

UNIVERSITY OF OTAGO MAGAZINE

SEPTEMBER 2015

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Good news for Dentistry
Novel approach to antibiotics
Can ISIS be defeated?

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immersing yourself
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has 56 papers to
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Study Otago
Summer School
2016

In January of 2016, my husband and I will celebrate the 24th anniversary of our move to New Zealand. When we arrived in 1992, our plan was to spend a few years at Otago and then return to academic life in America, but we soon learned that we could be happier and more successful if we remained in New Zealand. What started as an academic OE quickly became a life in a place that we love. When we first moved here, we realised that we had a lot to learn. Coming from America, we were surprised to find out that Kiwis sometimes resent or criticise other people because of their talents or achievements – a cultural practice that is often referred to as the Tall Poppy Syndrome.

Having now lived here more than two decades, we understand that the Tall Poppy Syndrome is complex. There are clearly situations in which New Zealanders do celebrate success. We all cheered for the All Blacks during their nail-biting 8-7 win over France in the Rugby World Cup in 2011. Collectively, we are quick to celebrate the achievement of our Olympic athletes including high profile Otago alumni like Nathan Cohen, Hamish Bond, Annelise Coberger, Danyon Loader, Alison Shanks, Jack Lovelock, Arthur Parkin and Lord Arthur Porritt. In July this year, we proudly celebrated the Highlanders' Super 15 championship, as they secured their victory with the University of Otago on their backs.

In addition to celebrating sporting success, many New Zealanders continue to celebrate David Lange's 1984 decision to ban nuclear ships from New Zealand ports. We also celebrate the actions of many around the 1981 Springbok test match; New Zealanders often consider these protests to be their collective stand against apartheid. More recently, I was in Australia when New Zealand legalised same-sex marriage; many Otago alumni expressed immense national pride in this decision.

Despite these notable exceptions to the Tall Poppy Syndrome, we are still uncomfortable about celebrating academic

success in New Zealand. In my view, the academic version of the Tall Poppy Syndrome has passed its use-by date. The time has come for us to celebrate academic success in the same way that we currently give ourselves permission to celebrate sporting achievements and some political decisions.

Why? First, pride is a fundamental human emotion; it has powerful effects on motivation and performance. Giving students permission to be proud of their academic achievements is the first step in fostering world-class scholarship. Creating an environment in which academic prowess is encouraged and celebrated will allow us to continue to attract the best and the brightest students to Otago.

Second, celebrating others' success allows students to calibrate their own performance during the course of their studies. Academic life is not like mowing the grass. It is sometimes difficult to see what you have done and what you have left to do. Recognising the success of their peers lets students know where they are in the pack; sometimes that feedback is all the motivation they need to work just a bit harder.

Finally, failure to recognise success drives away the successful. At Otago, we are currently educating some of the best young minds from New Zealand and from around the world. We understand that many of our students will leave the New Zealand nest when they graduate, but we don't want them all to go and, when they do leave, we want them to come back. Creating an expectation that their success will be acknowledged and encouraged keeps New Zealand in their sights as a future place for employment and investment.

Given the importance of academic Tall Poppies, we are currently taking great strides at the University of Otago to foster and celebrate academic success. For the fourth year in a row, we have welcomed one of the most academically-talented cohort of students in our history. Our residential colleges now hold formal functions to



honour academic performance throughout the year – those students who do well are identified and celebrated. We work hard to ensure that student scholars are acknowledged across campus and in the media. We have just launched a highly ambitious New Frontiers Scholarship programme and have increased the number of academic scholarships for Māori and Pacific students. These initiatives are designed to send a clear signal about the value of brain power at Otago.

I constantly remind students that in a university environment, smart people are cool – and in the world outside university, smart people also tend to be successful. At Otago, our goal is to encourage our students to cultivate their inner smart person – and to celebrate all of the wonderful, bright, successful, athletic, talented and politically- and socially-minded smart people in their midst.

As alumni, you are an integral part of our community of scholarship. Please don't be afraid to share the success of this University – our history, our staff, our students – with each other and with the world. This edition of the *Otago Magazine* highlights more of the amazing achievements that we can all proudly celebrate. As you are reading, we will get back to the business of growing our Tall Poppies.

Professor Harlene Hayne
Vice-Chancellor, University of Otago

Dental developments

A world top-10 ranking, a major Dental School redevelopment and the prospect of an outreach clinic in Auckland: Otago's new Dean of the Faculty of Dentistry, Professor Paul Brunton, is having a great first year.

A little over six-months after taking up the post of Dean of the University of Otago's Faculty of Dentistry, Professor Paul Brunton was forced to revise his five-year strategic plan.

But he's not complaining.

That's because a key strategic goal he'd planned for the faculty – to secure a place for Otago among the top 20 dental schools internationally – was happily mooted in April when Otago's dentistry programme was ranked eighth worldwide in the QS World University Rankings by subject, becoming the first subject taught at a New Zealand university to ever feature in the world's top 10.

"It's a fantastic endorsement," says Brunton. "We know that Otago dentistry is a world leader, but because this is the first time QS ranked dentistry as a subject area, no one really knew what to expect."

More than just welcome kudos, the ranking by the prestigious independent agency will be instrumental in helping New Zealand's only dental school to continue to attract the best and brightest students and staff. It will also help to raise the profile of the many branches of dental science as central to health care – another part of Brunton's vision for the dental school.

The timing, of course, could not be better as the Dental School embarks on a four-year, \$100-million plus upgrade to its facilities, increasing both capacity and expertise. Enrolment will likely grow to 100 students per year (from 85 at present) by 2018 when the refurbishments are expected to be completed.

"This is a huge opportunity. Otago is being visionary – creating a state-of-the-art facility, a centre for excellence in

oral health for all of New Zealand – and beyond," Brunton says.

"Our patients and students will be the first to benefit, but so too will our graduates and the dental profession, as the Dental School will improve and expand postgraduate training, continuing education and professional services."

The new facility will boast new teaching, research, laboratory and clinical facilities, and provide modern equipment including 218 new dental chairs – 66 more than at present – that will enable the Dental School to improve the quality of instruction to its 600-plus undergraduate and graduate students.

Another new initiative that will further improve the quality of instruction and enhance the Dental School's community outreach is a

Professor Paul Brunton: "This is a huge opportunity. Otago is being visionary - creating a state-of-the-art facility, a centre for excellence in oral health for all of New Zealand - and beyond."

Photo: Alan Dove



“Oral health is fundamental to good health. We have the opportunity to be more visible, more vocal in promoting the important role we play in keeping our communities strong and healthy.”

proposed University of Otago dental clinic based in Auckland.

“Our plan is to establish a 30-chair clinic in a south Auckland location,” says Brunton, who is currently working with the Counties-Manukau District Health Board to secure the right space for the clinic.

“This clinic will help make oral health-care services available in an area that needs our support. Otago is the only dental school in New Zealand and it’s important for us to have a greater presence in the North Island, to move towards being a national centre of excellence for oral health.”

While the Auckland clinic will provide much needed oral health-care services to the south Auckland community, it also creates valuable, new training opportunities for dental students. At different points during their degree programmes, undergraduate and postgraduate dental students will have the opportunity to travel from Dunedin to undertake placements at the clinic.

“Our students will get the chance to work with a more diverse population in south Auckland and treat patients with different oral health-care needs than they might encounter at the clinic here on the Dunedin campus,” Brunton explains.

“It is invaluable experience, not only from a clinical perspective, but from a professional development point-of-view as well, because students will experience working in a new environment, immersed in the cultural diversity found in larger centres such as Auckland.”

In the future, the facility will also be used to deliver continuing professional development and continuing medical education training to the dental professional in the North Island and

further afield.

The \$100-million plus investment in the expansion of the Dental School, the positive buzz generated by the QS rankings and the proposed new Auckland clinic combine to help raise the profile of Otago’s dental programmes in the broader community and are a solid platform on which to continue to promote oral health as an important part of overall health.

“Oral health is fundamental to good health,” Brunton says. “We have the opportunity to be more visible, more vocal in promoting the important role we play in keeping our communities strong and healthy.”

Brunton, who in addition to his administrative duties, continues to teach and lead clinics, is a strong proponent of embracing new and emerging technologies in administration, teaching and research, and in the practice of dentistry. He’s also an advocate and practitioner of translational research – a research model that closely translates bench science into applications, which, when substantiated by clinical research, can lead to improved treatments and outcomes for patients.

“Dentistry is changing at a rapid pace because of technology,” he says. “New materials for restorative dentistry, new techniques for treating patients with special needs, digital patient records, 3-D printing technologies – these all have applications in the dental sciences. The new Dental School facilities mean that Otago can – and will – be a leader in the application of new technologies and our graduates will be among the best qualified practitioners in the world.”

Special needs dentistry is an area where Brunton would like to see Otago

increase its expertise.

“We’re living longer, people are keeping their teeth longer, so we are treating more patients with complicated medical histories – with diabetes and heart disease, patients with dementia or young people with anxiety disorders. The skills and expertise required to treat these patients is a specialty in itself and an area where we can improve,” he explains.

Brunton (54) took up his appointment in November 2014, joining Otago from the University of Leeds’ School of Dentistry where he was Director of Student Education and a Professor of Restorative Dentistry.

Originally from Cheshire, Brunton graduated from the Leeds School of Dentistry in 1984, and obtained an MSc in restorative dentistry in 1992 and a PhD in 1996, both from the University of Manchester.

He is the past president of the British Society of Restorative Dentistry and is on the editorial board of the *Journal of Dentistry and Operative Dentistry*. He has published more than 70 journal articles and written four textbooks on restorative dentistry.

Brunton counts a more favourable climate and trademark Kiwi friendliness among the positive aspects of relocating to Dunedin. On the downside: having to relinquish season tickets to his beloved Manchester United football club.

“That was a tough day,” he says with a grimace.

MOIRA FINN



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Architect's visualisation of the redeveloped Dental School, showing the Walsh Building and the new clinical building to be built behind it.



Capital plans



Visualisation of the ground floor of the atrium that will connect the Walsh and clinical buildings.

The extensive redevelopment of the Dental School and its facilities was part of a \$200 million capital development programme announced by the University earlier this year, developments that will stand the University, its staff and students in good stead for the coming decades.

This includes the construction of a new 7,970 square metre clinical building behind the existing Walsh (Dental School) building. It will house clinical services including radiography, oral surgery, paediatric dentistry, undergraduate clinics and orthodontics. In total, there will be 218 new dental chairs, 66 more than the existing facility.

The Walsh building will be refurbished to house laboratories for research, academic offices, student support and teaching spaces. A new 1,425 square metre atrium will link the two buildings.

While the new building will have its own “look”, University Property Services Director Barry MacKay says that, in terms of size and scale, it will reflect the heritage and architecture of the 1961 post-modernist Walsh building, listed as a Category 1 historic place.

The iconic heritage-listed glass-curtain façade will be replaced with a replica that meets current weather-proofing and technological standards. The mosaic north wall will be strengthened and renovated.

The capital development programme also includes a major redevelopment of the 45-year-old Science building. This will include recladding, new windows and roof, and architectural restyling to soften its current “concrete-box-like” appearance. Science laboratories will be remodelled and refurbished to the highest current standards, a new “super lab” will be established on the ground floor, as well as more PC1 and PC2 laboratory facilities.

Work on the Science building is scheduled to begin this month (September) and on the Dental School in November.

Force of

A life-long interest in words and the great outdoors has shaped the life and career of Otago alumna Sheila Natusch.



nature

The beaches that stretch westwards from Wellington airport, bravely countenancing the whitecaps of the Cook Strait, resemble more the rugged coastline of the island they face than the one they cling to. It is an appropriate place for Sheila Natusch, the intrepid, Invercargill-born writer and illustrator, to call home – one foot washed by the waves and the other wandering the untamed hills.

Wild, remote places run in Natusch's blood: her paternal grandfather came to New Zealand from Orkney and, after his World War II service, her father became a ranger on Stewart Island. It was there she grew up, in and amongst a nature unpackaged and unframed.

Natusch's maternal grandmother and her mother were both painters of landscape, flora and fauna. From these women she learned to capture the

moments of nature in a few deft gestures – the slate-grey back of a fish hanging just under the sea surface, the hurried footsteps of a dotterel on a beach. But she also developed a love of language and a desire to record places and people, not just in pictures, but also words.

Natusch's career, recognised in 2007 with a New Zealand Order of Merit, spans more than 60 years. Her many books include *Animals of New Zealand*

Sheila Natusch: "'Natural history' was an expression I heard used from early childhood: it ran in the family. But I do remember wondering what history had to do with it."

Photo: David Hamilton

and *The Cruise of the Acheron* – the first published account of the voyage of the ship that surveyed the coastline of New Zealand from 1848 to 1852 – but she has written and/or illustrated more than 30 titles in total. These include a biography of her great grandfather – a German missionary who lived on Ruapuke Island – as well as a history of early Southland women and many accounts of her adventures in nature.

Natusch still writes, paints, draws and corresponds from the same home on the hill overlooking the sea that she shared with her hydro-engineer husband, Gilbert, for 55 years. She only recently relinquished daily outings around the bay in her small inflatable yacht and still mourns the paua breakfast she used to enjoy before the Taputeranga Marine Reserve was established. At 89, she is still a woman to be reckoned with.

The singular force of nature that was born Sheila Traill was shaped by a childhood spent either accompanying her father on his forays around Stewart Island or “coasting round and noticing plants”.

“I suppose as I got taller,” says Natusch, who stands at little more than 152 centimetres tall, “I took more of an interest in trees and shrubs.”

“Natural history,” she writes in *An Island Called Home*, “was an expression I heard used from early childhood: it ran in the family. But I do remember wondering

what history had to do with it. History was kings and canoes and ships that went exploring and it belonged to school; natural history was lampshells and seahorses and ferns and vegetable sheep and belonged not to school, but to the outside world of holidays and spare time.”

Natusch’s abiding interest in both words and the great outdoors led her to the University of Otago where she studied natural sciences, languages and literature from 1943 to 1946. She graduated with an MA (Hons) in 1947, having also trained at Dunedin Teacher Training College.

While in Dunedin she worked part-time at the Botanic Garden, tramped in the hills to collect rocks and plants, and became friends with fellow observer Janet Frame, with whom she shared the great love for words that is evident in her own characterful writing.

