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In November delegates from this University will be attending a workshop on Renewable Energy and Society, to be held at Queen's University in Canada. This will be the first scholarly meeting organised by a new group of select institutions, including the University of Otago, known as the Matariki Network of Universities.

One of Otago's declared priorities is to contribute to international progress, and we aim to foster an international perspective in all research and teaching programmes. Last year we were proud to host students from 98 different countries, with the largest numbers coming from the USA, Malaysia, China and Germany, respectively. We also encourage our New Zealand students to spend one or two semesters of their undergraduate education at an overseas university. Having done this myself as a medical student, I know what a wonderful experience it can be. Otago sends a higher proportion of its students on international exchange than any other New Zealand university.

Such activities are underpinned by the partnerships we have developed with nearly 100 universities around the world. Our international agreements are regularly reviewed. Recently we have been delighted to strengthen our links with several of the leading universities in China, including Tsinghua University, Fudan University and Shanghai Jiao Tong University. We are also a partner in the New Zealand Centre at Peking University.

While recognising the value of bilateral links with a wide variety of universities in many countries, we have also been attracted by the idea of developing a deeper relationship with a small group of universities with which we have a great deal in common. The seven founding partners of the Matariki Network of Universities are Dartmouth College (established in 1769) in the USA; Durham University (1832) in England; Queen's University (1841) in Canada; University of Otago (1869); University of Tübingen (1477) in Germany; University of Western Australia (1911); and Uppsala University (1477) in Sweden.

These universities are among the oldest and foremost places of learning in their respective countries. They are scholarly communities where excellence in research and education are valued equally. The scale of the historic university cities or towns in which most are embedded enables their staff and students to live and work together in an academic community. While all of the universities are research-intensive, they also aim to provide a rounded education and a high-quality student experience.

Over the next few years, the group aims to promote a wide range of initiatives. These include enhanced student exchange, development of joint postgraduate programmes, social responsibility projects, research collaboration, visiting fellowships, staff exchange and secondments, benchmarking and sharing of best practice, and cultural and sporting



activities. One of our objectives is to collaborate in projects that will promote international development.

There are now several groupings of world universities, and some are so large that their gatherings resemble meetings of the United Nations! While a few more members may be invited to join our network in the future, it is intended to keep the number small – so that we can enjoy the benefits of very close and trusting relationships. Naturally I was delighted that the seven founding partners decided to adopt a Māori name for the consortium. "Matariki" is the Māori name for the group of stars called the Pleiades, which are also known as the Seven Sisters. It is fitting that "Matariki" is also the word for the Māori New Year, symbolising a new beginning.

havid Skegg

Professor David Skegg Vice-Chancellor, University of Otago

Bringing it home

100 years ago Lieutenant-Colonel John Studholme recognised the need for university-based study in home science. His legacy lives on with an interdisciplinary applied sciences programme that continues to meet the changing needs of society.

We live in the age of science: a time when the food we eat, the clothes we wear and the objects we use in day-to-day life all result from ingenious modification of the physical materials that comprise them.

This modification is achieved by applying knowledge gained from science about those materials' behaviour. In other words, from applied science.

While the idea of applying scientific knowledge to improving anything as basic as our home environment may not strike modern readers as revolutionary, in 1909 when Lieutenant-Colonel John Studholme broached the idea of establishing a school of home science at the University of Otago - a place of legitimate academic pursuit for women, no less - the matter warranted serious civic debate.

A century on, Studholme's vision can be fully appreciated for what it was: a far-sighted, highly-practical response to changing social needs.

Studholme had witnessed first-hand the success of land-based, 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 an annual donation of £200 to fund a chair.

"To my mind woman's education will never be placed on a proper footing in this country so long as that knowledge which enables a woman to be an efficient wife and mother and to make the very best out of her home surroundings is made to take a lower position in our University to nearly all other and less essential subjects," he argued.

Studholme saw the home environment as the crucible of society. Support for this institution, and for the dissemination of advances in its management made possible by science and technology, were, he believed, vital to the process of social development.

"What is the use of all the scientific knowledge that we have been collecting for so many years if we do not apply it so as to make our homes more beautiful and more healthy, unless it eases the burden and drudgery of everyday life?" he asked.

As well as effectively providing the country with its first applied science department at a time when modern science was still in its infancy, the establishment of the school in 1911 provided a socially-acceptable avenue for university education for women.

Enrolments quickly grew, from five degree or diploma candidates in the inaugural year, to 60 by 1918. Along with this growth came more subjects and facilities.

In addition to classes in cookery, clothing and household and social economics, students attended chemistry, anatomy, physics and physiology lectures alongside medical and mining students. This afforded them an unprecedented breadth of education which stood the women in excellent stead for future professions as teachers and dieticians, although the prevailing trend at the time was for alumnae to marry soon after graduation and so retire from paid employment.

Alumna Dawn Ibbotson went on to teach at a girls' school after graduating in 1937, but recalls she was "expected" to give up her job when she married the following year.

"It [then] so happened that the Home Science School was short of staff and I was asked if I would fill in for a few months. That was when I received an anonymous letter accusing me of taking a job that should go to a single woman," she would later write.

Current Consumer and Applied Science programme director Dr Cheryl Studholme saw the home environment as the crucible of society. Support for this institution, and for the dissemination of advances in its management made possible by science and technology, were, he believed, vital to the process of social development.

Back left: Mrs Strong (Dean of Home Science 1924-1940) as a young woman, with classmates.



Wilson explains that, whether they pursued long-term professions or not, these early graduates made a significant contribution to social development.

"A lot of these women helped build New Zealand society behind the scenes. They would have had a significant role in aiding career development for their husbands and in doing unpaid work. You won't find them in employment records, but they were there."

Dawn Ibbotson, who held places on the National Council of Women of New Zealand, Consumer Price Index Revision Advisory Committee, Standards Council and the New Zealand Product Safety Council, is a good example of this stewardship. Other alumnae who have made equally significant social contributions include Diana Hubbard, Mary Taylor, Marie Thomas and Mary McIntyre. Later graduates who went on to forge successful professional careers, such as US-based interior decorator Jennifer

Schreiber, also continued the tradition of voluntary work.

Wilson, a clothing and textile scientist, believes the breadth of learning that characterised the Home Science degree is one of the keys to the enduring success of both the programme and its graduates.

"My Home Science degree stands up very well even now. Chemistry, physics, microbiology, physiology – I use them all."

Much has changed since the school's inception, but the philosophy underlying its establishment – of

applying scientific knowledge towards the betterment of our material environment – has not. As the school expanded its focus to reflect the advances in scientific knowledge that now enable us to modify clothing fibres, alter food flavours and refine the design of everyday objects, its relevance has remained.

"The school has changed more than many others in offering students a considerably greater range of options and course work over the years," says Jennifer Schreiber, who has remained an active alumna, "continually becoming more

"A lot of these women helped build New Zealand society behind the scenes. They would have had a significant role in aiding career development for their husbands and in doing unpaid work. You won't find them in employment records, but they were there."

industry-oriented and reflecting changing times in homes, businesses and research."

In the mid 1980s Home Science became the Consumer and Applied Sciences programme, and the new Bachelor in Consumer and Applied Sciences (BCApSc) was introduced. This degree enabled students to combine a major in their specialisation from among Food Science, Design Studies, Human Nutrition, Clothing and Textile Sciences, and Social and Community Work, with an approved major in a complementary subject, irrespective of division.

The aim was to equip graduates – including a growing number of young men – with both in-depth understanding of their chosen applied science subject and the breadth of skills needed to perform effectively in increasingly multidisciplinary fields of employment.

One such graduate is Emily Cooper, who went on to found clothing company Silkbody® after graduating with a major in Clothing and Textile Sciences in 1999.

"Having knowledge of textiles, fibres and their properties has been invaluable

in this business. It enables our company to communicate the technical aspects of our garments in a meaningful way to consumers," she says. "I'm also able to evaluate the claims of our competitors about the performance of their products. These are often outrageous! We try to help consumers to recognise the marketing babble by educating them about our own product with integrity."

As a member of the later generation of CApSc graduates, Emily Cooper concurs that the programme has remained responsive to social change.

"The research that is coming out of the programme has really demonstrated its ability to evolve with the times. [In clothing and textile science] research varies from forensic analysis of textiles, to properties of silk fabrics,to looking at issues of identity in clothing worn by twins. I think that's the wonderful thing about the discipline – it proves just how relevant studies in this area are to everyday lives."

Wilson points out that Studholme's choice of Otago was fortuitous given

the synchronicities between modern applied science with fields as diverse as physical education, medicine and commerce. This enables interdisciplinary research between the applied sciences and other disciplines that stretch right across the University – human nutrition with medicine and physical education, clothing and textile sciences with marketing and injury prevention, food science with microbiology and so on – collaboration that wouldn't be possible without Otago's evolution into an extraordinarily rich and diverse research institution.

Design Studies senior lecturer Dr Noel Waite believes interdisciplinary collaboration has always been the calling card of applied sciences.

"Initially, science was viewed as a complementary addition to the creative aspects inherent in homemaking – what was referred in the parlance of the times as 'fine art'. The aim was always to enable students to apply and integrate new knowledge from all domains of not just science, but also arts and commerce,



and that will become even more important in the future."

"We face so many more problems now that can't be dealt with by individual specialisation. We need a broad approach. You need to know key things about structures, human society, and how people work and function today."

Waite points out that such evolution is still evidence of the theme of social improvement that drove the original establishment of Home Science, but he adds that the pressure now is for the development of sustainable solutions to social needs.

"When you get back to food, clothing, housing, it goes to the big issues everyone lives with. If you don't sustain the home environment, then a lot of that other stuff doesn't matter."

Waite and Wilson both believe a newlycreated Department of Applied Sciences, which from 2011 carries the baton first launched by Studholme a century ago, will be the interdisciplinary engine that's needed to produce the kind of applied science graduates society now needs. "We face so many more problems now that can't be dealt with by individual specialisation. We need a broad approach. You need to know key things about structures, human society, and how people work and function today."

Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Sciences)
Professor Keith Hunter explains that
a new three-year degree of Bachelor of
Applied Sciences, which will be phased
in from 2011, will offer most of the major
subjects of the BCApSc degree. He points
out that the new degree will continue to
allow students to tailor their degree to
suit their specialist interests, along with
the option of adding a year to complete a
BAppSc(Hons).

"We've bowled down divisional walls," says Wilson. "That is unique and that's the strength of the degree. Those majors are going to continue supporting the careers of graduates out in the community and the communities they contribute to.

"It's about celebrating the past and lining up for the future," continues Wilson. "It's about ensuring the vision of Studholme and the work of alumni over the years continues to work for New Zealand's best interests into the future."

REBECCA TANSLEY

The Home Science/Consumer and Applied Sciences programme celebrates its centenary in February 2011 and marks the occasion with a reunion weekend, the conference "Bringing it Home", and the 2011 Patricia Coleman Public Lecture by Dr Noel Waite.

For further information visit: www.otago.ac.nz/capsc/bringingithome/index.html







Digital danger

Computer forensics expert Associate Professor Henry Wolfe offers advice on how to be best protected in the unsafe world of electronic communications.

If you use a cellphone or a computer, your privacy is at risk.

Our unprecedented reliance on technology means that our personal information has never been so vulnerable. The methods and hardware to delve into other people's affairs are not difficult to source, and most attempts to protect electronic information are easily overcome.

So how do we stay safe in a digital age? Associate Professor Henry B Wolfe, of the Department of Information Science, has some suggestions. He has an international reputation for his knowledge of computer forensics, encryption, surveillance, privacy and virus defences.

He's advised government bodies around the Pacific Rim as well as New Zealand businesses and internet service providers, and is in regular demand for presentations on security and privacy at conferences worldwide, including such high-profile engagements as the US Military Academy at West Point and addressing High Court Justices.

His current research into recovering potential electronic evidence for law-enforcement agencies has involved him with cases in New Zealand, Australia and Singapore, and he teaches, writes and speaks on the subject.

Wolfe has half a century of experience. He started in data processing in the US in 1959, having to wait until he was 18 to be allowed to operate the machines in his native Connecticut.

He took to the new technology

—"computing has order to it and I like
order" — and made rapid progress
programming and designing systems in
the manufacturing sector for a decade,
including developing one of the first fullyautomated accounting systems in the US.

After a stint with the CIA in Washington, Wolfe rose to the position of Director of Management Information Systems for the Overseas Private Investment Corporation. But a healthy pay cheque didn't cover a three-hour daily commute and the stress of life at the top.

Wolfe put out some feelers – "there had to be a place with a better quality of life" – and arrived at the University of Otago in 1979. "There's a good climate and it's out of the way – it was the best decision I ever made."

He'd been using the precursor to the internet for almost 10 years — "no one knew then that it would become what it has become" — so he has been at the forefront of computer security as long as there have been issues of concern.

He believes there is no such thing as privacy any more.

"If you speak, what you say can be intercepted and overheard. With the right equipment I can hear you from 200-300 feet [60-90 metres] away even if you are talking to yourself on a beach.

"If you write something down in any form it can be intercepted and read. Everything you do on the internet can be seen by someone else.

"Surveillance cameras are everywhere these days, although no one has proved that they make any difference to what happens."

The age of Big Brother, it seems, is upon us.

Cellphones

"Cellphones are patently not secure," says Wolfe. "No matter what the service providers and others say, all forms of cellphone security can be defeated."

Cellphone conversations are routinely tracked for key words. Copies of texts can be forwarded to third parties. Technologies can track your phone or control it and turn it into an eavesdropping bug. Nothing is safe.

"It's not only people like the FBI who can do these things," says Wolfe. "You can do much of it yourself because the information and equipment is available on the internet. There are packages out there that can do these things, not just for law enforcement, but for harassment and evil intent."

