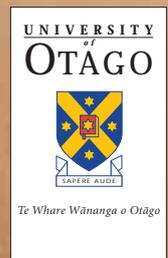
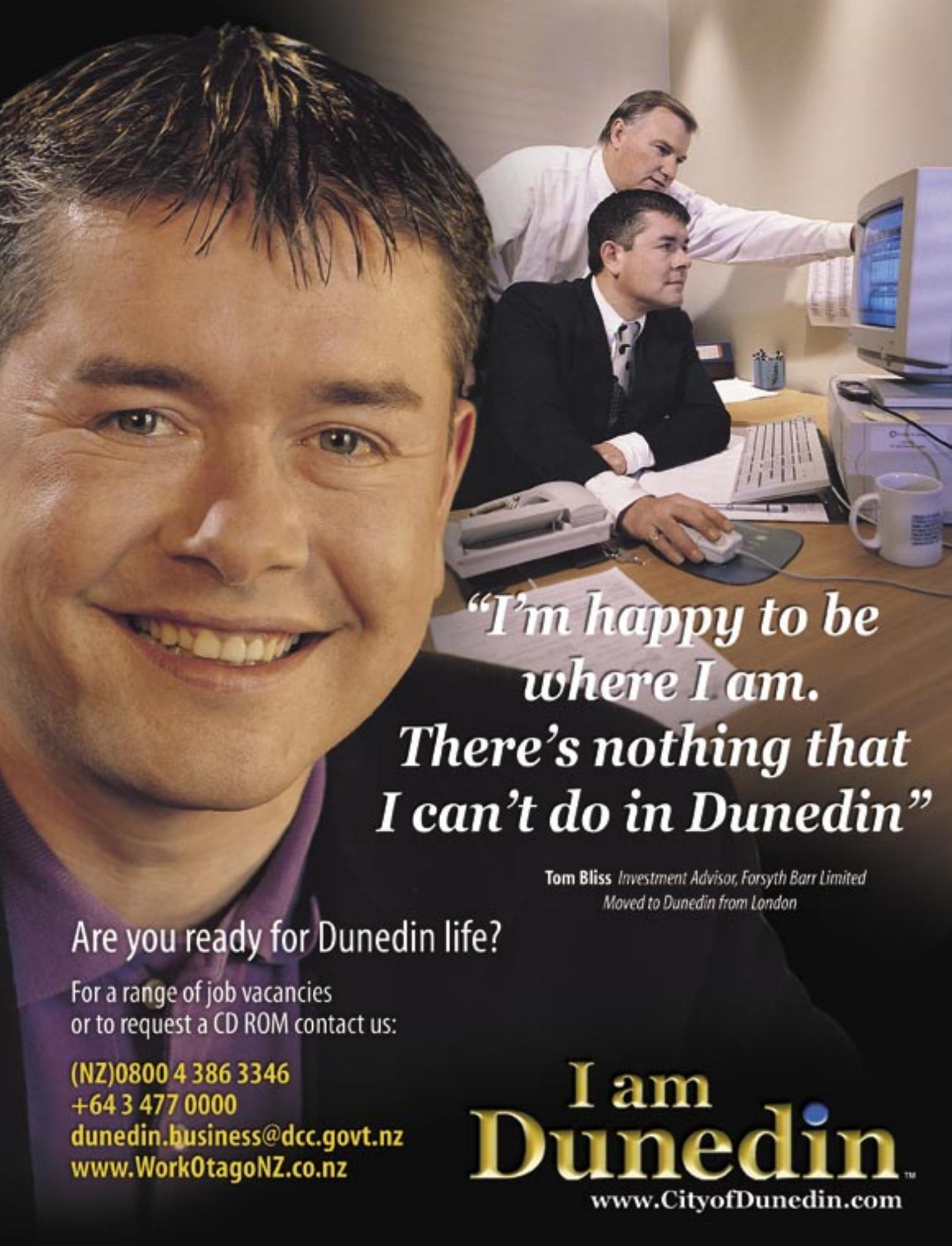


# UNIVERSITY OF Otago

M A G A Z I N E  
ISSUE 8: JUNE 2004

TE RANGI HIROA : SIR PETER BUCK  
VICE-CHANCELLOR BIDS FAREWELL  
MAKING IT BIG AT THE WELLINGTON SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AND HEALTH SCIENCES





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# m a g a z i n e

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Sir Peter Buck in academic robes, circa 1904. Photographer unknown. From the Ramsden Papers. Photo reproduced with permission from the Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington, New Zealand. Ref. No. F-37931-1/2 -

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## VC's COMMENT

THOSE OF YOU LIVING IN NEW ZEALAND WILL BE AWARE of the recent results of the Performance Based Research Funding exercise. It's a funding model roughly based upon the United Kingdom's "Research Assessment Exercise" which seeks to channel public funding into areas of proven research excellence.

Tertiary education providers across New Zealand were evaluated on three key components: On the evidence portfolios or "quality scores" of their researchers and academic units (including, among other things, the number of publications in international peer-reviewed journals); the amount of external research income the institution earned; and the number of graduate degree completions, particularly PhDs.

Unfortunately too much of the media attention was given to one of three components of the exercise - the quality scores - and insufficient attention was given to the overall dollar results achieved by universities.

Most of the media missed the point that what this exercise is about is funding and indeed that very word is captured in the title of the exercise itself. Basically a total pool of \$18.4M was available of which approximately two thirds was contributed by the tertiary institutions and one third by Government. A University was a winner if it got more dollars out of the exercise than it put in.

The overall results confirmed much of what we already knew. For example, the top two research universities in the country are Otago and Auckland. Between us we earned more than half the total available \$18.4M. It is interesting to note that while Auckland did better on the evidence portfolio component of the exercise, we did better on graduate degrees, particularly PhD, completions.

In terms of the total dollar results Otago contributed \$2.3M and received \$4.1M; effectively Otago received a return of 78 per cent on its investment. If that's not an outstanding return, I don't know what is!

Auckland, by comparison, which is a larger university than Otago, contributed \$3.6M and gained \$1.6M for a total of \$5.2M or a return on investment of 44 per cent. No other

university came close to Otago and Auckland. For example, Canterbury put in \$1.78M and gained \$380,000 for a return on investment of 21 per cent.

The overall result is a reflection of the quality of, and commitment to, research at the University and both our academic and support staff can feel proud of this achievement.

Worth mentioning in particular is the research performance of New Zealand's best-ranked university department: Otago's own Department of Philosophy. Equally impressive was Psychology with 10 A-rated staff of outstanding calibre - more than any other department in any discipline in the country.

Indeed, Otago also has over 20 per cent of all A-rated staff in the country, second only to Auckland with 35.93 per cent. In total, 97 Otago staff earned an A rating, with the largest concentration of world-class researchers within the Faculty of Medicine.

And of 46 nominated academic units, 22 were ranked within the top three in the nation. What's more, these units were spread right across the University, reflecting the true breadth and depth of excellence at Otago. This is outstanding, and again, to be celebrated.

However, we cannot be complacent.

Perhaps the most disappointing aspect of the exercise was the huge variability in the quality evaluation scores achieved by our academic departments. While we clearly have many areas of excellence, we also have some whose research performance must be lifted if Otago is to maintain its position as one of the leading research organisations in New Zealand.

And with more dollars available in future PBRF rounds (the next is in 2006), the stakes will be even higher.

There are several strategies which Otago is currently considering which I believe will help create the research leadership and culture of research excellence which this University will need. And I have every confidence that with those strategies in place, Otago will go from strength to strength.

Dr Graeme Fogelberg  
Vice-Chancellor - University of Otago

## HITCH-HIKING PROTEINS



Professor Antony Braithwaite: “Sometimes you’re doing an experiment for one reason and a whole lot of other interesting things come out of it.”

Otago cancer researchers, chasing a protein through the cellular maze, have found it hitching a ride with what should be its adversary.

What’s more, the YB1 protein, a prime suspect in tumour creation, seems to be disabling the p53 protein, known as a tumour suppressor, once it has used it as transport to the cell nucleus.

“We think that has quite a lot of importance for cancer because no one’s shown directly that this protein YB1 predisposes cells to cancer, but if it’s neutralising p53... this is predisposing cells to the accumulation of genetic lesions and eventually cancer,” Professor Antony Braithwaite, of the Pathology Department, says.

The surprising finding was a fitting reward for Braithwaite’s team after initial research failed to yield the expected results.

“This is the first time that p53 has been shown to function as a

transporter of another protein:

“Sometimes you’re doing an experiment for one reason and a whole lot of other interesting things come out of it. Science is really about discoveries, it’s not about solving problems for other people such as businesses or strategic funding agencies,” Braithwaite says.

The discovery has given a sharper focus to research into YB1’s role in breast and prostate cancer as YB1 is often nuclear in these cancers.

Braithwaite says it can be tough to maintain a dual perspective – one eye on the cells and the other on the tumours. However, it can be useful, as clinical material helps design lab experiments and lab experiments can be clinically useful.

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## FOCUS ON NATURE TOURISM



Anna Carr (left) and Maria Amo are looking at how nature tourism operators do business on the Otago Peninsula and Banks Peninsula.

Are some nature-based tourism operators conservationists who have happened into tourism ventures, or tourism operators who have seen the need to take a conservation stand? How well are nature tourism operators networking in their marketing and other business-based decision-making processes? How can their environmental education programmes be improved to provide a strong, consistent conservation message?

These are some of the questions asked in a nature tourism research project undertaken by Anna Carr and Maria Amo, of the University’s Department of Tourism. Funded by a University of Otago Research Grant, the project aims to identify how nature tourism entrepreneurs contribute positively to the environment in which they work, how they operate, their business experiences and the influences of the surrounding business

environment. Carr also hopes to identify factors which might contribute to, or hinder, growth and success.

Initially, research is focusing on Otago Peninsula and Banks Peninsula, each home to a cluster of nature tourism businesses.

Factors examined include visitor education programmes, conservation projects, waste reduction and environmental accreditation, with the ultimate aim of identifying sustainable tourism initiatives, best practice and effective business solutions.

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## ONE OF NATURE'S MYSTERIES



Dr Mark Lokman is using eels to explain ovary responses in fish.

In his wildest dreams, Dr Mark Lokman's work on eels will pave the way for the regulation of egg production of farmed fish.

In the more prosaic reality of his daily routine, he will spend the next year doing painstaking microscopy and gene expression studies on eel ovaries in an attempt to gain an insight into one of nature's mysteries.

With \$100,000 of Marsden funding behind him, the zoologist is looking at the very early stage of egg production in fish, the stage preceding yolking.

"During that time, a developing egg goes from a size comparable to other cells in the body to something that's 10 or 20 times larger and we have absolutely no idea what triggers that in fish."

A researcher with a long interest in eels – a hardy fish suitable for this type of study – Lokman stumbled on a likely clue when he and his mentor, Associate Professor

Graham Young, noticed an ovary response after colleagues at Massey University treated fish with a testosterone-like steroid called 11-ketotestosterone.

He has now exposed the ovaries of five eels to varying doses of this steroid and the hormone leptin, discovered in mammals about 10 years ago. The leptin treatment is a bit of a long shot, but ensures all the eggs, so to speak, are not in one basket.

The promise appears to lie in the 11-ketotestosterone: "If this steroid could help us understand how many eggs will get recruited in the next spawning event... then it could have a wonderful application because we could manipulate the number of eggs the animals would spawn in the following year."

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## EARLY PĀKEHĀ CULTURE UNEARTHED



Associate Professor Ian Smith with some of the artefacts from the summer's dig.

Now little more than a collection of stones, the Oashore whaling station on Banks Peninsula may reveal important information about the evolution of Pākehā culture.

With the documented knowledge that the station operated from 1840-49, housing at most 35 men and several women and children, the site provides an opportunity to discover details of their domestic life, community organisation, and how they interacted with the landscape and local Māori.

A four-week excavation of the site, the first stage of a three-year Marsden-funded project, was completed by Anthropology's Associate Professor Ian Smith in the summer. He says life was undoubtedly hard for the whalers; the station faced south and the whaling season stretched through winter.

"We suspect some people stayed all year, but want to find out how they lived during the off-season. Of interest is the whalers' interaction

with Māori and other European settlers. For example, many whalers took Māori women as their wives."

The "dig" concentrated on the remains of the station's residential area and many artefacts were found – from broken crockery and bottles, to gun parts, pipes and whaling implements. Bones indicate that pigs were an important source of food.

With months of analysis ahead, and a further excavation planned at a similar North Island site, Smith says it is important the work is done on a testable scientific foundation.

He believes the research into how the whalers adapted to the environment and to the social, political and cultural setting of the time may yield many insights into the emergence of Pākehā culture.

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## RESEARCH

### BURNS FELLOW FINDING HER PLACE



Kate Duignan: "It's great having a place to come to in an environment where people are working on a range of interesting things."

Burns Fellow Kate Duignan is relishing the stimulation and energy of the Otago campus after returning from a period writing in Edinburgh.

"Writing can be an isolating business and I did particularly find that overseas," she says.

The Wellington novelist was ready to come home to New Zealand and had her sights set on Dunedin so the Fellowship, with its financial backstop and daily connections to the University, was ideal.

"It's great having a place to come to in an environment where people are working on a range of interesting things."

Acutely aware of the quality of the writers who have come before her, Duignan is finding her place between the heavyweight past of the Fellowship and the present-tense buzz of the campus.

As she works on a novel which draws on some of the places she

visited in Europe last year, the master's graduate in creative writing from Victoria and author of the novel *Breakwater* is finding plenty of creative enrichment in Dunedin.

"I can imagine myself getting very attached to the city over time." In a strange and plaintive coincidence, she arrived at the time of Janet Frame's death and witnessed the powerful remembrance ceremony to the great writer.

"What passes between a writer and a reader is usually such an intimate, private thing. It was encouraging to see Frame honoured and remembered in that way, with so many people from the town coming, each with their own connection to her and her work."

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### LOOKING GOOD



Professor George Benwell is looking further than the view from his office balcony.

The view from his 11th floor office balcony stretches over Dunedin.

And Professor George Benwell's far-sighted vision is taking the Information Science department into a brave new world where research is funnelled straight to high-end applications.

He's started at the top with a link-up with Right Hemisphere, a US company with a New Zealand branch that makes visual information systems (VIS) for engineering customers such as Boeing – "The little guys," he jokes.

If it can work with engineering, why not medicine? Benwell thought.

He pitched Right Hemisphere and they said yes. Now, in return for free use of software worth \$500,000, his department will develop medical applications with the help of the Otago School of Medical Sciences, and get a share of the revenue.

