



# Alumni Newsletter

School of Physical Education Te Kura Akoraka Whakakori



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## A Winning Strategy

**Robyn Cockburn** BPhEd 1982

Robyn Cockburn 's decision to enrol at Otago was a pragmatic one: a bigger grant was available to students who 'had ' to study away from home ... and she knew she 'had ' to leave home!

Robyn Cockburn

The courses she could 'only ' do at Otago were Marine Biology, Theology or Physical Education ... "mmm, *that was an easy decision!* " ... so it was a fond farewell to her family in Wellington and a solo journey south to join the BPhEd Class of '79, where she met people who were to become lifelong friends: [Kim Hammond](#), [Kim Holland](#), [Shona Barnett](#), [Paul Mather](#), [Robbie Veal](#), [Sarah Palmer](#), [Marg Crooks](#) and [Marg Cosgriff](#).

"Otago gave me the chance to be myself – not a daughter, sister or friend - but an adult, with adult responsibilities and sensibilities"

Robyn soon discovered dance – a lasting memory is performing a 'muscular ' polka with hammer-thrower Robbie Veal - and [Helen Busfield](#) (now Langford ) was an inspiring teacher, whose support and encouragement gave Robyn the confidence to choreograph capping shows and Dance=Arts.

Robyn enjoyed the 'Phedder' experience to the full and credits it with expanding her horizons in many ways: **"I spent some time reeling from the impact of so many extroverts all in one place at one time - it was such a stimulating environment to 'grow up' in. The significance of kinaesthetic learning and a systems view of the world had a huge impact on me, and I gained an appreciation of holistic approaches to strategy, planning and implementation, as well as a broad perspective of recreation, including sport and the arts ... and I'll never forget the unique smell of the entrance foyer to PhysEd School! "**



Robyn practices scarfie cuisine  
with Robbie Veal

It was another pragmatic decision which sent Robyn off on a journey weaving physical education and recreation together with management, a path she has followed throughout her career: **"I had a points gap in my 3rd year timetable, and a level one management paper was the only possibility - Rex Thomson wangled me a place on it! "**

After graduation, a first job as Physical Welfare Officer at Victoria University allowed her to simultaneously complete an MA (Applied) in Recreation Administration, majoring in organisational development, and she began her involvement with Physical Education New Zealand. She was National President from 1986-1990, succeeding 2010 PE Wall of Famer **Trevor Garrett** in that role. She later became a Fellow in recognition of her significant contributions to this association.

Furthering her interest in Dance, Robyn has held governance roles with the New Zealand School of Dance, Footnote Dance Company and Dance Aotearoa New Zealand. She also served as President of the New Zealand Recreation Association from 1992-1995 and received the Mark Mitchell Award from the Association for her outstanding contribution to the field of recreation, as well as the Maunsell NZRA Scholarship Award for research.

Robyn is currently a Board Member of the Australia and New Zealand Association of Leisure Studies, and continues her involvement with the New Zealand Recreation Association as a mentor of recreation professionals, a member of the Community Recreation Advisory Group, and an active contributor to the Wellington Branch of the Association. She is currently working on a collaborative presentation with **Professor Bevan Grant**, who was her pedagogy lecturer at Otago back in 1982.

Robyn has worked as a consultant to the recreation, arts and sport sector since 1990. Initially with Algate Enterprises, she is now a Director of her own company, **Lumin**, which offers research, strategy, planning, training, facilitation and mentoring services to individuals, organisations, and the community. Projects include: development of physical activity strategies and recreation frameworks for local government and others; establishment of a mentoring programme for women aspiring to be governors of national sports organisations, under the auspices of the New Zealand Olympic Committee; writing the New Zealand Dance Industry Strategy; and the review and development of CheckM8, a social networking programme communicating well-being messages to young people.



Lumin: “Shining the light on organisations to help them see things more clearly”

<http://www.lumin.co.nz/>



Robyn compèring the Wall of Fame event

As a keen supporter of Otago alumni events over the years, Robyn was the natural choice to compère this year’s Wall of Fame ceremony: she did a great job and enjoyed the experience, but the fun didn’t stop there - she was spotted out on the town until the wee small hours with old friend **Kereyn Smith**.

