A statement of intent. An essay about herself. An interview with a panel of seven at Otago. "Then they flew us to Wellington for this incredibly intimidating cocktail party, where they ask very cocktail things like, 'So, do you think it was Mountbatten's fault India was partitioned so poorly?'"

She then recalls the one hour "intellectually gruelling" interview with a panel of seven luminaries, including the governor general, any number of professors and a high court judge. "You could see your application on the table in front of them, all covered in circles and highlighter marks. It was terrifying."

Now, completing her second year at Oxford, with a Bachelor of Civil Law (Oxford's Master of Laws) with distinction, under her belt and reading for a Master of Philosophy in International Relations, Sally is overcome by modesty. She maintains that, whatever status Rhodes scholars might hold elsewhere, at Oxford, they're just one of a crowd. "There are about 5000 postgraduates here, and some very, very clever people among them. Not always very socially adjusted, but incredibly clever.

"At any one time, there are 260 Rhodes scholars at Oxford. In fact, here we have the reputation of being a bit thick, but quite good at sport."

She's lying though. I know this, because she also tells me that next week she's off to New York to take up an internship at Colombia University where she will be helping the Access Project for the Global Fund for Malaria, HIV and Tuberculosis.

And then she tells me about her friends. "Sometimes, you have no idea just how accomplished others here are. Like the friend who can't come to your party because she is going to Mohammed Ali's birthday party. Yes, and she'd met Ali at the Olympics where she had organised charity events. And yes, she'd also swum for Australia. And she would never tell you any of this herself!"

Oxford, Sally describes as "fabulous, mostly".

"It's so English – the culture, the architecture. The fact the library isn't open on Saturday afternoons or Sunday."

Her plans? "Stay in the UK and work until I've paid off my student loan. Then practise law in Australasia somewhere. But... who really knows what will happen."

Nicola Mutch



OPINION

Photo: Alan Dove

Darryn Russell, University of Otago Māori Affairs Advisor

“WHAT IS RESPONSIVENESS TO THE TREATY OF WAITANGI?” A question often posed across the University of Otago and within other crown and government entities. The answer, however, is more difficult to define.

I am an active participant within Ngāi Tahu whanui and have been employed within both government agencies and Ngāi Tahu corporate. It has become increasingly obvious to me that, despite years of Treaty rhetoric, a major issue is the question of substantive versus procedural outcomes.

The above question of “responsiveness” was posed by Culpitt¹ for the centrality of the Treaty of Waitangi in the development of relationships. Culpitt identifies that where relationships tie Māori into non-Māori processes, where the agenda has already been set, the possibility for a more substantive relationship is deferred. A substantive relationship would involve Māori equally in the definition of parameters, on which any relationship is to be based.

History shows an enduring tendency to assimilate Iwi interests under the umbrella of wider Māori and progressively, Pacific interests, in spite of their legislative responsibility, for example, in relation to Section 15 of the Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu 1996 Act. The ability for Ngāi Tahu, or other Iwi, to strengthen their position is undermined by an insistence on a democratic process that is unable to recognise the unique status of Iwi. Under these terms, Iwi are seen as one of many stakeholder interest groups, rather than a partner, as defined within the Treaty of Waitangi. These are the conditions in which Iwi development is produced and the complexity of these arrangements for Iwi can be rather contradictory. An example is where Ngāi Tahu is given legal status within the 1996 Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu Act and the 1998 Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act yet not afforded substantive involvement

as a Treaty Partner across an array of relationships with crown and its agencies, rather just seen as another stakeholder in the South Island community.

Treaty Relationships are never easy to manage, but a willingness and a commitment to view these relationships as negotiable points of reference will ensure we are working toward an equitable outcome for Crown, its agencies and Iwi. The requirement for crown and government agencies to treat Iwi as a statutory body with associated powers and not as another stakeholder or community interest group is imperative. The current political directives and policy, including the Transition Tertiary Education Commission, are clearly suggesting the need for crown agencies, such as the University of Otago, to provide *substantive* outcomes for ‘Māori’.

The University of Otago sits on an ideal platform, however, with a Memorandum of Understanding in place with Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu and dialogue underway with our respective partners in Wellington and Auckland. We also have a number of initiatives across the University of Otago, which can provide some basis from which to drive dynamic change and articulate such outcomes. To achieve *substantive* outcomes for Iwi, and in turn Māori within this institution, we must use the Treaty frameworks, to work with Iwi, to achieve an increased quality of life for Māori in the Iwi takiwa (*refers to an area, district or region*).

With Iwi working towards defining their domains of influence in which rangatiratanga is functioning at its optimum level, the University of Otago must be positioned to respond substantively to the challenges such Iwi policy pose.

Reference

¹ Ian Culpitt, ‘Bicultural Fragments’, Social Policy Journal of New Zealand. Issue 3:1994

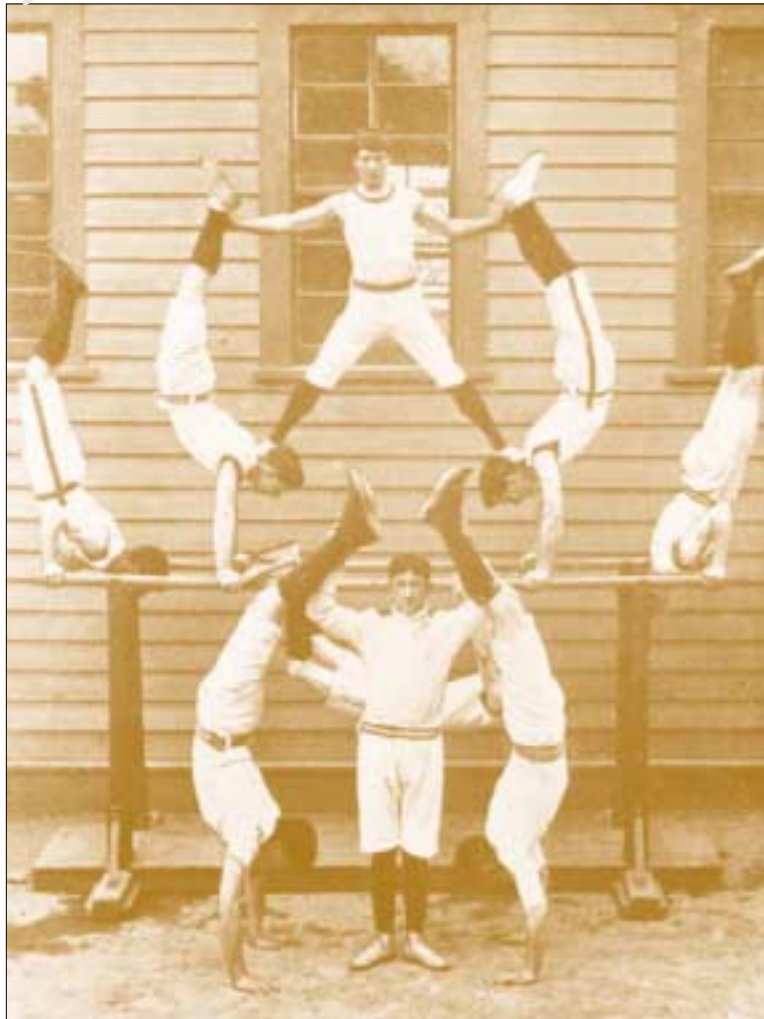


Photo courtesy: Hocken Library

The Caversham Gymnastics Club team, 1909, as it appeared in the Otago Witness 93 years ago.

"LORD OLSEN OF CAVERSHAM" AND THE CAVERSHAM PROJECT

PROFESSOR ERIK OLSEN IS A MAN WITH AN AWFUL LOT OF CAVERSHAM IN HIS HEAD.