“I like poetry,” she says. “Shakespeare. Milton. Chaucer. But Wordsworth I can take or leave. Professor Ramsay [Herbert Ramsay, longstanding Chair of English at Otago] said Wordsworth always stands *in front of* his landscapes.”

Not one to stand in front of anybody or anything, Natusch found she was not suited to the classroom, so opted to teach in the Correspondence School – perhaps also because she felt an affinity with those who live in outposts. She had also worked as an assistant at the National Library, where she recalls being

reprimanded by librarian A. G. Bagnall for doodling on the back of index cards.

The progression from teaching and bibliographic work to published writer and illustrator seems a logical one that met Natusch’s clear impulse to explore, describe and depict the world around her and what happened in it. She writes and draws not as a Wordsworth, standing out in front of her subject, but as an eager participant, immersed in it.

To point out the difference between the work of a nature illustrator compared with that of a nature photographer, Natusch recalls a conversation with New Zealand’s iconic literary agent Ray Richards.

“When I was working on *Animals in New Zealand* I did a picture of dotterels scurrying along the beach so fast their legs were a blur. Ray said ‘is this bird with us or not?’ I think he wanted to see every scale and every toenail, but I just drew what I saw.”

Natusch is a longstanding member of the Royal Society of New Zealand and for a long time represented Southland on the society’s standing committee.

She recalls setting off on stormy nights for Wellington meetings “in gumboots, fighting my way through bushes and boulders and great hunks of earth, then catching a tram to get to wherever they had the meetings. The men would be wearing their suits and there was I, all washed up.

“Whether those ‘places’ are a tiny hut, a village, an island or larger landmass, a hemisphere, or ‘the great globe itself’, seeing it in proportion and in perspective helps us to keep balance in other ways. And to do that, you have to get your own feet wet.”



From *Pop Kelp and Poha Bags*, written and illustrated by Sheila Natusch to encourage children to explore the beach.



From *So Far So Good*, an autobiography by Sheila Natusch.

"It was daunting at first, to find myself among august characters known to me only as names on textbooks and in learned journals. I did have trouble being the only woman, a small person with a small voice soon drowned out by stronger masculine utterances. When I wanted to say something I had to build myself up to coming out with it, only to subside unnoticed. So I took to writing memos to the new young president, putting the case for small groups eager to learn about science, though they could not be considered scientists."

Asked if she is a feminist, Natusch is characteristically down-to-earth: "No, I'm just a person." But whether she is a feminist or not, strong women undoubtedly have had a strong influence on Natusch. She was educated at Southland Girls' High School (and believes she currently holds the status of their oldest living "old girl") during

which time she lived term-time with her father's older sister in Invercargill.

"She was a great observer, but strict, and she tried to civilise me. Saturday mornings were for dusting and she would always find places I had missed."

Natusch's own house, she says, is "chocka with books and papers" and she has neither time nor space for a television. She rues the substitution of upbringings like hers – in the great outdoors – with the indoor variety.

"I used to like seeing kids on rocks fishing. They would hardly ever catch anything, but the fact they were just sitting there was nice."

Such sentiment is evident in *Pop Kelp and Poha Bags*, a small activity-style volume aimed at enticing children to explore the small wonders found on our beaches. Although aimed at children, it demonstrates the wonder and curiosity that lies at the heart of all her work for

the spaces that can be found outside our doors and the things that inhabit them.

"Rock pools are good because you see the creatures darting about and you can put your fingers in. Now kids get all their wildlife on TV and it's not local either. There are all these nature programmes, but there's plenty of nature just outside the door."

A life spent exploring places is a life well lived – and is certainly "so far, so good" as Natusch titled her "autobiography".

"Whether those 'places' are a tiny hut, a village, an island or larger landmass, a hemisphere, or 'the great globe itself', seeing it in proportion and in perspective helps us to keep balance in other ways. And to do that, you have to get your own feet wet."

REBECCA TANSLEY

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Battling the bugs



As bacteria have become increasingly resistant to currently available drugs, a team of Otago scientists, led by Professor Tony Kettle, is working to develop new and more effective antibiotics.

It began with a tub of margarine in the mid-1980s. Then recent University of Otago chemistry graduate Tony Kettle was working as a research chemist at an Auckland food manufacturer, figuring out how to stop the butter substitute from going rancid.

“I’d finished my chemistry degree and got a job at a margarine factory. While it might not seem that exciting, that job taught me some very useful things about myself and science. It demonstrated the role of free radicals in food; my boss taught me the value of hard work and perseverance; but, most of all, that job taught me that doing science can actually be a lot of fun.

“I’d been a distracted undergraduate student, but after being in the workforce

I decided I wanted to fulfil my academic potential and headed off to do my master’s in Vancouver.”

More than three decades on, that young research chemist is an internationally respected professor and Director of the University of Otago, Christchurch’s Centre for Free Radical Research. He and his team were recently awarded a \$4.8 million Health Research Council (HRC) programme grant to find new ways to diagnose and treat bacterial infections.

This grant recognises the significant threat posed by growing rates of global infections and the declining ability of antibiotics to kill bacteria that cause fatal infections. Professor Kettle also won an HRC project grant of \$800,000

to understand how white blood cells damage the lungs of young children with cystic fibrosis.

Kettle says antimicrobial resistance is recognised by governments and international medical bodies as a serious threat to health and lives. Dire scenarios predict that, within the next decade, people will die from infections we now treat simply with antibiotics.

“The overuse of antibiotics, particularly general ones that target many types of bacteria, has allowed a wide range of bugs to develop resistance and render many common antibiotics useless.

“One of the ways our body fights infection is through the action of neutrophils, a type of white blood cell. Neutrophils hunt out and kill pathogenic

“The overuse of antibiotics, particularly general ones that target many types of bacteria, has allowed a wide range of bugs to develop resistance and render many common antibiotics useless.”

bacteria. However, in some not-yet-well-understood cases, fatal infections occur when neutrophils are overwhelmed or bacteria evade them. In these situations, more neutrophils rush to the site of infection and damage healthy tissue rather than killing the bacteria.”

Kettle says unlocking the secrets of how bacteria escape from neutrophils could be critical to combating antibiotic resistance and is central to his \$4.8 million HRC programme grant.

“New antibiotics, or antimicrobials, could be designed to negate bacterial defences so that neutrophils kill bacteria normally and stop the bacteria from causing major life-threatening infections. What we are trying to do is a novel approach, but hopefully one that will be successful.”

With the HRC’s financial assistance, over the next five years Kettle and his team will develop better ways to

determine exactly which bacteria are responsible for an infection so the right antibiotics can be used. They also aim to determine how some bacteria evade neutrophils and promote serious infections, thus helping identify new strategies for the development of new types of antibiotics.

Kettle is one of four principal investigators at the Centre for Free Radical Research. The others are Professors Mark Hampton, Margreet Vissers and Christine Winterbourn. The centre is, among other things, a world leader in the study of neutrophils – cells that produce enormous quantities of free radicals and chlorine bleach.

“While these free radicals are central to fighting infections, they can also cause tissue damage during inflammation. This type of damage – known as oxidative stress – is involved in diseases such as heart disease, Alzheimer’s disease, cystic

fibrosis and cancer, to name a few.”

Kettle says his \$800,000 HRC project grant, focused on cystic fibrosis, is a chance to explore the most extreme and negative aspect of free radicals.

“Our goal in this project is to find biomarkers present in urine or plasma that will signal infections in the lungs of young children with cystic fibrosis. The hope is that by detecting infections early, the children can be treated with antibiotics that will suppress inflammation and limit damage to their lungs. We will also use an animal model of cystic fibrosis to test a drug that dampens oxidative stress to determine whether it preserves lung function.”

Both the neutrophil and the cystic fibrosis studies will involve international collaborative teams of scientists including Kettle’s Centre for Free Radical Research colleagues, clinicians specialising in areas from rheumatology to infectious

Professor Tony Kettle with PhD student **Kate Vick**: “What we are trying to do is a novel approach, but hopefully one that will be successful.”



diseases, and members of other research groups within the University of Otago.

“A team approach has been the key to our success in getting these grants. Lots of people with different areas of expertise and at different levels are pitching in to solve the questions we propose to tackle.”

Kettle has been working with many of his collaborators for decades. He joined the Centre for Free Radical Research (formerly known as the Free Radical Research Group) as a PhD student in the late 1980s.

“I came to Christchurch to undertake my PhD with Professor Christine Winterbourn who, even then, was regarded as one of the world’s leaders in free radical science. Professor Margreet Vissers was working here too and

Professor Mark Hampton was the first PhD student I supervised.

“The four of us have been together for a long time and now we lead a team of hard-working and talented scientists. It is through their efforts at the laboratory bench that we continue to be at the forefront of free radical science.”

Collaborations with scientists from other University of Otago research groups are also key to carrying out his latest research.

“Our collaborators include clinicians such as rheumatologist Professor Lisa Stamp, microbiologist Professor David Murdoch and infectious disease specialist Professor Steve Chambers. There are colleagues in Dunedin as well who are applying their expertise to the

research, including Dr Guy Jameson in Chemistry and Dr Torsten Kleffmann in Biochemistry. Most of us have been working together for years. These genuine, long-standing collaborations are what will hopefully make this project successful – and relevant.”

Kettle says a team of promising younger scientists will also work on the HRC-funded programme. He sees it as a great opportunity for them to grow their careers by being part of a large and potentially game-changing project. And he hopes that just like his younger self – the research chemist working in a margarine factory – they get the chance to realise their scientific potential – and have fun in the process.

KIM THOMAS

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Testing te reo

Otago's Associate Professor Poia Rewi has been one of the key players in a three-year collaborative effort to find the best ways to maintain and revitalise te reo Māori.

Although Māori was the first language spoken in Aotearoa, it only received official status in 1987.

The Māori Language Act addressed concerns that pressures from English meant te reo, once predominant, was becoming largely confined to Māori communities and could face extinction. Other initiatives to revitalise Māori included setting up the Māori Language Commission to promote te reo as a living language.

Whereas New Zealand sign language only became official in 2006, Māori has been the country's second language – legally valid in documents and life in general – for almost 30 years. So how is te reo Māori faring?

Associate Professor Poia Rewi, of Te Tumu, the School of Māori, Pacific and Indigenous Studies, is one of two leading researchers who have been exploring the current state of the language and how its future might be encouraged.

Rewi and his co-principal investigator, Otago alumna Professor Rawinia Higgins, of Te Kawa a Māui at Victoria University, were among a number of academics who submitted proposals for

Māori language research projects to the Māori Centre of Research Excellence (CoRE), Ngā Pae o Te Māramatanga.

Initially none was accepted, but subsequently Rewi and Higgins were jointly approached to formulate a new single project incorporating their own ideas, as well as working with the original goals of Ngā Pae o Te Māramatanga.

Rewi (Ngāti Manawa, Tūhoe, Te Arawa) and Higgins (Tūhoe) spent the first three months on preliminary research, meeting stakeholders from their original proposals and mapping out a plan for the ambitious project.

The result, Te Kura Roa, has taken Rewi and Higgins away from their respective universities on buy-out with Ngā Pae o Te Māramatanga for a three-year collaborative effort to find the best ways to maintain and revitalise te reo.

Rewi is grateful for being given the space to work on such an important and long-running project. "It's not just the funders and our departments we have to acknowledge," he says, "but also all the largely unsung support from our colleagues who have taken on additional

teaching and work so we can spend three years on doing this research, and everyone who has shared their time, knowledge and language experiences with us."

One of the project's aims was to get to the heart of the language, to discover its value and how it transforms the experience and understanding of those who are exposed to it.

To answer that and other questions, the research was split into two related parts, "whaihua" and "waiaro", evaluating community efforts and government attitudes towards te reo.

Rewi led "waiaro", looking at how the state responds to the language, the impact of its efforts and the role it plays in maintaining te reo. Higgins led "whaihua", working with Māori education organisations Te Kōhanga Reo and Te Ataarangi to see how successful they are and to judge how responsive communities are to the language. Data were gathered from more than 700 community language people and 12 government departments.

One of the researchers' early ideas was to develop the ZePA research tool,

Associate Professor Poia Rewi: "We need to get away from the past culture of non-acceptance and look to the future."

Photo: Alan Dove



One of the project's aims was to get to the heart of the language, to discover its value and how it transforms the experience and understanding of those who are exposed to it.

identifying the potential of people, initiatives or organisations to effect change in language use from zero to passive to active.

"If we find people who rate a zero and are opposed to using Māori, we hope to be able to change their ideas whereby they adopt the passive position, which accepts the idea of language use. Those who are passive might become active users, and people with active responses might be encouraged to speak and use the language more than they do, thereby becoming more active," says Rewi.

Although initially developed for analysis, the ZePA concept has since been adopted by some major national bodies such as Māori Broadcasting, Māori Television and Māori radio stations.

"The broadcaster is now asking people who pitch ideas for programmes to follow the ZePA model and to demonstrate how what they are proposing will effect positive change."

The concept has also been invaluable for national and international audiences at conferences and community presentations during the research project.

"It's a way of introducing our ideas that people can pick up very quickly. It is inclusive and doesn't seek to assess a state of proficiency or vitality. It shows people who are positioned to make a difference in terms of language proficiency how easy it could be to encourage a shift in language maintenance and use," says Rewi.

"Previous strategy has put a high priority on the passive to active stage, even the active to more active, but we now believe we need to concentrate equal focus on creating more space in the community where people are comfortable speaking Māori. We have to look at how much is being invested in the language and we need to look at non-Māori and grow their language receptivity and, ultimately, their language uptake and use.

"We need to get away from the past culture of non-acceptance and look to the future."

Rewi is hoping his research with government agencies will bear fruit. "We're hoping to have a lasting impact on how central government departments use the Māori language. We've had multiple responses regarding Māori language communications, and staff from 12 agencies have already participated." Data have been gathered from 46 participants.

The researchers have shared their findings in refereed publications, published a book, *Te Hua O Te Reo Māori: The Value of the Māori Language*, written chapters and articles, presented ideas on radio and television, and promoted their findings at various language initiatives around the country and at international conferences.

They have identified three key themes, which were echoed in other language revitalisation forums they attended.

First, there appears to be a mindset that locks the Māori language into the past, inhibiting its growth. This could be shed in favour of building on the past to recognise contemporary political, social and economic realities.

Second, it is just as important to invest in raising the profile of the Māori language as it is to fund such strategies as improving numbers and proficiency of speakers in certain areas.