Fittingly, for an expert in information systems, the contact

with Right Hemisphere came as Benwell was acting as a human junction between the academic and commercial worlds as part of the knowledge economy consortium known as the Medici Project.

The project's dimensions have slimmed but Otago is still playing a key part; specifically in collaborating with HitLab NZ and Endeavour Capital to deliver world-first technology allowing global real-time 3D link-ups.

"So, for example, kids in Tokyo and Dunedin could look at and touch a 3D model of the Southern Alps and learn together about earthquakes.

"Essentially we are going to build the tools that allow this to happen."

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## STOPPING TOOTH DECAY



*Dr Chris Sissons and his team at the Wellington School of Medicine and Health Sciences are working on new procedures to lessen tooth decay in children.*

There has been a significant deterioration of dental health in New Zealand recently, particularly in children. Studies show that in Christchurch since 1998 there has been a 30 per cent increase in caries or tooth decay in five-year-olds, and a 16 per cent reduction in children who have no tooth decay at all.

Dr Chris Sissons, from the Wellington School of Medicine and Health Sciences, is investigating ways of preventing tooth decay or “dental caries” in young teeth. He is enhancing plaque mineralisation of young teeth through the formation of a calcium phosphate buffer in the plaque itself.

“We have already demonstrated this through our unique Artificial Mouth in the laboratory, which enables us to experiment on the 500 microbial species which make up plaque. Calcium phosphate solution deposits crystals on the plaque forming a buffer to the

damaging demineralisation of tooth enamel, and also promotes remineralisation.”

Sissons says that in laboratory investigations they are enhancing this positive plaque mineralisation with developments of the technique.

“Our most recent investigations indicate that we can deposit even larger amounts of tooth mineral in a very short time. This is potentially a new procedure to combat caries in children’s teeth.”

Now Sissons and his team are about to test the caries-protective calcium phosphate methods with five-year-olds in Christchurch. If the results are as positive as indicated in the lab, the next step would be to include the compounds in a commercial product.

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## AGEING LAB RATS MAY HELP ALZHEIMER’S RESEARCH



*From left, Diane Guévremont, Dr Joanna Williams and Carthika Luxmanan in the lab at the Otago School of Medical Sciences.*

A chance encounter with a group of ageing lab rats has led researchers into an exciting new area.

Anatomy lecturer Dr Joanna Williams remembers well the “serendipitous” day her colleague Dr Steve Kerr asked if she had any use for his retired rodents.

The question triggered a realisation the work she was doing on protein expression in the brains of young rats could perhaps find a useful comparison in the older animals.

“We found this huge difference in the rate they make proteins.”

The results were so encouraging, a team comprising Williams and Kerr, and psychology professor Cliff Abraham, won a three-year Marsden grant to pursue them.

An ideal outcome would be identifying how these proteins help form memories, and developing drugs to boost their expression in older people.

“If we can work out what neural pathways are important then that

would be relevant to Alzheimer’s disease. Maybe in the Alzheimer’s situation that pathway is not able to be activated. If we can work out what is going on in a normal situation then that can be applied to drug design,” Williams says.

A link-up with the Otago Genomics Facility is providing the high-tech tools – a DNA array of 10,000 genes – needed by the project’s researchers Diane Guévremont and Carthika Luxmanan who will profile in the rats the gene expression produced by memory stimulus.

Now Williams is half-hoping to avoid any further serendipity.

“Once you’ve found one new thing that happens you’ve got a lot of work ahead of you,” she laughs.

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## THE STRANGE WORLD OF BOSE-EINSTEIN CONDENSATION



Dr David Hutchinson: “You can actually get in there and you can poke the thing and see how it wiggles.”

Physicist Dr David Hutchinson is excited at getting the chance to poke around in the strange quantum world of Bose-Einstein condensation.

With the help of a three-year Marsden grant, his team will be able to investigate further the state of existence where atoms can lose their individual identity and condense into a single quantum object.

“The whole beauty of this field is you can now do these elegant experiments. You can actually get in there and you can poke the thing and see how it wiggles.”

The former Oxford physicist is wary of trivialising experiments which won the 1995 Nobel Prize but is having to get used to public interest in the topic – and the need to use illustrative language to bridge a universe of understanding.

Why the interest? Well, it might be because the supercooling of thermal gases into a condensate provides a window into the deep

mysteries of the quantum world. Using lasers and thermal evaporation, Otago physicists routinely cool gases to 0.00000001 degrees above absolute zero, making a small portion of the third floor of the Physics Department at times “the coldest place in the universe”.

The trapped Bose-Einstein condensate will be squeezed into a two-dimensional existence where the team will carry out theoretical investigations into the various phases. These include not only the famous condensate itself, but a novel phase unique to two dimensions called the Kosterlitz-Thouless phase.

Hutchinson is the first recipient of the University’s Rowheath Trust Award and the Carl Smith Medal.

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## REGIONAL COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE – DOES IT WORK HERE?



Professor Colin Campbell-Hunt and Associate Professor Sheelagh Matear at one of the Dunedin companies involved in the research.

Silicon Valley, Hollywood are examples where world-class businesses of a similar nature cluster in the same place, shaping the structure of trade.

But does regional competitive advantage work in New Zealand? And if so, how?

This is the subject of a new research project by the University’s Departments of Management and Marketing, a six-year contract with the Foundation for Research Science and Technology and part of a wider project, Competitive Advantage New Zealand, involving researchers from other universities.

Led by Professor Colin Campbell-Hunt (Management) and Associate Professor Sheelagh Matear (Marketing), the Otago research sets out to focus on 12 Dunedin companies in the first year, 12 in the second and then to replicate the research in another region. The aim, to discover local competitive advantage, how

businesses maximise it and how it can be fostered, ultimately enabling a more targeted and regionally-specific approach to economic development.

Less than a year into the project, Campbell-Hunt says the factors contributing most successfully to regional competitive advantage internationally – clustering and networking – do not work in the same way here, if in fact at all. Other factors such as lifestyle and history may well be significant.

“We’re slowly and methodically beginning to understand that New Zealand’s size and geographical isolation make our games different, but the secret is just how some businesses have turned these perceived disadvantages into advantages.”

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## IRON LEVELS LOOKED AT IN TODDLERS



Dr Anne-Louise Heath (left) and PhD student Ewa Szymlek-Gay are wanting to find practical ways of increasing iron levels in toddlers.

Who would have thought Kiwis had to be persuaded to eat *more* red meat?

“A cross-sectional study in 1998 showed one in three toddlers had low iron status. We wanted practical ways of increasing iron in toddlers,” PhD student Ewa Szymlek-Gay explains.

Part of the Toddler Food Study team, led by Human Nutrition Department researchers Drs Anne-Louise Heath and Elaine Ferguson, Szymlek-Gay will be monitoring a group of toddlers whose parents sign up to have the special meals delivered.

“Infants are less at risk of low iron levels presumably because of iron-fortified cereals and other foods. Once they reach 12 months parents stop giving them iron-fortified foods.”

The iron levels of the meat-eating group will be compared with two milk groups – one fed ordinary cow’s milk, the other fortified formula.

Dietitians have already prepared 30 different meat dishes and some trial runs have revealed interesting results. Small meatballs and patties look the most promising - liver has already been crossed off.

“Certainly some were no go... they weren’t keen on the liver. We put apple in the liver, we tried apricot and raisins but it didn’t go down, and if a toddler doesn’t want to eat something, well there’s nothing you can do about it!” Heath says.

“There is an assumption out there that simply eating more red meat will prevent iron deficiency in toddlers – but astonishingly, this question has not been exposed to rigorous scientific testing,” adds Szymlek-Gay.

This study will do just that.

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## GIDDY MAGIC



Frances Hodgkins Fellow Mladen Bizumic’s art takes us through time and space.

Installation artist Mladen Bizumic makes time and space machines.

He installed a Guggenheim Museum in Tauranga and towed an island off the coast of Auckland to Venice Harbour. He planted 7,000 rimu trees around Dunedin.

None of this really happened, of course.

Or did it?

The tall, smiling Frances Hodgkins Fellow is an unassuming psychic magician but his work generates the giddy motion of being transported to a parallel place.

In *Tauranga Guggenheim*, for example, gallery visitors could examine an architecturally-designed model of the museum, take an animated tour of it and even look out of one of its windows.

Bizumic’s eyes are now fixed on Stewart Island where he wants to examine the decaying traces of a group of Norwegians who established a base in 1922 and left 10 years later, abandoning their

settlement to the creeping forest.

“I’m interested to see how this thing that was built 80 years ago and was really taken care of... disappears...”

He will be taking photographs, recording sounds and making a short film. He is unsure what form the final work will take but it will be a communication with the present.

“I don’t believe in this absolute presence of an artwork which exists out of time...it relates to something, it comes from today, it’s about today...I don’t have grand ideas of changing the world but I have ideas about questioning the present and our experience in it in all sorts of different ways...”

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# *Te Rangī Hiroa: Sir Peter Buck*

## MB ChB 1904

This year the University of Otago celebrates its first hundred years of Māori graduates. A century of learning that began with the graduation of a remarkable man.

**IN 1904 TE RANGI HIROA – LATER SIR PETER BUCK** – became Otago’s first Māori graduate and the first New Zealand-trained Māori medical doctor.

He’d already excelled in sport, and went on to health administration, politics and the military before becoming a pioneering and internationally renowned anthropologist. As a leader of Māori, he inspired others to follow the trail he blazed. After a slow start, growing numbers of Māori have graduated with the encouragement and teaching of the University of Otago, such as the University’s latest Rhodes Scholar, Glenn Goldsmith, who will be studying Economics at Oxford this year.

A highlight of the University’s centenary celebrations, Na To Hoa Aroha, will be an exhibition of Sir Peter Buck’s life and achievements, to be opened by the Governor General at the Otago Museum on 19 August. The exhibition will include a contribution from Hawai’i’s Bishop Museum, where Buck was director for the latter part of his life. It might seem a far

cry from qualifying as a doctor at Otago, but Buck managed to pack several careers into one life – a life that had its disappointments as well as successes.

Buck was raised with both Pākehā and Māori influences, from his Irish father William and his Ngati Mutunga/Ngati Tama wife Ngarongo, who was not Buck’s birth mother. Following Māori custom, when William’s new bride failed to conceive, her cousin Rina bore William a child. Rina died soon after the birth, and Ngarongo raised Buck as her own. He learned Māori lore from her and from his maternal grandmother, Kapuakore, while William encouraged his Pākehā education. Buck embraced both cultures, a stance that was to last his lifetime.

At Te Aute College in Hawke’s Bay, Buck overcame prejudice against his mixed-race background by excelling in everything he did. He was captain of rugby and athletics teams, dux of the school, and qualified for entry to Otago Medical School where he continued to mix study and sport,



*Apirana Turupa Ngata, MP (left) and Sir Peter Buck next to a tukutuku panel at the home of Sir Apirana Ngata during the Dominion Museum expedition by Elsdon Best, James Ingram McDonald and Johannes Andersen.*

winning national long-jump championships in 1900 and 1903. He also contributed to Otago's history of outrageous student pranks with a spoof moa hunt – complete with stuffed moa borrowed from the Otago Museum.

He married an Irish girl, Margaret Wilson. Despite the difficulties faced at that time by the union of a Māori man and a Pākehā woman, the marriage survived for life, with Margaret supporting her husband's every endeavour.

After working as a doctor, Buck was appointed as a medical officer to Māori, campaigning to improve sanitation and health. European diseases had wiped out three-quarters of the Māori population, and Buck realised Māori had to adopt Western hygiene to survive – a change that took considerable diplomacy.

He worked under Maui Pomare (Te Atiawa), Māoridom's first doctor, who had qualified in Chicago. Together with Otago's second Māori medical graduate, Tutere Wi Repa (Ngati Porou), and Edward (Ned) Pohau Ellison (Ngai Tahu), they started the

Māori Medical Practitioners' Association, and tied in with the Young Māori Party to drive Māori development.

Buck accepted an invitation to stand for Parliament in 1909, and was elected MP for Northern Māori. He worked with Native Affairs and had a brief spell in Cabinet while still promoting improving Māori health. During a 1913 smallpox epidemic, Buck took time off from Parliament to tend to his sick constituents. He did not seek re-election to Northern Māori in 1914, and failed to win a seat in the Bay of Islands – a rare defeat.

During Parliamentary recesses, Buck had travelled in the Pacific as a medical officer, and his inquiring mind and mixed-race background had started him on an anthropological study of Polynesian people. But everything went on hold with World War 1.

Buck helped promote and recruit a Māori contingent, and travelled with it to the Middle East as medical officer. His activities at Gallipoli earned him mentions in dispatches, and

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*Sir Thomas Mackenzie, High Commissioner for New Zealand, (left) with Sir Peter Buck during a visit by Mackenzie to the New Zealand troops in France during World War I.*

eventually he was awarded a Distinguished Service Order. He was promoted to major, and saw action in Europe as second-in-command of the New Zealand Pioneer Battalion. He moved on to medical postings, ending up at the New Zealand General Hospital in the UK, where he picked up on his growing interest in anthropology, studying the men of the Pioneer Battalion as they prepared to travel home.

When Buck returned to New Zealand he took Maui Pomare's job with Northern Māori before joining the new Department of Health as director of the Māori Hygiene Division, still promoting improved sanitation. Within seven years he and his teams had made a significant difference to Māori health, gaining invaluable allies among senior Māori to help reduce the spread of epidemics and the death rate.

It was a lifesaver for his people, but Buck knew there were other ideals that the Young Māori Party had failed to see realised. There was still no network of Māori doctors, and prejudice and lack of funding were hindering attempts to see more Māori educated at university. Despite his successes, a disillusioned Buck was quoted as saying of his time at the Health Department: "We were woefully understaffed and were a voice crying in the wilderness."

Buck had continued studying anthropology, travelling in New Zealand and around the Pacific, and was fast becoming the leading authority on Māori material culture, as well as

a celebrated lecturer. His publications saw him invited to conferences, and a meeting with the director of Hawai'i's Bishop Museum led to a dramatic change of focus.

The museum funded Buck on a ten-week ethnological expedition to the Cook Islands, and offered him a five-year research fellowship in Hawai'i. After much soul-searching, Buck accepted, saying: "I have worked up to the stage that I am dissatisfied with myself and want to do the best work of which I am capable. This lies in the field of anthropology."

Buck faced the same problem as many exceptional New Zealanders of his time. The country was too small and too new for their talents, and they had to leave to avoid stagnating or being stifled. Buck asked his department for leave without pay so that he might offer his services on his return, but was turned down. He left the Health Department and medicine behind, and turned professional academic.