Wolfe doesn't own a cellphone – "there are too many risks". If he did, he'd



ared cebook

"If you use a cellphone you have to be prepared to give up security. If you use Google or Facebook you have to be prepared to give up privacy."

buy an over-the-counter phone with a SIM card already in it, top it up with cash and replace it often, which limits the connection between you and the phone.

Even a regular phone is a threat. "They can be tapped with nothing more than a screwdriver and a pair of pliers. Mouthpieces can be turned into permanent bugs on your desk. Phones can be fitted with devices – although these can be found – that will make it possible for someone to activate the phone's microphone and listen from anywhere in the world".

Email

"Email is no more secure than a postcard – everywhere it goes people can read it," says Wolfe. "An email can bounce between many servers before it gets to its final destination and copies are retained at each one – for how long is unpredictable."

Computers

Web surfers need to beware of much more than viruses. Analysis programs designed to hunt for things of interest in cyberspace have been around for a long time, but their effectiveness was limited by the power of early computers.

"Now computational power has made strides almost beyond our imagination," says Wolfe, and personal computers are vulnerable to searches over the web.

He recommends disabling cookies and JavaScript. "JavaScript claims to make web pages clear and elegant, but it's a security risk. If a page can't be done in html then it doesn't need to be done – and you can surely find the information

on a site that does not need JavaScript or demand cookies."

Wolfe runs two computers. "Keep one for your data and private information and never connect it to the web. Keep it sacred to avoid viruses and malware. Use the other to connect to the web – but have no private information on it."

Encryption

There's encryption and strong encryption, says Wolfe, and only the second is worth considering. "Protect your files on your safe computer with strong encryption – 128 bit encryption that is computationally secure – and then you can send them online.

Backups

"Today everything the computer does is vital," says Wolfe. "Losing a computer is one thing, but losing data can be crippling and a financial and business disaster. Our data is the most valuable thing we have. Protecting that data is the most important thing we can do."

Passwords

Passwords have limited value, slowing things down, and are only ever as good as the site where you enter them. The safest receiving sites reject your entry after three failed attempts, locking your account. Others can be broken over time.

Wolfe says passwords should never be real words and should use a mixture of upper and lower case letters with numbers and other special characters.

Macs or PCs?

"There's an illusion that Macs are safer than PCs. They're not, but – in terms of numbers in the business community – they're irrelevant. Practically they are less likely to be hacked because the bad guys can't be bothered finding Mac hacks when all the potential is in PCs."

Wireless networking

Wireless? Don't go there, says Wolfe. "Wireless is even less secure than cable connections. People can listen in to what you are doing and you will never know."

Social media

Wolfe doesn't blog, tweet or chat. "Social media are all dangerously insecure. Put up a fun picture today and it will still be floating round in the future to come back to haunt you – when you are applying for a serious job, for example.

"There is no such thing as a free deal on the net – everything costs something, and these sites are all gathering details about you and selling your profile.

"Don't give away personal details without considering what could happen to them. Facebook and Google never talk about the fact that they are selling your details – but that is what they do."

Despite all his warnings, Wolfe is a realist. "The internet is like electricity – people rely on it.

"But if you use a cellphone you have to be prepared to give up security. If you use Google or Facebook you have to be prepared to give up privacy.

"I may sound like a security evangelist, but I'm not trying to frighten anyone. These are the facts."

NIGEL ZEGA

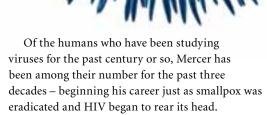
Going viral

Humans have been studying viruses for around 100 years. However, that's nothing compared to how long they've been studying us, points out Professor Andrew Mercer.

"Looking at a virus is like looking into a mirror. Without a living organism to host them, viruses would not exist. They are totally dependent on us; we are their everything. If a virus has a particular shape or characteristic - such as the way it enters the body, or protects itself, or replicates - we can be certain it's because they have figured out it's an effective way to operate within our system. So, understanding viruses is a way of better understanding ourselves."

But if looking at a virus is like looking in a mirror, it's one of those cruel ones reserved for shopping for swimming togs: reflecting singularly our flaws and vulnerabilities. According to Mercer, however, newly appointed as Otago's inaugural Professor of Viral Pathogenesis, it's an image that's well worth confronting. Doing so, he says, not only enables us to gain better tools for combating viruses, we may even be able to use their tricks for our own ends.

Ultimately, virology forces us to examine the relationship between a life and its environment. It's not that different, he thinks, to art. "I've never really accepted the supposed divide between science and humanities," he muses. "We just use different data sets. An historian uses literature; I use cells."



His journey into virology began at Otago. (Indeed, Mercer and Otago go way back. His family were among Dunedin's earliest European settlers, arriving on board one of its first immigrant ships, the *Philip Laing*. Several greats ago, a grandfather was the mayor of Dunedin.) He completed his undergraduate and doctoral studies here and, after some years working in laboratories overseas, found himself returning for good.

Since then, Mercer has been part of the steady growth in strength of microbiology, virology and immunology research at Otago. It's an area that now employs dozens of leading scientists, produces internationally significant work in areas encompassing animal, human, plant and bacterial environments, and is a key member of several international research collaborations.

Here, Mercer has earned accolades for work ranging from how the pox disease tricks its host into allowing it to replicate to viruses that trigger tumour growth. In 2009, his contributions to our understanding of animal disease and the creation of vaccines saw him elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society of New Zealand.

That his new post as Professor of Viral Pathogenesis was funded through an anonymous donation through Otago's Leading Thinkers Initiative is, in itself, humbling, says Mercer.

"It's a ringing endorsement of the historical strength of the department [of Microbiology



and Immunology]. At the same time, it provides us with an opportunity to cement our position as a centre of excellence in virology research. I am extremely proud to now lead such an outstanding team of scientists whose work, over many years, has earned Otago this position."

Now, this dedicated focus on viral pathogenesis – the relationship between viruses and their hosts – is enabling Mercer and his team to draw together a cluster of long-standing and new research interests.

On one hand, these address novel approaches for defeating viruses, including "the extraordinary viral phenomenon of our time", HIV. The disease's rapid progression from "a

few cases in a few communities" to, perhaps, the world's most socially and developmentally destructive virus in just a few decades is remarkable enough; the fact that all human beings are naturally immune to HIV itself makes this more astonishing still.

What happens, is one of our defences is defeated by a viral protein called "viral infectivity factor", explains Mercer.

Under group leader Professor Kurt Krause, a research team is investigating the molecular details of how this occurs. Their goal is to explore new therapeutic pathways based on disrupting the ways this protein engages with our natural defences.

Other research furthers Otago's already significant contribution to research

into human papillomavirus (HPV), the precursor to cervical cancer. Dr Merilyn Hibma's team is continuing studies into how HPV manages to evade our immune responses, and opportunities to target pre-cancerous HPV cells.

Meanwhile, Mercer and his team are focusing, increasingly, on how to use viruses for good. "One of the problems with cancer, for example, is that it's not a foreign agent," says Mercer. "It's a proliferation of our own cells, so the body does not attack."

Dr Sarah Young is leading a project that explores sending just the outer shell of a virus – "not the toxic, replicating part" – into a host where a cancerous tumour is also present. Attached to the virus shell is an antigen (a protein)



The potential for this fast-growing subdiscipline of "exploiting" viruses could be immense. This means learning lessons from viruses' most successful and ingenious devices.

Mercer thinks it might even be his favourite virus.

What might be possible, he wonders, if we could use this extraordinary structure to send useful substances into the body that would help us fight other diseases? It's an idea that's already being used to inoculate animal populations against rabies in Texas and Europe, with dramatic results. But it sounds like some kind of nightmarish confection — a rabies centre thickly coated in pox virus.

"Work such as that would face high regulatory hurdles in New Zealand," acknowledges Mercer.

Mercer admits that he, like many scientists, is rather shy of the limelight and is hesitant to become embroiled in the politicisation of genetic research. He would prefer to conscientiously lead a high quality research programme, in the hope this work will speak for itself. But still, he does wish for a higher level of public debate around critical issues, including the genetic modification of organisms – an enormous and diverse field he believes is not well managed by a one-size-fits-all approach. And he believes the scientific community has a role in enabling much higher levels of scientific literacy - which may include bringing a sense of proportion to public conversation.

"I have heard journalists comment that they feel bound to create balance by getting two sides to every story. But where the scientific evidence weighs on one side, presenting two alternative perspectives evenly is not necessarily balanced."

It's an important issue. With the challenges being presented by viruses showing no signs of abating, scientists will need all the scope for innovation available to them. The past few years have thrown up Ebola, SARS, avian flu and swine flu – and if there's one constant, it's that "next year's key virus is unlikely to be the same as the last".

Another observation from that list would be that so many new diseases have arisen from animal hosts – from civet cats to Mexican pigs. Indeed, Mercer's extensive background looking at viruses in animals – from examining the orf virus in sheep to pox in cats – has been seen as providing a potentially valuable background for future viral challenges.

Mercer is less sure. "There's no real way of predicting which animal viruses are likely to cause problems among humans." But it's precisely because of this, he says – no doubt in wholehearted agreement with the anonymous benefactor who created his new position – "that the broader our expertise base, on as wide a range of virus types as possible, the better".

NICOLA MUTCH

only present in the tumour cells. This combination "wakes up" the immune system. Invigorated, the body then attacks the antigen wherever it is found – that is, in the tumour cells.

The potential for this fast-growing subdiscipline of "exploiting" viruses could be immense, believes Mercer. This means learning lessons from viruses' most successful and ingenious devices.

Take the pox virus, for example. It's a huge megalith of a structure, "like a big, seriously armoured battleship", that bashes its way through the human body, deflecting all forms of attack. It's so "big and interesting" that, when pressed,

To make a donation or bequest to the University of Otago, please contact the Office of Development and Alumni Relations. Tel 64 3 479 8834 Email leadingthinkers@otago.ac.nz The seabed and foreshore: a vexed issue

We live in a land bordered by rugged coastlines and sweeping sand beaches. It is a landscape that contributes intimately to our national identity – the place that our Māori and Pakeha ancestors first laid their feet upon after long voyages on waka or ships, and where we go to today to picnic and play. But who owns these lands permanently or temporarily under salt water? It is this question that has emerged as one of our most defining issues to answer in this new century.

The issue became politically hot when, in 2003, the Court of Appeal indicated, to the horror of the Government and the public majority, that Māori should be allowed the opportunity to prove, in the courts, customary ownership of the foreshore and seabed. The Labour-led Government immediately announced disapproval of this potentiality. The resulting Foreshore and Seabed Act 2004 made clear Crown ownership, although did attempt to appease the Māori outcry by providing avenues for iwi and hapu to seek territorial customary rights orders and customary rights orders via the courts. But the legal tests for these orders involved near impossible hoops to the extent that no such orders were ever issued.

The Foreshore and Seabed Act 2004 has come under extreme criticism by, for example, the Waitangi Tribunal, the United Nations and



Jacinta Ruru: "Does the general public domain status with the narrow customary title allowance achieve an appropriate balance that we can honourably commit to as a nation seeking reconciled respectful relationships between iwi and the Crown?"

Photo: Graham Warman

the National-led Government-appointed review panel. This year, government released its consultation document that put forward its preferred answer to the vexed question of ownership: no one owns it. The report suggests labelling this new approach "public domain/ takiwā iwi whānui" and explains the concept as: "No one would own (i.e. by freehold title) the foreshore and seabed (except existing land held in private title). Instead of identifying an owner of the public foreshore and seabed, legislation would specify roles and responsibilities within it. The Crown and local government would continue to have regulatory responsibility."

After a commended, albeit short, consultation period, Attorney-General Hon Chris Finlayson confirmed in June that Cabinet would seek to repeal the Foreshore and Seabed Act 2004 and replace it with a public domain-type regime. This would be the general rule. But there will be an exception: the possibility for iwi collective ownership of specific stretches of the foreshore and seabed.

It is expected that the new proposed legislation will re-jig the present territorial customary rights orders as established in the Foreshore and Seabed Act 2004. The new test will require iwi to prove that they hold the relevant land under salt water in accordance with

tikanga Māori to a level that accords to exclusive use and occupation since 1840 without substantial interruption. This is similar to the current test, except on one point: iwi will no longer have to also prove ownership of abutting land. It is this point that makes the current test a nonsense in most of Aotearoa New Zealand because few stretches of the foreshore abut Māori-owned land without a railway line, road or the like cutting through.

Another significant change is that the proposed territorial order will have teeth. The successful iwi will be awarded customary title, thus creating a new land-title system in this country. While customary title will be inalienable, it will give the collective holders a collective right to permit activities that currently need a coastal permit or resource consent, participate in conservation processes, and create a planning document that would be recognised and provided for by local government.

However, in reality, few iwi are likely to be successful in gaining a collective title. Those few iwi that may be successful will likely hold land in remote parts of the country.

Does the general public domain status with the narrow customary title allowance achieve an appropriate balance that we can honourably commit

to as a nation seeking reconciled respectful relationships between iwi and the Crown? Many within Māori communities recognise that the proposed solution is better than the existing answer. However, the Iwi Leaders Group (a group formed in response to a request from government to engage with iwi leaders on the issue) urged earlier this year that new law requires a new way of thinking about iwi and hapu rights and values, and this thinking must be rooted in tikanga that respectfully seeks to give effect to tikanga as a body of law. This captures our unique legal challenge. The New Zealand Law Commission was cognisant of this back in 2001 when it stated: "If society is truly to give effect to the promise of the Treaty of Waitangi ... it must involve a real endeavour to understand what tikanga Māori is, how it is practised and applied".

The foreshore and seabed issue is a defining moment in our race relations history, but also for our legal system in terms of grappling with indigenous ownership of once thought to be common property and how best to provide a respectful place for the first laws that were practised in these lands: tikanga Māori.