When I ask if he thinks he'll go down in history as "the Cavvy King", he reveals that some colleagues call him "Lord Olsen of Caversham" – a title of grand and wonderfully dubious merit, befitting one who has squeezed every last spot of historical information from that area. With a multidisciplinary team of academic sleuths from various corners of the University landscape, Olsen has been chasing the ghosts of Caversham and southern Dunedin for well over 20 years.



Erik Olssen: otherwise known as Lord Olssen of Caversham.

HE HEADS THE CAVERSHAM PROJECT: a large, exhaustive micro-study that has granted breath and texture to a society left silently languishing in History's attic. Its scope is impressive: knitting together a wealth of data from various sources, it has resuscitated the lives of around 100,000 people resident in southern Dunedin from 1890-1940. It also boasts a collection of more than 120 oral history interviews, and a fancy geographical database that can reconstitute the look of an area by mapping and cross-referencing street plans, properties and people. In short, the Caversham Project has wowed the international research community with its fine blend of intimacy and scale: this is history of the long intensive stare, not the short fleeting glimpse.

It all started in the mid 1970s when Olssen began pondering the early origins of modern New Zealand society. The 50-year period between 1890 and 1940 was one of great flux, of swift industrialisation and urban growth – nowhere

more so than in Dunedin. The immigrants who transplanted their lives from established Old World environments to the clean, unknown slate of New Zealand, became the architects of “modern” social patterns.

Olssen was initially interested in the occupational and geographical mobility of this new populace, for this would indicate how defined and defining the social classes were. He opted to pitch his research at Caversham, the oldest and most densely populated working class community in the country, and the area in which Olssen then resided. Together with the neighbouring southern suburbs that were eventually drawn into the project's focus (collectively known as ‘the Flat’), this area was deemed to be typical of urban New Zealand.

Within these parameters, Olssen and a small team of historians spent many a long hour picking through electoral rolls and other such quantitative data, putting the bones of the research in place before the bigger picture could be assessed.



Women working in Dunedin's Roslyn Woollen Mills, Kaikorai Valley, in 1921.



Photo courtesy: Hocken Library

Staff pose for a photo shoot at the Dunedin Carriage Factory in the 1890s.

This bigger picture posed as many questions as it answered, and the project soon outgrew its original skin. Though the collected data yielded some bald facts about men's occupations and women's marital status, it confounded any broader view: "I think the current project really grew out of the very simple fact that the resources we had didn't tell you anything about men's family situations or anything about what occupations women might have had before getting married. So, those two big gaps screamed 'gender'!"

These screams prompted the growth of the project's second head: Sites of Gender – a more comprehensive tier of investigation that inserted gender at the heart of the equation and took the researchers down a wider range of social avenues: health, sexuality, leisure, transport, work, belief systems, clothing, poverty, education, community and the home. Funding from the Foundation for Research, Science and Technology (and additional assistance from the University of Otago), helped assuage the project's growing pains and emboldened the endeavour. The research team recruited specialists from history, geography, gender and women's studies, education, information science, and clothing and textile sciences, growing from a modest four to a substantial 11. With the addition of St Kilda and South Dunedin to the catchment area, the project moved up a gear.

One of the most intriguing discoveries for Olssen was the deliberate way in which this new society was formed: "What's unique about the project is that it's given us a very intimate sense of the ways in which quite ordinary people (who didn't leave behind diaries and letters and aren't usually in the

history books) worked together to construct a society. And they clearly had in mind a set of things that they didn't want it to be, based on shared memories, or what they thought were shared memories, about the world they left."

It was in these early years that the seeds of a less constricted life were sown: "It was a more open, fluid, freer society. I think it was a more tolerant society too – carefully leaving behind and trying to get rid of the extremes of British society."

Until recently, the fruits of the project were pitched away from their source in the local community, and unravelled before an international scholarly audience. As one of the largest initiatives of its kind in New Zealand and Australia, its methodology has attracted much overseas attention. Olssen explains: "That's why we go to the international journals – to demonstrate that there's a high interest in it and to avoid those snarky people you find in universities who think that if you're working on New Zealand you should pack up and leave."

The project's scholarly yield is indeed considerable: dozens of papers; one published book (*Building the New World: work, politics and society in Caversham, 1880s-1920s*), two more on the way, and another gently incubating; 15 theses of the MA/MLitt/PhD variety; 22 dissertations; and 38 working papers. Though the project is winding down, due to a lack of further funding, one suspects there will always be a little spot of Caversham hanging at Olssen's heels. He received a prestigious James Cook Fellowship for 2002-2004, allowing him to work on a history of New Zealand: "It'll have a Caversham theme in it – a southern Dunedin theme."

This year, the history of these ordinary folk has been put

back into the hands of ordinary folk. The Otago Settlers' Museum hosted a series of public talks and curated an exhibition based on the Caversham Project, both of which gave Dunedin people the chance to glean something of the lives that went before them. Seán Brosnahan, curator of *The Birth of Modern Times: Dunedin's Southern Suburbs 1890-1940*, says the exhibition has been extraordinarily popular and has fed the local hunger for Otago history.

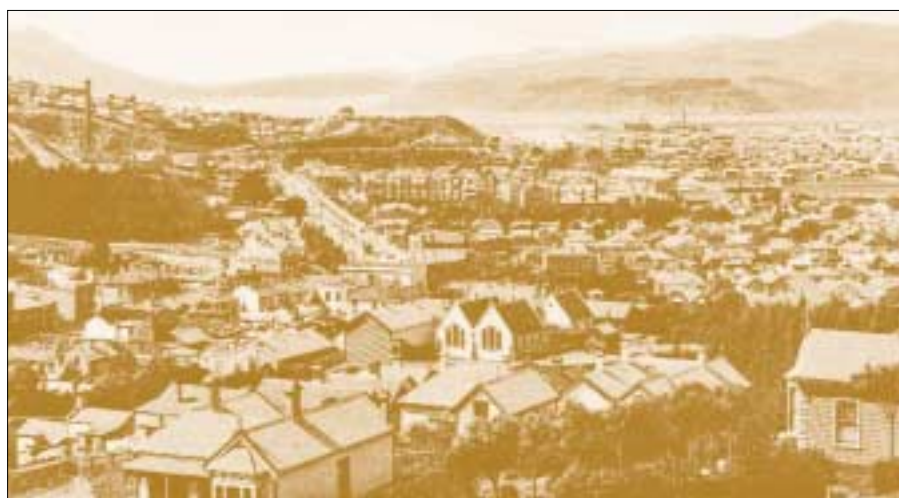
"One of the ironies of the research was that its information on working class people was only being communicated to academic audiences – the exhibition managed to bridge that gap and return the stories to the community."

Olssen has seen the exhibition several times already, and is thrilled to see the project's spoils displayed in such a palatable fashion. "It's been a big hit. Very exciting. I still get a bit of a buzz each time I see it."

When Olssen was a history student at the University of Otago in the 1960s, there was little in the way of New Zealand history or the lives of ordinary people on the menu. Extraordinary people and extraordinary events like the French Revolution, the American Revolution, and the expansion of Europe formed the bulk of History's offerings. Says Olssen: "New Zealand hardly got a mention. And that's partly what my whole life's been about really – showing that our history is interesting."

Had the chaps from the grimy industrial reaches of southern Dunedin's metal trades known that a genial professor like "Lord Olssen of Caversham" would find their lives so compelling, they would've been quite chuffed.

Claire Finlayson



Caversham: December 1912

Photo courtesy: Hocken Library

LIFE ON THE FLAT: 1890-1940

The findings of the Caversham Project are vast and detailed, but there are some defining threads:

Though the Flat was predominantly working class, there was more of a residential mix than in comparable British societies.

Even in those areas that were more affluent, there were always a few unskilled, working-class people scattered throughout.