The third theme, says Rewi, is clearly indicated by the research. "If we want to revitalise Māori, we need to maintain and grow the language. Using the ZePA model may be the best way to achieve our aims.

"The game-changer is going to be trying to get more buy-in from the rest of the country."

NIGEL ZEGA

Point to prove

A nutraceutical with the potential to help regulate blood glucose levels has won Otago Innovation Limited's 2015 Proof of Concept competition.

Designed to encourage researchers to take research towards commercialisation, Otago Innovation Limited's 2015 Proof of Concept competition has attracted a record level of interest.

There were 26 entries this year – compared to 18 in 2014 – with proposals coming from across the University, from Dentistry and Geology, to Biochemistry, Physiology and Law.

"It has become a highlight in our calendar because it attracts plenty of attention given the relatively modest prize of \$50,000 for researchers to progress their project towards commercialisation," says Otago Innovation's Chief Executive Dr Pete Hodgson.

The judging panel, which includes people from both inside and outside the University, awarded this year's prize to Dr Phil Heyward and Dr Alex Tups (Department of Physiology), Dr Nigel Perry (Chemistry, Plant and Food Research) and Pat Silcock (Food Science). They are collaborating to develop a nutraceutical with the potential to help regulate blood glucose levels to support the treatment of type II diabetes.

Intellectual property issues mean they cannot say much at this time, but Heyward draws a comparison with aspirin, in that they are developing an extract which occurs naturally in a plant.

"The Proof of Concept prize is a tremendous boost because it allows us to focus on the project in a much more pointed way and has given us the impetus

to move towards an initial small-scale clinical trial.

"This award will really help accelerate both the research and product development in parallel. We expect the outcome to be an effective nutraceutical fully supported by the basic science."

That basic science is pointing towards the extract having wider applications, adds his research collaborator Tups.

"The extract might also be effective against other diseases that often accompany diabetes. It might also help improve memory function and mood disorders," he says.

"After investigating the basic mechanisms controlling blood sugar for more than a decade, it is amazing to see that we have now achieved to a point where we can transfer this work into developing a product that might help people control their blood sugar and improve quality of life."

As well as working with the Proof of Concept winners, Otago Innovation often liaises with other competition entrants whose ideas also have commercial potential. Last year alone, seven of the 18 entered projects were progressed.

This year, three other projects were highly commended by the judges. George Poulter and Associate Professor Richard Macknight (Biochemistry) have developed an elegant and novel method to enhance the precision of DNA profiling, opening up new applications for the existing technology.

Associate Professor Phil Sheard (Physiology), Dr Jon Cornwall (Faculty

of Law) and Navneet Lal (Physiology) are developing an artificial tissue sample to provide consistent controls during routine immunohistochemistry.

Associate Professor Neil Waddell (Dentistry), Dr Carla Meledandri (Chemistry) and Professor David Prior (Geology) are developing a strengthened ceramic with multiple applications, including prosthetic teeth with a reduced risk of fracture.

Hodgson says that, when assessing concepts, the judges deploy a range of criteria such as whether the concept is novel, does it meet a need and whether there is likely to be a market for it.

He is upbeat about Otago's ability to generate novel concepts. "The intellectual horsepower in this University – some of it is eye watering. I've known that for a long time. This is a very capable research university and we need to ensure that we maximise the benefit of the outstanding work that is happening here.

"The core roles of a university are undoubtedly teaching and research – not commercialisation. But there are – and will continue to be – times when the commercialisation of intellectual property is the right thing to do. I believe we need to be increasingly aware and committed to this."

Hodgson says that the situation is, in fact, changing quite quickly and Otago Innovation has stepped up the number of new ideas it is working with.

"In recent years we had been receiving about 25 new projects, but last year this number jumped up to 50, so we are



2015 Proof of Concept winners
Dr Phil Heyward and Dr Alex Tups: "This award will really help accelerate both the research and product development in parallel."

Photo: Graham Warman

hopeful that is a measure of the new awareness of the opportunities."

Being a life sciences university means things are slow and frustration is an "inevitable passenger", says Hodgson.

"We know most drugs, devices and diagnostics never make it to market, so we have to acknowledge there is a high attrition rate, but we also need to acknowledge that there are some extraordinary technologies under development here. Some of those might be brought to market and Otago will continue to make its difference to society."

MARK WRIGHT

"The intellectual horsepower in this University – some of it is eye watering."

Otago Innovation Limited Chief Executive Dr Pete Hodgson

Concept progression

Last year's Proof of Concept winner Dr Elspeth Gold (Anatomy) identified a biomarker that appears to provide good differentiation of prostate cancers, so that clinicians can identify those who need a prostatectomy and those who can be managed. The biomarker could significantly reduce both over-treatment and under-treatment of the condition.

Since then, the sample size needed to test the biomarker's efficacy has been increased and samples stored around the country's hospitals are also being used to test it against the history and outcomes of the men from whom the samples were taken.*

Last year's second prize winner, Dr Monica Gerth (Biochemistry), has engineered a novel enzyme which may break down bacterial biofilms by targeting the molecules bacteria use to communicate with each other.

When bacteria reach a certain critical mass they activate genes that cause them to change and form into a mucoid-secreting biofilm that is

a thousand times more resistant to antibiotics than free-moving bacteria. This is a key issue in cystic fibrosis where patients end up with this mucous-generating biofilm in their lungs. It is also a problem in areas such as orthopaedic implants and dental implants.

Hodgson says they are examples of how research progresses at different paces. "Elspeth's goal for research is narrower and closer to market, or failure – all research can fail – so we're likely to have an answer sooner than later.

"I think it's fair to characterise Monica's research as being further from market, but the research could yield an embarrassment of riches because biofilms are everywhere – from the food industry to orthopaedics."

Hodgson says other previous winners are also progressing well and at least two are at "delicate stages" in terms of commercialisation – so there may be more good news to come.

* Dr Elspeth Gold sadly died in August 2015, but her project will continue (see page 41).

From OUSA to USA

Former Otago University Students' Association president Paul Chong is forging a high-flying high-tech career in the United States of America.

Paul Chong likens studying at the University of Otago to a “make your own adventure” book.

“So many opportunities to learn diverse disciplines and skills, join a range of groups and activities, and make life-long friendships,” Chong enthuses. “The opportunities available at Otago are really only limited by your creativity and initiative.

“Studying at Otago helped me develop a sense of independence and responsibility over outcomes in my life,” he adds. “I think that’s part of the ‘well roundedness’ that Otago graduates are famous for.”

Born in the USA, Chong had an early association with the University: when he was four years old his family emigrated to Dunedin, where his father was a lecturer in the School of Surveying and his mother was a laboratory supervisor in the Department of Biochemistry.

Chong initially set out to become a chartered accountant. He completed a Bachelor of Commerce Honours degree (with first class honours) – majoring in accounting, but also taking papers in management, economics and information science – and gained preliminary membership of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of New Zealand.

He also immersed himself in student life and student politics. He was the Otago University Students’ Association commerce representative in 2005 and the OUSA president in 2006.

He and fellow honours classmate, Chris Walsh, also co-founded the Otago Commerce Students’ Association (OCOM) and he was its first president.

“We pitched the idea to the [then] Dean of Commerce, David Buisson, and he seeded our group with \$5,000, and we raised another \$10,000 in corporate sponsorship, signing up 600 paying members in our first year.” The initial pitch to prospective members was “free pizza Fridays” and prizes of complimentary bright-fuchsia OCOM t-shirts.

“At the time, I recall thinking that these extra-curricular activities would help with job recruitment,” Chong says candidly. “In hindsight, the experiences and friendships made were so much more valuable than that extra line on my resume. I view these experiences at OUSA and OCOM as a critical part of my Otago education.”

Chong also competed in regional, national and international business case competitions. In 2004, he was a member of the first New Zealand team to enter the prestigious Program in International Management Business Case Competition at Emory University in Atlanta. Remarkably, the team of four Otago Business School novices won the competition.

Chong describes the experience as a defining moment. “Winning the competition gave me the confidence and belief that our education at Otago was

competitive with the best institutions in the world.”

In the decade since leaving Otago, which he says did a great job of ingraining the importance of lifelong learning into his values, Chong has created an impressive academic and professional record.

He has furthered his academic credentials on an exchange scholarship at Dalian University of Foreign Languages in China, where he completed a Bachelor of Arts degree in Chinese, and he completed a Master of Business Administration degree at the Harvard Business School in Boston.

“It was pretty cool to attend classes taught by professors who you read about as an undergrad, like Michael Porter and Clay Christensen.”

At Harvard, he and several classmates launched a multi-million dollar start-up company in Mexico City, which he describes as a stressful but fun experience.

“I was one of six co-founders committed to building the largest e-commerce site in Latin America. I wasn’t sure what to expect, given that I didn’t even know a word of Spanish. Though, after four months, we had hired a team of 40 people, opened a 2,000 square metre warehouse and were shipping hundreds of deliveries each day.”

His professional pursuits have taken him around the world: investment



Paul Chong: “Studying at Otago helped me develop a sense of independence and responsibility over outcomes in my life.”

banker in Beijing, research fellow in Tokyo, management consultant in Sydney and then stints as a production manager with Microsoft in Seattle and Zynga in San Francisco, where he currently lives.

“After finishing undergrad, I applied for jobs in investment banking and management consulting, mostly because I didn’t know what I wanted to do. These roles provided a good foundation in business, while leaving open options into different career paths. Most recently, I’ve been working in the technology industry, helping to build new technologies in big data and artificial intelligence.

“My latest project is working with an early-stage start-up, helping the world to purchase more sustainably. We are doing this by creating the world’s largest product sustainability database, to

influence billions of dollars of municipal and enterprise spending. I’m helping to design the product and launch our go-to-market strategy.”

The company, ProductBio, helps buyers make greener, more ethical spending decisions while factoring in cost and quality.

Chong is passing on his knowledge and experience through his involvement with the Harvard Business School Alumni Angels of Northern California and running product management workshops for students.

He has also found time to co-author *The Future of Funding for Social Enterprises*.

“In 2010, I was attending the Global Economic Symposium in Istanbul and I met Linda Kleemann, an academic at the University of Kiel. We started

talking about the challenges that social enterprise face in getting funded. After several more exchanges, we decided to co-write a paper on the topic, which was published by the Kiel Institute for the World Economy.”

Chong’s other achievements include successfully filing a US patent entitled “Experiment and Optimization Service (EOS)” which he developed with a team of engineers from Toronto.

“We were thinking about ways to better personalise the experience of video game players and the idea of EOS was hatched. EOS allows video game developers to personalise a player’s in-game experience based on the player’s attributes, such as skill-level, playing style and personal preferences.”

The 31 year old says that, away from work, he spends a lot of time cycling and meeting Kiwis abroad and eventually hopes to move back to New Zealand, where his friends and family are mostly based.

IAN DOUGHERTY

“My latest project is working with an early-stage start-up, helping the world to purchase more sustainably.”

Can ISIS be defeated?

Professor Robert Patman outlines a multi-faceted strategy to address both the political causes and military consequences of the rise of ISIS.

To date, the 60-plus coalition of countries opposing the Islamic State (ISIS) has failed to summon the political will or strategic understanding to defeat it.

Over the past year, ISIS has extended its control over territory covering one third of Iraq and a roughly equivalent proportion of Syria.

It now governs six million people and runs an economy that comprises oil exports, utilities, extortion, kidnapping and the sale of antiquities.

At the same time, ISIS's 50,000-strong fighting force has demonstrated skill, resilience and flexibility against Western-led counterterrorism efforts, which have largely consisted of air strikes and military assistance to local allies on the ground.

ISIS forces have had the upper hand in ground fighting with Iraqi and Syrian government troops and Iranian-backed militias, and instigated terrorist attacks in both Western and Middle Eastern countries. Clearly, ISIS is more than just an al-Qaeda-style threat. It is an organisation that combines jihadism and territorial expansion, and uses the internet to recruit supporters to back its vision of global dominance.

The barbarism of ISIS – beheadings, abusive treatment of women, and the cruel persecution of ethnic and religious

groups – can only be ignored at our own peril.

Make no mistake. The rise of ISIS is not someone else's problem. It is a danger to all states, including New Zealand.

So what kind of strategy will work against ISIS? The strategy must acknowledge the changing nature of war in a globalising world and maximise international support by challenging ISIS in three related areas for a sustained period.

First, it is high time that the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) formulated a resolution authorising the possible use of force against ISIS. It is strategically vital that any military action against ISIS has the widest possible international backing.

As a non-permanent member of the Security Council, New Zealand should push for this resolution. In the 21st century, relying on great powers alone or coalitions of the willing to counter ISIS will no longer work.

Indeed, the roles of external powers in the Middle East have been part of the ISIS problem. The US invasion of Iraq in 2003 and Russian and Iranian support for the brutal Assad regime since 2011 have contributed to conditions in the region that helped make the rise of ISIS possible.

Second, the global community must intensify political and diplomatic efforts to diminish the ideological appeal of groups like ISIS.

Both US President Barack Obama and British Prime Minister David Cameron have recently spoken of the need to win the battle of political ideas against ISIS.

Vigorous advocacy of human rights and the rule of law must be part of the international response to the intolerant and repressive narrative of ISIS.

At the same time, the political struggle with ISIS would be bolstered if the moderate majority of more than one billion Muslims openly challenged ISIS's claim that its violent activities are an honourable defence of Islam.

However, the task of mobilising support against ISIS also has a diplomatic dimension. After the recent nuclear deal between six major powers and Iran, New Zealand must encourage the UNSC to restart international efforts to bring an end to the civil war in Syria and facilitate a political transition there.

While Russia and Iran have kept the Assad regime in power, they have done so at the terrible cost of boosting the role of ISIS in Syria and beyond.

Third, New Zealand must follow through on its pledge to press the Security Council to revive negotiations

“Make no mistake. The rise of ISIS is not someone else’s problem. It is a danger to all states, including New Zealand.”

for a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

To be sure, extremist groups like ISIS largely pay only lip-service to the cause of the Palestinian right of self-determination.

Nevertheless, a continuing failure to address this issue leaves ISIS in a position where it can exploit the sense of anger and grievance that is widely felt in the Muslim world over what is often seen as long-term international indifference to the occupation of Palestinian territory.

In short, ISIS is not invincible.

Defeatism and despair are not the only options in the face of the ISIS challenge to the Middle East and the world.

But it will take more than military force to defeat ISIS. It is important for New Zealand and other countries contributing to military efforts against ISIS to recognise this.