“ It was great to be back in Dunedin, and I did a tour of the campus for old times ’ sakes. ”

And what was it like revisiting the entrance foyer to Physed School?

“ It still smells exactly the same 30 years later! ”

Robyn is a busy mother (and unpaid taxi-driver ) to 15 year old Isabella and 10 year old Sebastian, who make full use of her “somewhat dated ” knowledge of sports injuries, sports massage, fitness training and coaching. She takes walks around the Wellington waterfront and surrounding hills, and enjoys tending her garden.



# Māori Making a Difference

**Te roopu Whakakaha tinana** Physical Education Māori Association (PEMA)

“Waiho i te toipoto, kaua i te toiroa”

“Let us keep close together, not wide apart”

When we are working to deadlines and processing hundreds of students from admission through to graduation, it can

sometimes seem like just a numbers game - tick all the boxes, fill all the forms in, and send the grades into the Clocktower building ... but it only takes a few minutes' conversation with one of our many exceptional students to know that it's *really* all about 'growing' good people, whose learning, achievements, and ambitions extend far beyond the lecture theatre. And for exceptional students, we need look no further than those of Māori heritage who recently formed Te roopu Whakakaha tinana (PEMA).



Haka at Paradise: PHSE 104 2010

173 Māori students take BPhEd papers, the highest number in the University outside the School of Law. The University of Otago is strongly committed to the Treaty of Waitangi, and official events nowadays at the School of Physical Education include haka, waita and karakia. PEMA students shine in this performing role, but their contribution to the School as a whole is definitely not “rent-a-Haka” tokenism, as three of their number explain.

## Krystle Mikaere



On A Mission: Krystle with village children in Kalimantan, Borneo

I am a 4th Year BPhEd student, majoring in PROFs and SPLS, and I am co-president of PEMA for 2010. Since coming to Dunedin I have become part of a church, which has encouraged me to achieve academically and to take every opportunity to learn and to give back. Through the education I have gained at the School of Physical Education and the Dunedin Elim Christian Centre, I have changed my perceptions of the meaning of “success”.

Success to me is no longer directly linked with the size of the salary or the prestige of working for a big company. It is determined by the integrity and honour in a choice: we can choose to be successful every day. We can't always control what happens to us, but we can decide how to respond to it.

I am from a large family in South Auckland, and attended a decile one school there: I will be the first in my family to gain a Bachelors Degree. Last year I was given the opportunity by my church to go to the slums of Manila and the jungles of Quezon in the Philippines, and to remote islands in Borneo, to spend time giving to those who, monetarily, have so little. I was able to see the world, and also see opportunities for success.

After graduating, I will become a Youth Pastor at the Dunedin Elim Christian Centre. I choose to pass my knowledge on to young people in Dunedin - to be proactive in changing negative environments which perpetuate bad decisions and encourage mediocrity. The young adults of this nation are not only our future leaders: they also have tremendous potential to be current leaders. We need to choose to make decisions that not only benefit individuals but make a positive contribution to our wider society. I believe ~~we~~ need to be the change we want to see in this world.

**"Ko te iwi te wairua o te waka, ko te waka te wairua o te iwi"**

**"The people are the spirit of the canoe, the canoe is the spirit of the people"**

roopu whakatauki, PEMA

## Hōri Haweti Barsdell



Taking a double major in sport and leisure studies and professional studies has given me a new-found passion for rejecting socially constructed stereotypes. I think it is important not to buy into stereotypes as an easy way to make sense of something which is foreign to an individual's experience and knowledge.

After graduation I aspire to work with rangatahi (youth) in either health or education, in particular trying to strengthen or revitalise their sense of cultural identity, and steering them away from popular American 'media-dominant' cultures. We as Māori have our own culture and we should be proud of that.

## Renee Wikaire

Kia ora koutou, Ko Ngāpūhi me Ngāti Whātua ngā iwi. I 'm co-president of PEMA and I 'm in my 3rd year of BPhEd (Honours) specialising in the construction and politics of Māori identity within Waka ama. Recently I travelled to the 2010 Huinga Tauira in Wellington with the Otago University Te Roopu Māori Kapa haka group, where we got third place.



