

UNIVERSITY OF OTAGO

MAGAZINE

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Otago scientists take top honours

Oceanography centre wins Prime Minister's prize
Rutherford Medal for Professor Christine Winterbourn

PLUS:

Mothers' darlings: the forgotten consequences of war
Sir Lloyd Geering's story of "heresy" and faith

UNIVERSITY
of
OTAGO



Te Whare Wānanga o Ōtāgo
NEW ZEALAND



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VICE-CHANCELLOR'S COMMENT



The Otago University Students' Association (OUSA) has had a long and proud history. Founded in 1890, OUSA's initial responsibilities included voicing student concerns and organising socials and activities that took place during Capping. More than 120 years later, things have developed substantially. OUSA is now a major business, providing a wide range of student services including the *Critic* and Radio One, advocacy and legal advice, sports, recreation and cultural activities. A number of former OUSA presidents have gone on to do some amazing things, including Sir Peter Buck, Sir Frank Holmes, Sir Bruce Robertson, Professor Murray Brennan and Mr Grant Robertson.

All of this came under threat in 2011 with the passing of the Education (Freedom of Association) Amendment Bill, commonly known as the Voluntary Student Membership (VSM) Bill. This new legislation prohibited compulsory membership in student associations and OUSA's primary source of revenue (compulsory student membership fees) essentially disappeared. While the Bill was debated in Parliament, both the University and OUSA opposed it. Despite our efforts, the Bill passed its final reading in Parliament in September.

In order to maintain the high quality of student support at Otago, the University decided to contract OUSA to continue the services that were considered important for the majority of students and, in December, we established a service level agreement. With careful budgeting, we are likely to be able to maintain the same level of service that students have typically enjoyed at the University of Otago.

Behind the new arrangements, however, lies a more fundamental change

in the relationship between OUSA and the University – a change that I see as extremely positive. In the past, OUSA and the University have worked fairly separately, maintaining a safe distance from each other, even on issues of mutual concern. The new financial arrangement brought on by VSM has required us to work together and we have already begun to combine our efforts in a number of important areas.

This new synergy will become obvious during student orientation at the beginning of the 2012 academic year. Historically, OUSA has taken primary responsibility for providing a suite of activities to welcome students to the University. In 2012, the University and OUSA will be trialling a number of new initiatives designed to maintain the fun while also providing additional academic and pastoral information to both students and their parents. Representatives from across the University have been involved in the planning process for Orientation 2012. In addition, the Dunedin Mayor, Dave Cull, has provided his support and, like me and other members of the senior management team, will participate in a wide range of activities including formal speeches of welcome and informal meetings with parents. We will even cook a sausage or two during Sports Day.

Orientation is just one example of the way in which the University and OUSA are putting their heads together. We are also expanding the traditional OUSA Art Week so that new art will be displayed on campus throughout the academic year. We have established an advisory board for the *Critic* and wider student media, and I have invited a popular rock band of Otago graduates, Knives at Noon, to participate in undergraduate recruitment activities for 2012.

Over the next few years, I am looking forward to working with OUSA not only to provide the best suite of student services possible, but also to tackle problems of mutual concern, including the quality of housing in North Dunedin, recycling and energy use on campus, and the destructive bouts of antisocial behaviour that erupt from time to time.

Obviously, there will be times when OUSA and the University will not share the same views. Some have asked me how the students will maintain their voice and autonomy under their new contractual agreement with the University. My answer to this is simple – students, like all other members of the University community will still be encouraged to express their opinion on issues that cause them concern. At Otago, we give students outstanding training for their careers, but, equally important, we also give them opportunities to develop as good citizens. Part of good citizenship involves the willingness to speak out about important issues. Over the next few years, my goal is to provide students with more, not less, opportunity to have their voices heard.

As Vice-Chancellor, I welcome this new opportunity to work with students. The University motto, *Sapere Aude*, is “dare to be wise”. The OUSA motto, *Audeamus*, is “We dare”. Together, we can achieve some great things. Author and lecturer Dale Carnegie once said, “When life gives you lemons, make lemonade”. In terms of VSM, OUSA and the University of Otago have accepted their lemons and, over the next few years, we will be very busy making lemonade.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Harlene Hayne".

Professor Harlene Hayne
Vice-Chancellor, University of Otago

Ocean masters

The importance - and success - of work undertaken by Otago's Centre for Chemical and Physical Oceanography has been recognised with the 2011 Prime Minister's Science Prize.

Winning one of New Zealand's most important science honours is a public triumph for the team at Otago's Centre for Chemical and Physical Oceanography – and a personal triumph for its founding co-director.

For Pro-Vice-Chancellor Professor Keith Hunter, the award of the 2011 Prime Minister's Science Prize vindicates his early efforts to set up Ocean Science at Otago.

The centre, a collaboration between the University of Otago's Chemistry Department and the National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA), took the prize for the international significance of its work on interactions between oceans and climate.

Principal scientist Professor Philip Boyd says getting the Prime Minister's award was a surprise, not only because of the standard of the competition, but also because it went to a lesser-known branch of science.

"Part of the idea behind the prize is to publicise the sort of science that's being done in New Zealand. With that in mind, we are thrilled that it's gone not only to the environmental sciences, but to ocean science."

Boyd, who has been with the centre since its inception in 1996, says the

winning partnership between University and Crown Research Institute owes much to its leaders.

"The longevity of the centre and its ongoing successes are very much a testament to the vision of the two directors, Otago's Keith Hunter and NIWA's Dr Rob Murdoch. They're both big picture thinkers."

It was Hunter's dream on joining the University in 1979 to establish an oceanography centre, but it was an uphill battle.

"Chemical oceanography is highly unusual for a chemistry department," he says. "We are one of very few in the world. The department does mainstream chemistry really well, but this prize projects us onto the world stage, which everyone is really pleased about."

"It's the top prize in science in the country and it's an outstanding award for science at Otago. It's a shining example of what can be done even without CoRE [Centre of Research Excellence] funding."

It's also an answer to early critics.

"Back in the '80s a few people scoffed at the idea," says Hunter. "People said New Zealand didn't do this sort of thing. So now I'm personally delighted that we have been able to prove them wrong."

Hunter stresses the importance of

the partnership with NIWA. "This is a joint Otago/NIWA honour. Without collaboration probably neither of us would have got there on our own."

Before the centre was established, NIWA had a government-funded oceans programme complete with a research vessel, facilities and staff, but lacked expertise in ocean chemistry. Otago had the chemistry and the desire, but only a shoestring budget.

"It was a stroke of brilliance by NIWA's CEO in 1996 to outsource their marine chemistry to us," says Hunter. "The spirit of complementary collaboration has been there right through and has worked out very well."

After just 15 years, the small team is recognised as a world-leading research centre, with an academic record to back its claim.

Their award-winning project is one of a series exploring the interaction of oceans and atmosphere.

Because understanding climate change is so important to the planet, Boyd's team investigated the contribution made by tiny marine microbes called phytoplankton, which absorb carbon dioxide from the sea and, consequently, transfer this greenhouse gas from the atmosphere to the ocean.