JACINTA RURU Faculty of Law

Plastic fantastic

Plastic reconstructive surgeon - and Otago alumnus - Andrew Greensmith played a crucial role in the separation of Bangladeshi conjoined twins last year and continues to work at the forefront of his profession.

To call it a marathon operation seems an understatement. Imagine spending 32 hours in an operating theatre, broken only by a couple of power naps.

But that was the task Otago graduate Dr Andrew Greensmith and a 16-member surgical team at the Royal Children's Hospital Melbourne faced in November 2009 as they worked to separate Bangladeshi conjoined twins Krishna and Trishna.

"The time passed very quickly. I've never experienced such a sort of adrenaline rush which really kept me awake. We were in and out perhaps 50 times in the first 26 hours scrubbing, unscrubbing, holding the head," Greensmith explains.

"My neurosurgical colleagues were working with tissues that we did not want damaged and, if they did something wrong and didn't unfold the flaps of tissue or keep them moist, it would have been a disaster for us.

"They could physically separate the brains in 26 hours, but if the flaps were compromised we may as well go home. We would have to resort to much riskier surgery that would have even lower chances of success."

Once the twins were separated, the surgeons split into two teams to put the twins' skulls back together and repair the flaps – a further six to eight hours of surgery. Greensmith led the team that did the plastic surgery and craniofacial work, and the hospital's head of neurosurgery, Wirginia Maixner, led the neurosurgical team.

Those adrenaline-driven hours were the climax of many months of careful planning after a surprise call from Moira Kelly, of the Children First Foundation, a group the Royal Children's Hospital has worked with regularly.

"Moira's trump was to ring us and say: 'We've got these twins and they are joined at the head. What do you think?' We paused for a bit and said: 'It sounds difficult, Moira'," Greensmith recounts.

"We didn't make any promises, but we agreed to assess them. We didn't know much about twins conjoined at the head, but it turned out no one really does."

He says the hospital has a strong track record for operating on skull deformities in babies and knew the techniques required, so it was a matter of putting all the individual components together. "The key, looking back, was keeping the popular media out. We felt that if we let them in we would have artificial deadlines imposed on us that would put pressure on the team.

"It has happened to teams around the world. They've rushed through things and they've lost the children or had devastating outcomes and we were determined not to do this."

Now, eight months post-separation, the stronger of the twins, Trishna, had made 15 months' progress, while the weaker twin, Krishna, had made 10 months' progress, so both are catching up developmentally, says Greensmith.

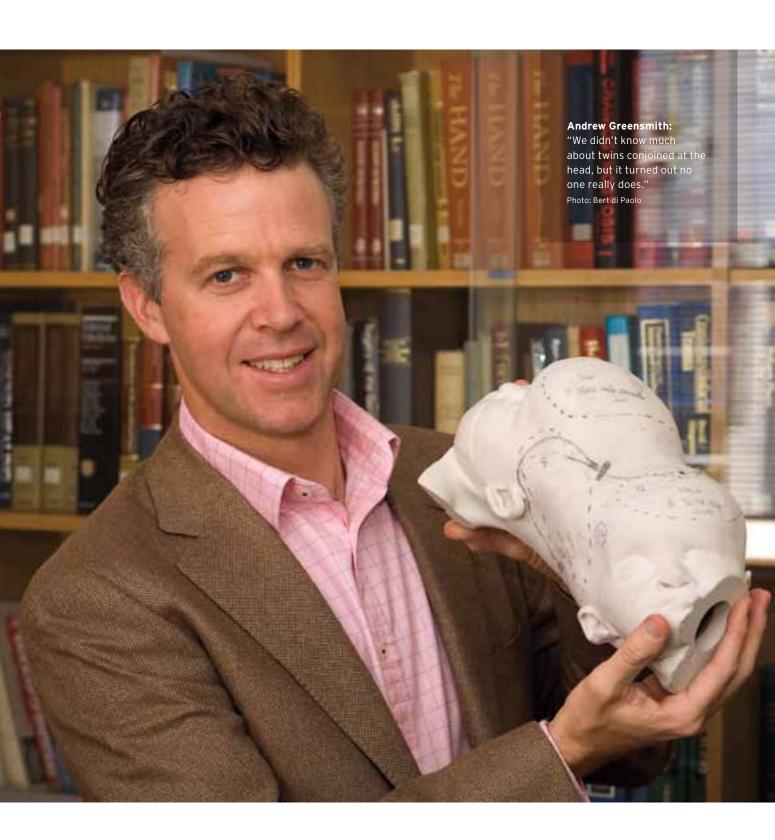
"Their brains were intertwined in an unusual egg and cup fashion. The pathways were there but, from nine months of age until the time they were separated at the age of almost three, those pathways were suppressed.

"Because they were joined together they couldn't crawl, they couldn't make those milestones. It's a matter of stimulating those pathways," he says.

"What we see is very reassuring so, hopefully, both will end up pretty normal, contributing members of society."

From an aesthetic point-of-view, Greensmith says one of the great bonuses was that they were able to cover their heads with hair-bearing scalp.

"Sure, their skull shapes are not normal – there are some flat areas where they were joined – but they are lucky to have very thick, dark hair to camouflage these areas."



New technology means plastic reconstructive surgery is at a crossroads.

Most people don't choose a specialty until after medical school, but Greensmith had his mind made up long before he headed from Auckland to the University of Otago.

"A friend in Auckland introduced me to a family friend who is a plastic surgeon and I was able to speak to him. Having come across a few books about children's cleft-lip and palate work, to be able to make those sorts of changes in people amazed me.

"I didn't realise then that cleft-lip and palate work was only a small part of the scope of plastic surgery, but it's remained a main part of my practice."

Greensmith graduated in 1993 having completed his three years of clinical training based in Christchurch. For his final year elective, he leapt into the world of craniofacial and cleft surgery, heading to Mexico City for four months to work with one of the world's leading craniofacial surgeons. Later in his career he also spent time in Paris, another centre of excellence.

Through his time at Otago he drew inspiration from the Dunedin-born pioneers of modern plastic surgery – Sir Harold Gillies and Sir Archibald McIndoe – who led the way by treating horrendous war injuries from the trenches in World War I and the skies of World War II.

He is confident that Otago still provides the pathways for medical students to emulate what he has done.

"I graduated with the confidence and belief that, with an Otago degree, you could do anything anywhere in the world. Certainly, if you mention Otago anywhere that I have been very few people say 'where's that?' They have an idea about the degree and the quality of it."

His core work comes through the Royal Children's Hospital where he specialises in craniofacial deformities, including cleft lip and palate, as well as very rare deformities of the skull and around the orbits of the eyes, using techniques developed only in the last 30 years to go through the cranial cavity around the brain.

Most of his private practice involves adults, often related to the craniofacial areas he already works in, with a focus on the nose and the face.

"I am a great advocate of having that balance and contributing in an ongoing way to the public system. I don't think you should do one or the other – I think it makes you a better surgeon combining the two areas.

"Many cosmetic surgery techniques have cross-pollinated over to craniofacial and reconstructive surgery, and vice versa." Greensmith says new technology means plastic reconstructive surgery is at a crossroads. Tissue engineering offers the hope of, one day, being able to grow some body parts, and techniques in fat grafting are also proving very interesting as a way to fill contour deformities.

"Now we are doing research into what happens to the fat. We are finding that there may actually be stem cell precursors in fat and the fat we are putting in may be generating new fat cells, so that is quite exciting."

Ultimately, they may be able to grow a patient's fat cells in a laboratory for use in breast reconstruction, rather than taking tissue from the abdominal area.

Greensmith is more cautious about limb and facial transplantation. They have the techniques to do it, but the huge risk of rejection makes the challenges pharmacological rather than technical.

"The whole argument is not the life and death arguments there are for heart, lung or liver transplants but, instead, it is an extreme form of facial deformity that we are looking at that may warrant this sort of surgery and the jury is out in a sense."

MARK WRIGHT



Otago graduate Tecwyn Evans now enjoys a career on the international music stage. On a recent visit to New Zealand he conducted a CD of compositions by his former tutor, Dr Anthony Ritchie.

Music graduate Tecwyn Evans has returned the favour to his Otago mentor, conducting a New Zealand Symphony Orchestra (NZSO) recording of orchestral compositions by his former tutor, Dr Anthony Ritchie.

Evans is well on his way to an international career, with his skills in demand in both hemispheres, but it was Ritchie who gave him his first taste of conducting.

Ritchie, now a Department of Music senior lecturer, is delighted at his protégé's progress: "I had no idea he would become so famous as a conductor".

Evans, a former chorus master at the UK's renowned Glyndebourne Opera House and currently first Kapellmeister and deputy chief conductor of Austria's Grazer Opera, admits to some surprise of his own.

"If someone had told me on my first day at University that I'd end up where I am now I would never have believed it."

Despite Evans' European base, he makes time to work in New Zealand. Earlier this year he toured the NZSO for a month and made a number of recordings. It was his first time conducting Dame Malvina Major, who was taking part in her first NZSO tour for 12 years.

Music was always going to be part of Dunedin-raised Evans' life and studying composition at Otago was a logical step.

As a member of the Otago Sextet and the National Youth Choir, he joined the new Southern Youth Choir established by Ritchie and Maureen Smith. When Ritchie couldn't make a rehearsal, he asked Evans to conduct it for him.

It was a revelation, says Evans. "I'd never done it before, but I went home and told my family – this is what I want to do."

Ritchie recalls the choir being impressed by Evans. "Tecwyn had good people skills, musicality, experience with singers and singing knowledge, and great communication skills."

The following year Evans took the choir and was assistant conductor for Opera Otago's *Pirates of Penzance*, while continuing his studies with Professor John Drummond and the late Associate Professor Jack Speirs.

"They were academics who were highly knowledgeable and also had international experience," says Evans. "They had a huge influence on my career, exposing me to things I needed to learn to survive in the professional world."

Further exposure came when, at just 23, Evans was appointed as composer-inresidence to the Dunedin (now Southern) Sinfonia, where he also gained his first professional conducting engagement. "Right from the start, Tecwyn was showing initiative and an intuitive knack of what would and wouldn't work," says Sinfonia general manager Philippa Harris. "Throw into the mix his high standard of musicianship and ability to draw the best out of everyone, and it's not surprising he's doing as well as he is."

Evans was also invited to assist conductor Nicholas Braithwaite working with Wellington City Opera. Braithwaite, son of Dunedin-born conductor Warwick Braithwaite, remembers identifying Evans' potential – "he was clearly destined to make a fine career" – and sees his Graz position as a major appointment and a stepping stone for "a substantial international career in the making".

After completing a master's degree in composition, a Fulbright Postgraduate Scholarship took Evans to Kansas to study conducting with Brian Priestman and Simon Carrington.

Priestman, a former principal guest conductor of the NZSO among many international orchestras, recalls Evans as an exemplary student. "His work [in Europe] is a fine beginning ... and I feel sure that he has now a serious career ahead of him."

After Kansas, Evans headed to the UK to look for a choir to conduct. Within three weeks he'd found one. It just happened to be the prestigious Glyndebourne Chorus.

"It's interesting that most of the very few successful Kiwi conductors such as John Matheson, Warwick Braithwaite and William Southgate all came from Dunedin." Through Glyndebourne, Evans worked with top orchestras in the UK and Europe and, after four years, he decided to move on from choral work to orchestral and operatic conducting.

In 2005 he was a finalist in the Leeds' Conducting Competition and in 2007 became the first New Zealand conductor to appear at the BBC Promenade Concerts at the Royal Albert Hall, where he conducted the BBC Philharmonic.

New Zealander Richard Wigley, general manager of the BBC Philharmonic, has hired Evans ever since his debut. "Tecwyn is always welcomed warmly by the musicians. He's equally at home in opera and with symphony orchestra, and excels at providing a hard working, but enjoyable atmosphere that delivers superb shows."

After a post in Germany, Evans was appointed to Grazer Opera - the first New Zealander to hold such a position since John Matheson was Kapellmeister in Mannheim in 1977.

Now, besides conducting operas in many languages, Evans works in English and some German.

"Language coaches have been good friends to me over the years, but there can be an advantage in not being multilingual in that you have to listen very carefully to the way words are pronounced – so sometimes you find something a native speaker might not pick up because they would fill in the gaps naturally," says Evans.

He also speaks some Swedish, thanks to his wife, award-winning soprano Susanna Andersson, whose career has her travelling in Europe and the United States. "Skype is our friend," says Evans. "We planned never to spend more than five weeks apart and, so far, it's usually been much less than that."

But there is a lot of travel, especially with Evans working in Austria and living

in Sweden, where he and Andersson are renovating an old house.

"Sweden is very like New Zealand – lots of open spaces, not too many people, lots of forests – but I never wanted to leave New Zealand and never return.

"Ideally I'd like to be able to spend time there as well as in Europe. I enjoy working in different places and meeting new people – you start to stagnate if you stay in one place too long.

"I loved this year's month with the NZSO. There's the added bonus of it being my home country's national orchestra, but I've never laughed as much on the podium while working. They're really fun to work with."

Evans was delighted to be able to conduct the NZSO recording music by Ritchie, whose work he admires. "He's up there as a New Zealand icon and should be recognised as one."

Ritchie was equally happy to have Evans' skills. "The conductor makes an enormous difference, creating the right atmosphere, preparing the music and interpreting the composer's work. I was really pleased with the result."

The conductor's art may be an unusual one, but Otago has produced more than its share of successes, says Evans. "It's interesting that most of the very few successful Kiwi conductors such as John Matheson, Warwick Braithwaite and William Southgate all came from Dunedin."

One of the indications that Evans is following in their footsteps is that he is currently booked about 18 months ahead.

"I've already achieved more than I had expected to and if I had to stop doing this tomorrow I'd still be very happy with what I have done. I'm constantly thinking I'm extremely lucky to be doing what I'm doing."