Renee (centre) leads Nga Mahi a te Rēhia students

Kapa haka is a passion of mine - it 's about connection, and continuing the traditions of our ancestors: we are part of an unbroken line of people who existed long before we were born and will continue long after we are gone; however, it is within our lifetime that we have the opportunity to make positive change, so that others might find their way with greater ease.

Māori culture is actively promoted and preserved within the School of Physical Education. Earlier this year PEMA was proud to perform the **PE School Haka 'Ko taku mana'** to mark the graduation of it 's composer, [Hamuera Maika](#). We also performed this haka at the BPhEd Graduands ' Morning Tea, and hope this will become a tradition of the School - a way for younger Māori to farewell those who are continuing their journeys in the wider world.

Recently, PEMA facilitated the waka ama component of Nga mahi a te rēhia, which teaches a brief history of waka in Aotearoa, some tikanga of the waka, basic paddling techniques and practical experience, within a supportive and nurturing environment. There was overwhelmingly positive feedback from the students: they were inspired by the history and really enjoyed being taught by older Phedders. This response demonstrates **there is great potential for further integrating Māori culture within the curriculum.**

After graduation I 'm thinking of going to Hawaii, to paddle and surf - oh, and do some further study - but I 'm not sure yet: there are so many great avenues open to graduates of the School that it 's hard to choose just one path to follow. However, I have a great passion for education, *tikanga māori*, sports, people and the ocean, so maybe I can pursue a career that encompasses all of these!

Coming to Otago has been the best decision I have ever made. I have made friends for life, and I know that throughout my career, wherever it leads, I will always have a place within the School of Physical Education - and it will always have a place within me.





Margie Lazar, BPhEd Course  
Adviser & Kaiāwhina to PEMA

“PEMA has provided a supportive and positive space for undergraduate students and has been an inspiration to staff and visitors within the School of Physical Education. This group is a wonderful example of strong young Māori voices that will set a foundation for the future of Māori physical activity and movement”.

Margie Lazar, Kaiāwhina (adviser) to PEMA

As the students of PEMA graduate and join you as alumni, we can expect to hear more about the career paths they have chosen, the communities they have influenced and the “success” they have achieved.

“Na reira, tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou katoa”

## Congratulations to Koji

**Koji Kobayashi** PhD Candidate

Sincere congratulations to **Koji Kobayashi** who has been selected by the International Sociology of Sport Association (ISSA) as the 2010 recipient of the Graduate Award for his manuscript entitled “Globalisation, Corporate Nationalism and Nike Advertising: Representing Bukatsu to Negotiate the Global/Local Nexus in Japan”.



Koji Kobayashi

Koji's paper was commended for its originality, critical and analytical ability, and was selected from a strong pool of submissions. Koji has been invited to present his paper at ISSA's conference in July 2011 in Havana, Cuba.

# Wall of Fame Inductees 2010

**Pat Barwick** DipPhEd 1967

“ It was a real buzz to be recognised and inducted onto the PE Wall of Fame – a lovely occasion, and it was and great to revisit the good times I had in Dunedin at PE School – a time that had a definite impact on my future life ”



The highlight of Pat 's coaching career was coaching the New Zealand Women 's team from 1987 - 1992, finishing 7th in the 1990 World Cup, qualifying for and competing in the Barcelona Olympics in 1992. Pat was a New Zealand selector during this time and again from 1997 - 2000, and is a Life Member of the New Zealand Hockey Association. She has been dedicated to the cause of women's hockey in this country.

Pat was educated at Wanganui Girls' College before attending the University of Otago to complete a Diploma in Physical Education. She spent the next nineteen years in the teaching profession, becoming the first woman HOD of PE in a large Co-ed High School in NZ, and the first PR3 HOD of PE (for a man or woman ).



A provincial hockey representative for Wanganui, Otago, Hawkes Bay and Canterbury, Pat was first selected for the New Zealand Women 's Hockey team in 1971 and continued in the national team until 1980. She was captain from 1971 until 1979. A long and highly successful career in coaching and administration followed, and she was coach of the Carlton Club premier team in Christchurch from 1972 - 1982, winning four championships. She also coached the Canterbury women 's team to five national titles and two champions trophies from 1980 - 1986.

Pat lives in Christchurch and is currently the Coaching Advisor at Sport Canterbury. She still coaches a Premier Men 's hockey team and enjoys golf, cycling and walking in her leisure time.