In one of the world's largest experiments, Boyd seeded huge areas of the globally significant Southern Ocean with iron to see if it could induce a plankton bloom. The fertilisation was so successful that the results could be monitored by satellite.



Publications related to this and subsequent experiments contributed to the University of Otago being ranked as the world's top oceanography institution based on the numbers of citations to relevant papers produced between 2000 and 2010.

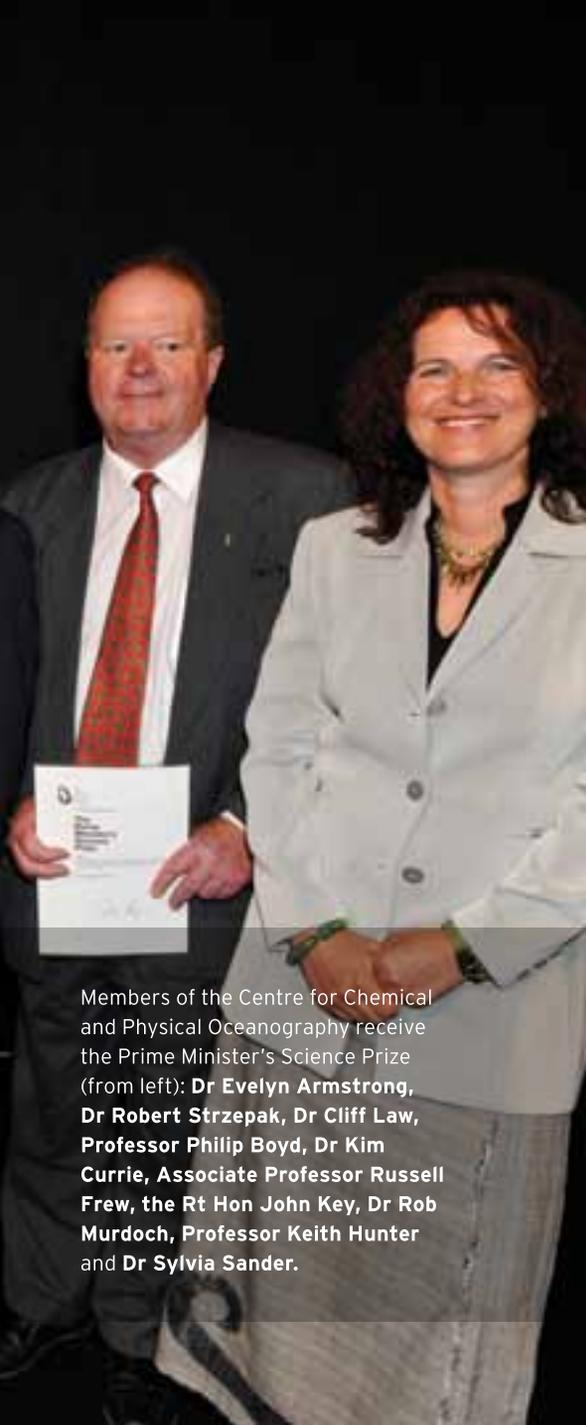
NIWA ranked 13 in the same top-30 list, although, as Hunter points out, the two institutions share the science and there are plenty of crossovers in the papers.

Following the centre's successful trial to induce phytoplankton blooms, Boyd's team repeated the experiment to see if the huge increase in plankton numbers would have a significant effect on capturing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, this time in the North Pacific.

The results dashed hopes that the process might be used by geo-engineers to reduce the amount of greenhouse gases. The quantity of carbon dioxide absorbed by the stimulated bloom was

much lower than expected and the costs of doing so were much higher than predicted. And, although not all side effects were clear, one was the release of other potent greenhouse gases such as nitrous oxide that would offset the climatic effects of the removal of atmospheric carbon dioxide.

The data have already saved the country from investing in ineffective schemes touted as being able to combat climate change, says Hunter.



Members of the Centre for Chemical and Physical Oceanography receive the Prime Minister's Science Prize (from left): **Dr Evelyn Armstrong, Dr Robert Strzepak, Dr Cliff Law, Professor Philip Boyd, Dr Kim Currie, Associate Professor Russell Frew, the Rt Hon John Key, Dr Rob Murdoch, Professor Keith Hunter and Dr Sylvia Sander.**

and, in this case, it didn't scale up.

"Engineers are marvellous people who come up with the most simple and elegant solutions, but sometimes that does not necessarily sit too well with a very complex and interlinked ocean-land-atmosphere-ice system."

With governments and the world now taking notice, Hunter is keen to capitalise on the \$500,000 prize.

"We've gained a lot of momentum and favourable publicity, and we'd like to leverage that to go further.

"One of our key scientific findings is that if you want to study the influence of chemicals like iron on organisms found in the Southern Ocean you really need to get them from that environment and keep them in that environment. You can't just go out and get them from an organism bank.

"We've been collecting Southern Ocean organisms on a shoestring for the last 10 years, so the prize will help us improve our facility so that we can be certain we can deliver on our future research promises."

Boyd says being able to bring Southern Ocean biota back to the laboratory in Dunedin, made possible by NIWA's involvement, has been invaluable to the centre.

"This is probably one of only two or three places in the world where you can find such a culture collection of representative phytoplankton from close to the Antarctic.

"By isolating and nurturing them under conditions that mimic those of their natural habitat we can do detailed research on campus.

"Already the studies we have been able to do here at Otago have completely challenged the way we understand the Southern Ocean.

"These are changing times and there's a strong possibility that we are going to have a changing ocean in response to climate change, so we need long-term data to measure it."

For the last decade, the centre's Dr Kim Currie has been running an ocean observatory project collecting base-line data to service future research and to tie in with similar work around the world to build a global picture.

It's one of many wide-ranging projects run by the team, which includes Associate Professor Russell Frew, Dr Robert Strzepak, Dr Sylvia Sander, Dr Evelyn Armstrong and Dr Cliff Law.

Their expertise is equally wide-ranging, which is becoming increasingly important, says Boyd.

"By combining the resources of the University and NIWA, it's good not only for joint research, but also because we can provide excellent opportunities for postgraduate scientists to get the skill sets they need to work in the coming decades.

"It's very pleasing for us to be able to mix such a good research environment with postgraduate mentorship across disciplines.

"As we've learned more about how different aspects of the planet work, things are increasingly involving multi- and interdisciplinary science. What we used to call earth science is now earth system science."