NIGEL ZEGA

SYMPHONY EXPLORES DUAL PERSONALITIES

A highlight of the recording collaboration between Dr Anthony Ritchie, the NZSO and Tecwyn Evans is Ritchie's new *Symphony* No. 3.

Composed over the past two years, the symphony is subtitled "Janus" and portrays the two sides of the human personality, represented by the two movements in the work: "Up" and "Down".

"The music depicts the struggle to find a balance between the positive and negative elements in one's life," Ritchie explains. "Janus was a two-faced god and, among other things, this can symbolise the change from one condition to another.

"It is this idea of people having dual aspects to their character that interests me and has inspired this symphony, with balance achieved near the end of the work."

Ritchie says a two-movement structure is unusual in symphonies, with Schubert's *Unfinished Symphony* being the most famous example.

Ritchie's first symphony, subtitled "Boum" was completed about 17 years ago, and his second, seven years later. This new work dedicated to his wife, Sandy -will be premiered live during this month's Dunedin Festival of the Arts, with the Southern Sinfonia.

Healthy perspectives

Professor Philippa Howden-Chapman has brought both determination and a sense of humour to her healthy housing research research that is now making a real difference to thousands of New Zealanders.

For Professor Philippa Howden-Chapman, public health research is, above all, about changing people's lives for the better. It's also about years of hard work, collecting data and distilling evidence, ensuring it is robust enough to convince policymakers and politicians that something needs to be done about such things as New Zealand's cold houses – or "wooden tents" as Howden-Chapman calls them.

Listening to her talk about her schedule explains why it's difficult to pin her down for an interview – having just returned from Malaysia where she was meeting about urban research in Asia and the Pacific and then, almost immediately, leaving for Sydney to discuss strategies for a housing research agenda for Australia.

"I think some people think that we live in an ivory tower at the University and spend time quietly cogitating and writing the odd, arcane public health paper here and there," she says with a laugh.

"Nothing could be further from the truth. Getting major studies published in the *British Medical Journal* – such as our ground-breaking healthy housing studies – takes years of work, fundraising and

political nous, and it is so easy for things to go wrong and then everything comes to a grinding halt!"

And, perhaps, that is part of Howden-Chapman's secret: her ability to endure the hard graft, the disappointments and her concern about being over-exposed in her advocacy role, and yet retain an infectious and spontaneous sense of humour, even a sense of the absurd.

She began her professional life as a secondary teacher at Auckland's Selwyn College in the early 1970s, a school that had a mix of students from low-income state housing backgrounds, alongside those from the wealthy and professional classes of the eastern suburbs.

"I was a product of the '60s and '70s. I was interested in finding out more about the Māori students at Selwyn who came from Orakei Marae and whose whanau had been traumatically uprooted from Okahu Bay and moved to Bastion Point, where they lived. Values and ideas associated with civil rights, the Vietnam War, the feminist movement and concern about social inequalities have all influenced my professional life and research interests."

These concerns were further crystallised in 1973 when Howden-

Chapman went to Princeton University in the United States, where her husband was undertaking graduate studies. There she organised union action for fair wages – not "pin-money" – for university librarians. Then, as a research assistant, she was actively involved in documenting "redlining", a practice in which African Americans were denied bank mortgages so they could not purchase houses in middle-class white areas.

"That was a fascinating political time. It highlighted for me the role institutions and large corporations play in affecting social policy and living conditions, and – indirectly – public health, such as trapping low-income people into poor housing. I ghost-wrote a book on publichealth issues related to these areas as well "

Back in Auckland, Howden-Chapman embarked on a doctorate and Diploma in Clinical Psychology, completing her first community trial which compared the relative effectiveness of inpatient and outpatient treatment for people with addictions, just after the birth of the second of her three children. She also worked with well-known psychiatrist Dr Fraser McDonald during the debates on community care for people with psychiatric problems, with housing conditions a big part of that concern.

In the 1980s, the Howden-Chapman family moved to Wellington. "I managed to get a position as a research assistant at the then Wellington School of Medicine in the Department of Community Health under Professor Laurence Malcolm. I must admit it was a pleasant change from dealing with child abuse cases as a clinical psychologist and a wonderful new learning opportunity!

"I was grappling with a new field of research and learnt a huge amount about population health in what was a very exciting and stimulating department. We worked on the determinants of health and disease, and I helped write one of the first major analyses of inequalities of health in New Zealand.

"We were breaking new ground in research terms – thinking about how the health of New Zealanders is shaped."

But, eventually, monitoring health inequalities data began to pall. Howden-Chapman wanted to research an area that would result in real health improvements through evidence-based policy, particularly for low-income and Māori households.

Fortunately, her colleagues, Professor Julian Crane and Associate Professor Michael Baker, had similar ideas. Already their interests in respiratory conditions and infectious diseases pointed towards the development of a major study into housing conditions in New Zealand.

"The Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority had done some preliminary investigation into the health effects of improved insulation, but the survey data was limited and was not that convincing to the funders.

"We thought we could do better and, after a pilot study indicated that health gains could be made by improved insulation, we received a major HRC [Health Research Council] programme grant in 2001. But that was the easy part!" she says in hindsight.

The costs of mounting this research, retro-fitting insulation and, in a later study, putting heatpumps or woodburners in cold houses, were high. The budget for the first intervention

study on insulation was more than \$3 million and the second, involving the installation of heating, was even more.

"It was a constant battle to find the money to support these studies. In the end we had over a dozen major private sponsors, in addition to the HRC programme funding, who all wanted something out of the research as well in terms of corporate recognition. And then there were all the government agencies and councils that had to be kept in the loop too.

"Our overall intervention funding at the beginning of our community trials is sometimes not totally tied down, but I'm a firm believer in getting a study under way – in our case, before winter, so we can catch the crucial, cold winter months – even if not all of the resources are definitely available. That way we maintain momentum, not only with funders, but also with the wider community.

"This also means feeding back interim results, without jeopardising the possibility of final publication. In many ways, this approach is as much about communication, politics and personal drive as research."

Howden-Chapman is not afraid to use the media to raise the profile of her studies. Indeed, she believes broadening awareness is crucial in garnering wider support, making policymakers and politicians aware of the health benefits of improved heating and insulation, and the inadequate state of New Zealand's housing.

"Advocating from the firm base of robust scientific results is important for politicians, too, as well as for public health researchers. But it's important to have the research to back up what you're saying and to report it accurately.

"The language used is crucial. In my spare time I write poems and so I try never to use the same metaphor twice. I'm always trying to frame policy arguments creatively.

"In lengthy community studies, involving private and public partnerships, it's also important to give participants some idea of how the study is progressing. The taxpayers largely fund our research, so I think they have a right to be informed about the results."

Certainly, with regard to the healthy housing studies, there is little doubt that Howden-Chapman and the team at the He Kainga/Housing and Health Research Programme have had a major impact. New Zealand's current government has committed \$323 million over four years to improve the warmth of 180,000 New Zealand homes.

Now they are one year into a second HRC programme, which Howden-Chapman hopes will run for another five years. It is looking at other ways

"With the wonderful support of an engaged public ... we can do worldclass public health research here which, ironically, may be more difficult in a larger country with more resources, but less accessible data."





Barber to "bobber"

When, in the 1920s, women suddenly invaded that traditional Kiwi man's realm, the barber shop, some suggested it should be renamed "the bobber shop".

A rapid change in women's hair fashion – namely the "bob"– meant they needed someone who could cut hair, whereas traditional women's hairstylists simply styled long hair.

Research by the head of the Department of History and Art History, Professor Barbara Brookes, and former doctoral student Dr Catherine Smith has outlined how the women's hairdressing industry started and grew.

Brookes says that over the following decades, particularly into the 1960s and '70s, women's hairdressers adopted technology with alacrity, unlike their male counterparts.

"Perms, dyeing of hair - that was a huge revolution. What is interesting is that the barbers didn't even respond when the men started going to salons. The barbers were really stuck in what they did and the young men didn't want to go there."

Smith says that while other women's occupations became less skilled with the introduction of machinery, hairdressers protected and emphasised their identity as skilled workers.

"What was interesting was the way they fought off threats to it as well, whereas the men generally lost out to the shaving at home, but the hairdressers survived the home perm revolution."

Brookes says hairdressing was also one of the few occupations where women could be apprenticed or consider running their own business.

Their research paper - "Technology and gender: barbers and hairdressers in New Zealand, 1900-1970" - was published in *History and Technology,* (December 2009).



Dr Catherine Smith and **Professor Barbara Brookes:** Their research highlights how women's hairdressers adopted technology with alacrity, unlike their male counterparts, barbers.

Oil benefits for Dunedin

Dunedin is well suited to benefit as an oilindustry hub if oil exploration were to go ahead along the South Island's east coast.

This is the conclusion of research undertaken by the Department of Marketing's Dr James Henry, based on comparisons with two prosperous oil-industry supply bases in the Northern Hemisphere.

Henry found that Dunedin has almost identical attributes to Stavenger (Norway) and Aberdeen (Scotland), cities with similar-sized populations and status as tertiary education centres.

Like these northern cities, Dunedin has a major deep-water port (Port Chalmers), wharves able to handle multiple ships, enough harbour basin land from which to supply a hub, an established engineering base and an airport capable of meeting oil industry needs.

Henry says that, by embracing the oil industry, Stavenger and Aberdeen have become major supply bases with low unemployment, above average household income and strong population growth.



Dr James Henry: "You can see how comfortably an oil base could be accommodated in Dunedin."

Stavenger has built a new university and Aberdeen has also had an increase in university numbers.

By comparison, Dundee, another similar city Henry examined, has not attracted oil business and has failed to prosper.

"When you compare Dunedin with Stavenger and Aberdeen, the similarities are almost uncanny in terms of layout and harbour facilities. You can see how comfortably an oil base could be accommodated in Dunedin."

Dunedin also has the infrastructure, recreation and restaurant facilities to make it an attractive city for oil industry staff, he says.

"The city has to be proactive because there are massive benefits and at least 3,000 jobs which Dunedin could gain from this development."

Smoking, depression link

While the number of smokers in New Zealand continues to diminish, Otago researchers have found that smoking rates are significantly higher among those with mental illnesses, including major depression.

Researchers from the University's long-running Christchurch Health and Development Study undertook to explore the relationship between smoking and depression – with ground-breaking results.

Led by Professor David Fergusson, they found people who were dependent on nicotine were more than twice as likely to have symptoms of depression as those who were not nicotine dependent.

The team's work, published in the *British Journal of Psychiatry*, suggests smoking could increase the risk of depression. It attracted international attention as clinicians worldwide seek to better understand factors which impact on mental health.

The study involved more than 1,000 people, who were asked at ages 18, 21 and 25 about their smoking habits and whether they had symptoms of depression.

The results showed smoking actually increases the risk of developing depressive symptoms, rather than people being more likely to smoke because they are depressed.

"Our findings are consistent with the conclusion that there is a cause-andeffect relationship between smoking and depression, in which cigarette smoking increases the risk of developing symptoms of depression," Fergusson says.

"The reasons for this relationship are not clear. However, it is possible that nicotine causes changes to neurotransmitter activity in the brain, leading to an increased risk of depression." The study suggests that stopping smoking may help those with recurrent depression. Further research in clinical situations would be useful to demonstrate this link, he says.



Professor David Fergusson: "It is possible that nicotine causes changes to neurotransmitter activity in the brain, leading to an increased risk of depression."

Aneurysm marker identified

University of Otago researchers have been instrumental in identifying a new genetic marker for increased risk of abdominal aortic aneurysm (AAA) and other diseases of the arteries and veins.

Co-directors of the University's Vascular Research Group Professor Andre van Rij and Associate Professor Greg Jones led the New Zealand arm of an international study involving over 40,000 people across a dozen countries.

Jones says knowledge of the new genetic marker will help identify people at increased risk of AAA and enable earlier interventions

AAA is an often-undiagnosed condition found in seven per cent of New Zealand men over the age of 60. The large blood vessel supplying blood to the abdomen, pelvis and legs becomes abnormally large and, if it ruptures, between 40 to 80 per cent of patients die.

Researchers scanned the genetic make-up of patients with AAA and other



Associate Professor Greg Jones and Professor Andre van Rij: They were part of an international study identifying a genetic marker for abdominal aortic aneurysm.

vascular diseases, then compared the results with those of similar, but healthy, individuals. Those with a common variant in the gene DAB2IP were found to have a significantly increased risk of AAA.

"We also found this genetic marker was associated with a similarly heightened risk of early-onset heart attacks, peripheral arterial disease and pulmonary embolism."

The findings add to a growing body of evidence challenging traditional thinking that diseases of the arteries and veins are separate disorders, he says.

"The variant's increased risk for several arterial diseases and for pulmonary embolism, which is a vein-related disease, suggests that common underlying physiological factors are at work."

Unravelling the mechanisms involved could pave the way for new therapies for a range of vascular diseases.

Maternal review recommended

The first study of pregnant women in New Zealand with severe acute maternal morbidity (SAMM) has found that 35 per cent of those admitted to intensive care had a potentially preventable "near miss" event.

The audit was carried out by a multidisciplinary panel led by Dr Beverley Lawton (University of Otago, Wellington) and published in the Australian and New Zealand Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology. It was an indicative pilot study to determine why 29 women were admitted to the intensive care unit at Wellington Hospital in 2005-2007, one quarter of whom were admitted from other district health boards.

"Negative outcomes associated with maternity care have considerable personal

and public health costs for the women involved," says Lawton.

"We recommend that a national SAMM review be introduced so that we can better understand issues around morbidity for pregnant women in New Zealand and improve services."

Of the preventable SAMM admissions to ICU, reasons included failure to diagnose infections or to follow up abnormal results. Others were failure to recognise high risk of a life-threatening event, delay in recognition of abnormal vital signs, delay in referral to specialists, lack of knowledge, inadequate treatment and poor documentation. Most (25) patients were admitted after they had given birth.