Nothing less than a multifaceted strategy is required to address both the political causes and the military symptoms of ISIS’s rise.

However, it will be difficult and time-consuming to implement such a strategy. And it requires many countries opposing ISIS to move out of their political comfort zone. But ultimately that may well be the price that has to be paid in order to defeat ISIS.

Robert G. Patman
Professor of International Relations
University of Otago



otago.ac.nz/otagomagazine



Professor Robert Patman:

“The global community must intensify political and diplomatic efforts to diminish the ideological appeal of groups like ISIS.”

Photo: Alan Dove

Studholme College: 100 years



Established a century ago to provide supervised accommodation for the University's unmarried home science students, Studholme College has much to celebrate.

The history of Studholme College is firmly entwined with that of the discipline of home science at Otago. The college was established in 1915 to accommodate the burgeoning number of young women who came from all over New Zealand to study the subject that had been established – with remarkable foresight – in 1911.

Two years before then Colonel John Studholme, a farmer from Canterbury, had proposed a school of home science at the University. Oxford-educated, Studholme had witnessed first-hand the success of degree-level university programmes in domestic science in America. Deeply interested in social progress, he recognised a need in his home country for similar educational opportunities for women and offered the University a three-year, annual donation of £200 to fund the establishment of a Chair.

The success of the programme – which grew from five students in 1911 to 32 full-time degree or diploma

students and three part-timers in 1915 – compelled the University to provide supervised accommodation for the young unmarried women who attended. So, with government assistance and local fundraising efforts, the University purchased two adjoining houses on the corner of Leith and Union Streets, where Unicol stands today. These were converted into the country's first home science hostel and duly named Studholme House in remembrance of the school's founding patron.

Colonel Studholme's initiative, however, had proven such a resounding success that student demand for places continued to climb. In 1926 the Clyde Street residence of Sir James Allen, Arana (a transliteration into Māori of the name Allen), former University Vice-Chancellor and Chancellor, was rented for a year to provide "overflow" accommodation.

In 1928 the decision was made to purchase a large house at 127 Clyde Street that had been built in the 1890s for the

family of prominent accountant William Brown. This was finally purchased for £8,901 and opened in 1930. This new hostel was named Upper Studholme House and the original hostel renamed Lower Studholme House. This building remains as the West Wing in Studholme College today.

Dawn Ibbotson (née Smith) remembers sharing a room in Upper Studholme with four other young women in 1933. "I still marvel that we managed," she says. "We slept and worked in that room, did all our swotting together in that one room."

Life at Studholme back then – and subsequently through the decades – was a different experience to the one enjoyed by 21st century residents. For a start, it was also a teaching facility where home science students learned cookery, housekeeping, laundry and other practical skills taught in the home science programme. Meal planning and preparation for residents and staff formed a major part of the curriculum.



Aileen Andersen, Betty Cornish and Phyllis Stephens refine their practical cookery skills in the original kitchen of Studholme House, which stood where Unicol is now located on the corner of Leith and Union Streets. This photo was likely taken around 1920.

Photo: Studholme College

“It was always a struggle to complete the work in the kitchen and arrive on time for a 2pm lecture,” recalls Valmai Hedley (née Griffith), a resident from 1945 to 1947.

In the 1930s and 1940s more houses – St Helen’s, St Anne’s and Dunlop House (the first two being former hospitals) – were incorporated into the Studholme stable to cater for still burgeoning demand for home science places. It was not an ideal situation, with students having to walk to Lower Studholme for meals and maintenance on the ageing buildings proving a costly drain.

“St Helen’s and St Anne’s were too old and expensive to maintain,” the dean and warden from 1961 to 1986, Professor

Patricia Coleman, would later say. “They were not, of course, too expensive to heat because we didn’t have any heating.”

When the ceiling in the original Studholme House partially collapsed in 1951 it was deemed unsafe for residency, although the kitchen and dining facilities continued to be used until they were replaced by new, more modern facilities at the Upper Studholme site in 1959.

In the same year, after two decades of tireless fundraising by fearless faculty deans and an active alumni association, construction began on the large building – since named the Gregory Wing after Professor Elizabeth Gregory, the dean and warden from 1941 to 1961 – that forms the major block in Studholme

today. It was opened in 1961 to national headlines, for its association with the School of Home Science, and the good work many of its graduates went on to achieve meant its establishment was perceived as very much in the national interest.

With subsequent modifications to this and the addition of several adjacent houses, the Gregory block enables the college to provide for 184 residents in single study bedrooms, fully catered, heated and with no dishes to do – what would the early Studholmites think of such luxury?

High jinx and illegal entries

Give a girl a curfew and she'll probably try to get around it, even in the early days of Studholme when personal freedoms were highly regulated.

"We had a late leave book, which had to be signed with the time you came in," recalls Dawn Ibbotson (née Smith), resident from 1933 to 1936. "Sometimes you put your clock back, but the sub-warden was fairly quick off the mark and she used to have us up, saying she thought we'd not been truthful with our signing in."

The many sash-style windows in the older Studholme residences proved helpful for getting around such discipline as lock out – as well as facilitating the surreptitious departure of "illegal" visitors. Ibbotson remembers one night it snowed around midnight. "The next morning there were very tell-tale footprints outside a window heading to the gate."

Later on – and to then-warden Mrs Mary Dunn's horror – these same architectural features assisted "raiding parties" from other colleges to enter Studholme and wreak havoc. In September 1966 a group of Aquinas students entered "illegally" by climbing through various windows, including one in the warden's own living quarters. The event sparked intervention from the Registrar.

The appeal of raiding the "Virgin's Retreat" – as Studholme had come to be known – was somewhat diminished in 1974, when male residents were admitted. From then on residents were provided with a key to the front door and restrictions on leave were loosened.

"Very few problems have been encountered since the institution of this system, and it has eliminated the inevitable requests for extended hours which have previously formed part of many a hostel meeting," wrote student president Kathryn Barnett at the end of the year.

In 2015 those leaving overnight or for a weekend are still required to sign out and provide information about their destination.



Photo: courtesy Sally Keeling

A resident climbs up the "fire escape" on the West Wing. This was apparently a common practice in the early 1930s given tightly-monitored curfew arrangements.

"Sometimes you put your clock back, but the sub-warden was fairly quick off the mark and she used to have us up, saying she thought we'd not been truthful with our signing in."

Slacks and slippers

Dress standards at Studholme have moved from regulated to relaxed over the course of a century. In the 1960s hair curlers were only permitted in the dining room on Saturdays – and then they were to be covered by a scarf. “Slacks” could be worn there on Saturdays and at Sunday breakfast. In 1968 residents got permission to extend this to week-time – but only in the winter term. This was changed in September 1971 when sufficient disquiet was expressed.

Slippers were another regulated item. In the 1920s and 1930s they were favoured for being quieter on all the hard floor surfaces – but never in the dining room. Finally, at the end of 1975, it was agreed that slippers could be worn to breakfast. Just two years later, it was moved that slippers be allowed at all meals except Sunday lunch.

REBECCA TANSLEY

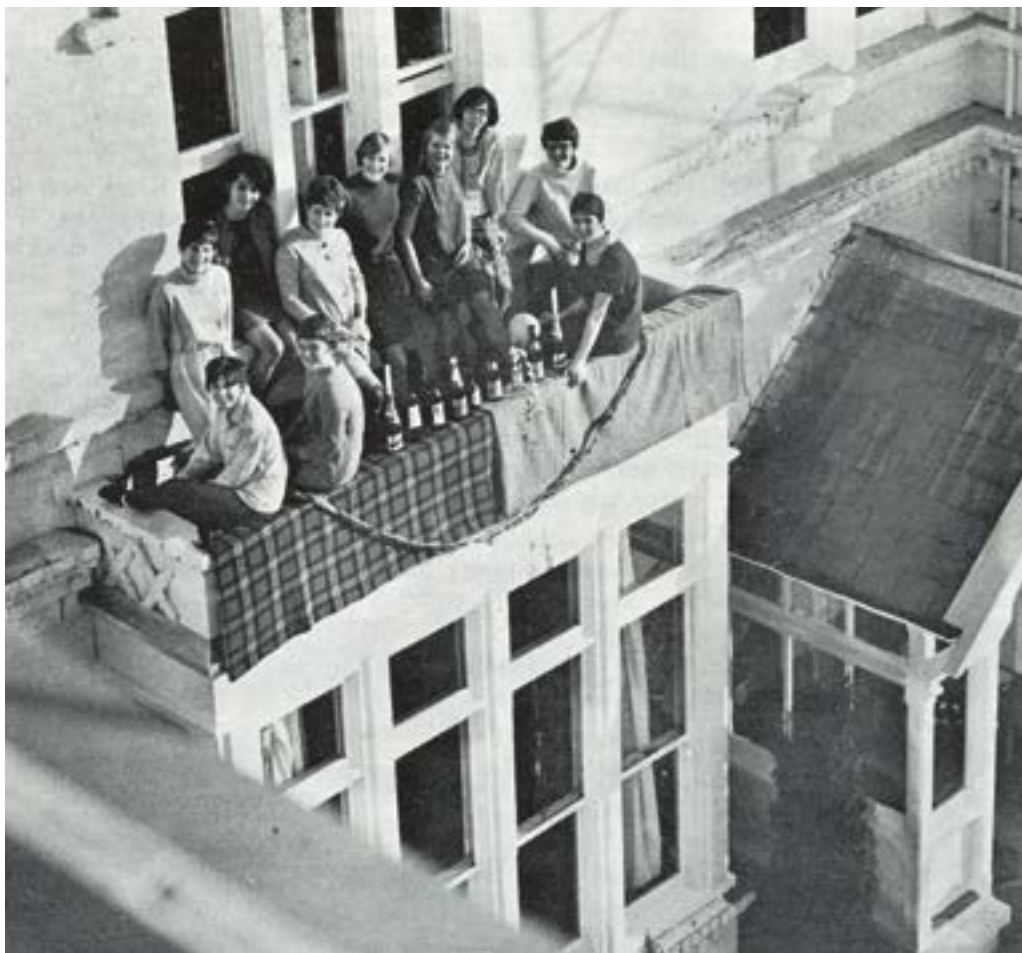


Photo: courtesy Sally Keeling

A group of young women on top of the first floor windows in the West Wing, 1968. Back row: Jenny Tegg, Fu Bee Giok, Dot ten Hove, Margaret McCracken, Jenny Rhind, Sat Lin Lu, Sue Player. Front row: Carol Stack, Mary Crawford, Mary Hazard.

Studholme College centenary event

A 100th birthday deserves a celebration. With that in mind, Studholme College is celebrating its centenary with a Studholme reunion weekend from 27-29 November 2015.

Former residents and staff members are invited to revisit their old stamping ground, share their Studholme experiences and participate in a programme of activities and tours. A commissioned carving/artwork on the grounds of Studholme will also be unveiled to mark the occasion.

The college is also preparing a centennial publication to mark the milestone.

Studholme: A Century of Life and Learning captures the major events of the college's history – and many of the minor ones too. From beauty contests to dinner balls, it collects 100 years of Studholme experiences together in one illustrated volume.

“Studholme was shaped by some remarkable characters,” says writer Rebecca Tansley, “and helped shape the character of everyone who has lived there. This book is also about some those stories as well as a history of the college itself.”

For more information about the Studholme College centenary visit: otago.ac.nz/studholme/centenary

Pacific focus

Increased emphasis on strategies to help Pacific students achieve is reaping rewards.

Otago's Pacific focus has strengthened greatly since the early 2000s – expanding from providing dedicated practical support for students, to the introduction of a detailed Pacific Strategic Framework to ensure they succeed.

Director of Pacific Development Dr Tasileta Teevale says her office was set up in 2013 to strategically monitor and implement the Pacific Strategic Framework, which she describes as the University of Otago's masterplan with regards to ensuring Pacific students achieve.

"When you look at the framework it has six overarching goals, about 20 key strategies and 66 key activities. All of those strategies and all of those activities are around services to Pacific students because the University of Otago wants Pacific students to achieve at the same level as non-Pacific students."

The goals cover leadership on Pacific matters, encouraging Pacific research excellence, strengthening community engagement, promoting the growth and development of Pacific staff and students, encouraging Pacific curricula and contributing to the Pacific region and international progress.

"This applies across the entire University – all academic, service and business units. They all have to address the Pacific Strategic Framework," Teevale explains. "My office has the strategic function of monitoring this progress." She adds that Pacific students needing help with matters such as scholarships and enrolment should seek the help of Student Services.

Teevale and her office also play a role at the national policy level talking to government, as a key part of the Tertiary Education Strategy involves universities addressing Pacific student achievement.

Certainly Otago is proving attractive to Pacific students, with numbers increasing to a record 751 in 2014, representing 3.9 per cent of total domestic EFTS, a 12.3 per cent increase in numbers over the previous year.

An Otago graduate, Teevale sees a different University than the one she attended in the 1990s.

"There are a lot more Pacific students now and, when I was here more than 20 years ago, there were no specific Pacific student services. But now we have the Pacific Islands Centre, the Pacific Islands Research Students' Support Unit in the Health Sciences Division, and Pacific student support personnel in each of the four academic divisions.

"The breadth of programmes on offer and the options available to students is far greater. It's progressed in a lot of ways."

Pacific Islands Centre

Long before the introduction of the Pacific Strategic Framework, the University had recognised the need to cater for and support Pacific students and, in 2001, set up the Pacific Islands Centre under the umbrella of Student Services.

Today the centre describes itself as "a little bit of the Pacific right in the middle of the campus". It offers Pacific students academic, cultural and pastoral support in the form of practical help and

advice on everything from scholarships and accommodation, tutorials and mentoring, to legal and immigration matters and places to worship. The centre also runs monthly seminars for Pacific postgraduate students, culminating in the Pacific Voices Symposium at the end of each year.

Manager Tofilau Nina Kirifi-Alai says the centre aims to provide Otago's Pacific students with a home away from home – helping them feel part of a family – and works collaboratively with Pacific support staff within the University's academic divisions. Staff organise academic support, social and cultural events, run Pacific outreach programmes for prospective students, and maintain links into the Pacific community.

Tofilau Nina played a pivotal role in the development of the Pacific Strategic Framework through her involvement in the establishment of the Pacific Peoples Reference Group in 2006.

"When I started as centre manager in 2002 there were 245 Pacific students at Otago. I worked with the University's leadership, academic divisions and the Marketing and Communication Division to lift the Pacific profile on campus and to start establishing policies.