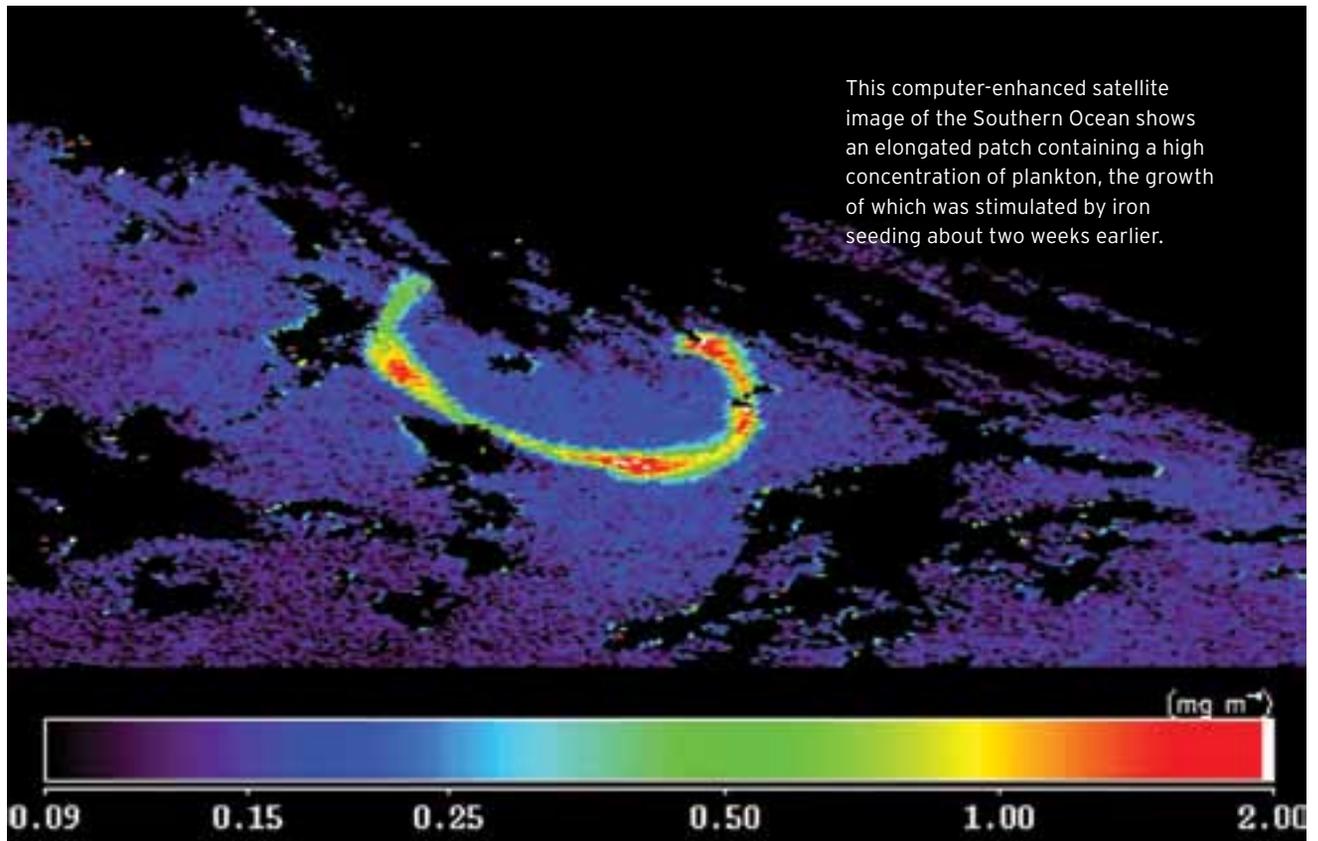
Boyd sees the Prime Minister's Prize as allowing the centre to evaluate a range

"One company got as far as sending scientists to New Zealand to meet government officials, but we were able to show their arguments didn't stack up.

"If it wasn't for the sort of research we have been doing, there's a very reasonable chance that some companies trying to cash in on carbon credits might have been able to go ahead on the basis of the limited evidence they had."

Boyd agrees. "We looked at the feasibility of trying to engineer climate

"If it wasn't for the sort of research we have been doing, there's a very reasonable chance that some companies trying to cash in on carbon credits might have been able to go ahead on the basis of the limited evidence they had."



of new systems that have developed in recent years.

“One of the big challenges with responses to altered climate is that more than one thing is going to change at the same time. In some ways, we are almost re-booting the ocean environment and we don’t know what’s going to happen.

“With increased carbon dioxide, the ocean is becoming more acidic. Ocean warming is changing the density of surface seawater, which can reduce the effectiveness of the pump that supplies all of the nutrients from the deep ocean to the surface. We think climate change will mean fewer nutrients coming to the surface.

“So if you’re start to warm things and make them more acidic and reduce the amount of nutrients, you’re going to need to build a complex system of engineering to create an incubation system where you can actually test what that means.

“That’s where research is going – where multiple ocean properties will be altered at the same time. And that’s where we think we’ll put some of the prize money.”

Hunter and Boyd are both confident that more funding will follow the prize, and that New Zealand is an ideal place for ocean research.

“New Zealanders have a strong identity with the ocean,” says Boyd. “A

recent poll found that the two main concerns for Kiwis in 2050 were health and the environment.

“So with the strong cultural bond we have with the seas that surround us and our strong maritime heritage, any stewardship we feel has to be underpinned by strong ocean science.”

NIGEL ZEGA

Consequences of war

Otago historians are researching the lives of Pacific women and their babies born to US servicemen during World War II. This project is attracting international media attention and a huge response from these now-grown children simply wanting to know who they are.

Secrets do not often make such a grand entrance.

Between 1942 and 1945, some two million US servicemen were posted to the South Pacific, effectively doubling the islands' population. For four years, these fit young fellows mingled with communities across New Zealand, Samoa, Tonga, Fiji, New Hebrides (Vanuatu), the Gilbert Islands (Kiribati) and Western Solomons.

It does not take a cultural anthropologist to describe what happened next: several thousand mixed-race babies were born in the Pacific.

Yet, despite the globally cataclysmic circumstances of their births, the decades that followed rendered the Pacific war babies' stories largely silent.

"Histories of the war in the Pacific focused on military strategy, great battles and men, diplomacy and economic issues," comments University of Otago History Professor Judith Bennett.

"Women's experiences are rarely mentioned and the lives of the children who were born as a result of the American intervention have been totally ignored."

Yet these men and women, now aged in their 60s, were conceived in unique circumstances and their lives were shaped because of it. Their very existence was the legacy of giant powers using the Pacific as their theatre of war. They were "half-castes", born out of wedlock to mothers who would cope in varying degrees with their situations. Few would ever know who their fathers were.

Now researching a book compiled by all members of the project and the participants, Bennett hopes *Mothers' Darlings: Children of Indigenous Women and World War II American Servicemen in New Zealand and South Pacific Societies* will provide these war babies with a "place, a voice in history".

Bennett admits her own interest in the Pacific children of US servicemen was initially something of a tangent. Her previous book, *Natives and Exotics: World War II and Environment in the Southern Pacific*, examined the environmental impact of war in the Pacific. In so far as humans were part of the environment, she became interested in the changing social demographics of the region.

"I started hearing about the pale children that were born," she recalls. It was a line of enquiry she would ultimately follow to far-flung islands across Melanesia and Kiribati, subjecting herself to "interesting" means of transport (she talks of being picked up by motorbike, without a seat, to be "driven" to the airport) and into the homes of more than 30 people willing to tell their stories.