The study found that all five women with blood poisoning were potentially preventable cases. In 2006, two of the six maternal pregnancy-related deaths in New Zealand were caused by blood poisoning.



Dr Beverley Lawton: "Negative outcomes associated with maternity care have considerable personal and public health costs for the women involved."

Nine women in the study sample underwent emergency hysterectomy after giving birth, most because of severe bleeding that failed to respond to other treatment.

Sleeping soundly

Would wahakura – low-sided flax-woven bassinets designed especially to fit in the family bed – provide another part of the solution in addressing sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS)?

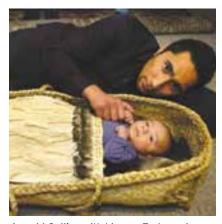
This is the question that has earned Dunedin School of Medicine research fellow and Napier GP Dr David Tipene-Leach and head of the Department of Paediatrics and Child Health Professor Barry Taylor a \$1.3 million grant from the Health Research Council, as they look for new ways to support New Zealand's most vulnerable babies.

Since the main risk factors for SIDS were identified and publicised over the past two decades, "incidence among middle-class families plummeted", explains Tipene-Leach.

But where both smoking and co-sleeping persist - "often in poor, brown

families" - so too has SIDS. Today, some 70 per cent of babies who die from SIDS in New Zealand are Māori or Pacific Islanders.

In response, concerned families have adapted the tradition of wahakura, in which a baby sleeps alongside their parent,



Jamahl Collins with his son, Te Apanui Ryder-Uiti, tucked safely into a traditional wahakura.

Photo: Otago Daily Times

cocooned in their own woven basket that protects the space around them. Parents can feel close to their child and breastfeed easily, "without worrying about SIDS or the possibility they may inadvertently roll onto them. Parents love them," says Tipene-Leach.

But, despite the beginning of a groundswell in popularity of the wahakura and the "common-sense approach they represent", no research has been undertaken to guide health professionals on whether to recommend their use as a safe sleeping environment.

As well as examining the safety of wahakura, the research team is investigating whether they promote breastfeeding and bonding, compared with situations where babies sleep separately from their parents.

Food miles' impact minimal

What people say and what they do are very different things.



Associate Professor John Knight: "When surveyed, people's opinions tend to give greater weight to societal issues than is reflected in their observed behaviour."

Otago Department of Marketing researchers have been looking at whether food miles influence UK consumers' foodpurchasing decisions. They randomly surveyed 250 people in UK streets with 21.5 per cent indicating that food miles - or the long distance food travels - would stop them from buying New Zealand products.

Of the 251 shoppers stopped as they exited four UK supermarkets, only 5.6 per cent nominated country-of-origin as a reason for purchasing a particular item. Further, only 3.6 per cent indicated they had consciously chosen British products because it would be "less harmful to the environment".

Instead, price was the most common reason given for a purchase (25 per cent of shoppers), followed by brand or variety (23.5 per cent), portion size (12 per cent), freshness (10.4 per cent), the only option (9.6 per cent) and usual/preferred choice (8 per cent).

Associate Professor John Knight says these results show a significant gap between what people say about the food miles issue and what they actually do when buying food.

"This may be due to a 'social desirability bias' being at play. When surveyed, people's opinions tend to give greater weight to societal issues than is reflected in their observed behaviour."

The research did not set out to examine the validity of the food miles concept which, Knight says, has already been debunked as a meaningful measure of energy use in food production and transport.

"We were simply interested to find out if it affected consumer behaviour in New Zealand's fifth-most important food export market."

Everyday happiness

Real-time tracking of a group of University of Otago students using text messaging has found that Tuesdays, not Mondays, seem to be the emotional low point of their week.

Such studies are just one facet of the research being carried out through the Daily Experiences Lab established by Dr Tamlin Conner, in the Department of Psychology.

"The main thing I am interested in is the factors - psychological, cognitive and genetic - that predict individual differences in happiness and other emotional states."

Doing that successfully requires finding the best ways to measure emotions and happiness, as well as understanding why people's recalled emotions are often different to what they reported experiencing at the time.

Conner says people overestimate happiness in memory because they remember the peak experiences and forget the duller parts of everyday life.

"These are the reasons why I am sceptical of using retrospective reports of emotions as a window onto people's emotional well-being - memories are filtered and reflect beliefs about how things were."

Rather than using traditional assessments - asking how people felt over the past weeks or months - Conner has people report their emotions during their everyday life using text-messaging or the internet.

For example, students in the real-time tracking study responded to texts up to six times a day, over two weeks, questioning them about their happiness.

Conner says the findings showed how people's emotions varied across the week and highlighted individual variability.

These methods will be applied in future research looking at the interplay between genetic factors and happiness.



Dr Tamlin Conner: "I am interested in the factors - psychological, cognitive and genetic - that predict individual differences in happiness and other emotional states."

New face for history

Dr George Dias (Department of Anatomy and Structural Biology) plans to solve new and old mysteries with the latest methods of forensic facial reconstruction.

He leads a multidisciplinary team putting faces on skulls and hopes the techniques devised to enliven history will also help to identify recent victims for law enforcement.

Dias's team has worked with German police through the University of Applied Sciences, RheinAhrCampus, to identify an unknown skull, and fleshed out the face of a 2,300-year-old Egyptian mummy at the Otago Museum.

Unsatisfied with existing databases for "average" facial soft tissue depths, Dias realised that to be scientifically accurate in putting faces on the past, he needed better calculations. He and Associate Professor I Premachandra (Department of Finance and Qualitative Analysis) worked on new, biologically-correct ways of predicting



Associate Professor I Premachandra, Neil Waddell, Shane Soal, Louisa Baillie and Dr George Dias. They have reconstructed the face of a 2,500-year-old Anatolian woman.

soft tissue facial depths based on skull measurements.

Dias's team, including Louisa Baillie (Anatomy) and Neil Waddell (Dental School), then used the new calculations to give a face to a 2,500-year-old Anatolian female skull from an archaeological site in Turkey.

They also used improved sculpting techniques - real hair, life-like eyes and silicone skin instead of sculpting clay.

Collaborators at Turkey's Anadolu and Ankara Universities are using the result to publicise their archaeological work and hope Dias may soon put a face to a male skull from the same site.

The team's success so far is spurring them to refine their methods, now building a data bank from living people instead of cadavers. The aim is to create faces so accurately that they can satisfy courts in cases of identification.

Legislative lifeline needed for marine species

If threatened marine species such as Maui and Hector's dolphins, sea lions and seabirds are to be saved, Otago Faculty of Law senior lecturer Nicola Wheen says effective legislative changes are needed.

Working in collaboration with Associate Professor Liz Slooten, a well-known marine conservation researcher in the Department of Zoology, she co-drafted the Marine Animals Protection Law Reform Bill, which was taken to Parliament by the Green Party, only to be defeated on its first reading.

The legislative seascape is made more complicated because current legislation is spread over three acts - Fisheries, Wildlife and Marine Mammals Protection.

"One of the issues that I have with the law is that it has allowed or created a situation that enables fishing-related mortality to be managed by the Ministry of Fisheries rather than the Department of Conservation," says Wheen. "So it is a fisheries issue rather than the focus being on conservation."

She says there is also an uneven relationship between the Acts and between the Ministers, with the Minister of Fisheries holding greatest sway.

"Secondly, it is all completely discretionary, meaning no one has to do anything, even in relationship to a critically endangered animal."

The Bill proposed a more precautionary approach, looked to adjust the relationship between the Ministers involved and proposed objectives to guide the management of all marine animals.

Wheen says the Bill may be re-balloted in the fisheries area rather than the conservation area.



Nicola Wheen: "The law ... has allowed ... a situation that enables fishing-related mortality to be managed by the Ministry of Fisheries rather than the Department of Conservation."

"What we really need is for these Ministers to have a conversation about what is going on."

Quantum leap

University of Otago physicists have achieved an internationally significant breakthrough attracting worldwide interest.

A team of four researchers, led by Dr Mikkel Andersen, have used laser-cooling technology to slow a group of rubidium 85 atoms; then, by using a laser-beam, or "optical tweezers", they have been able to isolate and capture one atom - and photograph it through a microscope.

The researchers have now proved they can consistently produce individual trapped atoms – a major step towards the next-generation, ultra-fast quantum-logic computers, which harness the power of atoms to perform complex tasks.

Andersen says that, unlike conventional silicon-based computers which generally perform one task at a time, quantum computers have the potential to perform numerous long and difficult calculations simultaneously.

"Our method provides a way to deliver the atoms needed to build this type of computer," he says.

"It has been the dream of scientists for the past century to see into the quantum world. What we have done moves the scientific frontier and gives us control of the smallest building blocks in our world."

Andersen says that within three weeks of first trapping the atom, experiments previously not thought possible were underway.

The next step is to try to generate a "state of entanglement" between the atoms, a kind of "atomic romance" which lasts the distance.

"We need to generate communication between the atoms where they can feel each other so, when they are apart, they stay entangled and don't forget each other, even from a distance. This is the property that a quantum computer uses to do tasks simultaneously."



Dr Mikkel Andersen: He and his team have been able to consistently isolate single atoms, an important step towards the world of quantum computers.

"Truth-telling" risky practice

The use of public "truth-telling" to heal psychological wounds and promote peace in countries recovering from civil war is questioned in a study by Otago postdoctoral research fellow Dr Karen Brounéus (Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies).

The study shows the "truth-telling" process entails risks, with no evidence to support the claim that "truth-telling" is healing.

"The study suggests that witnessing may have a worsening effect on post traumatic stress disorder [PTSD] and depression because of the nature of witnessing in truth-telling procedures," Brounéus says.

The study, carried out in 2006, involved 1,200 Rwandan survivors, gacaca

judges and neighbours from areas affected by the 1994 genocide. The gacaca courts were initiated by the Rwandan government in 2002 and are the largest officially-driven truth and reconciliation process in the world.



Dr Karen Brounéus: "The study suggests that witnessing may have a worsening effect on post traumatic stress disorder and depression."

Interviewees were asked about their background, exposure to traumatic events during the genocide, and questions related to symptoms of depression and PTSD.

Among the survivors, the prevalence of PTSD was "exceedingly high" at 51 per cent and 60 per cent met the criteria for depression. Moreover, the risk of depression was more than 50 per cent higher in gacaca witnesses compared to non-witnesses. Risk of PTSD also doubled - 19 per cent for non-witnesses and 36 per cent for witnesses.

Even though "truth-telling" may not be healing in the sense that it was thought to be, Brounéus believes there can still be benefits, such as raising awareness and restoring a sense of justice and truth in society. However, to lessen the risk of negative side-effects, it is important to have realistic expectations of what the process can do for peace and for the individual participants.

Being and belonging

By the time Miriam Frank came to Otago to study medicine, she had already escaped two wars and lived on three continents. She talks to Rebecca Tansley about fractured identities and resolution.

Miriam Frank was just two years old when she and her German-born mother fled from their home near Barcelona to a small village on the French side of the Pyrénées to escape the brutalities of the Spanish Civil War.

She still remembers the human tide that poured past their gate in the small coastal village where they sought safe haven. Little did she know that, with the threat of the Nazis' Jewish round-ups growing ever closer, they too would soon become refugees from an even bigger atrocity.

And so began an odyssey which took the little Hispanic-French-speaking girl first to Mexico, then New Zealand – where she was educated at the University of Otago – to Israel, back to the Old World and, ultimately, to South America. Indeed, Frank's memoir, *My Innocent Absence*, recounts a life marked by almost constant movement and a yearning for belonging that can only be known by those who never experience a childhood home of any permanence.

Narrowly escaping the Gestapo in 1940, Frank and her mother made their way to Marseilles where they eventually secured steerage passage on a ship bound for Mexico. Here, despite the constant moves from house to house in and around Mexico City, Frank spent a happy childhood.

In 1948, however, her mother announced they were emigrating to New Zealand. In buttoned-up Christchurch, Frank struggled with the vastly different Anglo-antipodean way of life. But her decision to come to Otago to study medicine, she says, marked a turning point: it was the first move she chose herself.

"For the first time I was doing what I had chosen," she recalls from her current home in London. "And that had to do with humanity and being a human being, what we're made of, how we function and how we can heal things that are not functioning. It was the one place where I really felt comfortable."

Frank lived at St Margaret's College for two years before moving into a bedsit in Leith Street. She writes of frying the frogs' legs smuggled out of the laboratory by her first boyfriend as a sample "French" meal, and of enjoying the lectures of Professors D'Ath – during which the mortuary technician would drop cigarette ash into the open abdominal cavity of the cadaver he was dissecting – Adams, Edson and McIntyre.

At the same time, she was also discovering the literature of Camus, Sartre and other existentialists, whose

exploration of the phenomenon of "being" resonated with her own intellectual questioning, particularly in relation to her growing knowledge of neurophysiology.

"I had tried to express the difference of our experience of, for instance, redness, against the measurable events that accompany our vision of it," she writes of a conversation with a medical student colleague. "You can describe how the light waves in the red end of the spectrum travel to your eye, cross the eye's medium, interact with the receptors in the retina and are transmitted along the optic nerve to reach the occipital lobe of the brain ... but none of this describes or explains our experience of redness."

After graduating, Frank returned to Europe where she later specialised in anaesthesia. She worked for a year at a university hospital in Israel, but most of her professional life has been spent in London. It was here she met the German painter Rudolf Kortokraks, whom she later married in Salzburg. The union gave tangible form to the lifelong interest in the arts which Frank has combined with her medical career.

"Science will break down a flower and destroy it to see how it works," she explains, "while art will leave it whole, cream off the spirit of it and make it into a poem or a painting – a thing of universal expression."