His departure from New Zealand was a wrench, but his new career was launched. In the next five years he travelled extensively among the Pacific Islands, enjoying an advantage unknown to previous researchers in the area. His Māori status allowed him to travel as an insider, while his academic training produced work that enjoyed both critical and popular acclaim.

New Zealand still attracted him, but the universities of the day had no place for his work. He was effectively exiled by

Photographer unknown.  
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*Posed attack upon a moa, Dunedin Botanic Gardens, circa 1899. The photo shows two men, possibly Sir Peter Buck (left) and Koroneho Hemi Papakakura hunting a moa reconstructed from a skeleton by Augustus Hamilton, the then Registrar of the University of Otago.*

a lack of opportunities at home. At the end of his fellowship he was appointed visiting professor of anthropology at Yale University. He taught and travelled extensively in the USA and Europe. Wherever he went, New Zealand seemed close to his heart. In a letter describing some of the grand sights he'd seen on his wanderings, he compared them with home, reporting: "New Zealand is indeed a land of infinite variety in its scenery and physical characteristics .... Any country may have one or more of these features on a larger scale but seemingly no other country possesses so many."

Buck still considered returning home, but then he was asked to take over the running of the Bishop Museum when the current director retired. There was nothing in New Zealand that could use his considerable talents so well. Before he took up his appointment, Buck toured the country, lectured and visited Māori land development schemes. Then he sold the house he had kept on in case he came back, and left for Hawai'i for good. The following years saw him showered with academic accolades, including an honorary Doctor of Science from the University of Otago in 1937.

In 1946 Buck was knighted – an honour that many felt was long overdue. But by 1949, when he returned to New Zealand to receive the award, he had been diagnosed with terminal cancer. In 1948 he had been given three months to live, but rather typically, he stretched that into three highly

productive years, publishing and working until his final decline and death in 1951.

Two years later, his ashes were brought home to New Zealand, and a procession escorted them to his desired final resting place at Okoki Pa in Taranaki, close to where he grew up. His wife Margaret survived him until 1954, when her ashes were laid to rest with his.

The couple had no children, but Buck's legacy lives on. He was a man before his time, and a man able to move freely and with dignity between two worlds. He worked to bring them closer together, and remains an inspiration for Māori and Pākehā alike.

Since Buck graduated 100 years ago, there have been other notable firsts. In 1920 Morete Walker qualified as the first Māori dentist. In 1947 Rina Moore, daughter of the then Under Secretary of Māori Affairs Tipi Ropiha, became the first female Māori doctor, going on to train as a psychiatrist.

In 2003, Moore's grandson James was among 72 Māori students studying medicine at Otago, and there are more than 60 practising Maori doctors. Buck's Māori Medical Practitioners' Association – Te Ohu Rata o Aotearoa – was re-established in 1996.

Currently 35 Māori students are enrolled in PhDs, almost half in health sciences. One hundred years on, the spirit of Sir Peter Buck is alive and well among current Māori graduates.



**GLENN GOLDSMITH  
RHODES SCHOLAR  
2004**

GLENN GOLDSMITH, NGATI POROU, Otago's latest Rhodes Scholar, seems to be following Buck's early achievements. At school, he won an AFS exchange scholarship to study in Denmark. In sport, he coached tae kwon do and won regional and national titles. In politics, he was a student representative on the governing University Council, and Vice-President (Education and Welfare) for the Otago University Students' Association. Academically, he graduated with an LLB (Hons) and a BA in Philosophy, Political Studies and Economics before landing a job with Treasury.

"Treasury is a great learning experience," says Goldsmith. "But it's also more than that. Treasury's fundamentally about building a prosperous society that all New Zealanders can participate in. That's a mission I feel immensely privileged to be a part of."

Now he is to study Economics at Oxford. "It's an amazing opportunity. I get to go to one of the greatest universities in the world, learn from some of the greatest minds in the world – and hopefully, at the end of it, be able to give something back to society."

Goldsmith tasted community work during a holiday job with the Crown Law Office's Human Rights Group, tutored Māori law students and volunteered at the Māori Law Centre in Dunedin.

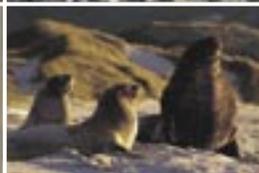
"My Māori heritage is important to me, but so is my Pākehā side. Both are just as much a part of who I am. The Māori support groups at Otago are great, the Māori Centre in particular – there's always someone there if you need them."

Goldsmith downplays his successes to date. "I've been really lucky to have had incredibly supportive family, friends, flatmates, lecturers etc. A bit of hard work doesn't go astray, but without that supportive environment, I wouldn't be where I am today."

He hesitates to predict the future based on his record so far. "You never know with these things. You never know what I'm going to do tomorrow...."

Whatever it may be, it will be one more step on the trail blazed by Te Rangi Hiroa, Sir Peter Buck a hundred years ago, a trail of Māori achievement by individuals who use their learning in a wide variety of disciplines to make a difference, for themselves, for other people and for the world around them.

Nigel Zega



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AIR NEW ZEALAND



Photo: Alan Dove

Dr Niven Winchester

## What's up with the kiwi dollar?

EARLIER THIS YEAR THE VALUE OF THE NEW ZEALAND dollar climbed above 70 US cents for the first time since March 1997. The watershed marked the culmination of a spectacular turnaround in the value of the kiwi dollar, which reached a low of 38.5 cents in mid-November 2000 and increased by around 67 per cent since January 2002. The dramatic appreciation of the New Zealand dollar has sparked considerable interest: What are the effects of this increase? How is value of the dollar likely to change in the future?

While there is no doubt that the surge in the value of the dollar has made life difficult for exporters, focusing on the figures above overstates the burden on the export sector. First, movements in the kiwi dollar relative to other currencies have been less dramatic. The trade-weighted index – an index that weights currencies in relation to their relative importance in New Zealand's international trade – has risen by a little over 33 per cent since January 2002. Hence, the increase in the NZ-US dollar exchange rate is largely a US phenomenon. The strength of the kiwi dollar is also less remarkable when long-run trends are evaluated; the current value of the dollar, on a trade-weighted base, is only 16 per cent above its historical average since the currency was floated in March 1985. International prices are another consideration. The ANZ commodity price index indicates that world prices for New Zealand export commodities have fallen by 23 per cent in New Zealand dollar terms. This implies that, at an aggregate level, a rise in international prices has partially offset the impact of the exchange rate appreciation.

The strong dollar and booming domestic housing market have dealt a double blow to Kiwis residing overseas and

wishing to return home soon. According to figures released by Quotable Value, the average New Zealand house price grew by 39 per cent since January 2002. This means that New Zealanders returning from the US would have to pay USD 215,428 for a house that would have cost USD 100,000 two years ago – an astonishing 115 per cent increase. Kiwis who chose the UK as their “OE” destination would be required to pay 75 per cent more. Increases in the cost of housing are even more severe if returning expats plan to live in areas such as Nelson, Napier or Dunedin: Former residents of the US and UK can expect to pay 277 per cent and 126 per cent more, respectively, than at the beginning of 2002.

The Big Mac index, originally compiled by *The Economist* as a rough-and-ready guide to whether currencies are at their correct levels but with a reasonably accurate forecast history, can be used to predict the future value of the dollar. The index is based on the idea that exchange rates should adjust so that the prices of an identical basket of goods, in this case a Big Mac, cost the same in any two countries. The January 2004 value of the index indicates that the kiwi dollar is 19 per cent stronger than average against the US dollar. The dollars par value, according to this measure, should be about 55 US cents. Moreover, the value of the dollar has already started to fall. The kiwi dollar shed five cents against the greenback in the second week of March as the market reacted to the Reserve Bank's decision not to raise interest rates, and announcement that it plans to intervene in foreign exchange markets when the dollar is “exceptionally and unjustifiably” high or low.

Dr Niven Winchester  
Department of Economics

# A DECISIVE DECADE

Dr Graeme Fogelberg

TAKE A VIEW FROM ON HIGH. AMID THE GLEAMING GLASS AND concrete castles of academia, the criss-crossing campus pathways, the silver streak of the Leith and the scuttle of students, ant-like, gathering knowledge for a better and more profitable future, squats a more traditional building. This is the confidently beating heart of the University of Otago: the clock tower building, bluestone on the outer, polished timbers on the inner, and undoubtedly the university's most famous visual icon.

And here also is its head. Up the stairs and along the passage to the left, is the den of Dr Graeme Fogelberg, Vice-Chancellor. For a man who is effectively the CEO of an organisation with total assets of more than \$600 million, and annual budget of over \$300 million, 3,000 full-time employees and a further 6,000 part-time, he has a clear desk. The tidy mind and work habits of the accountant he trained to be, or an executive who, after 10 torridly busy years at the top, has finally managed to clear a space?

"Well, you'd always like to put your feet up on the desk and say there's nothing left to do," he laughs, "but the reality is that it doesn't work that way. There's still plenty to be done."

On 1 August this year, Fogelberg relinquishes control of an entity that by many measures would place it within the realm of New Zealand's 50 biggest companies. The decade of his tenure has seen great change, challenges faced, battles fought – and many won – internal structures remodelled, buildings erected, and new directions pursued.

But the Vice-Chancellor, at pains to acknowledge the team nature of progress, deflects the personal kudos.

"Let me say first of all that they are not individual achievements; if you achieve anything at all in a large organisation it is because of the efforts of everyone involved. Given the pressure which the University has faced during my time, I believe that our staff, both academic and general, have done a terrific job. Otago wouldn't be what it is today without their dedication and commitment.

"But if you look at the University of Otago today, compared to when I came in 1994, I think it is a better university ... what we do for students, the student experience, and what we achieve as a research organisation."

On the student side, Fogelberg cites the quality of the halls of residence, the competitive tuition fees and the demand for Otago graduates among employers as pluses.

"I'm not going to name them, but I could point to several organisations in New Zealand who have a clear preference for Otago graduates. So why do they do that? It is because they believe that they are better equipped for their workforce. I think it's a combination of both knowledge and life skills."

He cites the fact that the funding Otago has been able to attract places it as one of the three largest research bodies in New Zealand – with Auckland University and the Crown Research Institute, AgResearch.

"The University seeks, when appropriate, to apply its intellectual property for commercial gain. And it is doing more work in conjunction with external partners.

"So if you look at the establishment of the Centre for Innovation, which brings the University and wider groups together, that's been a step forward – although I would be the last to say that this should drive the University's research totally, in that there's

still an underlying need for basic research in all academic disciplines.”

Associates point to other hallmarks of his tenure: the “revitalisation” of the campus with myriad new buildings and renovations. “He was a bit of a visionary,” says one colleague. “He believed you had to get the infrastructure right.”

The list of campus landmarks that have sprouted in the 10 Fogelberg years is indeed impressive: the Information Services Building, the St David Lecture Theatre, the Zoology building, the Physiotherapy building, the Foundation Studies building, the Centre for Innovation, and so on.

Then away from the physical assets, there has been the dentistry funding affair of the mid-90s with its famous compensation-winning court victory over the Government; the establishment of the Wellington Stadium and Auckland Centres of the University; the backing of the University Advancement Campaign; and the diversification and consolidation of international academic links and partnerships.

Trevor Scott, University Council member for 14 years and Chair of the Investment Committee and Otago Innovation Limited – which manages the University’s commercial activities – points to the Vice-Chancellor’s “decisiveness and preparedness to make decisions quickly. Good decisions.

“His business acumen and judgment was an immense help in the management of the investment portfolio. He will leave with the balance sheet in a very strong position through his strict financial management.”

Management that, to the envy of other universities, has financed its entire building programme out of cash flow.

Graeme Fogelberg began his professional life as a chartered accountant. He took an MBA in Canada in the days when you couldn’t in New Zealand, and subsequently, as a Commonwealth scholar, a PhD in business there also.

“That led me to decide I would like to pursue an academic career. One thing led to another and I came back to New Zealand and was appointed Professor of Business Administration at Victoria at 29 years of age.”

He ended up as deputy Vice-Chancellor at Victoria, touted as someone having the skills for a Vice-Chancellor’s appointment. He had finished at Victoria and was teaching at Pennsylvania State University in the United States when the University of Otago position came up. He applied and was appointed.

It is perhaps unsurprising, given his strong background in business and management, that the internal management structure came in for scrutiny early on in the piece.

“The biggest challenge – you can’t run a sizeable university yourself – the critical ingredient to success, is making sure that you make good appointments in the key positions of people who can do the job and do it well in their delegated areas.

“I think in terms of the structure of the University, I did change it after having had a look at it, after I had been here a

year, and I introduced two deputy Vice-Chancellors. I believe this has worked well and Dr Phil Meade and Dr Ian Smith have both been major contributors to our development.”

The other major change was in the area of human resource management. Says Fogelberg: “We’ve introduced things into the University which needed to be done very badly. For example, the whole process around promotion of staff and appraisal of performance just wasn’t here when I arrived.”

One of the preoccupations of his Otago career, he says, has been the constant battle for funding.

“One of the tensions that has been created in New Zealand, and it’s the biggest challenge I’ve faced (I think every other vice-chancellor would tell you the same), is trying to enhance the teaching and research quality of the University on less and less money in real terms.

“If I had to say what had been one of the biggest disappointments of my time as Vice-Chancellor of the University, it’s been governments’ policies towards funding university education and their perception of the role of the universities ... I’m talking about the previous National Government and the current Government. I believe that neither has done a very good job for New Zealand.”

While the former was wrong in its adherence to an extreme hands-off, user-pays policy with its unaffordable proliferation of private providers and course replication, the interference under the present government amounts to “a bureaucratic nightmare which adds no value to Otago’s teaching and research activities at all.”

Counteracting this has been the satisfying development of the University of Otago alumni network.

“The most important advocates you have for a university are its graduates .... In future, the University is going to rely more and more on financial support from other than government grants and tuition fees. We are starting to see some evidence now of graduates later in life supporting the University.”

It’s been a rewarding 10 years, says Fogelberg, but he can almost begin to anticipate a new chapter.

“Basically, a position like this does control your life. That’s fair enough, you accept that, but I think, come the beginning of next year, the boot might be on the other foot.”

He is particularly looking forward to giving more time to personal interests, including watching more international sporting events (he is a tennis fan), attending the theatre more frequently and travel. Another priority is unravelling some of his Swedish family heritage. He and his partner Mary – they have nine grown-up children between them – plan to split their time between New Zealand and Sydney.

“It’s time to move on. Every organisation requires a change of leadership to revitalise, so there are no qualms about that.

“But it’s been fun. I’ve enjoyed it. I’ve got no regrets, and I have some wonderful memories which will be with me forever.”