It was a project Bennett and colleague Dr Angela Wanhalla have thrown themselves into with a kind of urgency, a sense that "time is running out".

"The 'children' are now mature and any of their mothers who are still here to tell us of their war-time relationships are now very old, in their 90s." Another decade and their stories would have been lost forever.

In the process, Bennett and Wanhalla found themselves becoming a de facto information agency, supporting families to search for their American relatives. They are also helping people who may not want to come forward to begin to trace their fathers at the website called "US fathers in the Pacific" www.otago.ac.nz/usfathers/

The project, for which Bennett and Wanhalla received Marsden funding, has not only snowballed within the communities they are researching, but has captured the attention of international media. In August 2011, TVNZ's *Sunday* programme followed the story of Cook Islands-born Arthur Beren as he travelled to Michigan to meet his

“These were handsome young men, on an adventure, travelling to beautiful, warm locations where the locals were friendly. And they had plenty of money and nothing to spend it on, which made them very interesting to the island women.”

sisters. His father had passed away, but had left many letters from, and photos of, his young mother.

Other stories tell of a very different sense of resolution, says Bennett. “One man from Wallis Island, living in Vanuatu, told me of being raised happily by his mother and stepfather, and then supported by a Catholic priest who became a very great influence on his life. When I asked him if he wanted to know about his father he said, ‘No, why would I? I already have two wonderful fathers.’”

While many children, particularly in the Cook Islands and Samoa, grew up aware of their parentage, others were taken by surprise. Doctors were mystified by one patient’s illness until it was eventually diagnosed as sickle cell anaemia, a condition mainly found among those of African descent – his father had been an African-American soldier.

Other stories include painful details, some of attempted abortions and suicides.

And, in places, the children’s births were not registered at all. “I encountered a widespread fear in Kiribati that Americans would come and take their sons and force them into their armies.” Some of the children’s own fathers had been conscripted, after all. This anxiety was strong enough for some families to use it as a reason not to participate in Bennett’s research.

While the stories they have heard have been as diverse as the people telling them,

particular themes resonate throughout their research, says Bennett. “Concepts of fatherhood, social constraints in island life, and silences.”

Certainly, that so many children were born to unmarried mothers within quite conservative societies created some complications and shame, she acknowledges. Some communities – such as the Cook Islands, where adoption among family members was relatively widespread – accommodated the circumstances more readily than others.

It wasn’t that islanders suddenly took leave of their traditional values, says Bennett. But there was a sense in which, during war, the normal rules of life may have seemed somewhat less rigid.

“For the soldiers, it was party time. These were handsome young men, on an adventure, travelling to beautiful, warm locations where the locals were friendly. And they had plenty of money and nothing to spend it on, which made them very interesting to the island women.”

Yet the backdrop to this heady scene was devastating conflict, as nearby as the Solomons and Papua New Guinea. Nihilism and hedonism are old companions. “Why not have fun?” comments Bennett. “Who knew what tomorrow would bring?”

There is little doubt that some couples formed meaningful relationships and their separation when the Americans were sent home was painful for them both. But the odds were against them.

“It was illegal for Americans to marry

Asians at this time, which is how Pacific Islanders were classed. Women had to prove they were 51 per cent European and, while this was possible for some Māori women, it was really out of the question in most of the Pacific.”

Problems with language, literacy and postal services to remote islands posed further barriers to ongoing communication. “Eventually, both parents had to get on with their lives.”

While Bennett’s research has focused on the war babies of the Pacific, Wanhalla has concentrated on the experiences of Māori women in New Zealand and their half-American offspring. Otago’s Associate Professor Jacqui Leckie is working with Dr Alumita Durutalo, from the University of the South Pacific, among the Fijian offspring of the Americans, while Dr Phyllis Herda, at the University of Auckland, is researching the same for Tonga. Otago doctoral candidate Marsa Dodson has undertaken more than 35 interviews with Cook Islands descendants of the Americans.

In Samoa an Otago graduate, Louise Mataia at the National University of Samoa, is interviewing descendants there as well as in American Samoa. Further researchers are due to embark on a project to learn about Pākehā women’s relationships and children – a trickier subject to explore, believes Bennett.

“In the Pacific, children tended to be raised by their extended families. Unwed white women in New Zealand, however,

**Professor Judith Bennett
and Dr Angela Wanhalla:**
“... the lives of the children
who were born as a result of
the American intervention
have been totally ignored.”

Photo: Graham Warman

would be much more likely to have adopted their children out. Their wider families may not have known they were pregnant. Tracking these women and their children now may be quite difficult. Certainly, very few names of fathers were recorded.”

And although their book of these US children’s narratives is under way, Bennett is still not sure when her research will end. “We have had a huge response. People are still coming forward wanting to tell their stories. We’ve even been approached by lawyers offering to work on paternity claims.

“But not one of the people we have interviewed has said anything about looking for citizenship or wanting to make a claim on families,” says Bennett. “They just want to know who they are.”

NICOLA MUTCH



Free thinking: radical results

Scientific curiosity coupled with hard work have reaped rewards for Otago's Professor Christine Winterbourn, the first woman to receive New Zealand's highest science honour, the Rutherford Medal. She talks to Kim Thomas.

A cheeky smile flickers across the face of the country's top scientist, Professor Christine Winterbourn, as she ushers me into her tiny office.

"Welcome to the locker room," she says.

And she's not joking: she shares the tiny room, dominated by storage units containing lab coats and co-workers belongings, with a colleague from the University of Otago, Christchurch's Free Radical Research Group.

Winterbourn is working from the temporary premises because earthquakes damaged her usual office. But her good-humoured acceptance of the hot, cramped, make-shift office is typical of her unassuming, hard-working style.

Winterbourn's colleagues describe her as an impressive combination of exceptional intellect, coupled with an exemplary work ethic.

And it's not just colleagues who appreciate this quiet achiever. The Royal Society recently awarded Winterbourn the country's top science and technology honour, the Rutherford Medal, making her the first woman to receive the medal in its 20-year history and the second Otago scientist to win it in successive years. In 2010 the medal was presented

to Professor Warren Tate (Department of Biochemistry).

In 2004 Winterbourn received the University's own highest research award, the Distinguished Research Medal, and was also awarded an Anniversary Medal from Massey University where she completed her PhD. These awards add to others she has received from the Royal Society and government over the years.

The Rutherford Medal recognises the importance of Winterbourn's work in free radical biology that paved the way for ground-breaking research into links to diseases.

"Professor Winterbourn was one of the first scientists to demonstrate that our cells produce free radicals as part of their normal function," says Royal Society of New Zealand president Dr Garth Carnaby. "She went on to characterise some of the chemical reactions of free radicals that we now know occur in diseases such as cancer, stroke, coronary heart disease and arthritis.

"Her mana extends well beyond New Zealand's shores. She is recognised internationally as one of the founders of free radical research in biological systems and a leading world authority in this field.