"Now there is a Pacific Strategic Framework and Pacific support right across campus. This provides recognition of our students' backgrounds and the cultural support needed to help them succeed. We are all working together to help ensure they feel welcome and receive the support they need."



Dr Tasileta Teevale: "... the University of Otago wants Pacific students to achieve at the same level as non-Pacific students."



Tofilau Nina Kirifi-Alai: "We are all working together to help ensure they feel welcome and receive the support they need."



Bradley Watson: "We are seeing real growth in the Health Sciences First Year programme."

Divisional support

Each of the University of Otago's academic divisions – Humanities, Business, Sciences and Health Sciences – provide tailored support for Pacific students, working with departments and facilitating access to support services, from tutorials and peer networking, to mentoring and academic advice, engaging with students over academic pathways and outcomes.

The Pacific Islands Research and Student Support Unit (PIRSSU), established under the leadership of Faumuina Associate Professor Faafetai Sopoaga, Associate Dean (Pacific) within the Division of Health Sciences, is having particular success.

"The affirmative support from the Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Health Sciences and other divisional leaders has contributed significantly to improved academic and engagement outcomes for Pacific

students within Health Sciences," she says. Cultural and community support ensures that strategies for encouraging student engagement are appropriate. A model of distributed Pacific leadership is also developing strength with three of the schools/faculties within the Health Sciences Division now having appointed their own Associate Dean (Pacific).

PIRSSU manager Bradley Watson says that the ultimate aim is to recruit, retain and ensure a high completion rate for Pacific students, achieving a level of participation that reflects the fact that Pacific people comprise around seven per cent of New Zealand's population.

There are now some 350 Pacific students studying within the division. "We are seeing real growth in the Health Sciences First Year programme. In 2013 there were 66 students, last year there were over 100 and this year we have held that level."

Academic success is now reflected in growing numbers in the professional programmes: in 2014 Pacific students comprised six per cent of both the medicine and dentistry domestic intakes, as well as increasing interest and intake into allied health and research programmes.

Early intervention programmes for Pacific students are also run by the Divisions of Humanities and Science, and the Business School. Pacific students' academic progress is followed from the time they first submit assignments or carry out assessments. Any early difficulties are identified, and staff in each division are then able to guide and support students to achieving better academic results. Students at all levels of study are encouraged to access the support provided by the early intervention programme to ensure their successful completion of qualifications.

Certainly Otago is proving attractive to Pacific students, with numbers increasing to a record 751 in 2014, representing 3.9 per cent of total domestic EFTS, a 12.3 per cent increase in numbers over the previous year.

Women on board

Appointing women to boards of directors is a win-win for gender equity and financial performance, particularly if it's not a token presence.

That's the conclusion of a Department of Accountancy and Finance study by Dr Helen Roberts, Dr Ros Whiting and a former honours student, Daniel Low, using a sample of firms in Hong Kong, Malaysia, Singapore and South Korea.

The study shows that female directors, particularly the first appointment, have a positive effect on a firm's performance, as measured by return on equity.

"There are a lot of reasons offered," Whiting explains. "Women are more diligent, they are not involved in 'boys clubs' and cronyism, and they have links with different sets of customers and stakeholders.

"They bring a different skill set and, often, more objectivity and focus on detail, and are more cautious around debt," Roberts adds.

Curiously, the study further found that the benefits to financial performance of female directors are less in countries such as Hong Kong, where the level of acceptance of women in the workforce is higher, compared with countries such as South Korea, where acceptance is more constrained.

"We think that female board appointments in Asian countries that aren't very supportive of women, are very skilled women who had to prove themselves against the odds," Whiting says.

They compare this with "the practice of tokenism", which they say "may be more severe in Asian countries that have made attempts to conform to the Anglo-American ideal of gender equity".

The findings have been published in the online *Pacific-Basin Finance Journal*.



Dr Helen Roberts and Dr Ros Whiting: "Women are more diligent ... and they have links with different sets of customers and stakeholders."

On a mission

Research by a College of Education senior lecturer, Dr Hugh Morrison, is helping to understand the impact on children of growing up in missionary families in exotic places in the first half of the 20th century.

The research centres on oral history interviews Morrison has conducted with former Presbyterian missionary family children from Scotland and New Zealand, complemented by written records such as letters and reminiscences.

Morrison says that the interviewees were from Scottish families who mainly served in India and Southern Africa, and New Zealand families in India, China, Japan and Vanuatu; the ages of the interviewees ranged from people in their 60s to two 93 year olds.

"By and large, the people I talked to were relatively positive about their experiences," Morrison relates. "They felt that it advantaged them in the positive way they saw other people who were different, or it helped them cope with the social and cultural change that has taken place over the decades.

"But they all had stories of others they knew for whom it had been difficult: people who'd had mental health problems since, or who'd had trouble adjusting to married life because their family experience had not been great."

Morrison says that the research will feed into journal articles and two books he is planning: a general work on the involvement

of children in the missionary movement that emerged in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, and a book focusing on the experiences of the Scottish missionary children.

Photo: Taken at the Presbyterian Research Centre, Dunedin, with Scott Gray, born in 1923, one of five children of a New Zealand Presbyterian missionary family in northern India.



Dr Hugh Morrison: "By and large, the people I talked to were relatively positive about their experiences."

Civil court costs

How valid is the popular view that civil court cases in New Zealand take forever, cost an arm and a leg, and are only for very wealthy individuals and companies?

A team from the University of Otago's Legal Issues Centre has been researching concerns about the time it takes for civil cases to progress through the system.

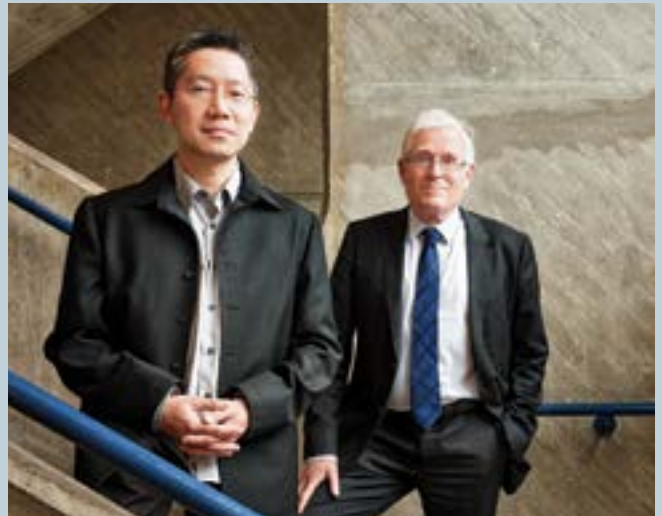
A preliminary study has found that the majority of cases are resolved within a year, but about one in six cases take longer: up to three years. Then there are the associated financial costs, which can run into millions of dollars, and the emotional and psychological costs to litigants.

The team – comprising Professor Mark Henaghan, Dr Saskia Righarts, Lisa Davis and Richman Wee – is now investigating whether any particular types of cases take more time, and whether some people are put off by the costs of pursuing civil cases, particularly in the High Court.

"The courts are open to everyone," Henaghan notes, "but it may be in practice that the costs and the time are just too overwhelming for your average citizen."

The Legal Issues Centre, which is based in the Faculty of Law, is largely funded by a New Zealand husband-and-wife couple who, themselves, experienced extensive delays and costs during a civil case, and wanted the legal system to be much more efficient and accessible for others.

The team intends to make its research results known to academics, practitioners, members of the public and politicians, and hopes that the work will lead to further civil justice reform.



Richman Wee and Professor Mark Henaghan: "... it may be in practice that the costs and the time are just too overwhelming for your average citizen."

Comparing apples with apples

Crisp, juicy, sweet – the eating quality of apples is usually a matter of personal preference, but for Valentina Ting it's been the subject of three years' research.

Ting (Food Science) has been working in New Zealand and with Fondazione Edmund Mach, a research institute in northern Italy, developing instrumental techniques to test the eating quality of different apples.

"We have been using proton-transfer-reaction mass spectrometry (PTRMS) to test for flavour compounds, and x-ray micro CT scans to explore texture. We've even been testing the acoustic properties of the crunch!"

She explains that using PTRMS is simpler – and less expensive – than training a sensory panel. "When we bite and chew an apple the volatiles that make up flavour are released. During swallowing, these volatiles go up the back of the mouth into the nasal cavity enabling us to 'taste' the flavour.

"With PTRMS, we simply put a tube in the panelist's nose and the volatiles are sampled directly from there."

Ting's research is part of a larger project to create a phenotypic database that will contribute to the creation of new cultivars that are disease resistant, and have improved flavour and texture. "In New Zealand we grouped apples into three categories, which will also help producers market their apples, as each of the categories is best suited to a different purpose."

Soft cultivars with intermediate volatiles (Golden Delicious) are good for pies. Firm cultivars with high volatiles (Jazz, Braeburn) make the best juices. Firm cultivars with low volatiles (Fuji, Granny Smith) are suited to long-term storage.



Valentina Ting: "We've even been testing the acoustic properties of the crunch!"

Fashion standards

How do you buy your clothes? Are you driven by a fast fashion ethos of buying then disposing, or are you committed to more sustainable products and ethical purchasing? And what are the implications for fashion marketing?

Research undertaken by Associate Professor Lisa McNeill and Rebecca Moore (Marketing) highlights a dilemma. "The research suggests that while most people are aware of some of the ethical and environmental concerns in fashion production and consumption, a desire for new fashion products often has a greater influence on choice than sustainability."

They identified three types of fashion consumers: the "self consumers" who were most interested in "newness" and a rapid turnover of fashion items; the "social consumers" who regarded fashion as part of their social image, but also were influenced by some ethical consumption behaviours such as reducing, reusing or recycling goods; and the "sacrifice consumers", a small group whose decisions were almost always driven by ethical and environmental concerns.

With such distinct and conflicting views on fast fashion, McNeill says the implications for marketing sustainably-produced fashion products to each group are, therefore, significantly different.

To overcome this, McNeill suggests that the fashion industry should adopt a new production model that marries the ethics of sustainable production with the benefits of fast fashion.

"Developing profitable guidelines for sustainability in mass fashion may reduce some of the production costs of sustainable goods while also maintaining the 'newness' principles of fast fashion - the ultimate solution to targeting most fashion consumers."



Associate Professor Lisa McNeill: "A desire for new fashion products often has a greater influence on choice than sustainability."

Stroke outcomes

Research at Otago on how brains repair themselves after strokes could lead to improved outcomes for stroke sufferers.

The research is a collaborative effort between Associate Professor Ruth Empson (Physiology) and Dr Andrew Clarkson (Anatomy).

"Once a stroke disrupts blood flow to a region of the brain," Clarkson explains, "you end up with quite a lot of cell death within that region."

"We are trying to understand how regions of the brain that surround the stroke establish new connections between adjacent regions, which then take on the lost functions."

Working on brains in mice, they are using new imaging technology that captures, through the skull, a visual recording of what is happening inside the brain during and after a stroke.

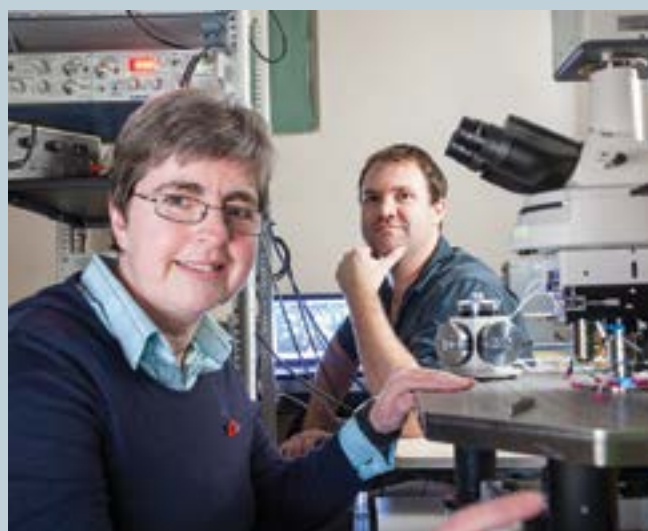
"There's good evidence to suggest that the mechanisms of recovery which occur in mice also occur in humans," Clarkson says.

The pair is particularly interested in recording changes in a specific part of the brain that is critical in directing the movement of our bodies and is often damaged during a stroke.

"The research will better tell us how a drug therapy might aid in recovery," Clarkson says. "If we know which parts of the brain are driving the recovery," Empson adds, "maybe we can stimulate those areas to accelerate recovery, either pharmacologically or through electrical stimulation."

Empson says that, although the focus is on strokes, there are potentially wider applications, from traumatic brain injury to epilepsy.

The Marsden Fund is supporting the research, which is being undertaken at Otago's Brain Health Research Centre.



Associate Professor Ruth Empson and Dr Andrew Clarkson: "The research will better tell us how a drug therapy might aid in recovery."

Signs of ageing

Data from the long-running Dunedin Multidisciplinary Health and Development Research Study are throwing new light on the signs of ageing, and may lead to new therapies to slow ageing and help prevent age-related diseases before they occur.

The study has tracked more than 1,000 people born in Dunedin in 1972-73 from birth until the present, and a large number of health measures and assessments have been undertaken over that time.

In recent research the Dunedin team, together with international collaborators, have revealed that 18 biomarkers can be combined to determine whether people are ageing faster or slower than their peers.

Study director Professor Richie Poulton says when the 18 measures were assessed together researchers were able to set “biological ages” for the study participants at age 38. They also examined the participants’ same measures at age 26 and 32.

While most participants were found to be ageing at one biological year per chronological year, some were found to be ageing as much as three biological years per actual year and others at zero biological years per year – they were staying younger than their chronological age.

“Those who were biologically older at age 38 also appeared to have been ageing at a faster rate,” Poulton says. They were

less physically able, showed cognitive decline and brain ageing, reported worse health and looked older.

He says that being able to detect accelerated ageing at an early stage paves the way for the application of therapies that slow ageing and lessen age-related ailments.



Professor Richie Poulton: “Those who were biologically older at age 38 also appeared to have been ageing at a faster rate.”

Pre-term to long-term

The long-term effects of pre-term births are being examined by Dr Max Berry, a neonatologist in the Department of Paediatrics and Children’s Health in Wellington.

Until recently, neonatologists have focused on keeping pre-term babies safe until they graduate from the NICU. But Berry, who has been awarded an HRC Emerging Researcher First Grant to pursue this research, says they are becoming increasingly aware the story does not end there.