There were no vast, visible inequities between house sizes.

Geographical movement was high.

Work was organized along strict gender lines. While men were paid a family wage, women's prosperity depended on their access to a male wage.

Married women worked at home. At the beginning of the period in question, unmarried women were mainly employed as domestic servants. Towards the end, the advances in technology saw many working in factories or offices (the "white blouse" frontier). This change registered a shift in women's aspirations.

In 1893, there was a 57 per cent support rate for women's suffrage among the adult female population of southern Dunedin (as compared to the national support rate of 25 per cent and a rather feeble 7 per cent in South Australia in 1894).

Much value was placed on physical and skilled labour.

Movement between occupations was low - most people stayed in the same line of work.

The choosing of a spouse was largely unaffected by class or occupation.

The Flat was ethnically diverse. It also attracted fewer Scots and more English than other areas of the city.

FEATURE

i m m u n i

A M O T H E R ' S J O U R N E Y



Photo: Sharron Bennett

To immunise, or not to immunise.

SOMEWHERE BETWEEN THE INOCULATION PERIOD OF MY FIRST CHILD (NOW NEARLY FOUR), and that of my second (six months), doubt had crept in. I had become increasingly aware of the debate that was taking place, serious magazines had investigated the issue. I had friends – intelligent people – who had opted not to immunise.

Plus, of course, I had heard of some horrible tragedies. Of previously healthy children whose immunisations left them doomed to live out their lives in a vegetative state, of parents convinced their children's autism was a result of their vaccinations. But also of a young unimmunised man who went on his big OE, ended up in Asia and came home with polio. Or the unimmunised child of liberal Londoners, who ended up near death with measles-related encephalitis.


It occurred to me, too, that there are also anecdotes that never get told, of the children we see every day. It is perhaps a function of a preventative health policy that its successes tend to be invisible. We don't hear parents saying: "Look, she doesn't have polio. See those glands — no mumps at all!" But touching as any stories are, there is a point where you have to put them to one side and look for facts. It seems like a cold act, but it is the price we pay for an evidence-based medical system. And in my more rational moments, I wouldn't want anything less.

From the outset, it's telling to compare the information handed to all new mothers by doctors, midwives, Plunket and their ilk, with the pamphlet, *What's all the Fuss About?* available from the Immunisation Awareness Society (not to be confused with the equally neutrally named and one-eyed – albeit the other eye – Immunisation Advisory Centre).

The Public Health Commission's *Be Wise – Immunise* gives a simple directive, in language written for a two year old, explaining there are some very nasty illnesses out there, but pop a few injections into your little button and you'll never have to worry again. The Ministry of Health's *Immunising your Children* fleshes out the descriptions and symptoms of the nasty diseases in question, but its message is identical. No research is invoked to back up this advice.

What's all the Fuss About? and the information available on the IAS website, by contrast, challenges virtually every assumption the health system's pamphlets are based on. It's a scam, it argues. Vaccinations haven't rid the developed world of its infectious nasties; better hygiene and nutrition have. Vaccinations aren't always very effective in preventing disease. They contain all manner of poisonous substances and are linked to conditions including cancer, asthma, eczema, autism and immunological weakness. And you can forget what you've heard about controlled trials and low incidence of adverse reactions

s a t i o n



THIS STARTED OUT AS A PIECE OF BALANCED JOURNALISM, HONEST. THE STORY OF AN OTAGO GRADUATE – NOT A SCIENTIST, NOW A MOTHER – TRYING TO MAKE SOME SENSE OUT OF THE IMMUNISATION DEBATE.

– the studies are paid for by the drug companies, researchers live in a climate of fear, and most adverse reactions are not reported or are conveniently diagnosed as an unrelated problem.

It all sounds so plausible. Studies are loosely referred to, though not actually referenced, to back up these claims. Further reading is recommended, page-turners with titles like *How to Raise a Healthy Child In Spite of Your Doctor*. All very much packaged for the concerned parent.

I was scared, almost convinced. Nobody wants to be taken for a dupe.

Start looking into it, however, and these claims begin to come seriously unstuck. It turns out that many of the arguments being recycled by the anti-vaccine lobby arise from a refutation of the “germ theory” – the notion that germs cause illness, and perhaps the most thoroughly researched and utterly fundamental tenet of modern medicine. Criticism also abounds for the live polio and whole cell pertussis (whooping cough) vaccines, neither of which are used any longer. And I came across, not one, but many graphs pointing to a very strong link between the widespread introduction of vaccines and the virtual elimination of any number of diseases.

And for each of the claims regarding specific health-related problems, mountains of counter-evidence can be found. The information is out there all right, absolute stacks of it, in

scientific journals, ministerial reports, doctor’s handbooks and medical newsletters. All very much packaged for the concerned physician.

This placed me in something of a journalistic quandary. On one hand I was finding a flimsy collection of outdated, anecdotal arguments, compared to an absolute tome of peer-reviewed, large-scale, referenced, replicated studies. The difference in sheer quantity of material available is difficult to convey. It would take a fair bit of rejigging the scales to pretend that the two camps were of equal weight, and deserved “balanced” treatment. Kind of like writing a story on whether the earth is round, giving flat earthers due space to expound their point of view.

Of course, the anti-vaccine lobby’s next question is: Why trust the science?

University of Otago microbiologist and vaccine researcher Dr Glenn Buchan looks impatient. “You should try talking to a scientist at a party one day. We’re not that bad. We are actually trying to help people, trying to stamp out horrible diseases that cause pain and suffering.”

But doesn’t the fact that drug companies fund much of Otago’s vaccine research create some serious credibility issues?

“What’s a drug company to do?” Buchan responds. “It takes about 10 years of research before any of these vaccines

are allowed on the market. Then someone starts questioning their safety and the company says 'let's get an impartial study done and see what's going on'. Then scientists get maligned for working under the instructions of the drug company. It's no win."

Dr Michael Tatley agrees. He is the Director of the Centre for Adverse Reactions Monitoring (CARM), the University of Otago-based unit which, under contract to the Ministry of Health, has been keeping an eye on the vaccination regime since 1965.

Parents, ultimately, are looking for facts. And, for his part, Tatley urges that any risks associated with vaccines be kept well in perspective. The total number of injections dished out to infants, children and adults since a comprehensive immunisation programme began in New Zealand by now probably reaches well into the millions. And, while the IAS website provides a fearsome list of side effects, ranging from swellings and irritability to convulsions, paralysis, anaphylactic shock and death, Tatley's figures tell a less dramatic tale.

No deaths have ever been reported in New Zealand that have likely been caused by the injections. One or two instances of encephalitis have been reported. There have been 21 reports of anaphylactic-type reactions.

Convulsions were linked to the out-dated whole cell pertussis vaccine which was used until September 2001, with 26 instances reported in the vaccine's history in New Zealand. But here Tatley adds a note of warning, that "convulsions" sound – and to worried parents, look – worse than they necessarily are. "Many of these were febrile convulsions, a not uncommon bodily response in infants to high fever. Cool the child down, in a bath or with a tepid sponge and fan, and the convulsions invariably cease without long-term damage."

To claims that adverse reactions are notoriously under-reported, Tatley doubts that is the case with serious problems. And to charges that, as part of the health system, he is too willing to dismiss reactions as not being linked to vaccines, he balks.

"Anaphylaxis, for example, is a sudden, sometimes violent, allergic response. It would be a rash person who would claim that it was caused by something else – like a skin cream that was used beforehand for instance – to dismiss the potential role of the vaccine if that had just been administered."

"Besides," he says, "we are working as independent scientists, with all the rigor that that entails. Our results are available, worldwide, for scrutiny. We are providing a service to the Ministry of Health, but there has never been any pressure to manufacture results to present a particular picture."

And Buchan: "People who fudge results get found out."