# Wall of Fame Inductees 2010

## **Rex Billington** DipPhEd 1967

“ Being inducted into the Wall of Fame has special significance because it brings me back to my New Zealand roots, to a city, a university, a special educational experience and a time that I enjoyed so much and still feel so good about. Physical education is really about positive health involving physical, mental and social well-being. Both formally and informally that is what PE School taught me. ”



Rex was born in Auckland and attended Avondale College. He completed his Diploma in Physical Education at Otago and a Diploma in Teaching at Christchurch Teachers' College in 1961. He was an accomplished sportsman who captained a New Zealand Rugby League Schoolboys team and later represented Otago, Auckland, Canterbury and South Island. He was also a New Zealand Universities hammer throw champion. After teaching in New Zealand and Canada he gained an MA and in 1971 a PhD in Psychology and Education at the University of Iowa, USA.

After five years as an assistant professor in the University of Oklahoma and six years at the University of Dundee in Community and Occupational Medicine, he was recruited by the World Health Organisation. For the next eighteen years before his retirement in 1999 he held senior posts in the WHO, in workforce development, as a Director in the Global Programme for HIV/AIDS and as a Director of Mental Health with overall responsibility for Mental Health Promotion and Policy, Mental Disorders and Neuroscience.

Following his return to New Zealand, Rex was appointed a Professorial Fellow and an Adjunct Professor in Psychology at the Auckland University of Technology.

Rex lives in Green Bay Auckland with his wife Andi: they have been married for 45 years, and have a married daughter in New Zealand, a married son in England, and 5 grandchildren. Rex is a busy hands-on grandfather and “taxi driver” for his grandchildren in their sports and recreational pursuits. Once or twice a year he plays golf or tennis with some old PE School mates. He is also a jogger and is involved in Masters' athletics, recently winning some national titles in throwing events for the 70 – 74 years age bracket.

# School Report

by **Professor Doug Booth**

Dean, School of Physical Education



Professor Doug Booth

In 2010 the School of Physical Education is undergoing an external review as part of the University's processes. I believe the School is in good shape and heart, with academic, technical and administrative staff all highly committed to the institution. The School is vibrant and retains its prominence in New Zealand as the institution which defines, and redefines, the nature and content of physical education. Here I would like to tell you more about our research, our staff and our future plans.

All academic staff are research active and the School achieved first position in Sport and Exercise Science in the 2006 Performance-Based Research Fund (PBRF) census. Consistent with this ranking, most staff have national and international reputations for their scholarship.

Student evaluations of staff teaching and surveys of graduates reveal high satisfaction with the School, and the Bachelor of Physical Education and Master of Physical Education degrees. The majority of PhD graduates from the School continue to secure academic jobs in New Zealand and around the world.

**We are investing in research.** In 2009 the School purchased a \$200k **Motion Analysis System** which will increase research outputs as well as assist teaching programmes in sport and exercise science, and exercise prescription and management. We are also allocating \$125k per annum to School Research Grants, attendance at national conferences, and the staging of an annual Physical Education Symposium.

**Our strategy is to appoint productive and creative researchers to academic positions, and staff are increasingly forging collaborative links across the University.** Recent appointments include Drs Sandra Mandic (epidemiology), Joshua Newman (sport history) and Jon Shemmell (motor control). We also provided funding for a Post Doctoral Fellow, Dr Janelle Joseph, to collaborate with Dr Joshua Newman, Dr Mark Falcous and Professor Steve Jackson.

Collaborative links include those with the School of Physiotherapy, Department of Physiology, Department of Oncology at Dunedin Hospital, School of Medicine, Department of Human Nutrition and the Brain Research Group.

**The promotion of staff offers further evidence of research productivity and quality:**

- 10 staff promoted from Lecturer to Senior Lecturer
- 3 staff promoted from Senior Lecturer to Associate Professor
- 1 staff member promoted from Associate Professor to Professor

**Gains have been made in research productivity.** The quantity of research outputs in refereed journal articles doubled between 1999 and 2008. **Moreover, quality has increased.** All staff members are publishing in the leading journals in their sub-disciplines, and many are publishing in A-ranked journals in their parent disciplines. We regularly win competitive research grants and funding from Sport and Recreation New Zealand ( SPARC ), Sport Otago, the Dunedin City Council ( DCC ), and national and regional sporting and recreation bodies, and are successful in attaining Marsden Funding and Health Research Grants.