“We’ve known for some time that pre-term birth sets the children on a very different trajectory for growth and development, but this also extends to cardiovascular function, diabetic risk and how these kids metabolise energy. My research is geared around trying to understand some of the biological mechanisms that underpin these effects.”

The HRC-funded research involves the use of a unique animal model she has developed to examine the trajectory of change from pre-term birth into young adulthood.

Berry says the western diet contains excess salt, a major risk factor for high blood pressure. Adults born pre-term may not handle this salt load as well as others, which may amplify their risk of high blood pressure and its complications.

“If that is so, then there’s whole heap of parental education and guidance about the right sort of weaning food, the right sorts of diets that young people ought to be getting if they were born early.”

Berry says understanding the trigger mechanisms would also provide a window on how the risks might be treated or managed.



Dr Max Berry: “We’ve known for some time that pre-term birth sets the children on a very different trajectory for growth and development...”

Improving Crohn's outcomes

University of Otago, Christchurch researchers are investigating how a liquid diet "super formula" can be used to treat sufferers of Crohn's disease.

Professor Andrew Day and his team are examining the potential of a liquid-only diet to ease inflammation and help patients into remission. Common alternative treatments include steroids, which can cause depression, acne and bloating.

"In the last decade the idea of a totally liquid diet for eight weeks has come to the fore as a viable treatment option for those with Crohn's disease, especially in children," says Day. "The idea is not new, but only recently have researchers looked at how this treatment works and what might constitute the ideal formula."

Studies have shown almost all patients on a two-month-long liquid diet go into remission and the diet commonly leads to gastrointestinal healing. In many countries, including New Zealand, a liquid diet is included in clinical guidelines for the treatment of young patients. However research on this is sparse.

Day has shown that this treatment switches off inflammation processes in the gut, among other effects. His Christchurch team has been looking specifically at how the formula increases a protein that binds bacteria and stops the bugs getting to the surface of the bowel. Current work also includes varying the amount of time people are on the diet and in combination with periods of food.

Together with work to develop a novel formula with even greater effects, Day believes these studies should greatly improve the management of people with this incurable disease and enhance outcomes.



Professor Andrew Day: "The idea of a totally liquid diet for eight weeks has come to the fore as a viable treatment option for those with Crohn's disease..."

Productive exercise

Regular exercise may help keep you on top of your game at work, Department of Psychology research suggests.

This research has shown that, at least for laboratory rats, a once-daily exercise session is sufficient to increase task productivity throughout the day.

Study head Dr Kristin Hillman says that, when challenged with laboratory tasks that test problem-solving, persistence and strategy-execution skills, rats that ran 20 minutes a day for five days a week outperformed their non-exercised counterparts across the board.

The exercised rats completed more tasks and did so more quickly and efficiently, which enabled them to earn more food rewards throughout the study.

Hillman says the study is exciting in that it highlights a productivity benefit of staying physically active.

"We all know exercise is good for our physical and mental health, but these data suggest that regular exercise may also help make us more productive when it comes to getting tasks accomplished each day.

"Links between exercise and occupational/educational achievement are starting to be noted in humans, but these links are largely correlations and can be riddled with confounding psycho-social factors such as family environment, socio-economic status and personality traits.

"By using an animal model we obviously eliminate such factors and are able to demonstrate a causal relationship between regular exercise and generalised industriousness."

Hillman, a lecturer in psychology and a neuroscientist by training, says the next step will be to understand the neural mechanisms responsible for this effect.



Dr Kristin Hillman: "These data suggest that regular exercise may also help make us more productive when it comes to getting tasks accomplished each day."

Listening past the noise

Dr Lynne Baab (Theology) believes that good listening skills are more important than ever for church leaders interested in what is happening in their neighbourhoods and cities.

Baab interviewed 63 ministers and lay leaders from eight Christian denominations in the United States and the United Kingdom while she was on study leave; she asked questions about listening and obstacles to listening.

"I heard great stories from a few congregations of intentional listening to the local community to discern needs that the congregation went on to try to meet," Baab says.

"I heard about a Seattle church that had a meal for homeless and low-income people. Because of careful listening at the meal, they learned that the greatest needs for homeless and low-income people were help with housing and job hunting. So, that church hired a social worker to provide help in those areas."

She says that her interviewees "lit up" when she asked them about obstacles to listening.

"They talked about so many obstacles, ranging from noisy settings and poor acoustics, to busy minds and schedules. They talked a lot about inner noise: all the thoughts and feelings that run through a person's mind as they are attempting to listen. They talked about their great concern that so many people in their congregations don't listen well."

Baab believes that good listening skills can be described and taught, a task she has taken on in a book based on her research, *The Power of Listening* (Rowman & Littlefield, Lanham, 2014).



Dr Lynne Baab: "I heard great stories from a few congregations of intentional listening to the local community..."

Cervical treatment re-examined

A Christchurch gynaecological research team is working to determine the safest and least invasive treatment for young women with moderate abnormalities of the cervix.

Lead researcher Associate Professor Peter Sykes says there is a lack of evidence-based guidelines on the treatment of young women with moderate or second-level (CIN2) pre-cancerous cervical abnormalities.

"While identification and treatment of pre-cancerous lesions can significantly reduce the risk of cervical cancer, there is also evidence treatment can be harmful, possibly for pregnancy outcomes, and some pre-cancerous lesions may also resolve themselves without intervention."

To examine natural progression and regression of CIN2 level lesions, Sykes and collaborators began by analysing the outcomes of young women with moderate cervical abnormalities. Of the more than 200 women monitored over two years - but not given the typical treatment of burning the cervix's vulnerable area - 65 per cent regressed. In women with moderate abnormalities, the cervix returned to normal or had mild changes. A follow-up study found the women's conditions remained stable, or regressed, over time.

Sykes is now undertaking a large scale Health Research Council-funded study to determine the safety and appropriateness of monitoring rather than treating CIN2 abnormalities.

He and his team are following the progress of hundreds of women aged under 25 in 10 centres around New Zealand and

Australia. The women's conditions will be monitored every six months. While no results are yet available, Sykes says eventually the findings will provide excellent evidence on what to base clinical decisions, and will likely be implemented in hospitals around Australasia and beyond.



Associate Professor Peter Sykes: "While identification and treatment of pre-cancerous lesions can significantly reduce the risk of cervical cancer, there is also evidence treatment can be harmful..."

Health research supported

University of Otago researchers have been awarded more than \$30 million in new health research funding to support world-class studies aimed at improving New Zealanders' health and well-being.

In the Health Research Council of New Zealand's latest annual funding round, Otago researchers gained 18 contracts, including three major multi-million, five-year programmes and 15 projects. Otago's recipients span the University's campuses in Dunedin, Christchurch and Wellington, and each campus hosts one of the major new programmes.

Otago key player in CoREs

Otago researchers are set to make key contributions to Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga, New Zealand's Māori Centre of Research Excellence (CoRE), which has been selected to receive a further five years' funding from the Tertiary Education Commission.

The CoRE will continue to be hosted by the University of Auckland and the co-directors will be Auckland Associate Professor of Sociology Tracey McIntosh and Otago's Associate Professor Jacinta Ruru (Faculty of Law).

Earlier in the year, Otago officially launched both the Dodd-Walls Centre

for Photonic and Quantum Technologies - the first CoRE to be hosted by Otago - and Brain Research New Zealand - Rangahau Roro Aotearoa, a CoRE co-hosted by Otago and Auckland Universities.

Otago partner in National Science Challenges

The University is a partner in six National Science Challenges for which funding has been announced so far.

The most recently announced were the Ageing Well Challenge and Resilience to Nature's Challenges.

These are among 10 challenges selected last year to tackle the biggest science-based issues and opportunities facing New Zealand. They provide an opportunity to align and focus the country's research on large and complex issues by drawing researchers together from different institutions and across disciplines to achieve a common goal through collaboration.

Otago pilots Participatory Science Platform

University of Otago academics will be adding their expertise to the Otago Participatory Science Platform, a pilot initiative aimed at helping communities bring their research ideas to life.



Photo: Emma Allen

The Prime Minister's Chief Science Advisor Professor Sir Peter Gluckman outlines the Participatory Science Platform at the launch at the Otago Museum.

The project is part of the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment's Nation of Curious Minds strategy and is also being piloted in Taranaki and South Auckland. It will see contestable funds, support and scientific expertise offered to community groups, schools, kura, local rūnaka, businesses and other organisations who may have a research idea that they want to explore.

The University is one of five organisations collaborating on the Otago project and will offer expertise from all four of its academic divisions.



Teaching excellence recognised

Associate Professor Suzanne Pitama (left), Director of the Māori Indigenous Health Institute (University of Otago, Christchurch), has been awarded the Prime Minister's Supreme Award for Tertiary Teaching Excellence. The award, which was presented at the national Tertiary Teaching Awards event at Parliament last month (August), recognised her unstinting commitment to tertiary learners and the broader community during her 14-year teaching career (see page 39).

This is the fourth successive year that an Otago teacher has been presented with this supreme award.

Associate Professor Pitama also won an award for sustained excellence in the Kaupapa Māori category of the awards, alongside two other Otago staff who were recognised with awards for sustained excellence in the general category: Dr Roslyn Kemp (Microbiology and Immunology) and Professor Rachel Spronken-Smith (Dean, Graduate Research School), (see page 41).

New scholarship opportunities

The University has expanded its undergraduate entrance scholarships for 2016 with the creation of a new scholarship as well as increases to existing scholarships.

The New Frontiers Scholarship will be available to students who have achieved either or both NCEA Level 2 and 3 endorsed with excellence (or equivalent) and who are commencing study at Otago in a range of science, commerce and humanities degrees.

The University is also extending the availability of its entrance scholarships to include international students who have completed Year 12 and Year 13 at a New Zealand secondary school, and is increasing the number of Māori and Pacific Peoples' Scholarships. The value of a number of other scholarships has also been increased. Many Otago entrance scholarship recipients are guaranteed a place in a residential college for their first year of study.

Nature Index ranking

The University of Otago leads all research institutions in New Zealand in terms of articles published in 68 high-quality international science journals.

In the Nature Index released in June 2015, Otago has moved up into the world's top 500 institutions, ahead of the University of Auckland and Victoria University of Wellington.

50th a grand success

Fifty years after it began, Otago's Foreign Policy School has become the major event in New Zealand's international relations calendar.

The 50th school, held in June, was titled "New Zealand and the World: Past, Present and Future", and featured an impressive line-up of 30 national and overseas speakers discussing and debating pressing issues in New Zealand's international affairs.

Queen's Birthday Honours

The following University of Otago alumni were recognised in the Queen's Birthday Honours.

Member of the Order of New Zealand (ONZ): Professor **Sir Peter Gluckman**, for services to New Zealand.

Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit (CNZM): Associate Professor **Chris Atkinson**, for services to cancer care; Mr **Michael Macknight**, for services to science; Professor **Graham Mellsop**, for services to psychiatry; Mr **Max Ritchie**, for services to health and the community.

Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit (ONZM): Dr **Jonathan Baskett**, for services to health; Professor **Elizabeth McKinley**, for services to education and Māori; Ms **Donna Neill**, for services to victim support; Dr **George Ngaei**, for services to health and the Pacific community; Mr **Brian Stevenson**, for services to the arts and health; Mr **Edward Ellison**, for services to Māori and conservation (former University Council member).

Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit (MNZM): Dr **Lynne Coleman**, for services as a sports doctor; Professor **Rod MacLeod**, for services to hospice and palliative care; Dr **Norman MacLean**, for services to obstetrics and gynaecology; Ms **Jeni Pearce**, for services to sports nutrition; Mr **Clive Rennie**, for services to education and sport; Mr **Allan Rumble**, for services to education; Ms **Keryn Smith**, for services to sports governance; Dr **Tony Townsend**, for services to health; Mr **Neil Wilkinson**, for services to education.

The Queen's Service Medal (QSM): Dr **Barry Knight**, for services to health; Mr **Brian Rance**, for services to conservation.

Appointments

Professor **Richie Poulton** (Psychology), who appeared in Thomson Reuters' 2014 list of the world's most influential scientific minds, has joined the Ministry of Social Development in a new role of chief science advisor. He will work to improve the use of evidence in policy development and advice, while continuing his engagement with the University of Otago.

Otago Psychology Professor **David Bilkey** has been appointed to the Marsden Fund Council, tasked with

making tough decisions about the allocation of research funding. The Marsden Fund is administered by the Royal Society of New Zealand on behalf of the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment.



Leading historian Professor **Tony Ballantyne** (above) has been selected as the University's next Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Humanities). Professor Ballantyne is currently head of Otago's Department of History and Art History and director of the Centre for Research on Colonial Culture. He will succeed Professor **Brian Moloughney** who is stepping down after leading the Humanities Division for a five-year term. Professor Moloughney will join the Department of History and Art History in a teaching and research role.

Associate Professor **Suzanne Pitama** (Ngāti Kahungunu) from the University of Otago, Christchurch, has been appointed to the Health Research Council's Board and to the position of Chair on its Māori Health Committee. Associate Professor Pitama is a registered psychologist who has been involved in Māori health research for more than 18 years.

A leading New Zealand seismologist has been appointed as the University of Otago's inaugural Professor of Earthquake Science. Dr **Mark Stirling**, who is currently a principal scientist for seismic hazard analysis at GNS Science, will take up this new professorial chair in February 2016. He will also lead a new multidisciplinary centre for fault and earthquake science that will draw on cross-departmental expertise at Otago.



Professor **Helen Nicholson** (above) has been appointed Deputy Vice-Chancellor (External Engagement) at the University of Otago. This is a new role that will oversee a newly created Division of External Engagement, comprising Marketing and Communications, International, and Development and Alumni Relations.

The University of Otago has selected Professor **Leigh Hale** as the next Dean of its School of Physiotherapy. Professor Hale has a strong background in the clinical, teaching and research aspects of physiotherapy.

Professor **Ken Hodge** (Physical Education) has been appointed as University Provost for a three-year term from 1 April this year.

Awards/Achievements

Professor **Sally Brooker** (Chemistry), an internationally leading inorganic chemistry researcher who designs and creates innovative molecules that could underpin future technologies, is the latest recipient of Otago's Distinguished Research Medal. The University awards the medal for outstanding scholarly achievement, including the discovery and dissemination of new knowledge, the development of innovative technology, or the development of concepts that lead to significant advances.