"Of course," says Tatley, "one death in a million would be unacceptable if the vaccine were doing no good." But once again, he pleads for perspective. "Unimmunised, virtually the entire population would contract measles. One in a thousand of those may end up with encephalitis, and one in a thousand die. These rates drop to less than one in a million following vaccination."

Buchan extends the argument: "If those kids are failing to cope with a weakened form of the virus, imagine what would happen if they'd got the real thing."

The point is, though, that an injection means certain contact with an illness. But take diphtheria, for example, where the likelihood of contracting the disease in the community is virtually nil. Do the scales not tip, the risks of immunising outweighing those of not?

Tatley: "For one person, living in a rural region and never planning to leave the country, maybe. It's the principle of herd immunity, and sure, a few people can get away with not being immunised if the bulk of the population is. But make no mistake, if too few people are being immunised, outbreaks can, and will occur, as has recently happened with measles in the UK with decreased uptake of MMR vaccine."

Dr Buchan estimates that 95 per cent of the population needs to be immunised for herd immunity to hold. At present, approximately 63 per cent of New Zealanders are fully immunised.

And fear comes at a price. In the 70s, when public pressure led to countries including Sweden, Japan, UK and Australia halting or reducing their pertussis vaccination programmes, incidence of whooping cough increased by 10-100 times in comparison with neighbouring countries that had continued immunisation. As one example, Japan's vaccination rates went from 70 per cent, with 393 cases of pertussis and no deaths in 1974, to 20-40 per cent vaccination, 13,000 cases and 41 deaths in 1979. Subsequent studies failed to find any causal link between the pertussis vaccine and neurological damage, as had been claimed.

"Where was the anti-immunisation lobby when these kids were dying?" asks Buchan. "They went very quiet indeed."

So, a crisis resolved as a parent – the child duly jabbed – but just beginning as a writer. A case when "fair" and "balanced" are not the same thing, and when, in the name of what's "responsible" journalism, I feel compelled to make a call. A story that falls down hard on one side. My inability, in all conscience, to pretend otherwise.

But there is some consolation for me in all this. If I cannot appear balanced I can at least feel community minded: it is in the interests of those opting not to immunise their children to have the media supporting an immunisation programme. It's what keeps their children safe.



Nicola Mutch graduated from Otago in 1998 with a BA (Hons) in Art History. She is now a freelance writer and mother of two, living in Warrington, Otago.

HOCKEN LEGACY



Michael Smither (1939-)
Children at breakfast time 1969-70
Oil on board
Hocken Library

THIS IS ONE OF THOSE RARE MOMENTS OF CALM IN THE LIVES OF NEW PARENTS: no flailing limbs, piercing shrieks, or *Thomas the Tank Engine* video played on endless loop – just two sleepy bodies emerging from their bedtime coma. Cruelly plucked from their snug beds and placed before barren breakfast bowls, they find temporary nourishment in fingers and blankies.

Michael Smither painted many such scenes in the late 1960s and 1970s when his own children were young and full of toddler exuberance. He was one of few artists to trawl the rich pool of commonplace domestic moments that usually slip through art's grand subject canon.

Smither shows us children in all their unvarnished glory. There are no saccharine cuties here – just endearingly bold little people who live out their days with fierce candour. *Children at breakfast time* is one of his more gentle works; many others from this period capture the fiendish, comic and

unruly threads of childhood, and it was this that unnerved some of his critics: "People used to come up to me and say 'how could I do that to my family?'" Smither was undeterred: "I saw the way that children are real devils in disguise. They held this incredible wisdom and ability to do the right things and the wrong things with great panache."

The artist's smooth realism and careful manipulation of light and shadow add an eerie tone to these works. By leaning towards the surreal, Smither delivers his work from the easy arms of syrupy sentiment, and exacts a more compelling image of childhood.

Charles Brasch was sufficiently wowed. He purchased this painting from an exhibition in the Otago Museum foyer in 1970 when Smither was the University's Frances Hodgkins Fellow. It arrived in the Hocken Library three years later upon Brasch's death – one of many glorious art gems bequeathed by the generous patron.

Claire Finlayson

HOCKEN LIBRARY EXHIBITIONS

19 August – 12 October 2002

Rhona Haszard: An Experimental Expatriate Artist

19 October – 14 December 2002

Perfect Masterpieces: The Arts & Crafts of Dunedin's Wimperis & Joachim Families
Eana B. Jeans: Painter of the Dunedin Bush

16 December 2002 – 9 February 2003

Scott Eady: Frances Hodgkins Fellow 2002

SCIENCE WAS THE LIFE; OTAGO, THE PLACE

I ENROLLED AT OTAGO UNIVERSITY IN FEBRUARY 1944 TO STUDY WHAT WERE THEN CALLED NATURAL SCIENCES: Zoology, Botany and Geology, plus as little Chemistry as possible. My father had studied Medicine at Otago and my brother was in the process of so doing. No campus other than Otago had ever been mentioned.

Thirty-five years after I had graduated with a Bachelor of Science, I enrolled at the University of Victoria to study English Literature, something which I had always wanted to do. The reasons I had not done so originally were pragmatic and, I think, typical of the times.

In those days, one of the few jobs available for a woman with an Arts Degree was to be a school teacher, unless one had at least one foreign language, good marks in all subjects, and was of impeccable character, in which case one could aim for the Department of External Affairs. I did not want to teach and a talent for foreign languages had eluded me.

Science at school, at least until the sixth form, had been solely Nutrition. All I can remember of this dire subject is that a lettuce is 98 per cent water and that lack of Vitamin B1 can result in a disease called beriberi.

Miss Priddle changed all that. She taught us Biology. We dissected ox hearts, we queued to look down the sole microscope (no jostling, girls) to gaze at the hectic world of paramecium bumping about like one-celled Dodgem cars. I was enthralled. I had found a new galaxy. Miss Priddle also told me of openings for a woman in Science. You could work in laboratories, including medical ones, you could eventually, perhaps, do Research. I was not sure as to what or how this was achieved, but I knew it was out there somewhere. Science it was.

For a child in the 30s, jobs were known to be precious things. There was emphasis on Getting your Letters, on working hard to ensure a steady job in the future. Any job could fold on you, we knew that, but a tertiary education gave you a better chance. To achieve this in the 40s, one had either to be intelligent enough to win a University Scholarship, or have parents who could afford to help with the fees, and, equally

important, find a well paid holiday job. More difficult for women, the latter, but casual work was readily available for females as it always is in war time.

The battle for tertiary education for women had been won long ago, but a faint feeling that it was a luxury for us still lingered. After all, with any luck, we would get married, in which case hard-earned money might be considered to have gone down the drain.

Another worrying myth hung in the air. Men, it was murmured, did not like clever girls. A friend of mine, a fifth-year medical student and one of the most intelligent people I have ever known, was delighted when some new man thought she was a Home Science Fresher. I suppose the fact that she had golden curls and a face like a Botticelli angel confused him.

My university career began with the journey from Hastings to Dunedin, which took two days and one night. Flying was unheard of for students, the trains were crowded, practically everyone smoked and travel sickness pills had not been invented. The nights on the Lyttelton ferry could be purgatory. Every time we crawled off the boat a tannoy bellowed interminably: "Eight carriages round the corner, eight carriages round the corner", as we lugged our luggage onto the Southern train to dig ourselves in for another fuggy day.

"How do I enrol?" I asked my brother before he disappeared at the Dunedin railway station. "It's hell," he said, "but you'll make it."

No one at St Margaret's Christian College for Young Women Students seemed to be enrolling for the Natural Sciences. After signing up at the Registrar's Office, the next task was to find the different departments. Chemistry and Geology were comparatively easy, but it took me some time to track down Botany and Zoology. They were some distance away from the main campus, tucked in behind the back of the Otago Museum in Great King Street.