Simon Cunliffe

# BIG TIME

EIGHT YEARS AGO DR PAUL DAVIS WAS BEGINNING TO wonder about his future in scientific research. Now the Wellington School of Medicine and Health Sciences senior research fellow has few doubts, and may have a commercial tiger by the tail. As Director of the Bioactivity Investigation Group (BIG), he is in charge of a burgeoning and very successful scientific enterprise testing natural products for the health supplement market.

And the financial plus is that the work is funding the innovative scientific research the eight-member BIG team still finds time for to the tune of more than a million dollars a year.

“In the mid-nineties we were going nowhere fast,” says Davis. “Like many scientists we were spending weeks writing grant applications, which sapped our energies and morale, because so many good projects were turned down and didn’t result in the finance we needed. I was seriously beginning to think about other options for supporting what we wanted do.”

The group already had extensive expertise in the testing of natural products. Davis had worked for 20 years in this and related research – a significant and valuable background. It had easy access to a range of scientific methods for testing natural products and really it was an opportunity just waiting to be commercialised.

“It was a natural fit, and it has just grown very steadily from there,” says Phillip Kane, the Wellington School of Medicine and Health Sciences business and operations manager, with justifiable enthusiasm.

Seven years on, interest in the analytical services BIG can provide has increased 100 per cent and Davis sounds like a man with a mission as he quotes example after example of the international and national demand for the group’s services. They are now approached up to three times a week by companies from around the world to research and test natural products to determine if they have potential as health supplements.

For many it is becoming crucial, as health regulations tighten and market competition grows, that they demonstrate their products do what they claim. The other factor is the booming multi-billion dollar alternative or complementary

medicine market, which is now growing at 20 per cent a year in the United States.

“If you go into a health food shop in this country the label on the packet will tell you what is in the product, but usually it tells you absolutely nothing about how good it is, how effective it is and that’s where we come in,” says Davis.

Some time ago they examined a range of echinacea products on the market which were sold in combination with other products such as garlic and vitamin C. This was to determine their relative potencies as stimulators of the immune system and there were some quite unexpected results. The analysis of one or two of the combination products showed they suppressed the immune system rather than boosting it.

“We originally started because of our strong collaboration with the Crown Research Institute, Industrial Research Ltd (IRL), which was part of the former DSIR. IRL was approaching us because it was getting regular requests for information on the biological activity of natural products. One of the first projects was the efficacy of shark cartilage which was being promoted as a remedy for treatment of cancer by controlling and limiting the growth of blood vessels around tumours. I thought we could test that, and we did, eventually showing cartilage does have an anti-angiogenic effect.”

Today BIG works with a wide range of organisations, ranging from Crown Research Institutes to health product manufacturers. “This morning I was talking to a company in Nelson which is involved with natural products from the hill tribes of Vietnam. At this stage raw material from several plants has been sent to our labs and is being extracted and tested to confirm its biological activity, based on traditional Vietnamese knowledge, and how it works on cells. However, at this stage Davis says they are a long way from being able to say what kind of health product this could be used for.

“Scientifically what we are doing is identifying what this product does, finding out how it is prepared for medicinal use, and then running it through a range of models or tests to determine its biological activity and how it works on cells. Depending on the data that come out, we will produce a



Photo: Tim Lovell

Director of the Bioactivity Investigation Group (BIG) Dr Paul Davis.

report and recommendations to advance the development of that product for health supplement use.”

Davis says a decade ago one could go into a health food shop and the price of shark cartilage varied from \$450 to \$3,300 a kilo, but no one could tell whether one product was better than the other because there was no detail on biological effect. However, since then the international regulatory climate has been steadily changing so that from 2005 manufacturers will have to provide some scientific evidence that natural products do what is claimed, and that they are safe.

Kane says he expects significantly increased demand from Australasian manufacturers of alternative medicine products resulting from the tightening regulations. BIG is the only unit in Australasia which has the expertise and the wide range of models and assays for testing both in vitro and in vivo.

BIG is also attracting more business because it is able to test for safety and toxicity and has undertaken several international contracts in this area. Regulatory bodies around the world, like the FDA in the United States, are becoming increasingly watchful of the toxic effect of health supplements as the industry grows alongside conventional pharmaceuticals.

Although BIG is now receiving inquiries from as far afield as the Caribbean, Brazil and Canada, for the first few years the overseas commercial research interest came from North Asia, mainly from Japan and Korea. Both these cultures are deeply interested in using natural products for health reasons, having done so for thousands of years, but above all they have been attracted by the Wellington school’s expertise and competitive pricing.

“With electronic communication these companies can get their research done anywhere in the world. All the results, diagrams and photographs can be easily sent by computer. A company we were working with found they could get the research done here for considerably less than they would pay in Japan,” says Davis, “and I unashamedly market that competitive advantage.”

Intellectual property is also an increasingly vital part of BIG’s income. Many of the contracts and clients that BIG is involved with provide ongoing income worth tens of thousands of dollars through royalties from downstream applications of patented products. The group is meanwhile developing its own products, which are being marketed to a rapidly growing client-base across the world as potential health supplements. It has already achieved some success with a fish-derived extract which is used in several overseas countries as a specific therapy.

The business development graphs for BIG now look as healthy as the complementary medicines’ market. “They all point north at a very steep angle and we are delighted the Wellington School of Medicine and Health Sciences has supported the group,” says Kane.

“It’s now really starting to pay off as the world recognises we have the expertise to deliver scientifically credible results at competitive rates and on schedule. At present we’re going through an exercise looking at how we are going to expand because the demand is so great.”

Ainslie Talbot



Can Otago's All Black legacy continue in an era of professional sport,

THE UNIVERSITY OF OTAGO RUGBY CLUB IS NEW ZEALAND'S leading club supplier of All Blacks, and woe betide anyone who suggests otherwise.

TV One once attributed the honour to Ponsonby and was made to write a letter of apology. It still rankles with club past-president and historian Hugh Tohill – who says he “just about drowned in his tea” when the erroneous statement was made – that the Broadcasting Standards Authority did not require the network to declare their mistake publicly.

So you heard the truth here. Sixty-three Varsity players have gone on to become All Blacks, with 42 of these men first donning the black jersey while still playing for the club.

Stars in black go back as far as 1905 wingers Colin Gilray and Donald “Wee Mac” Macpherson, and continued to include Ron Elvidge, Chris Laidlaw, Earle Kirton, Warwick Taylor, Buck Anderson, David Kirk, Mike Brewer, Arran Pene, John Timu, Ant Strachan, Marc Ellis, Anton Oliver, Josh Kronfeld and Taine Randell. Capped All Black Simon Maling is still in the Varsity team.

Since women joined the club competition in 1990, seven players have become Black Ferns, including World Cup-winning captain Farah Palmer.

In total, 366 players have entered the Otago NPC team – that's a quarter of all the players the Otago team has ever had.

And that's not counting those who have gone on to honours elsewhere. Arthur Porritt made his future fame as an Olympic runner and Governor General; Sir Bernard Freyberg won the Victoria Cross fighting in the First World War, led the New Zealand forces in World War II, and also went on to become Governor General; 1940s lock Mara Uluilakeba became long-serving Fijian Prime Minister Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara. Graham Henry, who played for the B and C sides while studying for his Physical Education Diploma in the '60s, is now the coach of the highest rugby team in the land.

“I couldn't get into the As,” Henry recalls. “All those All Blacks were there!”

But times are changing – now money's come into it. The dawn of the professional era has meant that sport is no longer just a sideline keep-fit; it can be a career path. Furthermore, student loans have encouraged students to treat study as a calculated investment in their futures. During the semester there is not a lot of down-time for the focused student, especially of the magnitude required to pursue a high-powered sporting career.



The All Blacks at Twickenham before playing France in the semi-final of the 1999 Rugby World Cup. Otago University alumni are back row: Anton Oliver (5th from left), Josh Kronfeld (6th from left, partly obscured), Taine Randell (3rd from right); front row: Jeff Wilson (far left) and Tony Brown (2nd from right).

©Fotopress/ Ross Setford

and professional study?

When Sport Otago Chief Executive Paul Allison was asked by *The Otago Daily Times* what might be behind Otago's lax performance in national competitions of late, he suggested the career decisions being made by young, talented athletes as a possible cause.

While historically the province could rely on fresh sporting talent coming to study at the University, the most promising players were now being plucked out of school into academies and development programmes, the newspaper reported.

So what hope is there for the glorious tradition of the University Rugby Club?

"There's no doubt the game has changed," says Henry. "Players are less likely to be picked from club sides; they're more likely to have performed well in national age-group competitions."

And the rise of specialist rugby academies has "absolutely" led to better players, believes Henry. "The major difference we are seeing with players is their fitness levels. Their physical preparedness for the game these days is exceptional."

Varsity A assistant coach Associate Professor Ken Hodge, who played for the team as a student and staff member

during the '80s, pauses for a moment when asked what the consequences of this has been for the University club.

"I think there has been a siphoning off of top players to some extent." But, he suggests, the bar is rising. "The players coming to University definitely don't seem to be getting any worse."

Sport is a notoriously fickle career, he comments. It could be all over in the break of an ankle, coaches and selectors might never fully appreciate one's brilliance, someone better could come along.

"Students with the intellectual ability to handle university study are smart enough to know the risks," says Hodge. "They want a degree to fall back on."

Hodge, whose day job is a sport psychology expert in Otago's School of Physical Education, also points out that the club provides ample opportunities for aspiring Otago rugby players to put their hands up. Varsity A is a hard team to get into, and players are always in contention for the Otago NPC team, New Zealand Universities' team and the New Zealand Under 21 Colts. In 2002, the Varsity club became the first club ever to send a team to China, and last year sent a team to a universities' tournament in South Africa.

And that's not the only reason players continue to choose to come to Otago and play for Varsity. The club is thoroughly embedded within University culture. Past players – from Henry to Hodge to Anton Oliver – all speak of the atmosphere, camaraderie and humour of their student rugby days.

Student players tend to be young and fit, lending themselves to exciting “15-man running rugby”. The coaches take an active interest in the players’ study, afford some flexibility when major assignments are due, and even make themselves available for one-on-one pastoral support when required.

“We make it clear to players,” says Hodge, “they’re here to get a degree first, and play rugby second, and we support them in that. Although sometimes,” he concedes, “it’s a fairly close second.”

Otago has not gone down the path of other universities by offering fees scholarships or other incentives to top players to attend. University of Otago Rugby Club players all pay subscriptions of \$125 a year and buy their own shorts and socks.

And at the end of the day, says Hodge, producing All Blacks is a bonus, but it's not the club's *raison d'être*. “Our goal is to win the club premiership.” Varsity is defending their title this year; since the competition began in 1885, the team has won it 48 times. Adds Hodge: “It’s worth noting that when we do have All Blacks in the team, they’re as excited about winning the club competition as any of the other guys.”

**HAVING THE OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE THE ALL BLACKS** while being a student is, of course, only the half of it.

What happens when the dream comes true and you make the team? With the demands a professional sporting career can entail, is it realistic to be pursuing tertiary study at the same time at all?

Certainly, Graham Henry would entreat his players to do so. “Players play better when they have a range of interests,” he comments pragmatically. “If all they’re thinking about is rugby, they become a bit brain-dead.”

He adds that education plays an important role both on and off the field, leading to players who are “better decision-makers, thinkers and leaders”.

And furthermore, the players’ welfare is at stake. “There was a huge problem in the early days of professional rugby, where young guys were making lots of money and thinking ‘this is great, but not thinking about where they might be at when they were 35.”

In fact, despite the Super 12 being a franchised operation, the New Zealand Rugby Union has funded each centre to employ a professional development manager, whose job it is to make sure the

players have jobs or are undertaking study, participating in non-rugby hobbies and using their income to prepare for their futures.

This sounds good in theory. But would anyone else who was holding down full-time, high-pressure, paid employment – involving extensive weekend work and travel – be expected to study for a degree on the side?

The reality, as Anton Oliver points out, is that playing rugby at the highest level does not leave a lot of room for pursuing personal goals. “You’re not just an All Black. You’re also a Super 12 player, and possibly also playing for an NPC team and a club.”

Oliver is well placed to comment – he’s seen it all. He began playing for Varsity, as a colt, in 1994, and was called into the All Blacks in 1996, the year the game went fully professional. Since then, Oliver has witnessed the rise of the Super 12, captained the All Blacks and experienced the increasing demands being placed on players’ time. And all the while, he was working towards two degrees – in Physical Education and Finance. These he achieved across a period of nine years, graduating in 1998 and 2002 respectively.

Professionalism did not change rugby overnight, Oliver observes. “When I first entered the Highlanders at the beginning of the professional era in 1996, we practised twice a week. Now it’s a full-time job.”

But even with this sort of schedule Oliver believes it is possible to take “one or two” papers a year, and indeed, thoroughly recommends that players do so. However, add an All Black contract into the mix, and he reckons it’s “nigh on impossible” to study at the same time.

“Sponsors want you, coaches want you, the media wants you. You really have no spare time.”

Certainly for Oliver, the choice to study while engaging in the thick end of a professional rugby career involved plenty of sacrifice. One night in France, the team was going out to a banquet with a 19-course meal, he recalls. “I had to stay at the hotel and sit a special exam.”

In South Africa, Oliver missed out on swimming with tiger sharks – a childhood dream – in order to complete a major assignment.

And the degrees themselves were less than perfect. “I started off studying health sciences, and then chemistry, but there was no way I could do the labs because I was away so often. Even studying physed, there were some great papers in sports physiology that I would have loved to take, but I ended up having to give my degree a greater social science focus.”



Anton Oliver splits the Wallaby defence in the Tri Nations match at Eden Park, 1999. The All Blacks won 34-15.

©Fotopress/ Ross Seftord

## FOR THE LOVE OF THE GAME



Photo: Bill Nichol

Anna Scarlett:  
"I think it  
is about  
achieving  
balance."

Sometimes, he says, rugby was detrimental to his study; other times study was detrimental to his rugby.

A B-grade student, Oliver's marks were hardly embarrassing. But he says he knows they would have been higher had he not been juggling his other commitments. "I used to look at other students, and all they had to focus on was study. I couldn't even imagine what that must be like."

Graham Henry acknowledges the pressures the players are under to perform at the highest level for a national team, and says he knows of players who have given up university study under the strain.

But he hopes, under his stewardship, that it won't come to that. If necessary, he would allow some flexibility for players trying to meet study commitments. He also endorses ongoing communication between the NZRU and tertiary providers so appropriate study pathways may be made possible.

"It's a matter of players finding the right balance," he comments, "and it often depends on what the players' base-line values are. Those who value education will often find ways of achieving this balance."