Frank assisted Kortokraks with the establishment of his School of Vision in Tuscania, Italy, in 1981, but they separated several years later. Then,



Miriam Frank:

Wherever there is war or ethnic conflict, she believes people are still undergoing experiences of hardship and alienation similar to hers.

Photo: Mike Stone

after the death of her mother in 1984, she began to piece together all the unanswered questions behind the nomadic existence she and her mother had led all those years before – an attempt, if you like, to give universal expression to the fractured identities she felt inside herself.

A key part of this process was her translation of the works of Argentinian writer Héctor Tizón into English.

"In my endeavour ... to express in English the colours, music, smell and taste of life in the Andean *puna*," Frank writes, "I was bridging the break between my lives in Acapantzingo and Christchurch and, along with it, between the two languages. I was overcoming my loss of what Mexico had stood for in my life, which was in Spanish, and my difficult readjustment to life in New Zealand, linked to English.

"English had been my language of a life gone dull and grey, of my sense of alienation, of suppression of my passion. Telling Tizón's world in English was healing my resentments and resolving those long-buried frustrations. Marrying those two worlds inside me and making them into one whole ..."

When prompted, Frank explains this further: "I became aware we are, in a sense, a different person with each language we speak, like a different nervous network inside our brains, and [the act of] translating bridges these two networks together. All the shock and trauma I had with my break with my language was resolved."

Frank found resolution of another kind in the process of researching and writing her memoir. She sought out her mother's estranged family and early friends, the family who had sheltered them in Vichy France and their friends in Mexico. In doing so, she realised that the sense of belonging she had sought all her life – from New Zealand to Europe, Israel to Mexico – could actually be found within herself rather than in any geographical place.

Frank agrees her childhood experiences, were they played out in the current millennium, would be different, but she points out that, wherever there is war or ethnic conflict, people are still undergoing experiences of hardship and alienation similar to hers. It is, perhaps, what such experiences teach us about ourselves that is more important.

"My book is not only about loss, but also gain: how much you gain from crossing languages and frontiers and boundaries."

Aside from its uplifting story of tenacious endeavour in the face of adversity, the overwhelming message in Frank's book is of the fundamental irrelevance – and potential for destructiveness – of cultural, religious or ethnic identity.

"What I say in my book is that even the gas chambers are not a unifying thing," she explains. "I remember when I was in the London Hospital there was a Jewish professor and we used to cross paths quite often and he wouldn't even bother to hold the door open. There was no sense of camaraderie, even though we could both have died next to each other in the gas chamber."

Frank did not learn she was Jewish until she was eight – about the time Hitler's "final solution" was grinding to a halt (this is one of the "innocent absences" referred to in the title of her book) – and only slowly did she come to appreciate the impact of this identity on her life. Yet, despite the convenient sense of belonging it may have provided to an otherwise stateless person, Frank

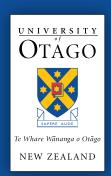
never defined herself by this criterion. As the thematic concern of her book and her career as a doctor responsible for preserving life both attest, she believes that the qualities of humanity we share are ultimately more important than those that set us apart.

"Every man beareth the whole stamp of the human condition'," Frank quotes Montaigne, by way of illustration, down the telephone line from London. "I find that more edifying than narrowing myself down to one particular group. There are differences, but they're for celebrating and learning from: I think our commonalities are stronger than our differences."

An Innocent Absence, by Miriam Frank, is published by Arcadia Books.

Otago Summer School 10 January – 24 February 2011

Want to learn something new this summer?





Last month the University formally opened its William James Building, the new home of the Department of Psychology. The six-level building, which incorporates innovative green features, is named after the pioneering US psychologist. Among its features are a rainwater collection and recycling system, high levels of insulation, extensive natural light and low-energy artificial lighting. It was one of the first New Zealand buildings built to national Green Star education category standards.

New Advanced School Sciences Academy

The University recently launched a new science academy established to encourage talented senior students from provincial or rural, small and low decile schools to reach their full potential.

Supported with funding from the Government, the Otago University Advanced School Sciences Academy will host its first intake of 50 students in 2011. Students will be nominated by their schools as they complete Year-12 study in 2010. Successful nominees will then be admitted to the academy, which will comprise two five-day residential science "camps" at the University - one in January and the other in July - and also a web-based component that will enable participants to stay in touch throughout the year as part of an online science community.

The initiative will see top University science teachers, researchers and communicators leading a wide range of curriculum-linked science projects that focus on mathematics, chemistry, physics and biology.

The residential components will also cover elective science topics and include wider themes so that participants can gain a broad understanding of science and its place in the world, and an insight into the breadth of science career opportunities. In addition, a professional development component for science teachers from participating schools will be included as part of the academy programme.

Otago-China links strengthened

The University has further strengthened its links with top universities in China, recently signing memoranda of understanding (MoU) and student exchange agreements with Beijing's Tsinghua University and Shanghai's Fudan University.

Vice-Chancellor Professor David Skegg and Fudan University Vice President Professor Wang Xiaolin sign new agreements to strengthen links between the two institutions. The MoU will enhance existing collaboration at staff and research-student level and the exchange agreements will provide Otago undergraduate students with the opportunity to spend a semester studying in Beijing or Shanghai.

The signings are the outcome of relationships that have been developed following the visit of a delegation to China led by Vice-Chancellor Professor David Skegg in 2007.

Tsinghua University celebrates its centenary next year and is consistently ranked, nationally and internationally, as one of the two top universities in China. Fudan is also consistently rated as one of the top three universities in China and is one of that country's oldest and most highly-regarded universities. Both are members of the C9 League, which is an association of nine leading Chinese universities.

Following these latest agreements, the University of Otago now enjoys formal links with four of the league's elite institutions.

Performance scholarships

The University has established a new suite of first-year student scholarships to encourage excellence in areas of performance including sport, culture, music and the arts.

The \$5,000 scholarships have been made possible through the generous support of the Callis Charitable Trust.



Nominations for 2011 scholarships were invited from secondary schools and applications closed last month.

The scholarships call for students to demonstrate a high level of ability in a chosen area of performance, to be complemented by an appropriate academic programme. Likely areas of performance include the study of music, theatre studies, performing arts and physical education.

Up to 10 scholars will be able to use the allowance to offset fees or accommodation and a guaranteed place in a Residential College.

Medical students at the University's Christchurch and Dunedin campuses are benefiting from new and upgraded facilities where they can hone their clinical and professional skills.

A new simulation centre in Christchurch and an upgraded clinical skills facility in Dunedin have been officially opened.

The Christchurch centre features a human simulator, the first of its kind in New Zealand. A lifelike, computerised "manikin", it can simulate a variety of conditions such as heart failure,



Medical students now have access to a state-of-the art simulation centre at the Christchurch campus.

Photo: The Press

trauma and diabetes. In addition, the centre boasts simulated health-care environments including a GP/outpatienttype consultation room, a hospital ward room and a resuscitation area.

In Dunedin, the upgraded Otago Clinical Skills Laboratory now features 12 consulting rooms and a waiting room, more educational resources, a new simulated hospital room and tutorial space. Plans are underway for construction of a new clinical skills facility at the Wellington campus in the near future.

University of Otago researchers have received more than \$44 million in this vear's Marsden and Health Research Council funding rounds to pursue 44 world-class research projects.

In last month's Marsden round, 19 Otago studies that will push the boundaries of current knowledge were awarded a total of \$10.67 million. Marsden grants are administered by the Royal Society of New Zealand and support research excellence in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, social sciences and the humanities.

For the sixth successive year the University has secured more Marsden funding than any other institution in the country. The latest Otago recipients' projects will address unsolved questions in realms ranging from atomic physics to societal conflict resolution.

In June, the Health Research Council announced \$33.35 million for 25 Otago projects aimed at improving the health and well-being of New Zealanders. The research - which runs the gamut from basic biomedical investigations into deadly diseases to evaluating New Zealand's health-care spending priorities - gained the largest share of funding available nationally in the annual round.

Researchers from across the University's campuses in Dunedin, Christchurch and Wellington will undertake four major multi-year programmes, two of which are new and two extensions; 14 projects; six emerging researcher grants and a feasibility study.

In July, Otago researchers also gained significant support from the Foundation for Research, Science and Technology to develop research for the benefit of New Zealand and its economy. The three new projects focus on developing next-generation electronic materials for solar power and other technologies, new therapeutics to slow age-related mobility loss, and overcoming the drench resistance of livestock parasites.

2011 arts fellows

The latest recipients of arts fellowships at the University were announced last month. The 2011 fellows are: Akaroa-based writer Fiona Farrell (Robert Burns Fellowship); Dunedinbased painter **Kushana Bush** (Frances Hodgkins Fellowship); Wellington-based dancer Lyne Pringle (Caroline Plummer Fellowship in Community Dance); and composer Christopher Adams, (Mozart Fellowship). Central Otago children's book writer Kyle Mewburn is University of Otago College of Education Writer in Residence.

Professor Brian Moloughney (left)



as Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Humanities). Professor Moloughney returns to the University after a period as the Head of the School of Languages and Cultures at Victoria University of Wellington. In

his previous time at Otago, he was a senior lecturer in the Department of History. His research expertise includes Chinese history and literature, Chinese narrative, the Indianisation of Chinese culture and the Chinese diaspora.

Medical oncologist **Bridget Robinson** to the newly established Mackenzie Chair in Cancer Medicine in the University of Otago, Christchurch (UOC). The position is responsible for supporting cancer research at the UOC and integrating research with Canterbury's clinical services. Professor Robinson has been a medical oncologist in Canterbury since 1986 and joined the UOC in 1997. The new chair is supported by the Mackenzie Charitable Foundation.

Associate Professor Joanne Baxter (Ngãi Tahu Māori Health Research Unit) to the new position of Associate Dean Māori in the University's Division of Health Sciences. Associate Professor Baxter's role includes overseeing new programmes supporting young Māori into health careers and leading the new Health Sciences Māori Workforce Development Unit.

Howard Amos as University Librarian. Mr Amos comes to Otago from the University of New South Wales where he was deputy librarian for six years. He has substantial experience of academic libraries, as well as technical skills acquired in his private sector IT and telecommunications roles.

Obituaries

Climatologist **Benjamin (Ben) Garnier (93).** The founding academic leader of the University's Department of Geography, he served in this role from 1946-51. He helped establish the New Zealand Geographical Society and was noted for his 1958 book *The Climate of New Zealand*.

Anatomical and forensic pathologist **James Francis (Jim) Gwynne (85)** (MB ChB 1951, MD 1959). Appointed in 1964, Dr Gwynne was a senior lecturer and later Associate Professor of Pathology at the Otago Medical School until 1979. He was a former chairman of the New Zealand National Road Safety Research Council.

Achievements

Dr **Phil Bishop** (Zoology, below) and **John Harraway** (Mathematics and Statistics) received the University's 2010 Teaching Excellence Awards in recognition of their outstanding capability as teachers in their fields. Dr Bishop, who is a frog biologist, went on to win a Sustained Excellence Award at this year's national awards for top tertiary teachers.



Associate Professor Richard
Gearry (Medicine, University of Otago,
Christchurch) and senior lecturers Dr
Simone Celine Marshall (English) and
Jessica Palmer (Law) were selected as
this year's recipients of the University's
Early Career Awards for Distinction in
Research.

Dr **Margot Skinner** (School of Physiotherapy) was awarded Honorary Life Membership of Physiotherapy New Zealand for her contributions to the profession.

Professor **Murray Thomson**(Oral Sciences) won the International
Association for Dental Research's
H Trendley Dean Memorial Award in
recognition of his contributions to research
on the epidemiology of dry mouth.

Dr **Ian Barber** (Anthropology) has won a Fulbright Senior Scholar Award to spend four months at Utah's Brigham Young University to research the global emergence of revitalisation movements, such as the western Pacific cargo cults and New Zealand Māori prophet movements.

Dr **Ross Notman** (College of Education) received a Fulbright New Zealand Travel Award to present in the US on innovative school leadership developments in New Zealand and Alaska.

Chemistry research assistant



Anthea Blackburn
(left) gained a
Fulbright-Ministry
of Research,
Science and
Technology
Graduate
Award to study
towards a PhD
at Northwestern

University in Evanston, Illinois.

Zoology PhD candidate **David Winter** won the Ernst Mayr Award for a presentation at the annual international meeting of the Society of Systematic Biologists about his PhD research on landsnails in Rarotonga.

Chemistry PhD candidate **Samuel Lind** has gained an R H T Bates
Scholarship from the Royal Society of
New Zealand to support his research
into improving the electricity-generating
properties of organic cells.

Associate Professor **Robin Gauld** (Preventive and Social Medicine) was awarded first prize in the Health and Social Care category of the BMA Medical Book Awards for his book *The New Health Policy*.

Emeritus Professors

The following staff members have been granted the status of Professor Emeritus by the University Council: John Tagg (Microbiology and Immunology), Carolyn Burns (Zoology), Christine Thomson (Human Nutrition) and Terry Crooks (College of Education).

A word from the Head

A common theme of many of the communications sent to the Alumni Relations Office has to do with the way an Otago education shapes the lives and careers of alumni, often in directions that are totally unforeseen during student days. These accounts make for inspiring reading, charting the courses of some amazing careers that have taken alumni to places they never dreamt of, while engendering a deep sense of personal fulfilment.

In these pages we feature stories from alumni working internationally in widely different fields, but united by their Otago education that laid the foundation for rich and rewarding careers. All of them recognise the value of what they learned as students and attribute their successes, in no small part, to their formative years at Otago. Each is making a difference in the world and all are motivated to give something back in recognition of the advantages they received in their student days. Their stories, like many others we receive, paint a picture of Otago alumni as resourceful, generous and ready to take up the challenges of the modern world.