New students were instructed to present themselves to the professors in charge of the relevant departments and check their enrolment. This turned out to be easier said than done.



Photo: Nick Servian

Award-winning novelist Barbara Anderson.

The Botany Department was in disarray. The professor had been forced to retire during the vacation owing to ill health. Two young postgraduate students had been employed to take over the labs and lectures until a new professor was appointed. I did not know this and spent a long time knocking on doors hunting for a professor who had suddenly become emeritus.

The Head of the Zoology Department was also elusive. There was no sign of anyone in the two small lecture rooms or the formalin scented dissection labs. Once again, I knocked on doors to be told by their occupants they were no more Professors of Zoology than they had been Professors of Botany half an hour before. I tried a new door and went in. A very tall thin man stood staring at the small bone in his hand. "I'm looking for the Professor of Zoology," I said.

"Yes?"

I moved my eyes from the dry cleaner's ticket on the hem of his jacket and told him I wanted to enrol in Zoology 1.

"Fossil penguin," he said, handing me the bone. "I don't think that would be too much of a problem, what's your name?"

The professor, Brian Marples, became a good friend. The first time I went to his house, there were a couple of dead birds on the hall table. "Good," he said. "The boys are trained to bring home anything dead."

Science was undoubtedly the life, and Otago the place in which to find it.

Barbara Anderson grew up in the Hawke's Bay and graduated with a Bachelor of Science from the University of Otago in 1947. She completed a Bachelor of Arts from Victoria University of Wellington in 1984 and is internationally-recognised as a quality fiction writer. Anderson's books include *The Swing Around* (Victoria University Press), which has been nominated for the 2003 International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award worth NZ\$200,000. The best-selling author resides in Wellington where she continues to write.

GOVERNMENT DECISION TO APPEAL DISAPPOINTS

The University of Otago is “profoundly disappointed” at the Government’s decision to appeal the judgment of Justice Goddard in relation to underfunding of dentistry education at the University between 1994 and 1999.

The judgment characterised the original decision of the then National Government Minister of Education, Dr Lockwood Smith, as “so erroneous that it could only be categorised as irrational”.

The University is yet to see the grounds of appeal. But given the strength of the judgment – and given the comments of Labour Members of Parliament, including the Prime Minister, when in opposition – the University will be “most surprised if the Judge’s conclusions on this aspect are challenged,” says Vice-Chancellor Dr Graeme Fogelberg.

The Judge also made plain that she would regard it as “unthinkable” for the Crown not to give effect to her findings. The University is, as yet, unaware of the basis on which the Crown believes it should not rectify the consequences of what has been held to be an unlawful decision, says Fogelberg. He is confident of the legal and factual basis of the judge’s decision, and of success if the matter does go to the Court of Appeal.

The University has continued to urge the Government to resolve without going back to court.

ANNUAL APPEAL TO BEGIN

The University of Otago will commence an annual appeal next year. Funds raised from the appeal will be used for projects which invest in people and intellectual resources, and which will enable Otago to advance as a world-class university.

More information will appear in the next edition of the *University of Otago Magazine*.

OTAGO’S INTERNATIONAL AFFAIR

When the first University of Otago Foreign Policy School was held in 1966, few present could have imagined that this seminar would develop into New Zealand’s premier international relations event and, in the process, gain a reputation that extended well beyond this country.

Yet that is exactly what has happened. The 37th School from June 28 to July 1 was opened by New Zealand Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Phil Goff and highlighted the school’s success. It attracted top-level speakers from eight countries and an audience of 150 people.

The School draws a wide range of people from both the public and private sectors. Participants this year included officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the Ministry of Defence, journalists, diplomats, members of the business community, academics, students and interested members of the public.

The 2002 School Director, Associate Professor Robert Patman, says a key quality indicator is that major international publishers are now producing the School’s annual volume.

This year’s topic was “Globalisation, Civil Conflicts and the National Security State”. Patman says it showed that the events of September 11 “did not come out of a clear blue sky”.

“The Foreign Policy School is a unique institution in New Zealand. It provides a forum for domestic debate on international issues and a vehicle for projecting New Zealand perspectives overseas.”

WELLINGTON CELEBRATES

Otago’s Wellington School of Medical and Health Sciences celebrated its silver jubilee recently with a series of events including public lectures and a jubilee dinner. Events were well supported by the public and University alumni.

MADAME BUTTERFLY TO SHOWCASE OTAGO GRADUATES’ TALENTS

The University of Otago is to stage a major production of Puccini’s *Madame Butterfly* featuring an all-star cast including many graduates who are internationally recognised opera performers.

The production, set for August 2003, received a welcome \$50,000 grant from the Community Trust of Otago.

Vice-Chancellor Dr Graeme Fogelberg: “An integral part of the University’s mission is to foster the creation and presentation of fine works of art, literature and music for the benefit of the communities we serve. I am very excited by this opportunity to showcase the considerable talent of our distinguished graduates and also the staff and students of our internationally respected Music Department. The generosity of the Community Trust of Otago has helped make this production a reality.”

Puccini’s tragic tale of the enchanting ‘delicate butterfly’ Cio-Cio San and her doomed devotion to a faithless US Naval Officer will be brought to life by a “highly talented cast of Otago graduates from a range of disciplines including, not only Music, but also French, German, Law, Commerce and English,” says the project’s Artistic Director and senior lecturer in voice, Judy Bellingham.

The alumni include professional singers Patrick Power, Roger Wilson, Brendon Mercer, Brandon Pou, and Lin Bih-Yuh. Conductor Tecwyn Evans is also a graduate. He currently holds the prestigious position of Chorus Master at Glyndebourne opera in the UK. The director will be Elric Hooper, who recently retired after 20 years as artistic director of Christchurch’s Court Theatre.

The opera, to be staged at the Regent Theatre in August 2003, marks 100 years since Puccini wrote his much loved piece, and is the first time it has been put on in Dunedin in 20 years.

CONFERENCES

NO RISK OF PROSTATE CANCER AFTER VASECTOMY

The estimated 42-60 million couples around the world who rely on vasectomy for contraception can find reassurance in a major Otago study that shows no link between the procedure and increased risk of prostate cancer.

Even 25 years, or more, after vasectomy, the researchers found no increased risk of prostate cancer.

The study from the Hugh Adam Cancer Epidemiology Unit of the Department of Preventive and Social Medicine at the University of Otago took five years to complete, and was funded by the World Health Organisation and the National Institutes of Health, USA.

Study team leader Dr Brian Cox says vasectomy continues to be one of the safest and most effective methods of contraception. "Previous concerns that prostate cancer might be more likely among men after this procedure have been allayed. The results also give confidence to clinicians when advising their patients about the benefits and risks of vasectomy."

Other investigators in the Otago team were Dr Mary Jane Sneyd, Professor David Skegg, Associate Professor Charlotte Paul and Professor Brett Delahunt.

Concern about a risk of cancer after vasectomy was raised in the early 1990s, resulting in the study being planned in New Zealand, where vasectomy is a popular form of contraception. Vasectomy is more common in New Zealand than in any other country: about 40 per cent of men aged 40 to 74 years have undergone the procedure. The high prevalence of vasectomy and the presence of a national system for registration of cancer meant that New Zealand was the ideal country in which to conduct this case-control study.

The study involved interviewing men with newly diagnosed prostate cancer aged 40 to 74 years, and men without the disease of a similar age selected from the general electoral roll.

MERGER OFF, BUT COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY PLEDGE TO WORK TOGETHER

In June, the University of Otago and the Dunedin College of Education decided not to merge officially at this time; however the two institutions have since indicated a strong commitment to working closely together on a number of joint projects.