Two up-and-coming University of Otago researchers are the latest recipients of the Carl Smith Medal and Rowheath Trust Award. Associate Professor **Jessica Palmer** (Faculty of Law) and Associate Professor **Suetonia Palmer** (Medicine, Christchurch) are co-recipients of the award and medal which recognise outstanding research performance of early-career staff and are accompanied by a \$5000 grant for personal scholarly development.

Associate Professor **Julia Horsfield** (Pathology) has gained a Health Research Council Explorer Grant to identify new drug targets to combat gout. She is one of four recipients nationally in the latest round for the \$150,000 Explorer grants,

which support research proposals that advance ideas that are transformative, innovative, exploratory or unconventional, and have potential for major impact.



Professor **Tom Brooking** (History) (left) has been announced as co-winner of the 2015 Ernest Scott Prize for history, for his book *Richard Seddon, King of God's Own: The Life and*

Times of New Zealand's Longest-Serving Prime Minister. The award is considered Australasia's most prestigious history award.

The outstanding contributions of five up-and-coming University of Otago academics have been recognised through Early Career Awards for Distinction in Research. Dr **Anitra Carr** (Pathology, Christchurch), Dr **Jörg Hennig** (Mathematics and Statistics), Dr **Karl Iremonger** (Physiology), Dr **Sheri Johnson** (Zoology) and Dr **Logan Walker** (Pathology, Christchurch) have been selected for the award on the basis of their outstanding research achievements.



Distinguished Research Medal winner Professor Sally Brooker (centre) and her research group known as "Brooker's Bunch".

Photo: Sharron Bennett

Four outstanding University of Otago lecturers have been honoured by their colleagues and students in this year's University of Otago Teaching Excellence Awards. The 2015 recipients are Dr **Roslyn Kemp** (Microbiology and Immunology), Dr **Rachel Zajac** (Psychology), Associate Professor **Christine Jasoni** (Anatomy), and Associate Professor **Jacinta Ruru** (Faculty of Law) also receives the kaupapa Māori award.

Eleven current and former Otago students have received 2015 Fulbright awards. **Ashley Campbell**, **Calum Rickard**, **Genevieve Coffey**, **Imogen Browne**, and **Rebecca Purvis** received Fulbright Science and Innovation Graduate Awards. **Bonnie Scarth**, **Helen Churchman**, **Paul Winter**, **Rebecca Thomson**, and **Tim Chambers** received Fulbright New Zealand General Graduate Awards. Also, Dr **Matiu Rātima** (Te Tumu) received a Fulbright-Ngā Pae o Te Māramatanga Scholar Award.

Emeritus Professor **Alastair Rothwell**, an orthopaedic surgeon and lecturer at the University of Otago, Christchurch for five decades, has been awarded New Zealand's most prestigious surgical award. He received the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons' (RACS) Colin McRae Medal for his exceptional contribution to the field, including the establishment of the internationally recognised New Zealand Joint Registry.

Honorary Degree

In May, the University conferred an honorary Doctor of Commerce degree on one of its distinguished graduates, Mr **Ian Farrant**, CNZM. Mr Farrant graduated with a Bachelor of Commerce in Accounting and Finance and Marketing in 1966. During an illustrious career spanning more than 40 years, he was a chartered accountant and professional director for dozens of public and private companies across New Zealand.

Emeritus Professors

The University Council has this year awarded the following academics the status of Emeritus Professor: Professor **Chris Ackerley** (English and Linguistics), Professor **William Dominik** (Classics), Professor **Rosalind Gibson** (Human Nutrition), Professor **John Highton** (Medicine) and Professor **Robert Knight** (Psychology).

Obituary

Emeritus Professor **Bastow Wilson** (1944-2015) joined the Department of Botany in 1971, becoming professor in 2005. He was a prominent figure internationally in plant ecology and vegetation science, and will be remembered for making sustained, insightful and numerous contributions to our understanding of how plant communities function.

Dr **Elspeth Gold** was a highly respected lecturer and research group leader in the University's Department of Anatomy. She won Otago Innovation Ltd's Proof of Concept award in 2014 (see page 21).

**The
University of Otago
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the magazine online
and no longer receive a hard copy,
please email

database.alumni@otago.ac.nz

Code Club tutor Jill Mirandilla with George Street Normal School pupils Aaron Nelson and Zara Deans.

Photo: Graham Warman

Code Club volunteers

Teaching and learning intersect in one of the latest student volunteer programmes.

Computer science students at the University of Otago are helping to nurture a generation of computer-program-savvy children.

Ten students, along with two University web developers, have volunteered to tutor pupils from Dunedin's George Street Normal School as a part of the Code Club movement.

One of the Code Club organisers and volunteer tutors at Otago, web developer Josh Lowry (Division of Sciences), explains that Code Club is a worldwide network of after-school computer-programming clubs.

It began in the United Kingdom in 2012, with the support of computer luminaries, including the father of the World Wide Web, Sir Tim Berners-Lee, and spread to New Zealand the following year.

The children spend an hour each week working on a specially written project the student volunteers use to teach the youngsters how to program, by showing them how to make computer games,

animations and websites. The children work in pairs and tackle one project a week; the timetable is set around the four-term school year.

"Even if they don't go on to do computer science," Lowry says, "they are learning very transferable skills: logic, problem solving, working together."

The George Street pupils are literally "going to university". The University of Otago Library has made available a computer room for the weekly sessions. The Club has also received support from the University's Information Technology Services, Department of Computer Science and Volunteer Centre.

Code Club targets children between nine and 12 years of age. "That's the age range where kids don't have any preconceived ideas about what career they should pursue," Lowry says, "so you get a better balance of males and females. Once kids enter secondary school, the number of girls going into computer classes drops fairly dramatically."

Lowry says that helping to redress the gender imbalance is a beneficial side effect of Code Club.

There are now more than 3,000 coding clubs around the world, including about 100 in New Zealand. Several have already been set up in Dunedin, but this is the first club based at the University.

A part of the ethos of the clubs is that no one pays to attend and tutors are not paid for their work, but Lowry says that there are other benefits for the student volunteers.

"A great way to learn is to teach and it's a brilliant way for the students to engage with the next generation of potential IT professionals.

"Student volunteering is very active at Otago," Lowry notes, "and I think that many students just want to give something back to their community.

"And if we can give kids an opportunity at an early age, then who knows what they can achieve."

IAN DOUGHERTY



otago.ac.nz/otagomagazine

Q&A

WITH

Marchell Linzey

Awake early one weekend morning, then University of Otago student Marchell Linzey was nostalgic for the kids' radio shows he had enjoyed as a child. He spun the radio dial, but to no avail. It was 1998 and children's programmes on the radio had fallen out of fashion.

Captain Cornflake to the rescue! Marchell's alter ego, the swashbuckling space pirate, skipper of the Space Station Kiwi, soon took to the airways and continues his zany adventures each Saturday morning, 7-8am and Wednesdays 3-4pm on Otago Access Radio (OAR) 105.4FM.

"I loved listening to radio programmes as a child and now, as an early childhood educator, I know that radio can be a valuable teaching tool, with many benefits for young children," says the 39-year-old whose "day-job" is teaching preschool. "Smart radio helps children improve their listening skills, it is a valuable connection to the broader community and, best of all, it gets them away from screens."

Marchell's one-man Space Station Kiwi programme – which also streams live on the internet – includes stories, music and interviews. And while Marchell's Captain Cornflake – the corniest, flakiest pirate around – has interviewed pre-school favourites like The Wiggles, he's also hosted former Prime Minister Helen Clark.

"I might have a fireman on the show one week to talk about fire safety and, the following week, a university lecturer might join me to discuss fossils."



Currently a relief teacher with the Otago University Childcare Association (OUCA), Marchell believes education and entertainment go together.

What degree(s) did you complete?

Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Education, Diploma of Teaching, Graduate Diploma in Teaching (early Childhood Education). The BA was for fun and because I enjoyed Greek and Roman mythology as a child. The BED etc. were for a career in teaching. I initially thought primary teaching was where I wanted to be, but after a few years teaching in New Zealand and a stint teaching in Japan, decided to retrain in ECE and have never looked back.

Why did you choose to study at Otago?

It is my hometown and I couldn't imagine studying anywhere else.

How did Otago help shape your life?

My education degrees have been vital. My time at Otago helped shape my character, build strong friendships and learn many wonderful things. The abilities to discover, research and learn have been very useful ...

Memories of your university days?

Partying, protesting (occupying the registry and turning the VC's office into an art gallery for children); University clubs; drinks and pool at the Loaded Goblin (which I named); amazing music gigs at pubs round Dunedin; flatting in

horrible cold, damp, cheap flats with weird and wonderful people; wagging lectures to go surfing; starting my radio programme at what is now Otago Access Radio 105.4FM.

Recollections of favourite lecturers?

The art department at Teachers' College was outstanding; the Education and Classics Departments – all amazing!

Do you have memories or impressions of Dunedin that you'd like to share?

Dunedin is an amazing city to have studied in and to live in: amazing environment, wildlife and people.

What are your career highlights?

Hosting one of New Zealand's top children's radio programmes and working for an amazing early childhood centre – OUCA.

What are your goals for the future?

To keep teaching in ECE; to get my programme on to National Radio.

What advice do you have for current students or students considering studying at Otago?

Do it! Otago is a great place. Explore the city, join some Uni clubs, go tramping in the Silverpeaks, walk on the beaches. Make the most of your time and enjoy every minute.

oar.org.nz/space-station-kiwi

WHERE IN THE WORLD ARE YOU?

Searching for MH370

Seven graduates of the University of Otago's Bachelor of Surveying programme are among the team of specialists who have been on the frontlines of the search for missing Malaysian Airlines flight 370.

Even before officially graduating in May 2015, Kate Downes, Jason

Farr, Rhiannon Woolhouse-Williams, Dan Graham, Ian Hauman, Hayes Ballantyne and Billy Greer were working as hydrographic surveyors with Fugro Surveying Pty Ltd, the Netherlands-based company contracted to locate the Boeing 777 that disappeared en route from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing on March

8, 2014, with 227 passengers and 12 crew on board.

Based in Perth, Australia, their work has taken them hundreds of kilometres off-shore, aboard highly-specialised search vessels that scan the deep, and sometimes uncharted, waters of the southern Indian Ocean in search of clues to the aircraft's whereabouts – a search area covering some 120,000km², in waters up to 5000 metres deep.

Working 12-hour shifts, during six-week deployments, on board one of three Fugro search vessels, the surveyors have never lost sight of their ultimate goal: to help solve the mystery of the missing MH370 and bring closure for the families of the 239 victims.

"Every day could be the day the plane is found," says Kate Downes. "I feel privileged to be involved in a job that so many people around the world are interested in knowing the outcome of."

Ian Hauman, who was aboard *Fugro Discovery* on the one-year anniversary of the tragedy, echoes his classmate's sentiments. "Reading the messages that the victims' family sent to everyone working on the job reminds us of the greater purpose to this work and that a lot of people have been relying on what we do."



Graduation day for the Otago surveyors who have been part of the search for Malaysian Airlines flight 370 (from left): Hayes Ballantyne, Kate Downes, Jason Farr, Rhiannon Woolhouse-Williams, Dan Graham, Ian Hauman, Billy Greer.

WHERE IN THE WORLD ARE YOU?

We want to stay in contact with you wherever you are.
Email alumni@otago.ac.nz
Visit uolumni.otago.ac.nz/where-in-the-world-are-you to find out where other Otago alumni are living.

They have been monitoring the position of equipment, processing navigational data and instructing bridge officers where to steer and what speed to go so that the “towfish” – the instrument capturing images of the seafloor – is in the right location at all times.

“If you mention to someone that you are a hydrographic surveyor, you get a rather muted response,” says Daniel Graham. “But when you say you are working on the MH370 search, their interest immediately spikes.”

Most of the group say they only became aware of hydrographic surveying as a career option in their fourth year of study when they opted for elective papers Hydrographic Surveying I and Hydrographic Surveying II, instructed by Emily Tidey.

“I like the science and technology behind hydrographic surveying,” explains Billy Greer. “But it’s the idea of ‘discovering’ or mapping new parts of the world that have not been charted that really drew me in.”

The team say they’ve quickly learned that the University of Otago has an excellent reputation amongst employers in the field of surveying, with more than a dozen other Otago surveying alumni working at Fugro’s Perth offices alone.

“If Australian-based companies are coming to New Zealand to recruit graduates, rather than recruiting from Australian universities, then Otago’s reputation speaks for itself,” says Jason Farr.

KEEP IN TOUCH

Address for correspondence
Development and Alumni Relations Office
University of Otago
PO Box 56 Dunedin 9054

Physical address
Alumni House
103 St David Street
Dunedin

Tel 64 3 479 4516
Email alumni@otago.ac.nz
Web otago.ac.nz/alumni

NEW BENEFIT FOR ALUMNI

GoinGlobal

GoinGlobal, a leading provider of country-specific information, and international career and employment resources, is now available to the wider University of Otago community.

A joint venture between Otago’s Career Development Centre, Development and Alumni Relations, and International offices, this offers a “one-stop” resource for alumni at any stage of their career, international students wishing to live and work in a location other than New Zealand or their home country, and domestic students and staff wishing to work or study overseas.

GoinGlobal is used around the world by university career centres, educational and institutional organisations, libraries, corporate HR departments and government agencies.

Its database includes:

- More than 16 million worldwide job postings and internship listings, updated daily
- Country-specific career guides with expert advice on issues ranging from employment trends to work permit and visa regulations
- An employer directory with more than 450,000 corporate profiles
- Digital communications across a range of channels including LinkedIn, Facebook and Twitter.

To find out more and to access GoinGlobal:

Alumni can contact
database.alumni@otago.ac.nz

Students and staff should login to
OtagoCareerHub.careerhub.otago.ac.nz



University of Otago
Alumni



GoinGlobal



Acting director International Jason Cushen (left), Otago Career Development Centre manager Jackie Dean, and Development and Alumni Relations manager Louise Lawrence are delighted to announce that the Otago community can access GoinGlobal.

Supporting Otago



Photo: Sharron Bennett

Two large and extraordinary Bibles have recently been added to the University's collections, both gifts facilitated by Otago alumni.

A two-volume limited edition *Pennyroyal Caxton Bible* (above) was gifted to the Library's Special Collections from the Kovner Foundation, with the assistance of the University of Otago in America, Inc. Volume one contains the five books of Moses, the historical books and the books of poetry, and volume two

contains the books of prophecy and the New Testament.