Anton Oliver certainly became a believer in conducting an open and honest relationship with his lecturers. He became meticulous in discussing the course requirements at the beginning of the semester, "to make sure I could actually do the work," he says.

Could the University have supported him any better? "So long as you showed you weren't slacking off and were making an effort to cover the course material and get the assignments done," says Oliver, "the level of support I received was fantastic."

When, for example, it became clear he could never meet the terms for a compulsory Finance paper, he was given special dispensation to substitute it for an equivalent Economics paper. He came to know and love the staff from the Examinations Office dearly: "I don't know how many special exams I sat!"

Now Otago's very own Renaissance man is captain of the Highlanders, keen to take singing classes and considering embarking on some Philosophy papers next semester.

But given that Oliver has been one of the lucky ones, forging a well-paid career in the game he loves, why – one might ask – did he put himself through the rigors of study at the same time?

"I love learning. University gave me the chance to push and extend myself and let myself grow."

Plus, he says, "Rugby culture is not always a very healthy existence – players can tend to become institutionalised. I have always been keen to overcome the label of being 'a rugby guy', and I don't want to hang around with rugby players all the time. I liked the anonymity of campus life."

Further, Oliver believes university study has been vital in enabling him to retain a sense of perspective. "You have to know that just because you played poorly, the world's not over. There's more to life."

Nicola Mutch

ONE MIGHT WONDER IF IT MATTERS THAT RUGBY HAS gone professional at all?

It may have increased the demands coaches can place on the players' time, but it certainly has not exempted players from the need to pursue tertiary education. Study, it seems, is still essential to counter the career's appalling job security prospects.

Meanwhile, players performing at the top echelon of any sport – including semi-professional and amateur codes – continue to be driven by the opportunity and desire to be the best.

Take world champion Silver Fern, New Zealand women's indoor volleyball representative and New Zealand beach volleyball squad member Anna Scarlett, for example.

Oh yes, and she's a Physiotherapy student as well.

The issues she faces appear to match closely those of her professional peers, as does her rationale for pursuing an education.

"I think it's about achieving a balance," Scarlett says. "I still want to make sure I have time for friends and study. Plus, it's good to have something else to do where I'm thinking about something other than sport."

Scarlett has been able to study part-time for her degree, and is currently completing third-year papers.

"The School of Physiotherapy has been excellent, in terms of helping me to fit study around my other commitments. I don't think they've had anyone request part-time study before, but they've been very flexible and accommodating."

And while study has provided an alternative to sport, Scarlett admits that there is some cross-over.

"Physiotherapy knowledge is certainly useful on the netball court, in terms of both understanding and managing injuries. And I think as a sports person you get some idea of how frustrating injuries can be for clients."

Now, despite a vintage year in 2003, Scarlett is busy setting herself new goals.

"I haven't cemented my place in the Silver Ferns yet. And this year I also plan to focus on beach volleyball. Because of my other sporting commitments I haven't had the chance to represent New Zealand in this and it's something I'd like to try to achieve.

"But, of course, you can't carry on playing sport for ever, so it's good to know that I'll have a degree in Physiotherapy to fall back on."

# Parallel Lives

The story of Paul Oestreicher and Barbara Einhorn.



Photo: Tim Lovell

PARALLEL LINES, BY DEFINITION, NEVER JOIN UP. BUT IF ever anyone put this Euclidean principle to the test, it's Paul Oestreicher and Barbara Einhorn.

For much of their lives, these two colourful alumni of the University of Otago circled within each other's orbits without ever meeting. Their trajectories finally intersected in 1983, in circumstances almost worthy of a John Le Carré novel. And

in 2002, fulfilling what must by then have seemed a divinely ordained destiny, they were married.

There is much that is extraordinary about the lives of these two New Zealanders, but most extraordinary of all – given the uncanny similarities in their backgrounds – is that they took so long to come together. Consider the following: – both were the children of German Jews who fled the Nazi

regime only weeks apart, finding sanctuary in New Zealand just before the outbreak of World War II;

– both had early connections with the Riverside pacifist community near Nelson and later became closely involved in the British peace movement;

– both attended the University of Otago, won postgraduate scholarships that took them to Germany, and eventually settled in England; and

– both had personal and professional contacts in East Germany during the Cold War era which brought them to the attention of the Stasi, the communist regime's secret police. It was as a result of Einhorn's imprisonment by the Stasi, in fact, that the two finally met.

Oestreicher and Einhorn related their remarkable stories while staying in suburban Karori, Wellington, during a brief New Zealand visit to celebrate the 90th birthday of Einhorn's mother. They told how both their families migrated to New Zealand in the dark pre-war days when Nazi persecution of Jews was gathering momentum. Both were to lose grandparents in the Holocaust.

The Oestreichers settled in Dunedin, where Paul's father, a GP and pediatrician, spent three years undergoing the required retraining to practise medicine in New Zealand. Meanwhile, the Einhorns were making a new home in Wellington, where Barbara's father worked as an architect and town planner.

Oestreicher attended King's High School before winning a scholarship to Otago, where he completed a BA in German and Politics and was editor of *Critic*. He moved to Victoria University of Wellington to do his MA thesis on the history of conscientious objection in World War II, basing it largely on archives held by the noted pacifist Archibald (known as Barry) Barrington at Riverside. By coincidence, Einhorn – 10 years younger than her husband – recalls happy childhood holidays at Riverside, where Barrington would let her drive the horse and cart in the orchard while her mother picked apples.

While at University, Oestreicher joined the Anglican church and became immersed in the Student Christian Movement. It was the Rev Alan Brash, general secretary of the National Council of Churches (and father of National Party leader Don Brash), who suggested he pursue his academic career in Germany. Which he did, winning a Humboldt Fellowship to study in Bonn under the noted theologian Professor Helmut Gollwitzer, a former prisoner of the Russians. Gollwitzer steered Oestreicher away from thoughts of an academic career, urging him to begin training for the Anglican clergy. Oestreicher credits Gollwitzer with sparking his lifelong interest in the connections between religion and politics – or more specifically, Christianity and Marxism.

Oestreicher duly attended Lincoln Theological College in England, where he met his first wife, a German physiotherapist. After his ordination in 1959 he served as a clergyman in Germany and London before taking up religious broadcasting with the BBC. Then came an invitation from the British Council of Churches to set up an East European desk with the aim of establishing contact with churches in the communist states – a role in which he developed a particular interest in promoting reconciliation between East and West. He was to visit East Germany 77 times before the fall of the Berlin Wall.

Oestreicher later served as head of the international department of the British Council of Churches, becoming deeply involved in the fight against apartheid. Prior to his retirement in 1998, he spent 12 years as Director of the International Centre for Reconciliation at Coventry Cathedral. But he was also active outside the church, serving as British chairman of Amnesty International and vice-president of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament. In 1985, he was controversially vetoed as a candidate for the office of Bishop of Wellington – a move he attributes to unease over his background as a political activist.

As was the case with Oestreicher, Einhorn's background – both personally and academically – was to lead inexorably to East Germany. After spending two years at Victoria, she relocated to Otago to complete her BA in German and French – a decision made after she was enchanted by Dunedin during a visit with the Victoria women's rowing team for the Easter tournament in 1961. She stayed on to do an MA in German before winning two scholarships to Berlin's Technical University, choosing Berlin because she had family connections there.

Professor Eric Herd, then professor of German at Otago, supervised her doctorate on the East German novel, a subject considered academically suspect during the Cold War era. She was later to write *Cinderella Goes to Market*, the first major study of women in Eastern and Central Europe before and after the collapse of communism.

Einhorn completed her doctorate while teaching at Monash University, Melbourne, before moving to England in 1973 with her first husband, an Australian academic. There she became heavily involved in CND and in END (the Campaign for European Nuclear Disarmament), a smaller group also concerned with human rights. It was through this organisation that she made contact in the 1980s with a dissident East German women's peace group – comparable to the famous Greenham Common women in England – that had fallen foul of the communist authorities.



Paul Oestreicher and Barbara Einhorn at Barbara's mother's home in Wellington.

It was a jumpy time – the nuclear stand-off was at fever pitch and the East Germans were keen to stamp on any internal dissent. Returning from a visit to members of the Women for Peace group in December 1983, Einhorn was intercepted by the Stasi and thrown into prison on a charge of treason – a nonsensical allegation, since she was a New Zealand citizen. But the threat of a jail sentence of up to 12 years was all too real for Einhorn, who had two small children waiting for her at home in England.

There followed an international groundswell of protest over her imprisonment. As the British and New Zealand governments lobbied for her release, Oestreicher's help was also sought. Einhorn recalls: "Someone phoned Paul and asked him: 'Do you know Barbara Einhorn?' And he said, 'No, but I know who she is', because we had both heard about each other."

Through his work in East Germany on behalf of the church and Amnesty International, Oestreicher had a handy network of contacts. He phoned an influential church colleague who had access to the Stasi, and after five days the East Germans decided the New Zealand academic was too much of a handful and threw her out. Oestreicher says her release was the result of combined pressure from governments, the media and the peace movement.

Einhorn recalls: "After I got out of prison I got a phone call from Paul, who said, 'I feel as if we've known each other for a long time'. He wanted to call a meeting of the END group at his house to discuss what we could do to free the two East German women who had also been arrested and charged with the same offence. And that's how we met. After that we worked very closely together in the peace movement."

In another of the coincidences that have marked their lives, Oestreicher too had been detained in the East German city of Leipzig in 1956 while trying to visit his surviving grandmother. "They thought I was a spy from Bonn and that my New Zealand passport was a forgery." He was released after being interrogated by the Russian secret police – a frightening

experience at a time when people frequently disappeared without explanation.

Einhorn parted from her first husband in 1996 and Oestreicher's wife died in 2000. Einhorn remarks that it was fairly inevitable, given all they had in common, that the two now-unattached friends would get together. They married in a civil ceremony in Berlin in 2002 while living temporarily in the German capital. Einhorn was there on research leave from the University of Sussex, where she is Reader in Gender Studies and Director of Graduate Studies. Later, they had a blessing ceremony – part Jewish, part Christian – in the chapel at Sussex University, where Oestreicher, who has an honorary doctorate from Coventry University, is a member of the chaplaincy team. The two now live in an art-deco apartment in Brighton.

Both have very fond memories of their time at the University of Otago. Oestreicher says it would be impossible to exaggerate the importance of his Otago years and the influence of such people as political science lecturer Ted Olssen and Felix Grayeff, a lecturer in German (and a refugee himself). He remains close friends with his Dunedin contemporaries Lin Phelan and Louise Petherbridge.

Says Einhorn: "For me, Otago will always have a romantic halo. Dunedin was totally a university town and we had a wonderful time there." Besides Professor Herd, she cites French Professor Ray Stone as a particularly influential figure. He and his wife Florence, as well as Jocelyn Harris, Professor of English, and Dr Robin Briant, remain close friends from student days.

Despite having spent most of their lives overseas, the couple are emphatic about their sense of identity. "When people ask us who we are," says Oestreicher, "the first thing we say is: 'We're New Zealanders.'" Both have children in New Zealand and children in England and say their dream, when Einhorn retires, is to split their lives between the two countries.

Karl du Fresne



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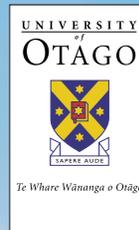
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# THE MAN WHO

PROFESSOR JOHN TAGG REMEMBERS THE LATE HOWARD Paterson, Otago entrepreneur and venture capitalist, as the man who sat down and listened.

“I talked about my experiences, my personal story about how I became a scientist and how my work could be useful. Howard took to my story straight away. He listened intently, he asked questions.

“He wasn’t just interested in the potential to make money. He saw an idea that was worthy of support from a humanitarian point of view, an idea that could benefit children worldwide.”

Tagg hadn’t met Paterson before their meeting in 2000 but, from their brief discussions, he could see that Paterson was, like him, driven by curiosity to do work that would benefit someone. Paterson understood where Tagg was coming from.

It was only months later in 2000 that Tagg’s science – developing bacteriocin-like inhibitory substances to fight against streptococcal infections – was backed with millions from Paterson’s investment vehicle, the Otago Trust. Blis Technologies bought several thousand bacteriocin-like inhibitory substances from the University of Otago in exchange for 20 per cent of the company. The speed with which Tagg’s research was transformed into a commercial product was breathtaking.

It was simple yet exceptional, says Otago Trust director, Alistair Broad. Paterson gained the trust of scientists. He made science and business relationships work with a healthy tension.

“Businessmen and scientists have different journeys. Scientists need to raise more money to do the research, while the commercial aspect is how to create value and progress.”

Howard Paterson 1952 - 2003



# LISTENED

Paterson could commercialise science in a way that government often only talked about. It went beyond throwing money at good ideas and pure capital gain. Paterson's accomplishments came from talking to people, choosing the best people for the job, and viewing science and business through a humanistic lens.

Paterson had "an unusual talent as a bridge for publicly-funded activities," says Broad. A whole lot of what he did was for the belief in it.

Almost a year after his death, Paterson is remembered as a man with mana, a brilliant communicator and motivator. He had bucketfuls of enthusiasm and generosity. Most of all, he had the Midas touch when it came to picking business winners.

While his ideas and business venture horizons were global and looked beyond the farm gate, Paterson preferred the local link. His loyalties were to Otago and the South Island. His activities were of immense benefit to Otago's regional economy and the University.

Born in Dunedin, Paterson was an Otago graduate with a degree in Phenomenology of Religion. Student flats provided his start-up capital. Although he always had an interest in property investments, his first large-scale ventures were in agribusiness. Alongside his interests in dairy farming, he was New Zealand's largest corporate deer farmer and egg farmer. His focus then shifted to biotech as he recognised the leverage that biotech industries could get from the health sciences. In 2000-2001, he established four Dunedin-based listed biotech companies, some of which grew out of University of Otago research - A2 Corporation (his biotech passion), Blis Technologies, Botry Zen and Pharma Zen. He was reportedly the South Island's richest man and, in 2002, named NBR Businessman of the Year.

Paterson had a unique ability for early uptake of new frontiers, says Max Shepherd, CEO of Zenith Technology, the company Paterson often consulted for technical assessment of new projects.

"He was an avid reader in the area of health and human nutrition and there wasn't much of a leap from there to see where biotech could offer huge potential."

David Parker, now MP for Otago, worked with Paterson in his biotech ventures, when they "kissed a lot of frogs, reviewing new potential deals every two weeks or so."

"Howard saw the potential for wealth to be created from new ventures developing products from research in the life

sciences. He realised that New Zealand's long investment in this area, in part to support our agricultural industries, meant New Zealand has world-class expertise.