"Professor Winterbourn has also been a firm advocate for science in New Zealand ... and an excellent mentor to numerous students and young scientists trying to forge careers in New Zealand."

The award acknowledges a career spanning 40 years, most of which has been spent at the University of Otago's Christchurch campus.

Winterbourn came to Christchurch in the early 1970s after completing an MSc at Auckland University, a PhD at Massey University and postdoctoral work in Canada.

She began working with Professor Robin Carrell, who was then head of Clinical Biochemistry at Christchurch Hospital and, later, a professor at the University.

"It was a very stimulating time for me. Professor Carrell was prepared to ask the big questions and there was a sense of creativity and freedom of scientific enquiry.

"Professor Carrell always said there was no reason why we couldn't make remarkable discoveries in New Zealand and that made a big impression on me. I still think that."

With Carrell, Winterbourn did make some remarkable early discoveries in the field of free radical research.

"We were studying haemoglobin, the red blood pigment that carries oxygen around the body.

"We were looking at a patient whose haemoglobin contained a genetic mutation and we were interested in understanding why this caused her to



Professor Christine Winterbourn: "Science is an exploration: be curious and excited on a day-to-day basis."
Photos: Ross Coombes

“Her mana extends well beyond New Zealand’s shores. She is recognised internationally as one of the founders of free radical research in biological systems and a leading world authority in this field.”
- Royal Society of New Zealand president Dr Garth Carnaby.

be anaemic. We found that her protein converted some of the oxygen to superoxide radicals, to a much greater extent than normal haemoglobin.

“This was one of the first demonstrations that free radicals are generated in cells. It helped open the realisation that free radicals are continually being generated in our

bodies and that we need protective antioxidants to control them.”

This discovery stimulated her interest in superoxide radicals and set the direction of her subsequent career.

Winterbourn’s research over the years has made a major contribution to knowledge about how free radicals and other reactive oxidants are produced in

the body, what damage they cause and how the body protects against them.

Her Free Radical Research Group has developed tests to detect production of oxidants in different diseases. For example, superoxide radicals and chlorine bleach are produced by white blood cells to kill microbes that enter the body. Winterbourn and colleagues have characterised how this occurs and shown that the bleach can sometimes damage host tissue.

They have demonstrated how this occurs in the immature lungs of premature babies who need to be on ventilators, with greater oxidative damage being associated with poorer lung function. Assessment of how different treatments affect the level

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of injury enables the development of procedures that improve the outcome for the infants.

“Nowadays, free radicals and anti-oxidants are terms many people are familiar with – we are told to eat our fruit and vegetables because they are rich in antioxidants and they protect against free radicals,” Winterbourn says.

“But when I first started work on free radicals, the term was common in chemistry, yet the idea that free radicals might have an important role in health and disease was relatively untouched.”

During her career, Winterbourn has also seen a growing number of women in science and senior research positions. She referred to this in her acceptance speech and commented on why she believed it had taken 20 years for a woman to receive the Rutherford Medal.

“I thought about why it has taken this long, as people often bring up discrimination – but I don’t think it’s really that. There are obstacles for women to overcome, but a lot of it is statistical. Obviously, the recipients are fairly mature individuals and started their careers when women scientists were much the minority. For example, in my MSc chemistry class, we were four of about 30. It is very different now and I am sure I’ll be the start of a trend.

“Probably what was more of an issue for me in the early days was being a scientist in a medical world. Back then, it was usual for the Medical Research Council [later to become the Health Research Council] to give grants to medical staff and they would employ a scientist to do the work. We were seen as ‘support staff’ rather than leaders in our own right and were almost an invisible group within the University structure.”

This situation has gradually changed and Winterbourn’s success in attaining her own grants has helped provide



“Professor Carrell always said there was no reason why we couldn’t make remarkable discoveries in New Zealand and that made a big impression on me. I still think that.”

projects for up-and-coming researchers to work on.

“I was really fortunate in that three of my PhD students [Professor Tony Kettle, Associate Professor Margreet Vissers and Associate Professor Mark Hampton] have stayed with me and become independent scientists.

“Together our work has evolved into the Free Radical Research Group,” says Winterbourn who now leads this team of some 25 researchers.

“We work together very much as a group and I think that’s important for the successes we’ve had. In New Zealand it’s a small scientific community and the Christchurch community is even smaller. So it’s really important to have a critical mass, not only for strength in numbers for getting the resources you need, but also to have people to bounce ideas off.”

Winterbourn urges young scientists to follow their dreams, as she has done.

“Science is an exploration: be curious and excited on a day-to-day

basis. A lot of major advances have come when people are trying to satisfy their own curiosity and their own burning interest.

“Science is unpredictable – you never know in what direction it’s going to go. This is certainly true of research, but I think it is also true of careers. People often end up in a direction that they never anticipated at the start.

“I know a lot of young people agonise long and hard about what do, but my advice is make the best decision you can at the time – and see what happens.

“I have enjoyed my life with free radicals and I hope I can keep instilling the value of curiosity in the talented people who work with me.”

ALUMNI PROFILE

**The Rev. Emeritus
Professor Sir Lloyd Geering:**
"I don't feel I've diverged - I
feel the church diverged from
me. I was carrying on from
where I started in theology.
As knowledge changes, so
you have to change your
understanding."

Photos: Bill Nichol

A man of faith

Once famously accused of “doctrinal error”, the Rev. Emeritus Professor Sir Lloyd Geering continues to hold strong - even controversial - views on church and religion.

It was a decade that changed the world. Events such as the civil rights movement, anti-war protests and the emergence of pop culture helped define the 1960s’ so it should be no surprise that even a traditional institution in a quiet corner of the world was unable to avoid a shake-up.

For the Presbyterian Church of New Zealand, the challenge came from one of its own in the form of University of Otago alumnus and then principal of Knox College Theological Hall, the Rev. Emeritus Professor Sir Lloyd Geering, whose views on the resurrection, the immortality of the soul and other traditional theological tenets saw him charged with doctrinal error and disturbing the peace of the church. Effectively, heresy.

For the sprightly 93 year old, walking up to the University’s Clocktower building during a recent visit was a retracing of steps he took more than seven decades earlier when, as a very talented student of mathematics, he gained a Master of Arts degree with first-class honours.

University proved to be a formative time for Geering. He was brought up in Dunedin, attending St Clair Primary School then Otago Boys’ High School (1931–35), although his family spent four years in Australia from 1927–30.

Geering remembers being sent to Sunday school for a few years, but his first real church influence came while at university when he boarded with a Roman Catholic family whose devoutness impressed him greatly.

However, it wasn’t until a friend invited him to church and got him involved in the Student Christian Movement (SCM) that he began to take Christianity more seriously. So much so that, after barely a year, Geering surprised even himself by experiencing an inner compulsion to train for the church ministry.

“It was a strong sense of calling. I am strongly anti-evangelical so I would never have spoken of this as a conversion, but, in a sense, it was a conversion – my life changed radically in that one year, 1937.