A reproduction of the *Codex Sinaiticus Bible* has also been received by Knox College's Hewitson Library. The gift was facilitated by Sydney alumnus Mr Chris Telford from the estate of a collector who "wanted it to go to a good home". The *Codex Sinaiticus* was hand-written in Greek in the middle of the fourth century and contains the earliest complete copy of the Christian New Testament.

Alumni scholarships

Each year the Alumni Appeal Scholarships help talented young people achieve their dream of studying at Otago. The Development and Alumni Relations Office (DARO) is now very pleased to announce that, from 2016, the value of these scholarships is increasing (see page 39).

Studying at Otago is a transformative experience. DARO and our scholarship recipients are very grateful for the generosity of the University's alumni and friends who help make this possible.

Find out more at otago.ac.nz/alumni/thankyou

Alumni networks

The University of Otago has alumni networks up and running in cities around the world.

- Auckland
- Wellington
- Alumni of the University of Otago in America, Inc. AUOA
 - USA Midwest
 - USA Pacific Northwest
- Brisbane
- Gold Coast
- Melbourne
- Perth
- Sydney
- UK and Europe
 - Glasgow
 - London
- China
- Hong Kong
- Malaysia
- Indonesia
- Singapore
- Vietnam

To find out more:

otago.ac.nz/alumni/networks

Don't see a local network in your area? Start one!

The Development and Alumni Relations Office is looking for main contacts in areas all around the world – someone who can take RSVPs and suggest a place to meet with other alumni. This can be as simple as suggesting a local pub with a date and time to meet up. We can do the rest. If you are interested in being our main contact for an area, please email functions.alumni@otago.ac.nz

Stay current for Otago communications

Email database.alumni@otago.ac.nz to:

- Update or change your postal address
- Receive email notifications (instead of post)
- Sign up to the *eConnect* newsletter
- Receive one "household" postal copy of the *Otago Magazine*.

Melbourne, 18 June 2015



Pip Walker, Alan Haszard,
Sarah Macartney and Nic Garland.



Amy Mulvey and Emily Palmer.

Sydney, 17 June 2015



Davi Foto, Jonathan Hardie,
Samantha Mogford, Antonia Glucina
and Nom Mpande.



Clive Smith and Hilary Hill.

London, 3 July 2015



Christian Hay, Constance Dennehy and
Calum Anderson.



Elman Poole and Kyla Chapman.

Medical class of 1964 reunion, Dunedin, 8-11 April 2015



Reunions + Events

Medical class of 1954 reunion
Dunedin, 29 October - 1 November 2015

Medical class of 1955 reunion
Dunedin, 6 - 8 November 2015

Medical class of 1995 reunion
Dunedin, 20 - 22 November 2015

**Caroline Plummer Fellowship in Community
Dance 10th anniversary and Moving Communities
conference**
Dunedin, 25 - 29 November 2015
A three-day event bringing together practitioners,
academics and students to celebrate the diverse
fields of community dance.
otago.ac.nz/moving-communities/index.html

**Studholme College centenary celebrations and
reunion**
Dunedin, 27-29 November 2015

Carrington College 70th anniversary reunion
Dunedin, 20 - 22 November 2015

Medical class of 1975 reunion
Queen Charlotte Sound, 11-16 February 2016

**Making Women Visible: A conference in honour
of Professor Barbara Brookes**
15-17 February 2016
Hosted by the Centre for Research on Colonial
Culture. Find out more at blogs.otago.ac.nz/crocc
or email crocc@otago.ac.nz

Medical class of 1976 reunion
Auckland, Easter 2016

Medical class of 1996 reunion
Dunedin, 9 April 2016

**Distance Learning 30th anniversary
celebrations**
Dunedin, Christchurch and Wellington,
October 2016

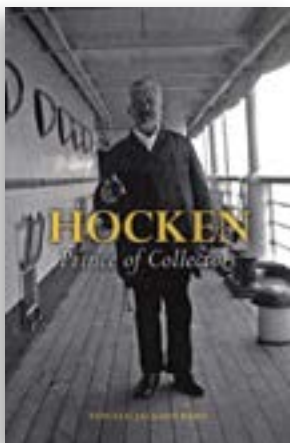
Medical class of 1967 reunion
Dunedin, 4 - 8 December 2017

Dental class of 1968 reunion
Dunedin, 2018

For more information

Visit the alumni website:
otago.ac.nz/alumni/events
For reunions, email:
reunions.alumni@otago.ac.nz
For functions, email:
functions.alumni@otago.ac.nz
Phone: +64 3 479 4516

BOOKS



Hocken

Prince of Collectors

By Donald Kerr

Dr Thomas Morland Hocken (1836-1910) arrived in Dunedin in 1862, aged 26. Throughout his life as a medical practitioner he amassed books, manuscripts, sketches, maps and photographs of early New Zealand.

Hocken: Prince of Collectors is the first thorough account of Hocken as a book collector. Author Donald Kerr has examined Hocken's entire collection, including his extensive correspondence and personal papers, and his publications. An account of Hocken's formative years in England and Ireland gives new insight into the man.

The canny foresight and doggedness with which Hocken went about securing material is illustrated in his decades-long pursuit of Samuel Marsden's papers. *The Letters and Journal of Samuel Marsden*, now regarded as a prose epic and a key historical work, was Hocken's greatest acquisition.

Hocken: Prince of Collectors places him in context with the other major book collectors in New Zealand and Australia - Grey, Turnbull, Mitchell and Dixon - and is a definitive bio-bibliographical work on this astute 19th-century bookman.



The Lives of Colonial Objects

Edited by Annabel Cooper, Lachy Paterson and Angela Wanhalla

The Lives of Colonial Objects is a sumptuously illustrated and highly readable book about things, and the stories that unfold when we start to investigate them.

In this collection of 50 essays the authors, including historians, archivists, curators and Māori scholars, have each chosen an object from New Zealand's colonial past, and their examinations open up our history in astonishingly varied ways. Some are treasured family possessions such as a kahu kiwi, a music album or a grandmother's travel diary, and their stories have come down through families.

Some, like the tauihu of a Māori waka, a Samoan kilikiti bat or a flying boat, are housed in museums.

Others - a cannon, a cottage and a country road - inhabit public spaces, but they, too, turn out to have unexpected histories. Things invite us into the past through their tangible, tactile and immediate presence: they serve as 50 paths into New Zealand's colonial history.

While each chapter is the story of a particular object, *The Lives of Colonial Objects* as a whole informs and enriches the colonial history of Aotearoa New Zealand.

For further information: Otago University Press | otago.ac.nz/press | university.press@otago.ac.nz

Books by Otago alumni

The People's University: A Centennial History of the Canterbury Workers' Educational Association 1915-2015, by Ian Dougherty, Canterbury University Press, March 2015.

The Adventures of Angel-Louise & Friends, Picture Story Books for Children (*Merlin's Magical Door to Nowhere* series), by Julie Fawcett, illustrated by Charlie Saies-Allen, AL Publishing for Julie Fawcett Publisher, July 2015.

Asians and the New Multiculturalism in Aotearoa New Zealand, edited by Gautam Ghosh and Jacqueline Leckie, Otago University Press, 2015.

Resolving Your Hidden Negativity, by Mami Yamaguchi, Mikasa Shobo, 2014.

Fences of Freedom: The Ten Commandments for Today, by Rob Yule, Xulon Press, Maitland, Florida, January 2015.

Slipping the Moorings: A Memoir Weaving Faith with Justice, Ethics and Community, by Richard Randerson, Matai House, 2015.

Sir George Grey and the Moa, by Bruce Spittle, Paua Press, Dunedin, April 2015.

Troubling Women and Land: Reading Biblical Texts in Aotearoa New Zealand, by Judith E. McKinlay, "The Bible in the Modern World" 59, Sheffield Phoenix Press, Sheffield, 2014.

Pills and Potions at The Cotter Medical History Trust, by Claire Le Couteur, Otago University Press, 2014.

Switching Roles: Student Mentors Help Teachers Use ICT Pedagogically, by Michael Peterson, Lambert Academic Publishing, 2014.

The Dragon Riders, by James Russell, illustrated by Link Choi, Dragon Brothers Books.

Singing The Sacred Vol. 2: Psalms, Hymns and Spiritual Songs, by William L. Wallace, World Library Publications, Franklin Park, Illinois, 2014.

Alumni:

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

Details of an artist's life

Newly accessible papers held in the Hocken Collections reveal fascinating insights into the life, works and opinions of one of New Zealand's greatest artists, Colin McCahon (1919-1987).

McCahon's personal and business papers, as well as those of his wife Anne McCahon (1915-1993), were donated to the Hocken some years ago and now access restrictions have expired (with the exception of personal letters written by still-living people for which written permission is required).

The collection dates back to McCahon's childhood - even earlier as it includes papers belonging to his mother Ethel McCahon, whose father William Ferrier was also a talented painter and photographer. There is a long sequence of letters between McCahon and his parents, including some charming letters from the young Colin that reveal an early interest in art - he went on to study at the Dunedin School of Art.

However, much of the personal correspondence is between Colin and Anne and their friends, and is particularly significant in highlighting the influences in his life.

There are numerous letters from members of the New Zealand art community, including John and Anna Caselberg, Patricia France, Doris Holland (Lusk), Ron O'Reilly and Toss Woollaston, revealing aspects of their lives and work as well. Particularly intriguing is a series of letters from infamous prison escapee Ron Jorgensen with whom McCahon corresponded about art while Jorgensen was still in jail.

As well as personal correspondence, the collection includes a large number of business letters - from galleries, societies and art dealers, some including financial details and receipts, even the names of people who bought his work, and instructions in McCahon's hand about the conditions for the sale of his work. Other papers relate to specific projects, including the commission, sketches and photographs for the *Waterfall* mural he created for the University of Otago



Photo: Alan Dove

Letters, photos and sketches are among Colin McCahon's personal papers now accessible at the Hocken Collections.

Library, as well as correspondence and sketches for his famous *Urewera* mural.

There are also papers that show that McCahon, too, was purchasing art - such as a Greer Twiss sculpture, drawing and print in 1965.

Books and other items held in the collection tell us much about McCahon's interests. His love of the theatre is reflected in scripts and designs from the drama productions he was involved in in the 1950s-70s - he co-founded the New Independent Theatre in the 1960s. Art books, magazine clippings and a few art reproductions throw light on those artists whose work McCahon may have particularly valued. And a number of Bibles and other religious texts - some of which are annotated - highlight an influence that became highly significant in his paintings.

The full list of the McCahon collection can be viewed on the Hocken's online catalogue, Hakena.
hakena.otago.ac.nz



otago.ac.nz/otagomagazine

HOCKEN EXHIBITIONS

W.H. Allen & the La Trobe Effect

Until 3 October 2015
English-born W.H. Allen taught at the Dunedin School of Art before being recruited by the New Zealand Education Department under Superintendent Sanderson la Trobe. He returned to England in the late 1930s.

We Drove Here: Hocken Explores Motoring History

7 November 2015 - 7 February 2016

... Lord Lister's antiseptic

A letter and signed photograph from Florence Nightingale and an antiseptic sprayer used by medical pioneer Lord Joseph Lister are two of the rarer items among a fascinating collection of medical artefacts held by the Otago Medical School Alumnus Association.

The extensive collection encompasses thousands of items ranging from smaller instruments, including an 1800s field surgeon's set and an oil-powered eye and ear examination lamp, to large early x-ray machines, and even Dunedin Hospital's first heart by-pass machine from the 1960s.

The association's honorary curator of artefacts, Dr Paul Trotman, says their aim is to make the collection more available, both physically, in the Borrie History Hall on the first floor of Dunedin Hospital, and virtually, through an online digital archive.

"There is a lot in storage, so the plan is to photograph and catalogue it all, then make it available online. So far 1500 items have been digitised, but we are only a third of the way there.

"We also plan to rearrange the displays in the Borrie History Hall and make a little more space available."

The hall is named after surgeon John Borrie who donated many items, including mementoes he collected and used as a prisoner of war in Germany, an experience he wrote about in his book *Despite Captivity*.

Pride of place goes to the 1856 letter Florence Nightingale wrote to Lord

Lyons, Commander-in-Chief of the Mediterranean Fleet, thanking him for an offer to return home with him to England following the Crimean War. In it, Nightingale, who eschewed fuss and publicity, explained how she wished to make other arrangements and return home quietly.

The letter was donated by the A. H. & Marion Reed Trust, long-time supporters of the Otago Medical School Alumnus Association. There is also a rare signed photo alongside it.

Trotman says the carbolic acid steam sprayer used by Lord Lister is also extremely significant because he pioneered antiseptic surgery in the latter half of the 1800s, bringing about a great reduction in post-operative infections. Lister gave the sprayer to one of his dressers, Dr G. G. Drake Willet, of Bristol, and it was eventually secured for the school in 1932 by Dr W. H. Simpson, of Wellington.

The digital archiving project will make this and many other rare and globally significant items far more accessible to researchers and the public. To do it properly the alumnus association needs



to raise approximately \$19,000 to pay for better equipment and software, as well as more staff hours to complete the project.

At the class of '64 reunion earlier this year, the aims of the project were described, and the photograph and the antiseptic sprayer demonstrated, by Emeritus Professor Keith Jeffery, who sadly died in July 2015. The class is

"There is a lot in storage, so the plan is to photograph and catalogue it all, then make it available online."

Florence Nightingale's letter
to Lord Lyons, in 1856.

sprayer?

considering what contribution they can
make to help fund the project.

The Alumni of the University of Otago
in America, Inc., the body that represents
the University in the United States, has also
indicated an interest in supporting it.

Contributions are welcome from anybody and can
be made either by an internet transfer to OMSAA account
(Westpac 03 0883 0192869 01) or by cheque made out to the
OMSAA Virtual Museum Fund (Postal address: c/o Otago Medical
School, 290 Great King Street, PO Box 56, Dunedin, 9016, New
Zealand).

MARK WRIGHT



otago.ac.nz/otagomagazine

The medical artefacts range from small instruments to an
antiseptic sprayer used by Lord Joseph Lister.



Photos: Alan Dove.



Postgraduate Study

Considering your next step?

Boost your career or get into research
with a postgraduate qualification from
New Zealand's leading postgraduate
research university.

Otago – your place in the world.

POSTGRADUATE



YOUR PLACE IN THE WORLD