"We only did one or two a year. Howard's reputation meant he had access to capital. People trusted and liked Howard, and so lots of people came to us with their ideas."

Parker says Paterson saw that there was a big difference between a concept and a proposed product.

"This required a completely different set of skills that don't normally sit within a university. Intellectual output and research lead opportunity but you need to turn this into reality."

Former University Chancellor Eion Edgar says Paterson was always an advocate for the University of Otago and its importance for Dunedin and southern New Zealand. His enthusiasm as a campus tour guide for his Auckland visitors often meant they were late for meetings.

"Howard understood that if the university was going to grow it would need to get funding. I had a lot of discussions with him about ideas such as the advancement campaign. He was highly skilled at fine-tuning ideas. He also had great contacts because everybody owed him a favour. This opened doors for the University."

Paterson's way of doing business was unstructured and informal. Shepherd: "He'd drop down here for a chat - it could be anything from half an hour to two hours. We'd range over a whole spectrum of activities. It was very enjoyable, and sometimes finished over a bottle of pinot noir."

The key to Paterson's way of doing business was capitalism in its purest form, says Broad.

"He would put ad hoc things together for projects and 'mix and match' to go with the best people for the best projects. It was not institutionalised. It was about meeting for a coffee and developing ideas creatively."

Paterson's legacy is inspirational and powerful. We can be proud that he was a man of the south. His achievements are the finest example that the world can be conquered from here, but it takes the best in attitude, people and skills.

In those cold new days after Howard Paterson's funeral, a seat was erected at his graveside. The people who loved and cared about him came to sit and talk. "You don't learn much while talking," he used to say. No doubt he's been listening.

Vivien Pullar



A page from the Munshi Abdullah Manuscript

MUNSHI ABDULLAH MANUSCRIPT

It resides wrapped in paper in an acid-free box, and must be handled with gloves. Indeed, the infrequent appearances of the rare 19th century Muslim, Malay language text, the *Hikayat Abdullah* are almost ceremonial occasions. Unlike many of the Hocken Library’s treasures, it is usually hidden from view, except when a distinguished visitor, generally from South East Asia, calls.

Despite its significance to South East Asian scholars, the manuscript had remained hidden from their eyes until an academic investigator tracked it down in 1984. Since then the High Commissioner for Singapore, among others, has asked to be shown it.

Gifted to the Hocken Library by the family of New Zealand’s first Surveyor General, John Turnbull Thomson, the life story of Abdullah bin Abdul Kadir or Munshi Abdullah (1797–1854), friend and admirer of Sir Stamford Raffles, is regarded as a turning point in Malay literature and an important account of life in early Singapore.

The hand-written Hocken Library text is more highly regarded than the copies in the Library of Congress in Washington and Harvard University, prompting in 2002 a visit to Otago by Malaysian scholar, Raimy Che-Ross, who

described it exhaustively in a recent issue of the *Journal of the Malaysian Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society*.

Che-Ross could not help but refer to the “vague and isolated location” where the work had ended up. However, in the context of Thomson’s life, its resting-place in Dunedin is a natural consequence of the colonial networks he traversed. After studying engineering in Newcastle, Thomson sailed for Penang where his outstanding surveying of its jungle territories prompted his appointment as government surveyor of Singapore. The man of action, who later rode on horseback to map Otago, was also a very intelligent and intensely curious man who became a close friend of Abdullah bin Abdul Kadir and so was gifted the manuscript.

It is a testament to the quality of Thomson’s mind that he translated Abdullah’s urgent sloping hand from Jawi (Arabic alphabet for Malay) into English almost 20 years after he had last lived among people who spoke the language. Translation of a different kind is now under way – the manuscript is being scanned with a view to facsimile publication, so that many may see it in its original form without disturbing the handsome original work in the acid-free box.

Sean Flaherty

HOCKEN LIBRARY GALLERY EXHIBITIONS

10 May -10 July 2004	Breathing Closer to Heaven: New Zealand Mountaineers and Mountains. Paintings from the collection and watercolours by Keith Thompson.
17 July - 29 August 2004	Representation and Reaction: Modernism and the New Zealand Landscape Tradition 1956-77.
4 September - 23 October 2004	Three Photographic Exhibitions: George D Valentine, A 19th Century Photographer in New Zealand; Gardens of Erewhon, Photographs by Paul Thompson; Glenn Busch, My Place.

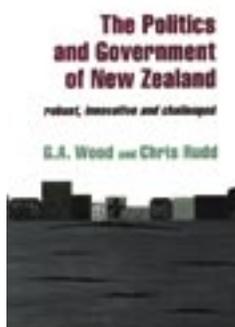
## BOOKS

### THE POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT OF NEW ZEALAND by G A Wood and Chris Rudd

New Zealand's government and politics are experiencing rapid change as core social values are overturned and new institutions and processes developed to cope with stresses and strains in the political system.

This is one of the discussions in a new book on the New Zealand political system, written by two lecturers (one current and one former) from Otago's Political Studies department. *The Politics and Government of New Zealand: Robust, Innovative and Challenged* by G A Wood and Chris Rudd, is an up-to-date and comprehensive overview of the New Zealand political system. This makes it a useful source for understanding current political controversies, such as the role of the Treaty of Waitangi, republicanism and coalition politics.

While the last years of the twentieth century, and first years of this, have seen a period of change, the authors relate these changes in an historical context, recognising the continuities as well as the developments. New Zealand has evolved into a highly complex multi-cultural society of the Asia-Pacific region and its political framework, inherited from Britain, has endeavoured to keep pace with the needs of its citizens, with many interesting and unique features as a result.



### OPERATION VIETNAM: A NEW ZEALAND SURGICAL FIRST by Michael Shackleton

Michael Shackleton led a New Zealand surgical team in Vietnam in 1963, under the auspices of the Colombo Plan, before New Zealand's military involvement and during the year that saw Kennedy's assassination and the overthrow of the Diem regime.

The book provides a different slant on New Zealand's Vietnam experience: the problem of setting up a surgical unit for civilians in the Binh Dinh Province Hospital with very little assistance, dealings with the New Zealand bureaucracy, difficulties of treatment with few resources and cultural differences, and interactions with the British and the Americans. Extracts from Annabel Shackleton's letters home tell the domestic side of the experience.

A former student and surgeon demonstrator at the University, Michael Shackleton was an energetic and determined medical pioneer. It is a tribute to him that the unit he established continued to operate until the very last days of war, in 1974, providing health care for the civilian sick and war wounded.

### RECENTLY PUBLISHED BOOKS OF UNIVERSITY ALUMNI

- Chromosome Abnormalities and Genetic Counselling (third edition)*, by R J McKinlay Gardner & Grant R Sutherland. Oxford University Press, 2004
- JAAM21 "Greatest Hits": *An Anthology of Writing 1984-2004*, eds Mark Pirie and Michael O'Leary. JAAM/HeadworX, 2004
- Tourism in the Caribbean*, ed D Duval. Routledge, 2004
- Sports Tourism Development*, T Hinch & J Higham. Channelview Press, 2004
- Food Tourism around the World*, C M Hall, R Mitchell et al. Butterworth Heinemann, 2004
- Tourism and Public Policy*, C M Hall & J Jenkins. Korean Edition, 2004
- Wine, Food and Tourism Marketing*, ed C M Hall. Haworth, 2004
- Woman2Woman*, by Amanda Ellis & June McCabe. Random House, 2004
- 48 Hour Day: Working mothers tell it like it is*, by Sarah Boyd. Random House, 2004
- Physical Rehabilitation in Arthritis (second edition)*, by Joan M Walker, Antone Helewa. Saunders, 2004

*The Thinking Traveller: 1946-2003*, by John Money. 1st Books Library, 2004

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[university.press@otago.ac.nz](mailto:university.press@otago.ac.nz)

- Marilynn Webb: Prints and Pastels*, Bridie Lonie and Marilyn Webb (January 2004)
- The Natural History of Southern New Zealand*, edited by John Darby, R Ewan Fordyce, Alan Mark, Keith Probert and Colin Townsend (March 2004)
- The Politics and Government of New Zealand* by G A Wood and Chris Rudd (March 2004)
- Lenin's Legacy Down Under: New Zealand's Cold War* edited by Alexander Trapeznik and Aaron Fox (April 2004)
- Operation Vietnam: A New Zealand Surgical First* by Michael Shackleton (May 2004)

Alumni: written a book, produced a CD or held an exhibition lately?  
Email the editor at [mag.editor@otago.ac.nz](mailto:mag.editor@otago.ac.nz)

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## WHO CENTRE LAUNCHED AT OTAGO

Otago's reputation as a strong research-led University was cemented in March with the official launch of a World Health Organisation (WHO) Collaborating Centre for Human Nutrition, one of only 17 in the world.

Health Minister Hon. Annette King, who launched the Centre, congratulated Otago's Department of Human Nutrition saying the move "represented the culmination of many years of hard work, high-quality teaching and outstanding research in nutrition and health".

The Centre covers the entire Western Pacific region, including Australia, China, Korea, Japan, Mongolia, Vietnam, the Philippines, the Pacific Islands and Micronesia.

Under their WHO Collaborating Centre role, Otago researchers will investigate topics including the health consequences of iron and zinc deficiencies in babies, young children, and pregnant and menstruating women; the role of diet in the prevention and treatment of diabetes; and the health consequences of vegetarian diets.

Other research areas include Pacific Islands' nutrition, national nutrition surveys and nutrition policy; food security issues; and cultural issues relevant to human nutrition. Part of the Centre's role will be to help develop research capacity throughout the region.

Along with research, the Centre also provides training opportunities in public health nutrition, clinical diabetes, food safety and nutrition research methodology, as well as providing expert advice to governments and health professionals in the Western Pacific region.

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## UNIVERSITY COLLEGE EXPANDS

Otago's University College (Uicol) is now officially the largest fully-catered hall of residence in New Zealand, with the opening of a new \$8 million annexe earlier this year.

Built on the College's Clyde St site, the twin-block 106-room annexe now brings the total number of rooms at the hall to 510. Completed on schedule, the work included "sky bridges" connecting the new wings to the existing tower blocks and an extension to the dining room.

The addition forms part of the University's response to the first-year accommodation shortage experienced last year.

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## NEW UNIVERSITY CHARTER

After extensive consultation with stakeholders, the University's vision, mission, special character and core values have now been set out in a new charter.

The charter, which came into force at the start of the year, defines Otago's vision as "A research-led University with an international reputation for excellence."

The document also covers the University's contribution to New Zealand and the tertiary sector, its approaches in fulfilling Treaty obligations; in meeting the needs of learners and Pacific Peoples; and in cooperating and collaborating with other institutions and organisations.

Over 80 submissions on the draft charter were received, resulting in the document being rewritten from scratch. The charter will remain current for seven years.

Printed copies of the charter are available on request from the University Registrar ([registrar@otago.ac.nz](mailto:registrar@otago.ac.nz)) or it can be downloaded in PDF format from the University web site: [www.otago.ac.nz/about/official\\_documents.html#charter](http://www.otago.ac.nz/about/official_documents.html#charter)

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## OTAGO GETS BUSINESS ON "BOARD"

In a first for New Zealand, the University's School of Business recently established a high-powered advisory board of New Zealand business people, including a number of prominent alumni.

School of Business Dean, Professor David Buisson says the establishment of the 17-strong Board of Advisors, which met for the first time in March, is aimed at "lifting the bar" for business education.

The new strategy will move the School of Business to a "new level of leadership, teaching, graduates and national and international reputation," says Buisson.

The move also marks a new trend in education of business schools listening to those who practise, not preach, in the business community. Issues discussed at the first meeting included the expectations of business practitioners from business school graduates and the recruitment of staff and students.

The board, led by University Chancellor Lindsay Brown, will meet formally three times a year, while also providing ongoing consultation and advice.

Profiles of members of the board can be downloaded from the School of Business web site at: [www.commerce.otago.ac.nz/com/pdfs/Profiles.pdf](http://www.commerce.otago.ac.nz/com/pdfs/Profiles.pdf)

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## MED STUDENTS TO TRAIN IN HAWKE'S BAY

From next year, Otago medical students will train in Hawke's Bay, thanks to a new scheme involving the University's Wellington School of Medicine and Health Sciences, the Hawke's Bay District Health Board and the Eastern Institute of Technology.

Under the scheme, Hawke's Bay will become the first "teaching district health board" in New Zealand. Training is expected to include a strong primary and rural component, in line with the University's revamped medical school curriculum.

The first intake is likely to include up to 15 medical students for 12 weeks at a time, building up to 50 mostly third-year medical students by 2007.

## OTAGO SPONSORS OTHELLO

The University is set to support both the dramatic arts and school students' learning through its sponsorship of a new production of *Othello* at Dunedin's Fortune Theatre.

The University aims to allow local schools and their students the opportunity to complement their classroom study of *Othello* – one of the prescribed plays for NCEA Level 3 – with the experience of live professional theatre.

As a corporate sponsor of the Fortune Theatre, the University will host the opening night and plans to invite staff and student representatives from all local, and selected regional, secondary schools.

Directed by Martin Howells, *Othello* will be staged at the Fortune from 27 August until 18 September.

## SUMMER SCHOOL GROWS

The University's Summer School is continuing to grow attracting another record enrolment this year.

After the initial enrolment of 700 students taking 1063 papers when the School began in 2001, this year it attracted 1268 students, who enrolled in 1700 papers.

Summer School Director Dr Claire Matthewson says the

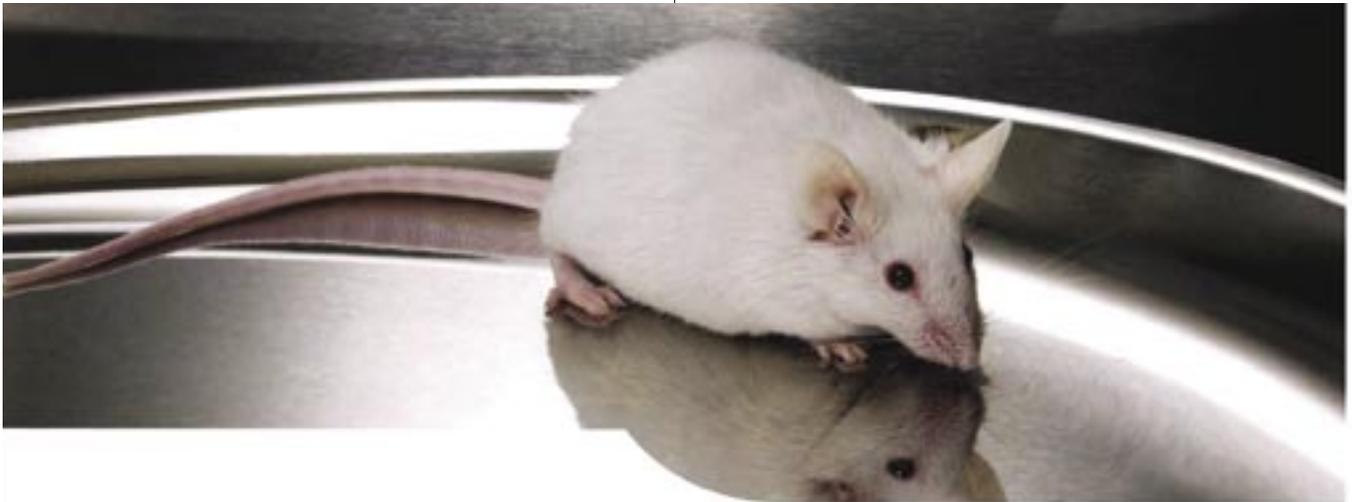
School is proving popular with students keen to spread their workload across the year, as well as those wanting to take an interest paper outside of their major.