At the September meeting of the University Council, members were presented with a new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the College which outlines areas in which the two institutions can cooperate in the delivery of teacher education. This MOU replaces an earlier draft calling for a full merger which was rejected by the College Council in June because of concerns about retaining the existing College culture.

Despite the failure of the merger talks, both the College and the University recognised the importance of continued good will and encouraging close working relations. Furthermore, there was a clear expectation from the Ministry of Education that a more cooperative approach should be undertaken to avoid unnecessary duplication and competition in the delivery of teacher education.

Towards this end, the new MOU notes programmes and professional development and services which could be delivered in a more collaborative way. Just what form this collaboration will take is something that will be determined as the two institutions begin talks, says Vice-Chancellor Dr Graeme Fogelberg.

Otago Workshop on **Logic and Multi-Agent Systems (LAMAS)**

29-30 October 2002, Dunedin
www.cs.otago.ac.nz/lamas/

ENZCon'02 The 9th Electronics New Zealand Conference

14-15 November 2002, Dunedin
www.physics.otago.ac.nz/enzcon02/

Tertiary Education Research in New Zealand (TERNZ)

30 November - 1 December 2002, Dunedin
Learning in Higher Education: our learning, our students' learning, our colleagues' learning.
www.hedc.otago.ac.nz/ternz/

International Association of Hydraulic Research and Engineering

IAHR 16th International Symposium on Ice

2-6 December 2002, Dunedin
www.physics.otago.ac.nz/~nzice/

SIRC 2002 The 14th Annual Colloquium of the Spatial Information Research Center, jointly run with GeoHealth 2002 **Physical and Cognitive Spaces**

3-5 December 2002, Wellington
<http://divcom.otago.ac.nz/sirc/webpages/Conferences/SIRC2002/index.html>

SEEM4 Fourth Conference on Statistics in Ecology and Environmental Monitoring Pre-Conference Workshop on **Matrix Population Models**

4-6 December 2002, Dunedin
www.maths.otago.ac.nz/SEEM4/index.html

The Future of Christianity in the West, an international conference

5-8 December 2002, Dunedin
Contact: nicola.richmond@stonebow.otago.ac.nz

Department of Geology Pre-Meeting Field Trip

7-8 December 2002,
North Otago and the Waitaki Valley
www.otago.ac.nz/geology/secad.htm

Department of Geology Meeting on **Secondary Adaptation of Tetrapods to Life in Water**

9-13 December 2002, Dunedin
www.otago.ac.nz/geology/secad.htm

SEEM4 Fourth Conference on Statistics in Ecology and Environmental Monitoring **Population Dynamics: The Interface Between Models and Data**

9-13 December 2002, Dunedin
www.maths.otago.ac.nz/SEEM4/index.html

Hume, Motivation 'is' and 'ought'

19-24 January 2003, Dunedin
www.otago.ac.nz/Philosophy

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For further information or University of Otago Postgraduate Scholarship application forms call Otago's information line

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UNICLIPPINGS

APPOINTMENTS

Vice-Chancellor Dr **Graeme Fogelberg** was selected as a member of the government's new Growth and Innovation Advisory Board.

Dr **Claire Matthewson** is the new Director of the Summer School. Dr Matthewson, who takes over from retiring Associate Professor Merv Smith, was the Executive Director (Faculty) at The Open Polytechnic of New Zealand in Wellington.

Chief Financial Officer **John Patrick** was appointed to a government working group advising on the introduction of performance-based research funding.

Dr **Ian Smith**, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and International), was named to the government's Tertiary Education Commission, which is to boost tertiary performance, improve coordination between institutions and government, and reduce duplication.

Otago School of Medicine Associate Professor Dr **Jim Reid** who heads the department of general practice has been appointed to the Global Initiative on Asthma, a World Health Organisation advisory group.

Phys Ed and Science graduate **Sheryl Hickey** is the Pacific Retail Group's new business manager.

Nine years of hard work have paid off for Invercargill solicitor and Otago graduate **Keith Brown**. The keen rugby man has been selected for the 2002 NPC rugby referees' squad.

Former history senior lecturer Dr **Michael Cullen** is New Zealand's new Deputy Prime Minister.

Professor **Datuk Mazlan Othman**, who studied astrophysics at Otago, was recently appointed as Director of the newly-established National Space Agency in Malaysia.

OBITUARIES

Dr **Roy Muir** (64), formerly of the University's Department of Psychological Medicine, was a ground-breaker in the treatment of mental illness.

Caroline Granger (27), a technician in the Department of Anatomy and Structural Biology, as a result of a rafting accident while on vacation in the US.

Associate Professor **Donn Bayard** (62), an expert in the area of sociolinguistics. Bayard was known internationally for his study into evaluation of English accents worldwide.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Professor **Jim Mann**, head of the Department of Human Nutrition, and an internationally-acknowledged expert on Type 2 Diabetes, has been awarded the University's Distinguished Research Medal.

Associate Professor **Tim Wilkinson** of the Christchurch School of Medicine and Health Sciences won a \$20,000 award for sustained excellence in teaching in the inaugural Tertiary Education Teaching Excellence Awards.

Otago law graduate and singer **Jonathan Lemalu** graduated top of his class at London's Royal College of Music.

Honours music student **Anna Leese** won the prestigious Mobil Song Quest in Wellington, earning her \$10,000 in cash and a study scholarship of up to \$15,000.

The Otago law moot team that came third overall at the prestigious Phillip C. Jessup international competition in Washington DC earlier this year has recently learned that it has won an additional award from the judges – top prize for best written submissions.

Associate Professor **George Abbott** is New Zealand's first paediatrician to be awarded the Royal Australasian College of Physicians' Medal.

Otago students swimmer **Liz Van Welie**, Silver Fern **Lesley Nichol** and hockey player **Dean Couzins** returned from the Commonwealth Games in Manchester with silver medals in hand.

Professor **Alan Mark** of Botany was given an honorary membership to the New Zealand Alpine Club for his work on conservation.

Otago physics graduate **Warwick Bowen** is part of an Australian National University team of researchers who have successfully "teleported" matter. Captain Kirk would be proud.

Law student **Amy Annan**, who wrote about regulating the use of money in the electoral process, won best paper or thesis in the Wallace Awards for Writing on the New Zealand Electoral Process.

The University won a silver medal at the international CASE (Council for Advancement and Support of Education) Communication Awards for its integrated marketing programme for undergraduate student recruitment.

FELLOWSHIPS/SCHOLARSHIPS

Dr **Katrina Richards** of Geography has won a prestigious \$168,000 post-doctoral fellowship which gives her full research funding for three years. She was one of 11 New Zealanders to win a Foundation for Research and Technology NZ science and technology post-doc fellowship.

Libby Cargill, who graduated from Otago last year with first-class honours in biochemistry, received a Fulbright Scholarship. She will start her doctorate in genetics at Columbia University in Manhattan this year.

Honours French graduate and writer **Kapka Kassabova** won the lucrative \$60,000 Berlin Writers' Residency.

GRANTS

Otago received almost \$9 million of Marsden funding, for 14 projects. It is the University's most successful Marsden round to date. Four up-and-coming Otago researchers were also recognised through the Fast Start Grants, worth \$10,000 for two years.

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BOOKS

COMMUNITIES OF WOMEN: HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVES

Associate Professor Barbara Brookes and recently retired Professor Dorothy Page, both from the Otago History Department, have edited a collection of essays examining how women perceive and live in communities. The content of *Communities of Women: Historical Perspectives* is international and spans several centuries, ranging from 12th century Swabia to 20th century Australasia. The essays are equally varied in their focus, whether on place, kin, romance, religion, dispossession, education, occupation or political commitment.