Otago life isn't all study, however, and students in Dunedin have always found ingenious ways of diverting themselves from the pressures of lectures, assignments and exams. Read about how students from the 1940s let off steam in Ran de Castro's entertaining account of the musical escapades of the Capping Band: an exuberant example of the Otago party spirit from over 60 years ago.

University events and celebrations

2010 Māori Centre Te Huka Mātauraka 21st anniversary, 26–27 November

2011 St Margaret's College centenary School of Home Science and Consumer and Applied Sciences centenary

> Department of Preventive and Social Medicine celebrates 125 years

Aquinas College jubilee 50 years since the University of Otago became autonomous from the University of New Zealand

2012 Hayward College 21st anniversaryUniversity of Otago, Christchurch,40th anniversary

Māori Centre celebrates 21 years

E kore e taea e te whenu kotahi kite raranga i te whariki kia mōhio tātou ki ā tātou.

Mā te mahi tahi ō ngā whenu, mā te mahi tahi ō ngā kairaranga, Ka oti tēnei whāriki.

A strand of flax is nothing in itself, but woven together is strong and enduring.

Collective efforts often result in more meaningful and sustainable outcomes.

The Māori Centre Te Huka Mātauraka is celebrating its 21st birthday with a reunion in Dunedin on Friday 26 and Saturday 27 November. Former students, graduates and friends are encouraged to join in the fun. The programme includes the inaugural Māori alumni function, hosted by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Sir David Skegg, to be held on Saturday evening. Please register your interest by



Alison Finigan: Head of Alumni Relations

email to functions.alumni@otago.ac.nz or by post to the Alumni Relations Office, University of Otago, PO Box 56, Dunedin 9054.

St Margaret's centenary reunion, January 2011

St Margaret's centenary celebrations are scheduled for Friday 28 to Sunday 30 January. Please register your interest at www.otago.ac.nz/alumni/reunions/stmargarets or by post to the Alumni Director, St Margaret's College, PO Box 56, Dunedin 9054.

Department of Preventive and Social Medicine 125th celebrations: conference and reunion

In 2011 the University's largest department will celebrate its quasquicentennial, or 125th birthday. A special weekend from 4 to 6 March will showcase the many and varied aspects of the department's teaching and research, and will feature an academic programme focusing on reproductive health, the launch of a book on the department's history and a gala dinner, concluding with the Great Healthy Film Show.

All current and former students or staff members are welcome. For further information, please email functions.alumni@otago.ac.nz or, to register online, go to http://dnmeds.otago.ac.nz/departments/psm

Aquinas College jubilee, 23-25 September 2011

A group of Aquinas alumni is planning a celebration to mark six decades of the history of this college, to be held in Dunedin the weekend of the England/playoff winner World Cup

Court of Convocation

Representatives to be elected to Council

Enclosed in this issue of the *University* of *Otago Magazine* are papers for those eligible to vote in the election of Court of Convocation members to the University Council.

The Court of Convocation comprises all those who hold a degree from the University of Otago, as well as those who hold three-year diplomas (Diplomas in Home Science, Physical Education and Land Surveying).

The Court's sole purpose is, every four years, to elect three of its members to Council where they will be part of a team of up to 20 members, working together in the governance of the University.

This year there are four nominations for the three places. Voting papers must

be returned to the Returning Officer by December 3.

The University of Otago is an institution of international standing, contributing to the educational, cultural and economic well-being of both Dunedin and New Zealand as a nation. As such, all Court members are encouraged to vote.

rugby match. Please register your interest by emailing *lizzy.lukeman@otago.ac.nz* or telephone 03 479 8487.

Hayward College 21st anniversary, 27-29 January 2012

Please register your interest by email to functions.alumni@otago.ac.nz or by post to the Alumni Relations Office, University of Otago, PO Box 56, Dunedin 9054

Wanted: Hayward College T-shirts. The college's collection is missing official college T-shirts from 1997–2002. If you would like to lend your shirt for permanent display at the college please contact Lizzy Lukeman at 03 479 8487 or lizzy.lukeman@otago.ac.nz

University of Otago, Christchurch 40th anniversary, February 2012

In February 2012 the University of Otago, Christchurch will celebrate 40 years of research and teaching on the Christchurch campus with a series of social functions, a jubilee publication and the creation of a research trust — the University of Otago, Christchurch Fellowships and Scholarships Fund. For further information contact Virginia Irvine, phone 03 364 0038, or email virginia.irvine@otago.ac.nz

2010 World Rowing Championship at Lake Karapiro 30 October-7 November

The University of Otago Rowing Club will be in attendance at the World Rowing Championships at Lake Karapiro, supporting New Zealand and the many past and present Otago athletes taking part. The Otago booth will be a must-visit if you are wandering the grounds in between races.

Sir Eion Edgar will be hosting an Otago alumni gathering near Karapiro on Friday, 5 November. Please contact *alumni@otago.ac.nz* to let us know if you wish to join this informal rowing alumni gathering.

Rugby World Cup, 2011

With the Rugby World Cup coming to New Zealand next year, there may be opportunities for visiting alumni to connect with each other at alumniorganised events coinciding with games throughout the country. If you are planning an event in your area, please let us know – we are happy to inform alumni by email via *Your Otago Link*.

Reunions

BDS Class of 1961

21– 23 March 2011 Contact Henry Zelas at *henzel@es.co.nz*

MB ChB Class of 1961

2011 Contact Brian Linehan at bjl@tranmere.co.nz

MB ChB Class of 1962

6 – 9 March 2012, Queenstown Contact Allan Adair at allan.viv@paradise.net.nz

MB ChB Class of 1972

30 March–1 April 2012, Nelson Contact Karen McLean at karen@encore-events.net.nz

MB ChB Class of 1975

29 November 2010, Milford Track Contact Louise Buhrmann at BBuhrmann@aol.com

MB ChB Class of 1997

October 2012, Dunedin Contact Rochelle Phipps at rochelle.phipps@gmail.com

For help in organising reunions contact Lizzy Lukeman at 64 3 479 8487 or email lizzy.lukeman@otago.ac.nz

Alumni events 2010

Kuching







Christchurch







Wellington







Sydney







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 Fax 64 3 479 6522 Email alumni@otago.ac.nz Web www.alumni.otago.ac.nz

The Alumni and Friends website contains information on what's happening for alumni around the globe. Via the website you can:

- update your contact details so you continue to receive Otago publications
- · register for alumni events
- receive updates about what's on for alumni
- view information on how to contact other Otago alumni
- find out how you can support the University
- receive your own permanent email address signalling your affiliation to the University of Otago yourname@otago.alumni.ac.nz

Upcoming alumni events

Washington Saturday 23 October
Cologne Saturday 30 October
London Friday 5 November
Māori (Dunedin) Saturday 27 November

For further information please email functions.alumni@otago.ac.nz or visit the Alumni and Friends page of the website www.alumni.otago.ac.nz/events

Annual Appeal

The 2010 Appeal aims to raise funds for cutting-edge research projects chosen from each of the four academic divisions, as well as for scholarships to assist students at Otago. The four research projects selected for funding this year are:

 The Alpine Fault Seismic Imaging Project, Geology Department

- The Sir John Walsh Research Institute, Faculty of Dentistry
- The National Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies, Division of Humanities
- The Centre for Entrepreneurship, School of Business.

Thank you to everyone who participated last year. Your support is very much appreciated.

Honours for Otago alumni

The following Otago alumni were recognised in the Queen's Birthday Honours list: Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit: Dr Hylton LeGrice (OBE) for services to ophthalmology, music and the community. Companion of the Queen's

Service Order: Dr Helen Anderson for services to the Ministry of Research, Science and Technology; Dr John Matthews for services to medicine and the community; Professor John Moorfield for services to Māori language education. Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit: Ian Wedde for services to art and literature; Dr Leona Wilson for services to medicine, in particular anaesthesia. Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit: Dr John Cullen for services to medicine; David Gallaher for services to music. Queen's Service Medal: Brian Benn for services to the New Zealand Police Force; Martin Pepers for services to nursing and the community; Frances Robinson for services to historic places; James Sole for services to the New Zealand Police Force.



THE UNIVERSITY OF OTAGO MAGAZINE IS AVAILABLE ONLINE AT:

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

Please email magazine@otago.ac.nz

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

University of Otago in America Inc

In this issue we profile three members of the Board of the University of Otago in America, Inc (UOA), a fundraising and grant-making non-profit organisation supporting the University and actively promoting alumni connections in the United States.

Jennifer Schreiber (DipHSc 1963): Board Secretary



Jennifer grew up in Christchurch, but her family had strong Dunedin roots, so coming to study at the University of Otago was the natural choice for her. She completed a Diploma of Home

Science in 1963, and went on to lecture in the Clothing Department for two years before leaving for the United States where she has pursued a successful career in interior design.

"I feel most fortunate to have had the 'Otago experience' and am grateful for the excellent training that I received in clothing construction, fashion and design – all forming the basis for my career in the US. Leadership roles within the department, over 25 years' experience in volunteer roles here, and my own business for 32 years have served me well and provided an exciting, rewarding career doing what I truly love."

Jennifer says that her involvement with the UOA has provided many outstanding friendships with peers who care about the spirit of "giving back" to Otago as much as she does. "It is wonderful to contribute to the University from afar and I hope that many more

generations of students will enjoy the same positive life experiences as a result of their Otago education years."

Neil Matheson (DipPhEd 1978): Treasurer



Neil is the CEO of Huntsworth Health, one of the world's largest global healthcare communications companies. He renewed his relationship with

the University when he attended an alumni event in Los Angeles and was approached to join the board of UOA as the Treasurer, a role he has served in for the past three years.

Neil was born in Dunedin and lived in Dundas Street as an infant so believes he was destined to go back to Dunedin as a student. "My experience at Otago was very enjoyable in so many different ways. My time at the School of Physical Education developed my inherent leadership and management skills that have contributed greatly to my success in building and managing businesses. I have always wanted to 'give back' to the University in a positive way and serving on the UOA Board as well as supporting the Wall of Fame at the School of Physical Education are very important ways for me to remain in touch with the University as well as to remind me of the great education and lessons in life that I received during my four years at Otago."

William (Bill) Lindqvist (BE 1964): Vice-President

Bill was brought up in Bluff, and Otago holds a special place in his life since it was there he met his future wife, botany graduate Helen Verngreen. He received



a first-rate academic, practical and social education at the former Otago School of Mines. He then went on to complete a BSc (Hons) at Adelaide and a PhD in Applied Geology at

Imperial College, London.

He has lived in the US for 35 years and, during that time, explored for gold and other metals on several continents for a number of mining companies. He retired as Vice-President, Exploration for Homestake Mining Company in 2002 and, since then, has served on several exploration company boards and is involved in volunteer work.

Bill joined the UOA board about eight years ago. He values the opportunity to renew his connection with Otago through alumni activities and finds great satisfaction in being able to contribute to his alma mater in all sorts of ways. "It is especially rewarding being able to raise funds to help support important research and to provide financial assistance to undergraduate students."

If you are interested in the board's activities, or would like to make a contribution to the work of the University of Otago in America, Inc. please contact Jennifer Schreiber, Secretary: 310.859.1203

The University of Otago in America, Inc. (UOA) is a tax exempt organisation under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of the United States of America. The tax ID number of UOA is 30-0110891.

For our alumni communication network to work well, we need up-to-date email addresses. Please contact *louise.lawrence*@ otago.ac.nz to make sure we have yours correctly entered on the database.

Alumni story

Capping Band remembered

Capping Parades have been held since the earliest University days, but not until the early 1940s, when student numbers were about 2,000, did music play a part. A store of brass band instruments was revealed in the Marama Hall basement (a legacy from a re-equipping unit). Musical (and non-musical) students formed a band, supplementing other expanded capping functions such as the Capping Concert and the Capping Magazine.



The practice. From left: Maurice Tate, Roy Holmes, Ran de Castro and Bruce Moon (partly obscured).

Leading the parade from Albany Street to the Octagon through streets lined each side four to six deep, we were pleased to offer our one tune, the chorus of the march "Our Director" (Kenneth Alford) – both simple and blaring.

I understand the crowds were there, all be-hatted, men and women, in part to enjoy the mild smut on the floats and in the Capping Magazine (later banned!). These were innocent days, before *Playboy* and the like, and the vulgarity of today. The parade's light-hearted humour may have lifted spirits – the Great Depression

was followed by World War 2. Further, musical instruments were seldom found in private homes then – save the lonely piano: the omnipresent guitar was still in Andalusia! Our struggles were examined with some interest.

During the parade, the band would be led in and out of the nearby shops bigger stores with long aisles preferred. Band leader Sandy McAlister with his gleaming brass fireman's helmet (he was later Dean of the Dental School) was a little brazen himself — and we tootled behind. Another bandsman of note was Ratu Kamisese Mara, later

Prime Minister of Fiji. A full two metres tall and rather determined looking, he played the nine centimetre triangle with some skill. After the parade, pubs were popular for rehydration and the counter lunches. Echoing progress through the Octagon and Exchange, underground public toilets gave reciprocation.

The uniform chosen was all Otago – blue shirt, yellow

kilt with blue/yellow round "pork-pie" hat. We reached our destination by tram, filling the air with our music en passant (so relaxing to play sitting down!)

Other similar public functions were grim by nature (just at the end of World War 2) with columns of servicemen embarking or returning. Most of us were "under age", although senior students attended a University military camp.

The following year we were joined by some real musicians, particularly dance band members from the weekly Allen Hall "hops".

Older and professional, we were stiffened. Popular marches were mastered – "Blaze Away", "Colonel Bogey", "The Invercargill March": we found ourselves 20 strong.

By 1948 it was new leader Ian Tympany who corralled us into order. A cache of band music scores was produced – and we began to sound like a real band with an authentic bass drummer, trumpets, euphoniums, both basses, side drums, clarinets – even a sousaphone. The front row sported five trombones, three tenor, and two bass: any bandsman knows how these can rip a blast down a high, narrow street.