## DID YOU KNOW?

Some interesting facts that came to light during the preparation of the University's latest annual report...

In 2003:

- The University's corporate web site was visited from people in more than 130 countries including Latvia, Uganda, Turkmenistan, Panama, Cayman Islands, Antarctica, Macedonia, Vatican City State, Azerbaijan, Cyprus and Colombia
- In 2003 the University's library collection totalled 2,700,591 items (including books, serials and microforms), with a total of 31,538 serials received in 2003 alone
- Staff across the University's four divisions produced 2315 research articles
- 1070 postgraduate qualifications were completed, an increase of 226 on the previous year
- The University Union's catering operation used more than 12 tonnes of cooked chicken for sandwiches and sold more than 100,000 pies (including vegetarian).



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## APPOINTMENTS

Professor **Geoff White** (Psychology) as acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research, Enterprise and International).

Hon **David Benson-Pope** (BA (Hons) 1972) as a Minister of the Crown.

Professor **Tom Watkins**, previously of Denver, Colorado, as Director, Graduate Studies at the School of Business.

Professor **Alan Musgrave** (Philosophy) as University Orator.

Professor **Barry Taylor** (Paediatrics and Child Health) and Dr **Nigel Dickson** (Preventive and Social Medicine) have been appointed to the National Health Epidemiology and Quality Assurance Advisory Committee.

Professor **Donald Evans** (Bioethics) to the UNESCO International Bioethics Committee and the ERMA Ethics Advisory Board.

**John Dell** (BCom (Hons) 1986) as CEO of Fletcher Challenge Forests.

**H.E. Phillip Gibson**, (BA (Hons) 1972) current Ambassador to Japan, as New Zealand's Commissioner General for the World Expo 2005 in Aichi, Japan.

**Eion Edgar** (BCom 1967, Hon LLD 2003), the National Business Review's New Zealander of the Year for 2003, has been elected President of the New Zealand Olympic Committee.

## OBITUARIES

Professor **John Miles** CBE (90). A pioneering microbiologist, Professor Miles established New Zealand's first Microbiology department at Otago in 1955, which he went on to lead for 23 years.

**Janet Frame** (79). A celebrated author, Frame was the first woman recipient of the University of Otago's prestigious Robert Burns Fellowship in 1965. She studied English and French part-time during 1943-46, and was conferred with an Hon LittD in 1978 in recognition of her literary achievements.

Rt Hon Ratu Sir **Kamisesa Mara** (83) (Hon LLD 1973). Fiji's founding Prime Minister for 22 years from its independence in 1970, and serving President until the military coup of 2000, Ratu Mara studied medicine at Otago from 1942 until transferring to Oxford in 1946.

Dr **Michael King** (59). The distinguished historian and biographer, Michael King was Otago's 1998-99 Robert Burns Fellow.

**Noel Woods** (96) (BA 1927, MA 1930). Secretary of Labour 1966-1970, Woods was an authority on NZ industrial relations.

## EMERITUS PROFESSORS

Retiring Professors **Gil Barbezat** (Dunedin School of Medicine) and **Blair Fitzharris** (Geography) were recently granted Emeritus Professor status by the University Council.

## HIGHER DEGREES

In May, several earned higher degrees were conferred: Preventive and Social Medicine Senior Research Fellow **Sheila Williams** ( DipSci 1980), DSc; **Mervyn Merrilees** (BSc (Hons) 1968) DSc; Christchurch School of Medicine and Health Sciences Clinical Senior Lecturer **Paul Bridgman** (MB ChB 1989), MD; **John Coverdale** (BSc 1976, MB ChB 1980), MD.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

Dr **David Hutchinson** (Physics), an internationally-recognised researcher in the area of ultra-cold gases, was the inaugural recipient of the University's Rowheath Trust Award and Carl Smith Medal for emerging researchers.

Professor **Zoltan Andre** (Christchurch School of Medicine and Health Sciences) received a \$76,000 grant from the NZ Kidney Foundation to further research into renal failure.

Christchurch School of Medicine and Health Sciences lecturers Associate Professor **Philip Bagshaw** (Surgery), Dr **Peter Moller** (Rheumatology/Musculoskeletal Medicine) and Dr **Philip Parkin** (Neurology) received Teaching Gold Medals for their outstanding contributions to the School over many years.

Dr **Nerida Smith** (Pharmacology and Toxicology) has been elected as a Fellow of the Pharmaceutical Society of New Zealand.

Psychology student **Michaela O'Regan** was awarded the Kammann Prize in Applied Psychology for 2003.

**Dame Judith Mayhew Jonas** (LLB 1967, LLM 1971, Hon LLD 1998), lawyer, university and arts administrator, named New Zealander of the Year in the United Kingdom. Also nominated for the award was the UK's chief statistician, **Len Cook**, (BA (Hons) 1970).

## SCHOLARSHIPS/FELLOWSHIPS

Molecular plant virologist Dr **Diane Webster** (BSc (Hons) (1994); PhD (1999)) has won a \$US20,000 L'Oreal-Unesco For Women in Science Fellowship in recognition of her research into the development of a plant-based vaccine for measles.

Dental Student **Amrita Ranchod** was awarded the International Association for Dental Research's prestigious 2004 David B. Scott Fellowship to study drug resistance and oral yeast infections.

Emeritus Professor **Erik Olssen** (History) was named as a Fulbright Distinguished Visiting Scholar in New Zealand Studies at Georgetown University. Professor Olssen will research and lecture on a comparative study of the US and New Zealand.

## SECOND OTAGO MEDAL AWARDED IN MALAYSIA

THE SECOND UNIVERSITY OF OTAGO MEDAL FOR Outstanding Alumni Service was awarded to Mr Wong Cham Mew (BCom 1968) of Kuala Lumpur at a reception at the High Commissioner's Residence on Friday 23 April.

The Chancellor Mr Lindsay Brown and Vice-Chancellor Dr Graeme Fogelberg, made the presentation at the University's regular Kuala Lumpur event, a fitting recognition of the part Wong's assistance has played in many such receptions in the city over recent years.

Wong, a partner in Ong & Wong Chartered Accountants, first became actively involved in supporting Otago in Malaysia in 1991, after a visit from then Vice-Chancellor Sir Robin Irvine. A gathering at the New Zealand High Commissioner's residence was such a success that the University asked Wong to look into the formation of an alumni group. Accepting this task was the beginning of a two-year process involving rounding up a membership and preparing the draft application for Malaysia's Registrar of Societies.

The University of Otago Alumni Association of Malaysia was launched on 15 July 1994. Summing up the process for the UOAM newsletter, Wong concluded: "It was founded on principles of friendship, egalitarianism and our mutual desire to be in touch with what was and that which is to be."



Wong Cham Mew acknowledges the support of the University and alumni in accepting the award. Chancellor Lindsay Brown is at left.

Wong's friendship to the University and alumni is unfailingly helpful. He remains committed to "that which is to be".

As well as his own time and considerable professional expertise, Wong has also provided the University with the support of staff from his firm, founded with fellow Otago graduate Ong Kong Lai on their return to Malaysia.

Ong & Wong Chartered Accountants continues to be the registered address for the UOAM and also for the University of Otago Foundation in Malaysia, of which Wong is a Foundation Member.

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## ADVANCEMENT

### DANCE FELLOWSHIP LAUNCHED

ON INTERNATIONAL DANCE DAY, 29 APRIL 2004, THE Caroline Plummer Fellowship in Community Dance was launched at a function in the University Council Chamber.

The 120 guests viewed a moving dance performance and then surprised themselves by joining in with another, led by residents from the Brooklands Retirement Village. School children, including those from the Sara Cohen School, also participated. Messages of support were received from Rt Hon Helen Clark, Minister of Arts, Culture & Heritage; Elizabeth Kerr, CEO of Creative New Zealand; and Suzanne Snively, Chair of Dance Aotearoa New Zealand.

The annual six-month Fellowship will make the University a world leader in community dance research, teaching and community service, said Dr Ralph Buck, Head of the University's Dance Programme. "It will undoubtedly attract overseas as well as New Zealand candidates."

The Fellowship honours Caroline Plummer, an outstanding student while at the University and known for her passion and her vision for community dance in New Zealand. She completed a BA in Anthropology and a DipGrad in Dance and was awarded the University of Otago Prestige Scholarship in Arts. While completing her studies she was diagnosed with and treated for cancer. She was given a personal graduation ceremony in March last year before her death a month later. The Fellowship has been endowed by her family as an initiative of the University's Advancement Programme.

Buck described Caroline as an outstanding student, both for her scholarship and as a dynamic class participant. "Her laughter, peer interaction, articulate writing and discussion endeared her to everybody."

Located in the School of Physical Education, the Fellowship is expected to rank with the three premier Humanities fellowships: the Frances Hodgkins, Mozart and Burns Fellowships. In the words of the International Dance Day official message, written by choreographer Stephen Page and published on the UNESCO web site:

*"Dance is the universal language. It represents human identity and a celebration of the human spirit. Dance is the artistic heart of kinship. It is a sacred universal remedy."*



Caroline Plummer above Lake Wakatipu.

## ALUMNI GIVING ADDS TO UNIQUE SCHOLARSHIP FAMILY

UNIQUE IN NEW ZEALAND, OTAGO'S APTLY NAMED "First In Family" and "Trailblazer" Scholarships are awarded to students with no family history of university attendance.

The Scholarships themselves form a family. Previously comprising the University of Otago Development Society Trailblazer Scholarship, the Alexander McMillan First In Family Scholarship and the J&L Callis First In Family Scholarship, the family was enlarged this year by the addition of the Alumni First In Family Scholarships. These are funded by the Otago Alumni who generously contributed to last year's Annual Appeal.

Part of Otago's Advancement Programme, First In Family Scholarships transform the life of a student through payment of tuition fees and, in the first year, accommodation in a hall of residence. They can also open up the life-transforming possibility of a university education to the student's wider family.

Shortly to retire, Scholarships Group Leader, Ann Knight, says that interviewing the First In Family candidates has been one of the most interesting jobs she has had. "They demonstrate real spirit and determination," she says, and added that "it makes one feel very hopeful about the future after meeting these outstanding young people".



Photo: Alan Dove

From left, Alexander McMillan scholar Cory Innes, Alumni scholar Sok Phou, Otago University Development Society Trailblazer scholar Joshua Davis, J&L Callis scholar Natasha Newby and Alumni Scholarship winner Sarah Day.

Cory attended Otago Boys' High School and is studying to be a physiotherapist. He has represented New Zealand in athletics four times already; Natasha came to Otago from Tokomairiro High School. Natasha is studying Law and Psychology and plans to become a youth worker. She has twice received the Mana Pounamu Award for culture, sporting and leadership achievement; Joshua comes from Mt. Maunganui College. He is studying Marketing Management. His entrepreneurial instincts were honed in the team which won the Young Enterprise Scheme last year; Sok comes from Manurewa High School. An immigrant from Cambodia, Sok is studying Health Sciences; Sarah comes to Otago from Rotorua Girls' High School and is studying Law and Geography with an open mind about her future career.

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Please make payable to **University of Otago in America** and send to Chapel & York PMB293, 601 Penn Ave NW, Suite 900 S Bldg, Washington, DC 20004, USA.

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Information is subject to the Privacy Act 1993. Information gathered will be used only for the purposes of maintaining links with University of Otago alumni and friends.

Gifts are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law in NZ and the USA and are tax effective in the UK.

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

[www.annualappeal.otago.ac.nz](http://www.annualappeal.otago.ac.nz)

ON THE ROAD AGAIN...

OTAGO'S COMMITMENT TO CONTINUING TO HELP alumni reconnect with each other is reinforced by another busy alumni programme for 2004, beginning in **New Plymouth** on 4 February. The date allowed for the pre-Orientation presence of a special group of future and current students, the Priscilla Sandys Wunsch Trust scholars. Local alumni have a keen interest in the awards, which have supported more than 30 scholars in the four years since the 1940s graduate bequeathed her estate to fund Otago education for Taranaki students.

In mid-March, the Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor led an Otago contingent at the University's first-ever events in **Queenstown** and **Wanaka**, which were also Chancellor Lindsay Brown's first alumni events in his new role. Part-time Arrowtown resident, he is himself an example of the close links between the district and University, and a number of other part-timers and University retirees were among the local guests.

The most senior of these was Otago's oldest living former Chancellor (1970-76), Wanaka's Dr Stuart Sidey.

A week later, the Vice-Chancellor and new Head of the Alumni & Development Office, Suze Jones, travelled to **Brisbane** to follow up last year's successful inaugural event there. Again, the high proportion of Health Sciences graduates attending appreciated the presence of the Division's Assistant Vice-Chancellor, Professor Linda Holloway.

In April, two weeks were devoted to renewing links with South East Asia. The return to **Hong Kong** after five years drew an ebullient group of largely expatriate graduates to the Aberdeen Marina Club on 19 April. Two days later, a good proportion of Otago's former international students from Thailand attended the **Bangkok** reception, again the first in some time. Several guests travelled a considerable distance, including Thana Na Nagara from Walailak University, who got to catch up with fellow Otago Boys' High old boy, Ross Hobbs after some 40 years.

Events in Malaysia are more regular, but this year's **Kuala Lumpur** reception, co-hosted by New Zealand's High Commissioner H.E. Mr Geoff Randal, was a particularly special occasion. The Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor presented Wong Cham Mew with his Otago Medal for Outstanding Alumni Service (see page 37), after which Dr Fogelberg was surprised and moved by a presentation in appreciation of his 10 years' commitment to Malaysian alumni.