The book arose out of the Communities of Women Conference hosted by the History Department and Department of Gender and Women's Studies at the University of Otago in 2000. Contributors include many leading researchers and historians from New Zealand, Australia, North America and Britain. *Communities of Women: Historical Perspectives* was published in September (University of Otago Press, 2002).



SOUTHERN LAND, SOUTHERN PEOPLE

The University of Otago Press has collaborated with the Otago Museum to produce a companion publication to the Museum's new landmark *Southern Land, Southern People* gallery. Like the gallery it celebrates, Southern Land, Southern People offers a comprehensive insight into the unique environment, natural history and people of the region.

The book is written by Neville Peat, one of New Zealand's leading natural history writers. In *Southern Land, Southern People* he has produced an invaluable educational tool and souvenir of the gallery (University of Otago Press with the Otago Museum, 2002).

AWARD

Otago history PhD Jim McAloon, author of *No Idle Rich: The Wealthy in Canterbury & Otago, 1840-1914* (featured in the July *University of Otago Magazine*), has been awarded the 2002 Ian Wards Prize for best use made of archives by a published book. The prize is awarded by the Archives and Records Association. Published by University of Otago Press.

RECENTLY PUBLISHED BOOKS OF UNIVERSITY STAFF AND ALUMNI

Talking Music: Conversations with New Zealand Musicians, Sarah Shieff. Auckland University Press, 2002.

On the Peak: Ewan McDougall New Zealand Artist, Sarah McDougall. Tablet Press, 2002.

The Themes of the German Lied from Mozart to Strauss, Peter Russell. The Edwin Mellen Press, Lewiston, New York, 2002.

Environmental Histories of New Zealand, edited by Eric Pawson and Tom Brooking. Oxford University Press, Oxford, 2002.

Creativity, Cognition and Knowledge: an Interaction, edited by T. H. Dartnall. Praeger: Westport, Connecticut, 2002.

Medicine and the Internet, edited by Bruce C. McKenzie. Oxford University Press, Oxford, 2002.

Neuromechanics of Human Movement, Roger M. Enoka. Human Kinetics, Champaign, Illinois, 2002.

Craniofacial Development, Growth and Evolution, Murray C. Meikle. Bateson Publishing, Norfolk, 2002.

From Muldoon to Lange: New Zealand Elections in the 1980s, Stephen Levine & Alan McRobie. MC Enterprises, Rangiora, 2002.

Dutchman's Gold, Ron Vlietstra. Riobay, Australia, 2002.

Oamaru: Heritage and Walks, Gavin McLean. University of Otago Press, 2002.

Shifting Centres: Women and Migration in New Zealand History, edited by Lyndon Fraser & Katie Pickles. University of Otago Press, 2002.

Halfway to Africa, Bronwyn Tate. University of Otago Press, 2002.

Diaspora and the Difficult Art of Dying, Sudesh Mishra. University of Otago Press, 2002.

Vintage Doctor – 50 Years of Laughter and Tears, Miles Hursthouse. Shoal Bay Press, 2001.

Graduate – Reminiscences and Reflections of an Octagenarian, Freda C. Stuckey. Otago University Print, 2001.

Samuel Richardson of London Printer: A Study of his Printing based on Ornament Use and Business Accounts, Keith Maslen. Department of English, University of Otago, 2001.

Orthopaedics by John Kingsley Walsh. Published by John Walsh Limited, 2001 (revised edition).

WRITTEN A BOOK LATELY?

Alumni and staff of the University are invited to tell us about their books by emailing mag.editor@otago.ac.nz

ALUMNI

ALUMNI EVENTS GO GLOBAL

So far this year, an event programme has allowed hundreds of Otago alumni the opportunity to catch up with the University and each other in centres throughout the world. The Vice-Chancellor has hosted functions in Asia, North America and Australia as well as in New Zealand; England is on the itinerary before the year's end.

Such is the level of interest that next year's function schedule will be just as comprehensive. The schedule will be published in the first *University of Otago Magazine* for 2003, due out in February.

At all the gatherings, Dr Graeme Fogelberg has been impressed with the enthusiasm and attachment of Otago alumni, many of whom left the University decades ago. As much as anecdotes of student life feature at these events, there's a strong interest in developments in teaching, research and facilities which enhance Otago's reputation. An encouraging number of expatriate alumni proudly report that their children have also joined the Otago community.

Travelling to **Kuala Lumpur** and **Singapore** at the end of May, the Vice-Chancellor was delighted to take the opportunity to renew ties with alumni in those cities. Alumni from throughout Malaysia travelled to Kuala Lumpur for a reception co-hosted by Fogelberg and New Zealand's High Commissioner, H.E. Mac Price. Among nearly 200 guests were some of Otago's most distinguished and committed Malaysian graduates, including the three Patrons of the University of Otago Alumni Association of Malaysia, YB Datuk Amar Dr Sulaiman bin Hj Daud, YB Datuk Amar Dr Leo Moggie, and Tan Sri Datuk Ahmad Azizzudin. During the evening, Fogelberg announced plans for a proposed University of Otago Foundation for Malaysia which will raise funds for scholarships for Malaysian students to attend Otago. Well-attended functions were also held in **Kuching**, **Sibu** and **Kota Kinabalu** during early August.

In **Singapore**, the reception was also co-hosted by our High Commissioner. Amid the usual course of events, there was a special highlight with a stunning performance by members of HMNZS Te Mana's Kapa Haka group. Also noteworthy was the attendance: the 150 guests made up half of the city's alumni population.

Four alumni events in North America in early July were so well received that the Vice-Chancellor plans to return next year to New York, Toronto, Vancouver and California. Despite a **New York** heatwave and a national holiday the next day, over 100 guests made their way into the city for the function. In both **Toronto** and **Vancouver**, more than 70 guests in each city enjoyed catching up. Vancouver graduates were bemused to meet up with people not seen since schooldays as well as old University friends. The final North American function, at the poolside of the New Zealand Consul's Residence in **Los Angeles**, gave everyone present the chance to meet and talk with each other in an informal setting. Several Californian alumni travelled significant distances to attend.

A second **Melbourne** function in August was the direct result of April's cocktail reception for Otago alumni there. Local alumni were so pleased with the first event that a group, led by Trevor Moyle (BCom, 1972), has generated support for a regular schedule of activities in Victoria. They began with a dinner attended by around 100 guests, including the Vice-Chancellor, to launch officially the University of Otago Alumni – Melbourne Chapter.

ALUMNI FUNCTIONS 2002

Sydney: 1 November 2002

Dunedin: 12 November 2002

London: 29 November 2002

Brisbane: 14 February 2003

R E M E M B E R I N G J O E T U I

As well as having lasting memories of that Albany street icon, the "Cook", many alumni from a certain era will also fondly recall the street's other famous cook: the legendary 'Joe Tui', who passed away earlier this year.

Joe, properly known as Kum Yuen "Kim" Chin, ran the Tui Café from the late 1950s until the mid 1970s, catering, among others, to a student clientele that often made his work more "interesting" than he may have wished. The exuberant (and often inebriated) antics of more than a few students sorely tested the patience of this normally softly-spoken and smiling man, who could only be pushed so far, as many a miscreant was to find. Any alumni with fond memories and/or guilty

consciences may now safely unburden themselves to Joe's son, Ning, who carries on the family tradition at the new Tui Café in nearby Malcolm Street. Ning recalls many of the characters and incidents that livened up the operations of his father's café. For instance, there were the unforgettable antics of one particular group of students in the 1970s. These reprobates were ring-led by an individual who shall remain nameless, but who later graduated from a career in café comedy to one on TV.

The gang would stumble in at all hours, more often than not a little worse for wear, and were noted for their habit of "airmailing" surplus food between tables to the more peckish in their number.

ALUMNI

TAKING McCAHON TO THE WORLD



Photo courtesy: Hocken Library

Colin McCahon

European-based alumni can catch up with New Zealand culture at Amsterdam's Stedelijk Museum until 10 November.