“I didn’t want to enter the ministry – that’s the point. I sort of fought against that and I hoped they would turn me down. But they didn’t,” he adds with a laugh.

Asked where that sense of conviction came from, Geering explains it in terms of the way the SCM and church gave his life structure.

“What the church did was to give me a sense of what life is about and how to make something of life and to structure one’s life. I will always be grateful for that.”

He was told to finish his degree before entering Knox, so he happily did so and believes he took something of the mathematician with him into his study of theology.

“Pure mathematics, in particular, has a beauty about it and I suppose it met a particular facility I’ve got of being a logical thinker and sorting out one’s ideas,” he says.

“All of my life I have been trying to fit together everything that I came to understand, or know, or feel about the universe. I mean the whole idea of evolution was right down my alley and helped to fit everything together, really.”

He began his three years at Knox College in 1940 and, as a theological student, he was exempted from serving in World War II.

“I was a pacifist anyway by this stage. I took my Christian convictions so seriously that I couldn’t reconcile them with being a soldier.”

Once out of Knox College, there was a period of parish work in Kurow, followed by Opoho in Dunedin and, eventually, Newtown in Wellington.

Geering particularly enjoyed preaching and the process of thinking through topics that would be of value to his congregation. He was less comfortable with the pastoral side, but worked hard at it and describes himself as an assiduous visitor.

One of the formative experiences came with the tragic death of his wife from tuberculosis while at his first parish in Opoho.

“That got me thinking about the finiteness of life and what goes on

afterwards, and I generally came to the conclusion that nothing goes on – life is what we have here. The church’s understanding of eternal life has to be rethought. It has to do with the quality of life here, not with some sort of life after death.”

It was only later, when he became a teacher himself, that some of the ideas he became known for began to mature.

“I don’t feel I’ve diverged – I feel the church diverged from me. I was carrying on from where I started in theology. As knowledge changes, so you have to change your understanding.”

Teaching beckoned: first in Queensland from 1957 to 1960 and then at Knox College where he was appointed principal in 1964.

Geering continued to read widely and develop his ideas, but, when he came to express them to the wider church community, he triggered an unexpected storm.

It began when, in 1965, the editor of the Presbyterian church paper, *The Outlook*, asked him to write an article for Reformation Sunday in which he said it was time to go through a real rethinking of what Christianity is all about.

While it caused a bit of a stir, a follow-up article in 1966 for Easter on the resurrection brought a far stronger reaction when he began to draw on the work of other theologians such as Gregor Smith.

“He had made an interesting statement in this book where he said, ‘The Christian is free to say that the bones of Jesus may lie still in Palestine. And until the Christian feels free to say that he hasn’t understood the resurrection.’

“So I expounded this and talked about the story of the empty tomb as simply a lovely legend that was trying to help

people understand resurrection – which it doesn’t at all if you take it literally – it’s a symbolic story. My saying that blew everything open.

“It was a tremendous shock to a lot of people in the churches. Some were delighted by it because it helped them to understand things better. Others rejected it. So that whole year there was a lot of discussion about that.”

Then, at the beginning of 1967, Geering was invited to preach at Victoria University where he preached on *Ecclesiastes*. “In the course of that sermon I said, ‘Man has no immortal soul – we just live in this life’. Well, that just blew the thing open again.

“All of 1967, even in the bars up and down the country, people were debating what happens to you when you die and that sort of thing.”

The controversy moved into overdrive when two leading Presbyterians laid charges against Geering. A dramatic, two-day televised trial followed, but, in the end, the Assembly found that no doctrinal error had been proved. The charges were promptly dismissed and the case declared closed.

As a theologian, Geering was happy to see these questions being discussed so widely.

“I thought it was marvellous. In my defence I said the church is always complaining that there is never any publicity in the papers about what you’re doing. Now it’s there you want to close the whole thing down,” he says.

“The long-term effect was that a lot of people began to leave the churches. I was blamed for it, but, actually, it was because the churches failed to respond positively. They closed the discussion down and tried to sweep it all under the carpet. It is that which drove people away.

“The kinds of things I was saying were freely being said and discussed in theological journals and books all around the world. Change had been going on for 80 years and it had never got down into the pews, so the people in the pews were left stranded.”

He left Knox in 1971, taking up a post as Professor of Religious Studies at Victoria University. He enjoyed the challenge of establishing a new department and having the opportunity to read and explore his ideas further.

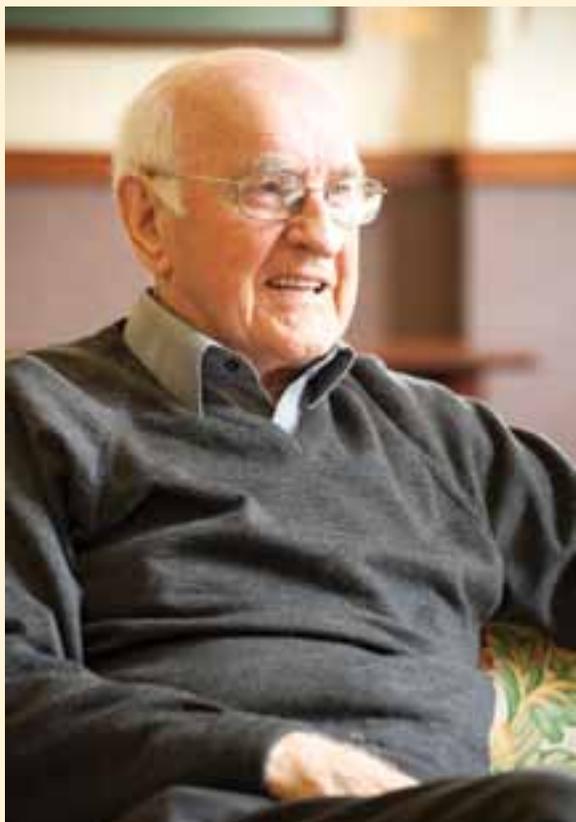
“I didn’t have to be looking over my shoulder all the time because I was working not in an institution training people for the ministry, but simply exploring, along with the students, what was happening in the modern world. I was free to do a lot more and that’s when my books began to appear.”

Even today, in his 10th decade, Geering continues to write. He has numerous book titles to his name including *Faith’s New Age* – since reprinted in America as *Christianity at the Crossroads*.

Speaking and teaching has also continued to be a passion and one he shows no sign of giving up. “In the last 40 years I’ve been conducting 10 to 15 seminars a year up and down the country.”

Although a controversial figure, his place in New Zealand history has been recognised. He was made a Companion of the British Empire in 1988, named a Principal Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit in 2001 and then admitted to the Order of New Zealand in 2007. In 1976, he was awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity by the University of Otago.

Looking at the church today, Geering sees what he describes as a conservative



“In the end I came to the conclusion that life is what you make of it. We’re the ones who give meaning to life. There’s no meaning out there to be discovered or to be revealed to us, as Christian tradition has long said.”