Receptions in **Kota Kinabalu** and **Kuching** were also enthusiastically attended, as was a last stop in **Singapore** on 29 April. Again co-hosted by the High Commissioner, H.E. Mr Nigel Moore, at his residence, it rounded off the trip nicely and made up for the disappointment of having to cancel last year's event during the SARS crisis.

Special thanks are due to all those who helped with arrangements for our events in South East Asia, particularly the New Zealand Ambassador to Thailand, H.E. Mr Peter Rider and the High Commissioners to Malaysia and Singapore, and their staff.

Full reports and photographs from alumni events are at : [www.otago.ac.nz/alumni](http://www.otago.ac.nz/alumni)

ALUMNI FUNCTION SCHEDULE 2004

ALUMNI FROM ANYWHERE ARE WELCOME AT ANY alumni function throughout the world, but for practical reasons invitations are sent only to those known to be within travelling distance of the planned event. Please keep your address current as you move.

Toronto	Tuesday	15 June 2004
London	Saturday	19 June 2004
Sydney	Friday	6 August 2004
Auckland	Thursday/Friday	26/27 August 2004
Wellington	Thursday/Friday	2/3 September 2004
Melbourne	Thursday	16 September 2004

KUALA LUMPUR, 23 April 2004



L to R: Norina Binti Abdullah, Joyce Lee and Lee Tuck Chew



L to R: Janice Low, Edna Wellington, Tan Sri Datuk Amar Dr Sulaiman Daud

## FLATTING STORIES ANYONE?

ONE OF OTAGO'S MOST DEFINING EXPERIENCES IS A YEAR or two of independent life in a flat, preferably in North Dunedin. It is sharing houses which have seen better days with people who turn out to be rather more irritating than you had been led to believe – but with the upside of lots of laughs and new skills, organic team building, the development of almost supernatural levels of tolerance and some exceptional memories.

Though the anecdotes are good (unless they're bad, in which case they're usually even better), and the campus lifestyle periodically attracts journalists and film makers, there's little by way of print record. It's about time someone wrote a book on flatting, this year, someone is.

Richard Parata aims to provide a light-hearted look at student life from the 1930s to the present day, with the student flat providing a thematic anchor for a selection of first-person accounts, and a consideration of some essential trends. The relationship between owners and occupiers, the transition from boarding house to independent student household, the days of gender segregation, and legendary flats, characters, events and pranks will all find a place in this celebration of the heart of scarfie life.

The book is a private project for Richard, who was inspired by many of the stories alumni told to his late wife Gill, who headed the Alumni & Development Office. The University grapevine has enthusiastically embraced the concept, and former chancellors and others with large alumni networks are already spreading the word. However, Richard would be delighted to receive stories from other former students who would like to record their experience for posterity. We expect that some of them won't be fit for publication, but all contributions will be acknowledged and archived for future reference.

To contribute, please email [alumni@otago.ac.nz](mailto:alumni@otago.ac.nz) with "flat stories" in the subject line.

## ALUMNI NOTICEBOARD ON THE WEB

OTAGO'S ALUMNI WEB PAGES ARE CONSTANTLY UNDER review and we are delighted to announce a new feature, the Alumni Noticeboard. If you're organising an event, need help with a research project or want advice on living in a new country, this message service will help you reach the wider alumni community. The main condition is that it's for non-commercial purposes: Detailed guidelines are available on the web.

Our web pages also include updates on Na To Hoa Aroha (the commemorations of 100 years of Māori education at Otago), information on how to contact other alumni, alumni functions and other activities, and links to a range of University alumni and staff profiles.

## NEW HEAD FOR ALUMNI & DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

SUZE JONES HAS BEEN APPOINTED TO HEAD THE Alumni & Development Office. Suze joined the Alumni & Development Office in April 2001 as Campaign Coordinator for the Advancement Campaign and has also been alumni co-ordinator for North America for the last two years.

Dunedin-raised Suze is herself an Otago graduate, and completed a BA (Hons), First Class in Russian in 1993 before heading overseas for several years. She is delighted to have the opportunity to connect with such a large number of alumni, and is looking forward to developing programmes which will enhance the relationship between former students and the University.



Suze Jones

Photo: Alan Dove

## WIN A TRIP TO FIJI WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF OTAGO WESTPAC VISA CARD

CARRYING OTAGO WITH YOU – IN THE FORM OF A University of Otago Westpac Visa card – could now take you and a companion off to Fiji. It's as simple as applying for your card before 31 July. All new Otago affinity cardholders will go into a draw for the all-expenses paid seven-day trip for two to the Sonaisali Island resort.

The card continues to provide the University with financial support at no cost to its users, and application forms are available from the Alumni & Development Office and any Westpac branch.

**CAREERHUB**

THE CAREERS ADVISORY SERVICE (CAS) HAS INSTALLED new software to deliver career and job information. CareerHub serves both employers looking to recruit and job seekers. Web-based for easy access, it uses automated weekly emails to keep users up to date with vacancies, application details and career-related articles.

CareerHub was launched late last year and now includes 186 registered employers and 2725 potential employees across the four campuses, over 500 of them graduates. Feedback from students and employers has been enthusiastic, with the ease of use particularly mentioned, and for successful job seekers, it's been "fantastic".

We invite those of you who are employers, whether you have your own business or are working in Human Resources, to use CareerHub to reach some of New Zealand's top graduates. Because you know the advantages Otago graduates bring with them – self-starters, resilient, practical, coupled with a top class degree! – CAS will be delighted for

you to register as an employer so you can recruit directly.

You may also want to use CareerHub to help you find a job. Although most jobs are targeted at graduate entry, if you've returned from overseas or are looking to make a career change, CareerHub provides information on postgraduate study and is a great starting point for those seeking information for new career directions. The links section is particularly useful for your career planning and networking.

CareerHub is simple to use. As an employer, register on [www.otago.ac.nz/careers](http://www.otago.ac.nz/careers) and follow the steps. There is no fee for using CareerHub, but there are recoverable fees for some advertising options (details on-site). If you're a job seeker, you'll need to email ITS Help Desk at Otago [helpdesk@otago.ac.nz](mailto:helpdesk@otago.ac.nz) to find out your Otago student username and be given a password.

CAS and the Alumni & Development Office encourage you to include CareerHub in your recruitment and job search options.

**A CIVILISING MISSION: NEW ZEALANDERS AND THE RHODES SCHOLARSHIP 1904-2004**

OTAGO'S PROUD RECORD OF RHODES SCHOLARSHIPS (featured in the October 2002 *University of Otago Magazine*) is on display again in *A Civilising Mission: New Zealanders and the Rhodes Scholarship 1904-2004*, an exhibition at the National Library Gallery until 18 July.

Several Otago Rhodes Scholars are included in representative groups from each of the programme's decades, and associated events in Wellington include talks and tours by Chris Laidlaw, the Hon Hugh Templeton and Sally McKechnie.

Further information about the exhibition on the National Library's web site [www.natlib.govt.nz](http://www.natlib.govt.nz) includes the event schedule.

**SCIENCES AND HEALTH SCIENCES CAREERS DATABASE**

IF, AS A STUDENT, YOU WISHED FOR MORE INFORMATION on real career options for your degree, you might be interested to know how information on your sciences or health sciences career can grant that wish for current and future students.

The Sciences and Health Sciences Careers Database, maintained by the Division of Health Sciences, is made up of over 200 graduate profiles from the full range of departments.

Otago staff are handing out the cards with details of the web site at [www.otago.ac.nz/sciencecareers](http://www.otago.ac.nz/sciencecareers). Take a look – and then spend ten minutes sending a profile so you can add to this fascinating and valuable resource.



Allan Thomson, Otago's and New Zealand's first Rhodes Scholar, taking tea at Oxford during his Rhodes Scholarship. Photo reproduced with permission from the Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington, New Zealand.



One of the many Careers Database cards. This one shows a scanning electron micrograph of a rat's tongue.

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO...

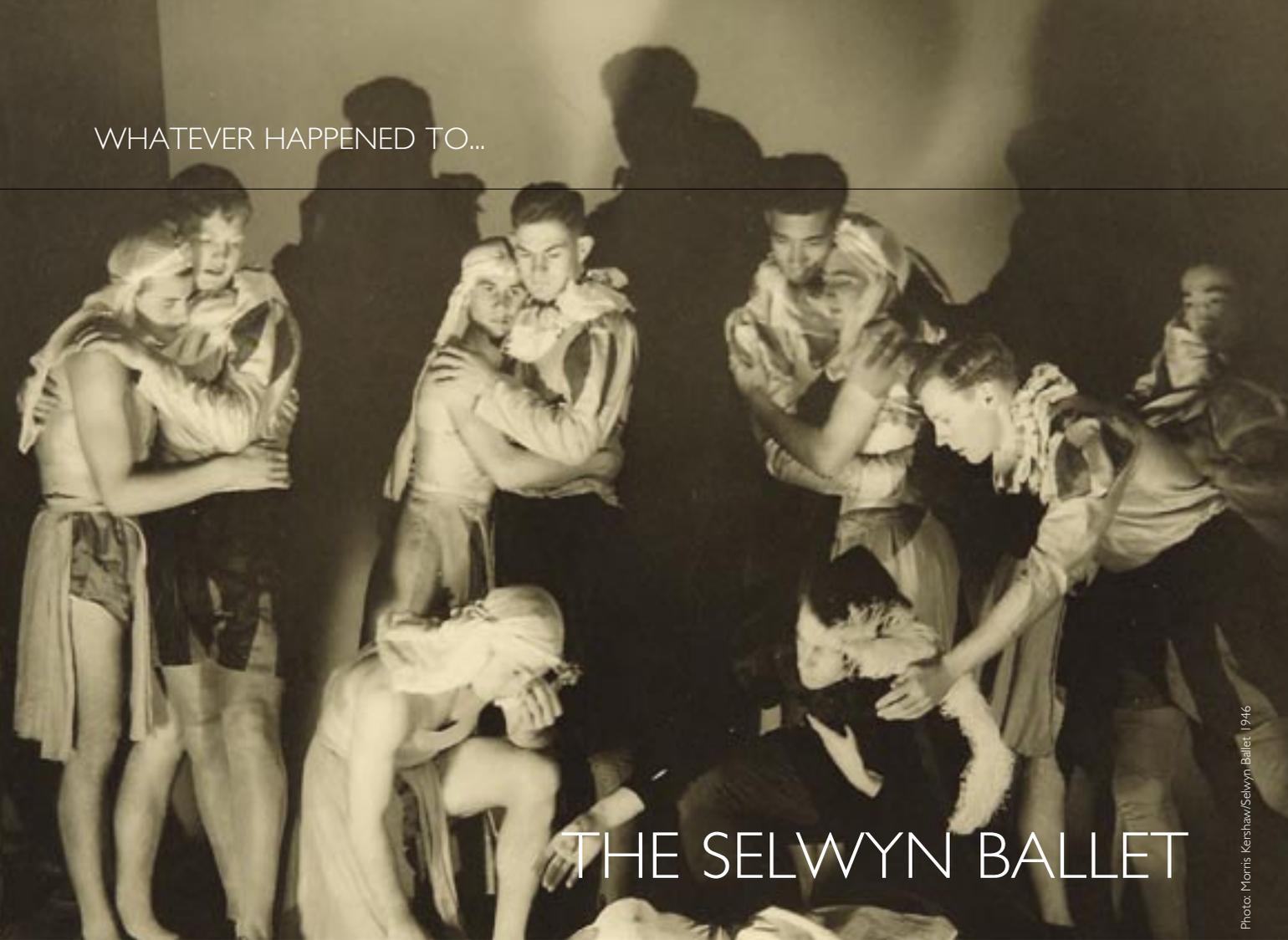


Photo: Morris Keishaw/Selwyn Ballet | 1946

## THE SELWYN BALLET

IT BEGAN IN 1928 AS A TAKE-OFF OF POPULAR LONDON musicals: The Selwyn College Sunbeams tripping the capping show stage to the tune of *Take Me Back to Nebraska*.

One “girl” in the original chorus, I D Gebbie, used “two saucers held by adhesive strapping” to assume the female form. The plates were “abandoned when the strapping failed in the heat and one of them fell and broke”.

Today’s cross-dress get-ups are as sure as the 76 years of Selwyn Ballet itself.

“Five years of lap dancing in an exclusive gentleman’s retreat”, “partnered Pavlova”, “Swan Lake World Tour”, “Michael Jackson stunt double”. This year’s ballet wannabes sign up with jokes and jibes that mask the fact that being part of the ballet is, you know, serious stuff. Two or three practices per week for three months before the show. Professional input for the choreography, costuming and make-up. Perfection in pirouettes, positions and pas de deux.

Just like back in 1928, when the troupe practised “assiduously and enthusiastically” and the matrons of Dunedin and their daughters “advised in the matter of costuming”.

Selwyn College’s first classical ballet spoof was performed in 1930, when the troupe “arrived (somehow) at the theatre

in time to be made-up”. In the ’70s, fluttering in tutus and primed with make-up, the Selwyn boys drank during show intervals at the old City Pub. The ballet’s half-time performances at the Highlanders Super 12 matches at Carisbrook are televised internationally.

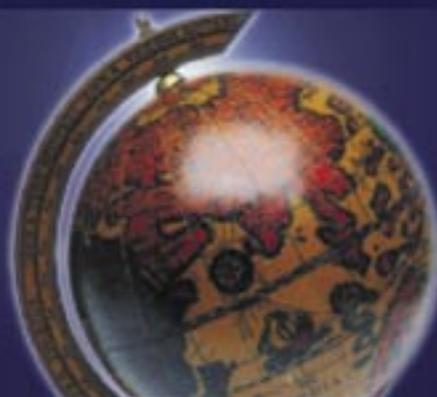
The Selwyn Ballet celebrated its 75th year in 2003. This makes it New Zealand’s oldest ballet company – outdoing the Royal New Zealand Ballet by a year. Performances include the *CanCan* (1938), *Scheherazade* (1940), *Swan Lake* (1949) and *Faust* (1955). It was only in the war years of 1942-44 that it didn’t make the stage.

Dancers include some now famous names, including Bill Adams, former Dean of the Medical School and Sir Geoffrey Cox, a Rhodes scholar knighted for his services to broadcasting in England. And lads who became sports greats later on: rugby players Drs Desmond Oliver, Hugh Barry, Mark Irwin and David Kirk; cricketer John Wright.

There’s a plan to write to Prince William to ask if the Selwyn College Ballet could add the word royal to its title. After all, over the years the boys have had a right royal time and their audiences have too.

Vivien Pullar

EXCELLENCE IS NOT A SINGULAR ACT,  
BUT A WELL ESTABLISHED HABIT.  
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