Many of the scores had difficult key signatures (four or five sharps/flats). Here, the unskilled took advantage of the repeated nature of the playing to grasp the "tune" (learning by ear), the same frequency guiding our exploratory fingers over the keys (trial and error) until the instrument got it right! Patience, a willingness to learn and lubrication helped. We even had hard practice (once).

Other venues were added – we attended University recreation and sports scenes, marching round playing fields (being pelted), along the shore line, at courts and nets, cricket/basketball as well as boating out to meet the *John Wickliffe* (1948).

Then at night some of us became the dance band for the social – in halls all over the city. From the Rigger String to the Caves (now Age Concern in the Octagon), from IOOF to Tomahawk School. Then after final exams it was all over – innocent and innocuous, it was clean high-spirited fun! No violence, no breakages. *Gaudeamus* indeed!

But wait – 60 years later a recording turns up – the Alumni Relations Office has the CD!

RANSFORD DE CASTRO MB ChB 1950

Think of me and look loving



"Hope to see you Thursday": postcard c.1910, Harry Simmons' postcard album. Hocken Collections Uare Taoka O Hākena, University of Otago. S10- 214b. It's not as quick as texting – and more public – but I quite fancy the idea of receiving pretty postcards from my sweetheart suggesting opportunities for rendezvous.

The role of the postcard in the courtship of Violet Watson and Harry Simmons features in the current exhibition 100 Up - A Snapshot of Dunedin Life 1910 and 2010, celebrating the centenary of the Hocken Collections.

Violet was a domestic servant at "The Hollies" in Caversham, while Harry lived nearby on Macandrew Road. As their romance blossomed and they prepared for their wedding in 1911, the pair exchanged postcards to arrange meetings, share news and convey their affections.

At a time when few households had telephones and mail was delivered twice a day, the postcard became an opportunity for frequent, quirky communications.

The fashion for sending short notes by postcard began in the 1870s, initially

on blank, pre-stamped cards. Adding some decoration to one side was an idea just waiting to happen. What began with scenic illustrations "to advertise the scenery of the colony" soon branched out to include photography, sentimental messages and cartoons - ranging from the satirical to the raunchy. Interactive innovations included moveable tabs that would enable characters to move, and spaces to write in dates and times, as in Harry's message "Hope to see you Thursday".

The possibilities were endless and, by the early 1900s, postcards had become a worldwide craze, complete with clubs and publications for serious collectors. Harry and Violet's correspondence is preserved in folders especially designed for the purpose. In 1909, at the peak of their enthusiasm, New Zealanders sent at least 7.5 million postcards (more would have been placed in envelopes).

As such, it is their very ordinariness that allow Harry and Violet's postcards to give us a glimpse of the humour and sensibility of the day. Many of the sentiments they express are clear enough, if no longer quite idiomatic, such as "Think of me and look loving". Others contain humour that may have lost its romantic appeal today. Alongside a picture of a dustpan, for example, reads a rhyme:

Something towards
The 'appy 'ome
Tho circumstance
May make one crusty,
These should make things
"Not so dusty".

By World War 1, however, the practice of conversing by postcard was well in decline, and war and economic depression dealt further blows to production houses.



"Something towards the happy home ...": postcard c.1910, Harry Simmons' postcard album. Hocken Collections Uare Taoka O Hākena, University of Otago. S10- 252.

Soon, of course, technology displaced this quick, low-cost means of communication.

But Harry and Violet's missives perhaps remind us of what we have lost. What of our incidental messages today have quite the charm – and possibilities for posterity – as a droll, handwritten card?

So, bring back the postcard? I can see my messages now: "Beloved, can you please pick up the kids and we need some bread."

NICOLA MUTCH

'Main, W, (2007) Send Me a Postcard: New Zealand Postcards and the Story they Tell, Craig Potton Publishing, Nelson, New Zealand, p.8.

Think of me and look loving

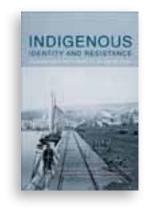
"Think of me and look loving": postcard c.1910, Violet Watson's postcard album. Hocken Collections Uare Taoka O Håkena, University of Otago. S10-213e.

HOCKEN GALLERY EXHIBITIONS

Until 21 January 2011

100 Up - A Snapshot of Dunedin Life 1910 and 2010

Mounted to commemorate the Hocken Library's 1910 opening, this exhibition presents a comparative snapshot of Dunedin life from that year and today. Historical items dating from around 1910 are placed alongside 2010 representations of the city. Contemporary observations of Dunedin are largely presented through the photographs of Max Oettli, which were commissioned by the Friends of Hocken Collections to mark the Hocken's centenary. The aspects of life examined include leisure activities, food, workplaces, fashion, education and childhood.



Indigenous Identity and Resistance

Researching the Diversity of Knowledge

Edited by Brendan Hokowhitu, Nathalie Kermoal, Chris Andersen, Anna Petersen, Michael Reilly, Isabel Altamirano-Jimenez and Poia Rewi, July 2010

Scholars at Te Tumu, School of Māori, Pacific and Indigenous Studies, University of Otago, and their compatriots at the University of Alberta, Canada, brought this indigenous studies reader into being. Lucid, accessible, and thought-provoking, their essays provide a critical understanding of the ways in which indigenous peoples are rearticulating their histories, knowledges and the indigenous self.

Hana O'Regan discusses a programme of language regeneration initiated by members of her iwi, Kai Tahu. Chris Andersen describes the power of Canada's colonial nation-state in constructing categories of indigeneity. Brendan Hokowhitu examines the common discourses underpinning indigenous resistance. Janine Hayward compares indigenous political representation in Canada and New Zealand. This is just a snapshot of the forward-looking research in this reader, which heralds a new way of thinking about indigenous studies in the 21st century.



Quarantine!

Protecting New Zealand at the Border

Gavin McLean and Tim Shoebridge, August 2010

Next time you line up for airport biosecurity screening, spare a thought for its importance to our economy. A foot and mouth outbreak could do more harm than even the deepest recession. The quest to protect New Zealand is the subject of this new book by Ministry for Culture and Heritage historians Gavin McLean and Tim Shoebridge.

It charts the progress of New Zealand's border control from colonisation through to the present day. It canvasses New Zealand's early concerns about human diseases and then, as farming developed, the passing of laws and construction of fumigation sheds at ports. With the advent of international air travel, systems had to be adapted – pests previously killed off by long sea voyages had new opportunities to thrive. Within just a few years, modern screening systems were developed.

MAF Biosecurity New Zealand now protects this country's native flora and fauna as well as commercial exports. Despite some high profile incursions, New Zealand remains free from many dangerous diseases and environmental threats, although not always without a cost.



Malaria Letters

The Ross-Laveran Correspondence, 1896-1908

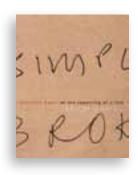
Edwin R Nye, September 2010

New cases of malaria affect more than 100 million people each year, most of them in sub-Saharan Africa. But, with global warming, the distribution of mosquito vectors is changing and whole populations are at increasing risk.

Alphonse Laveran first demonstrated the parasitic nature of malaria in 1880. Within 20 years, the role of mosquitoes in transmission had been worked out by Ronald Ross. This first translation of the two scientists' correspondence asks whether the world has let them down, failing

to translate their findings into "straightforward action".

This book, written by former Otago Medical School Professor Edwin R Nye, places modern science in a broader historical context, inviting the reader both to share the excitement of a major scientific discovery and to ask pressing questions about the application of such findings.



Stunning Debut of the Repairing of a Life

Leigh Davis, July 2010

"Simple Broken Beautiful" is the handwritten title on a notebook of poetry penned by Leigh Davis in 2008. Leigh wrote every day during treatment for a brain tumour, which was affecting his ability to express himself in words.

This notebook was the beginning of a work that developed into this long poem, Stunning Debut of the Repairing of a Life. The resulting manuscript won The Kathleen Grattan Award for Poetry 2009, judged by Ian Wedde, who described it as a "complex and deeply moving work".

Davis began his writing career in 1983, with the publication of a poetry volume, *Willy's Gazette*, which won Best First Book in the New Zealand Book Awards, and the founding of a short-lived literary journal, *AND*, co-edited with Alex Calder and Roger Horrocks. His work was always innovative and frequently involved working with visual and other artists. In the late 1990s, he produced a major visual installation, *Station of Earth-Bound Ghosts*, and a related book, *Te Tangi a te Matuhi*.

For further information: Otago University Press Email university.press@otago.ac.nz or visit www.otago.ac.nz/press

Books by Otago alumni

The Spirit of Truth: Reading Scripture and Constructing Theology with the Holy Spirit, edited by Myk Habets. Pickwick Publications, 2010.

Wetland Restoration: A Handbook for New Zealand Freshwater Systems, edited by Monica Peters and Beverley Clarkson, Manaaki Whenua Press, 2010.

A Glass Darkly: Medicine and Theology in Further Dialogue, edited by D Gareth Jones and R John Elford. Peter Lang, Oxford, 2010.

Te Tahata: Étude d'un marae de Tepoto (Nord). Archipel des Tuamotu, Polynésie Française, by Eric Conte and Kenneth J Dennison. CIRAP Tahiti, April 2010.

Rail Poems of New Zealand Aotearoa, edited by Mark Pirie. Poetry Archive of New Zealand Aotearoa, 2010.

The Pop Artist's Garland: Selected Poems 1952-2009, by F W N Wright, edited by Mark Pirie. HeadworX, Wellington, 2010.

A Tingling Catch: A Century of New Zealand Cricket Poems 1864-2009, edited by Mark Pirie. HeadworX, Wellington, 2010. Climate: the Counter Consensus, by Professor Bob Carter. Stacey International, London, May 2010.

My Innocent Absence: Tales from a Nomadic Life, by Miriam Frank. Arcadia Books, July 2010.

Karitane By the Sea: Whalers, Traders and Fishermen, by Ian Church. Self-published, July 2010.

Whaikōrero: The World of Māori Oratory, by Poia Rewi. Auckland University Press, September 2010.

Dear Charles, Dear Janet: Frame and Brasch in Correspondence, edited by Denis Harold and Pamela Gordon. Holloway Press, Auckland, September 2010.

Recent Otago University Press titles

Hauaga: the Art of John Pule, edited by Nicholas Thomas.

Mad or Bad? The Life and Exploits of Amy Bock 1859-1943, by Jenny Coleman.

The Catlins and the Southern Scenic Route, by Neville Peat. Promised New Zealand: Fleeing Nazi Persecution, by Freya Klier.

Zealand, by S R H Jones.

Abbott, Jacinta Ruru.

In the Paddock and on the Run: The Language of Rural New Zealand, by Dianne Bardsley.

Beyond the Scene: Landscape and

Identity in Aotearoa New Zealand,

co-edited by Janet Stephenson, Mick

Doing Well and Doing Good: Ross &

Glendining - Scottish Enterprise in New

Alumni:

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

... the Colin McCahon mural in the

Anyone who preferred to study in the "fishbowl" area of the old Central Library has gazed upon – possibly even rocked their chair against – a national treasure. The painting that occupied the east wall (right behind the loans desk) was Waterfall – Theme and Variations (1966), by Colin McCahon.

That students might swot in the presence of such artistic significance is thanks to the de Beer family, extraordinary patrons of the arts and benefactors of the Dunedin Public Art Gallery who donated money that funded the competition, drawing the winning entry from McCahon. Charles Brasch, meanwhile, encouraged McCahon to enter, talked him into submitting a second, waterfall-based design (which McCahon sketched roughly onto the back of his favoured concept, a blackboard-like wall of numbers) and may well have selected him as the winner.

The commission, however, placed an unwelcome demand upon McCahon to return to a motif he was trying to move on from. McCahon had long gravitated towards abstraction, of a kind that went beyond a firm, thin line denoting a stream of water. He was interested in the human capacity for abstraction that enables language, mathematics and religious thought, and it was this subject

he hoped to explore for the University setting. Now, the preliminary concept painting is hung – numbers side out – on the adjacent wall to the mural in Otago's Information Services Building (ISB).

In 1966, the *Waterfalls* mural – 16 hardboard panels in all – was revealed to local, and even international, approval. Brasch reports British art historian Charles Mitchell as regarding "Colin's mural in the University Library magnificent without reservation"².

McCahon, though, thought it could have been better. A central panel was damaged as it was being unpacked and McCahon felt his replacement piece never measured up to the original: "Second versions never have the innocence of the first," he commented³.

Despite all these misgivings, Waterfalls is successfully, quintessentially McCahon. It captures the discipline and intelligence of his work, the line he walked between rawness and restraint, and a landscape that manages to be both brooding and vital.

In 2000, the mural was moved to the glorious new ISB, which replaced the Central Library. Chris Doudney, the former University architect who oversaw the relocation, says that despite having been unprotected, the painting remained in surprisingly good condition. After

some "painstaking but not really major" conservation work – the panels had originally been glued to the wall of the library – the painting was remounted in its new location which, this time, features a low perspex wall and alarm system.

Here, the mural is shown off to greater effect than it ever was in its previous home. Rather than having been designed for a wall, it now lives on a wall built with it in mind. Well-lit, the lacquered panels are rich and reflective.

And while students lined up with their laptops barely raise an eyebrow at the art in their midst, the mural is a backdrop in a learning landscape where rich cultural surroundings can be taken for granted. Important, but understated, its mood matches well their quiet industry.

NICOLA MUTCH

- ¹ Simpson, P (2010), Patron and Painter: Charles Brasch and Colin McCahon: The 2009 Hocken Lecture, Hocken Collections, Dunedin, New Zealand.
- Ibid,p39.

³Brown, G, (1993), *Colin McCahon: Artist, New Edition*, Reed Books, Auckland, New Zealand, p106.

Central Library?