“fundamentalist rump” created because liberal thinking people are leaving. His preference is to be involved with St Andrews in Wellington which is aligned with the Progressive Christian Movement that started in the United States.

“It’s trying to draw the rest of the church into something more progressive, up to date and relevant to the world we live in. But the backlash is the fundamentalism which is very strong in the States.”

Geering is wary of fundamentalism in any form of belief. “It is the mental mood that wants to cling to the past because it feels safe with it.”

Asked what the church needs to be today, Geering starts with people. “The real value of the church as I see it is, first of all, in creating a fellowship of people who help one another come to grips with life,” he says.

“Secondly, what are the great issues before us today? In my view they are largely the same as what the green movement is on about. They are issues of conservation, of global warming, learning to share the resources of the earth instead of greedily taking them for ourselves. Learning to respect the earth and not exploit it – these are the great religious issues of the day. This is what the church’s thinking needs to be about.”

He believes that, in the end, religion has to do with making sense of life.

“In the end I came to the conclusion that life is what you make of it. We’re the ones who give meaning to life. There’s no meaning out there to be discovered or to be revealed to us, as Christian tradition has long said.

“Life is what you make of it and the extraordinary thing about the human species is that we’re in the position where we are able to do this.”

MARK WRIGHT

Pioneer of inner space

From early ambitions of exploring outer space, Professor Allan Herbison has dedicated his professional career to the inner complexities of the human brain. His stellar work earned him the University's highest research honour for 2011, the Distinguished Research Medal.

Like many of the wide-eyed youngsters who listened in 1969 as a human stepped on the moon for the first time, Allan Herbison wanted to be an astronaut when he grew up.

Unfortunately for him, he grew up in the wrong country. However, the United States' loss has been New Zealand's gain, for the would-be space explorer has forged a stellar career pushing back frontiers of another kind – the innermost workings of the human brain.

Professor Herbison's particular interest is the brain's role in fertility regulation and his decision to undertake his ground-breaking mid-career work at Otago led to the establishment of what has become the largest reproductive neuroendocrinology research cluster in the world.

The quality of the Centre for Neuroendocrinology's research is also acknowledged as world-leading, while Herbison's personal contribution has been nationally and internationally recognised, most recently with the distinction of the University of Otago's highest research honour – the Distinguished Research Medal.

All this is a long way from Herbison's childhood in Invercargill (although the university years he would later spend at Cambridge never succeeded in erasing the Southland rolls from his "r"s). With space travel not an option, the young Herbison opted instead to explore the realm of inner space when he first entered the University of Otago in 1980. And, while medicine would ultimately not be his career of choice, it would prove an invaluable basis for the fruitful foray into neurophysiology that would follow.

By the third year of his medical studies, Herbison had become intrigued by the inner workings of the brain. So, under the guidance of Otago's eminent neurophysiologist, Professor John Hubbard, he took a year out to complete a Bachelor of Medical Science.

"When you come to the human body, going through medical school is the best," Herbison says. "But once you get into it, then compared to the knowledge we have about the heart, liver or kidneys, you quickly realise the brain is so much more complicated. It is all chemicals and electrical signals – it's fascinating. It's

like standing up there as a kid looking at the stars. From my perspective, it's the last frontier."

In the field of medical science – specifically neuroscience – Herbison's passion had been ignited. He sought research experience at laboratories in the United States and Hungary while still an undergraduate and, by the time he was awarded his MB ChB in 1986, he had already been internationally published.

A Commonwealth Scholarship to Jesus College, Cambridge, to undertake a PhD followed and his doctoral research, defining and investigating the gonadotropin hormone-releasing neurons that control ovarian function, was so successful he was offered a choice of college fellowships. This, he explains, is one of the axioms of success for a university like Cambridge.

"It's a self-perpetuating system. [Places like] Cambridge are recognised as the best so they get the cream of students from all over the world. They feed in high quality young individuals and then try to appoint the very best people from them. It's a phenomenally successful model."

Herbison spent seven months on a postdoctoral fellowship at a laboratory in Bordeaux, France, developing techniques for visualising neurons, before returning to a permanent position at the Babraham Institute in Cambridge, initially as the Lister-Jenner Fellow of the Institute of Preventive Medicine. But after 15 years at Cambridge – and in what was considered something of an academic coup – Herbison was lured back to Otago to a

Professor Allan Herbison:

It [the brain] is all chemicals and electrical signals - it's fascinating. It's like standing up there as a kid looking at the stars. From my perspective, it's the last frontier."

Photo: Sharron Bennett



chair in the Department of Physiology with his research supported by the UK Wellcome Trust.

“There are something like 40 billion cells in the brain and each cell probably has 10,000 connections with other cells, and each of those cells has connections with 10,000 other cells,” he explains. “You can see that the possibilities for how a cell can interact with others is almost limitless.”

The Centre for Neuroendocrinology (CNE) today comprises nine separate

research groups. Herbison’s laboratory works in the area of electrophysiology – which uses minute electrodes to measure the electrical activity of brain cells – and transgenics, a technique used to identify different brain cells which Herbison helped to develop. In particular, he is interested in further characterising the function of the gonadotropin hormone-releasing neuron that he began investigating at Cambridge.

In 2009 Herbison and co-researcher Dr Rebecca Campbell identified how

these neurons interact – via long dendrites rather than across chemical synapses – to send out at hourly intervals the hormone that allows ovulation and puberty to occur. Herbison and his co-investigators have also shown how the brain’s synthesis of a molecule called kisspeptin peaks at puberty and appears to work together with the neurons to enable puberty to occur and ovulation in adult females.

Potential downstream possibilities arising from these findings include new

treatments for infertility and, conversely, new forms of contraception. For this reason, unsurprisingly, pharmaceutical companies pay close attention to CNE findings.

The CNE attracts postgraduate students, postdoctoral fellows and senior scientists from around the world. Herbison enjoys postgraduate student supervision and, judging from the School of Medical Sciences' Supervisor of the Year award he recently won, he is good at it. He says an Otago PhD in medical sciences is among the best in the world, but recognises the dilemma bright young students now face in choosing a place for postgraduate study.

"Really good students coming through Otago come to see me about going to Cambridge or Oxford or another eminent university. I'm in a bind because I went to Cambridge myself, but I remind them that there are now many world-class laboratories right here at Otago. You no longer have to go overseas to be successful."

Herbison believes such students are better off doing a PhD in New Zealand and then trying for a postdoctoral position overseas.

"Often, particularly somewhere like Cambridge and Oxford, students go into a high-powered laboratory as a very young scientist. The lab will be full of people, with a supervisor whom they might see just once a week (at midnight!). Going to these big name universities is certainly not a guarantee of success. Whereas, in New Zealand, students have the opportunity to actually know the lab. They can talk to people to find out what the science is like, see how many people are in it and find out how good the supervisor is at supervising PhD students."

Herbison acknowledges, however, how difficult it is for emerging research

"... if you don't support fundamental discovery research you won't discover anything to develop!"

scientists to develop careers in New Zealand because biomedical research science funding is, as he describes it, "now at an unsustainable level".