**The School has benefitted from the University of Otago increasing the number of scholarships available for postgraduate students.** Since 2005 18 students in the School of Physical Education have received PhD scholarships (including a prestigious Department of Internal Affairs Lottery Health Research PhD Scholarship held by Ms Jaleh McCormack ), and 13 students have received Masters scholarships.

**Staff in the School of Physical Education are committed to high-quality teaching and learning,** and the School 's current Strategic Plan encourages and promotes excellence in these areas. Four staff, Associate Professor Ken Hodge (2003 ), Dr Mike Boyes (2005) , Associate Professor Lisette Burrows (2008 ) and Dr Jim Cotter (2010 ) , have been finalists in the Otago University Student Association Supervisor of the Year Award, with Dr Boyes and Dr Cotter winning the supreme award.

**Competition for BPhEd places is strong.** Undergraduate enrolment is capped at 200 domestic students and 10 full fee paying international students each year. **We are aiming to increase postgraduate enrolments and are currently examining the development of distance education in this area.**



Graduation Day





Dance Performance 2010

Students and staff are attracted to the University of Otago not only by its reputation for education and research, but also by its campus life. The Outdoor programme, Applied Theory and Practice, Dance and Gym remain popular and notable features of the BPhEd. Outstanding Administrative and Technical staff in the School, led by Ms Helen Carman and Mr Chris Sullivan respectively, make invaluable contributions to the student experiences both directly and indirectly.

We are keen to develop more formal relationships with community sport and recreation organisations, and local, regional and national bodies including SPARC, Sport Otago, DCC, Water Safety New Zealand and the Academy of Sport ( South Island ). We acknowledge that such relationships will improve access to emerging trends in sport, recreation and physical activity, and to issues that concern local communities, and better equip academic staff to offer their knowledge, expertise and assistance. They will also benefit our students by putting them in direct contact with potential employers in sport, recreation and physical activity.

The Student Executive is very active with respect to organising events and raising money, orientation, welcoming new students, providing tours of the campus, and organising social events, including an Annual Ball and a morning tea for graduands and their parents and guests before the School 's main graduation ceremony in May.

Most academic staff involve themselves in community service such as working on government advisory boards and committees, presenting to school and community groups, and providing continuing education courses. Associate Professor Chris Button and Drs Jim Cotter, Sandy Mandic and Elaine Rose have been assisting the DCC to plan and evaluate its Physical Activity promotional campaign.

The School of Physical Education supports the University 's commitment to internationalisation. The School has appointed two Honorary Fellows: Associate Professor Graham Fletcher ( University of the Fraser Valley, B.C., Canada, 2009 ) and Dr Ludovic Seifert ( Faculty of Sports Sciences, University of Rouen, France, 2010 ). They are collaborating with Professor Roger Bartlett and Associate Professor Chris Button respectively.

The School actively encourages short-term visits ( up to six months ) and collaborations from scholars around the world. Visitors over the last few years have come from universities in USA, Norway, China, Taiwan, and Sweden.

**Staff have won William Evans Fellowships** ( offered by the University of Otago to support visits by outstanding scholars ). Since the last review the School has hosted: Professor Larry Lavender ( University of North Carolina, Professor Alan Ewart ( Indiana University ) , Professor Lawrence Wenner ( Loyola Marymount University ) , and Professor Simon Gandevia ( Prince of Wales Medical Research Institute, Sydney ) .

A number of undergraduate students have contributed to the School and the University 's international programmes through international exchanges. Between semester 1 of 2006 and semester 2 of 2010, 20 Physical Education students have studied abroad. The University of Alberta is the most popular destination ( 11 students ) followed by the University of British Columbia ( 6 ) .

I believe the School's achievements and direction will impress the review panel, which will visit the School later this month. I also encourage Alumni to visit the School's website and to follow news and events as they unfold.

<http://physed.otago.ac.nz/news/>



Annual Staff Planning Day, March 2010

**That's all for issue 3; look out for the final 2010 issue next week.**