The exhibition – Colin McCahon: A Question of Faith – features more than 70 of McCahon's works, including four paintings from the University's collections. It is the first retrospective of its kind to travel so far afield.

New Zealand's most acclaimed painter, McCahon, who died in 1987, had a strong connection to the Otago region, and the University's Hocken Library holds a significant amount of McCahon material. This includes the largest public collection of his work anywhere: 217 works, most of which were gifts to the Hocken from McCahon or his family and friends. The Hocken manuscripts collection also contains the McCahon papers – an archive of letters and other documents deposited by his family after his death.

The four University paintings on loan to the exhibition include *The Song of the Shining Cuckoo* (1974), which normally hangs outside the Hocken's Pictorial Collections, *I Am* (1954), and the preliminary study for the mural the University commissioned McCahon to paint for the library in 1966. (Alumni visiting the Information Services Building will find the restored mural on the first floor, near the Rare Books Collection.)

After Amsterdam, Colin McCahon: A Question of Faith will tour Wellington, Auckland, Melbourne and Sydney until January 2004.

The Hocken Library's Pictorial Collections are open to the public 9.30-5pm weekdays. Researchers are encouraged to use the collection of more than 12,000 artworks, and the Library also allows casual visitors to take supervised tours.

KEEPING IN TOUCH

Finding lost friends

If you'd like to contact someone from Otago you've lost touch with, the Alumni Office may be able to help you.

Under NZ privacy legislation, we can't give out addresses, but if we have current information for the person you're looking for, we will pass on your message and contact details.

You can submit your request via the web at www.otago.ac.nz/alumni/keepintouch/findinglostalumni.html

Updating your address

Please keep us informed of your current address so we can be sure to include you in University alumni activities in your area. Changing your contact details when you move is easy at www.otago.ac.nz/alumni/keepintouch/changeofaddressform.html – send the link to your friends.

Inevitably, items such as flying eggs did not always find their mark on the intended plate. The cleanup required afterwards did have a silver lining though, as, amid the carnage, substantial "tips" in the form of forgotten change were usually to be found.

Despite despairing of student antics, such as the perennially popular saltshaker and sugar mix (a financially punishable offence if caught), Joe also enjoyed his share of friendly, well-behaved and at times just plain bizarre student behaviour.

During the heady 60s, student revolutionaries of several different stripes frequented the café, often colourfully dressed in the uniform of their particular ideology.

Of the several groups, the Maoists in particular left a lasting impression on Joe. Quite a sight to see, these young students would troop in en masse in their Red Guard uniforms. Then, before ordering their meals, they would burst into a spirited rendition of the Chinese National Anthem, East is Red, leaving Joe quite impressed, if a little bemused.

After Joe's death, Ning wrote to the *Otago Daily Times* inviting reminiscences/confessions. Any alumni with fond memories of his father and the café can send tributes to: "Memories of Kim Chin", 20 Malcolm Street, Dunedin, or, if they are in the vicinity, pop in to Tui's and share their tales in person.

ALUMNI

ALUMNI ACCESS TO UNIVERSITY ACTIVITIES AND FACILITIES

If you live locally, or are visiting Dunedin, you can access a range of services, facilities and events at the University. Many of these opportunities are concentrated in Dunedin, but Otago's status as a national university helps ensure that alumni throughout New Zealand can take part.

On the intellectual side, the library facilities, open lectures, seminars, and the musical and dramatic offerings at the University help to maintain life-long learning and enhance appreciation of science, arts and culture.

All alumni may use the Library in Dunedin, and some local alumni may qualify for a borrower's card. The catalogue is online at www.library.otago.ac.nz/, and you may interloan non-reference items through your nearest public Library.

The Hocken Library is open to personal or written requests from those engaged in historical research, and holds regular art exhibitions and seminars.

Open Lectures are advertised in Thursdays' *Otago Daily Times*, while Marama Hall and Allen Hall offer regular performances and recitals showcasing the musical and theatrical talents of staff and students.

Alumni have access to recreation services at Otago, including the reasonably priced and well-equipped Unipol Gymnasium, and the Recreation Centre, where a wide variety of leisure activities can be enjoyed, and equipment hired.

The School of Physiotherapy runs several competitively priced clinics in Dunedin, staffed by highly qualified experts. Similar Otago clinics can be found in Christchurch and Wellington. Visit <http://physio.otago.ac.nz/clinic> to find out more.

The University's Wellington Stadium Centre has a range of conference and multi-media facilities for hire, as does the Auckland Centre in Queen Street. Human Performance Centres at the Stadium and in Dunedin use state-of-the-art equipment to provide professional fitness assessments for athletes (and the curious).

For alumni visiting Dunedin, the University's Executive Residence provides central, top-quality accommodation close to campus. The University offers a variety of venues for private and public functions, including the historic Staff Club and the modern St David Street Lecture Theatre Complex, at which the University Union provides top-quality hospitality services for 20-2000 people.

Further details on many of these services and facilities are available online at www.otago.ac.nz, or you can contact the Alumni Office.

CARRY OTAGO WITH YOU

Since 1995, hundreds of Otago alumni have carried around an image of the Clocktower on their Visa Card – a WestpacTrust Affinity Credit Card.

The most recognisable building on the Dunedin campus remains a feature of the relaunched Visa Card. The new card is more competitive and allows card holders to make a donation to the University each year without any personal cost: WestpacTrust guarantees the University at least \$10 per card-holder per annum.

Please contact the Alumni & Development Office for a card application form or enquire at any branch of WestpacTrust.

ORGANISING A REUNION?

Alumni planning reunions can contact the Alumni Office for advice, alumni@otago.ac.nz, phone 03 479 5649. Medical alumni organising class gatherings should contact Ellen Hendry at the Dunedin School of Medicine, ellen.hendry@stonebow.otago.ac.nz, phone 03 479 7416.

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS

At the time of its own diamond jubilee and the Otago province's 150th anniversary in 1998, the University of Otago Graduates' Association made special presentations to nine graduates living in Otago and Southland in recognition of their contributions to their communities.

The Association is extending its recognition of the service of graduates, both in New Zealand and overseas, by establishing regular Community Service Awards.

The awards will honour Otago graduates who have contributed dedicated service to their communities and who have not otherwise been honoured by major awards.

Does this sound like an Otago graduate you know? If so, please nominate them in a letter with a brief outline of their community service to Gregor Macaulay, Secretary-Treasurer Graduates' Association, c/- University of Otago, PO Box 56, Dunedin, New Zealand (Tel 64 3 479 8392, Fax 64 3 479 5490, email gregor.macaulay@stonebow.otago.ac.nz).

The Association's committee will consider all nominees and select recipients for awards. A certificate and small gift will be presented at a social function for Otago graduates as near as practicable to where the recipient lives.

There is no deadline, the process of selection is on-going and all nominations will continue to be considered over time. Your nomination of one of our graduates will ensure the success of the awards: please contact Gregor now.

REUNION

DUNEDIN HOSPITAL LABORATORY STAFF REUNION

Labour Weekend 26-27 October 2002, Dunedin, New Zealand.
Contact: jan.parker@slabs.co.nz



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If you are a member of the Government Superannuation Fund (GSF), National Provident Fund (NPF), or a Personal Investment Fund, now is a good time to discuss your options with Russell Quin.

With New Zealand superannuation unavailable until age 65, it is important to understand your superannuation options and provisions. For example:

- How to utilise the Transfer Value option in the GSF and NPF schemes.
- How to move your GSF and NPF at retirement.
- Other issues affecting you, such as;
 - lump sum versus pension advice,
 - ideas on the assignment provision, the Property (Relationships) Act and its impact on your assets.



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