"The big, big problem for New Zealand," he says, "is that we spend a tiny amount of our GDP on research – less than 50 per cent of the OECD average, putting us at the very end of the table along with Turkey, Greece and Mexico.

"In New Zealand, at the moment, you're looking at a 5–7 per cent rate of funding, so just five out of every 100 research applications are being funded. Whereas in Australia or Canada, the equivalent research funding bodies are funding between 15 and 20 per cent of applications."

Herbison adds that within New Zealand's relatively small pool of money, the allocation for what is commonly called "blue-sky" or discovery research is even smaller.

"New Zealand is unique in the OECD in that it channels the vast majority of funding into projects and institutions that might provide commercial return within a relatively short time frame.

"That leaves only a tiny amount of money for the innovative, creative science that doesn't necessarily generate money immediately, but does generate discoveries.

"Our government is so impressed by Australia with all of its university spin-off high-tech and biotech companies and wonders why we don't have them in New Zealand. The simple answer is that if you don't support fundamental discovery research you won't discover anything to develop!

"It's hugely limiting because we have open minds and a structure that allows everybody to have their say and come up with ideas. We're not a country where, if you're a PhD student, you can't have an idea. We have openness and creativity, but the amount of money available to foster it and keep the creative base going is just too small."

Herbison urges New Zealand to at least double the base of money available for discovery research and laments the disparity between the "discovery cycle" of 10 to 15 years and the political term of three years, resulting in only short-sighted policy. In the meantime, he continues to count his blessings every day for being able to work as one of the funded New Zealand scientists who "punch above their weight".

Asked what he is most proud of so far, Herbison talks about the standing of the CNE and the significance of the work he and his colleagues have done on kispeptin. He is clearly also tickled about receiving the supervisor award, but what of the family of the boy who wanted to be an astronaut?

"My parents still live in Invercargill," Herbison says, "and when I was awarded the [Distinguished Research] Medal there was a small item in the *Southland Times* about it. I joke that my dad, who was a builder, thinks that I haven't really got a proper job yet, but, actually, I'm pretty sure they're both really proud of me."

REBECCA TANSLEY

A healthy appetite

2011 Masterchef winner and Otago alumna Nadia Lim talks to Rebecca Tansley about the importance of “eating well”.

An array of pastries and cakes sit temptingly between Nadia Lim and me. It’s morning-tea time and the high-energy foods are intended to fuel our interview. Lim cuts them into bite-sized pieces and urges me to try this one, then the next.

“Aren’t they incredible?” she asks, eyes wide with enthusiasm. My mouth is full of mille-feuille so I nod vigorously in agreement. Just as well I don’t interview New Zealand’s 2011 *Masterchef* winner every day of the week.

To be fair, Lim is better known for her wholesome approach to food – although she prefers the term “eating well” to the worthier sounding “healthy eating” – rather than her sweet tooth (although she is incredibly sweet in nature). But the moment also illustrates that, even though she’s a dietitian by profession and a strong advocate for diabetes prevention, she’s hardly puritanical about her approach to food.

“It’s about looking at the bigger picture,” she explains. “Eat whatever you want and enjoy it, but look at it in context – how often are you eating it and how are you eating it?”

This logic is typical of Lim, a dietetics graduate who used her left-brain thinking, wide-ranging experience of ingredients and contagious enthusiasm for tasty food to succeed in winning New Zealand’s most arduous culinary television contest.

The “taste test” in the series’ final episode exemplifies this: Lim and fellow competitor Jax Hamilton had to decipher the 20 ingredients used in a bouillabaisse. Rather than being fazed by the profusion of flavours, Lim set about recreating the dish in her head, identifying the components she would have used as she went. She won the challenge, successfully identifying 18 of the 20.

Lim denies a competitive personality, but is steely in resolve when competing with herself.

She tells a “beep test” story to show how well she can do something if she puts her mind to it. Little surprise, then, that she entered *Masterchef* to prove to herself that she was a good cook.

“When it comes to something I want then I’ll go for it,” she says. “I wasn’t going to enter this competition and not do well.”

This strength of character must have helped Lim survive the months-long initial elimination process in which the 25 finalists were gradually culled from 1,500 would-bees, and the subsequent weeks of filming when Lim was housed with other contestants in an undisclosed location and forbidden physical contact with the “outside world”, including her family and fiancé. As one half of a mortgage-paying couple, she also took a big risk on 11 weeks’ unpaid leave from her work.

It’s not difficult to identify the origins of this character. Her paternal grandparents moved for a better life from China to Malaysia, where her father worked for three years just to save enough money for the airfare to New Zealand to attend university. Rationality also runs in the family: her father and brother are both civil engineers and her mother is a computer programmer.

New Zealand-born Lim spent seven years back in Malaysia with her family and credits the experience with not only broadening her palate, but also her mind.

“I’m really lucky to have experienced both cultures in-depth. Food-wise it opened up culinary horizons because you’ve got the Malay, Chinese, Indian and Portuguese influences.

“I became very familiar with a lot of Southeast Asian ingredients and I include them in my cooking over here.

“I also love the Malaysian lifestyle, which is very family-oriented, and I think I’m able to get on with people from a wide variety of backgrounds because of my time there. I feel at home with New Zealand Asians who have migrated here.”

When the family returned to Auckland, the 13-year-old Lim discovered “food television” in the guise of Jamie Oliver’s series *The Naked Chef*. She identified with Oliver’s “honest” food and irreverent approach, and decided she would one day feature in a show called “Food in the Nude”.

“Even when I was young I had the same concept as now,” Lim explains. “I used to think why do you need a packet of flavoured rice when you can throw some spices into rice and cook it up

yourself? That was the idea behind 'Food in the Nude' – it was about not having to use food in packets dressed up with additives and preservatives."

In Lim's family, however, a university education was considered mandatory. Nutrition was the discipline closest to cooking so, in 2005, Lim headed south to the University of Otago and Hayward College. She spent a year in the college – where she missed cooking "terribly" – and then flatted.

After spending her placement year in Christchurch, she and fiancé Carlos returned to Auckland where she began work as a dietitian at the Auckland Diabetes Centre. It was here her "second" education began.

"I was pretty confident I could change people's lives," recalls Lim. "I had all the knowledge in the world about how different nutrients are needed for this and that, and how they affect your body, blood glucose and cholesterol.

"But I got burned out trying to convince people with information and not getting the results.

"I realised that it's not just about the nutrients we eat, but rather an entire host of factors, including *how* we eat.

"Eating a breakfast cereal that has added vitamins, minerals and fibre is not going to make you healthy, unfortunately. If a person thinks they're being healthy by eating a bucket-load of that cereal with artificial sweetener and trim milk, I'd say to them why don't you just have some oats with some fruit and nuts?

"If you like the taste of full cream milk, go for that – I do: I think that trim stuff is like water. Watch your portion size, sit down rather than eating in your car or at your desk, and take 10 to 15 minutes to enjoy it.

"I changed my whole focus and my patients were incredibly receptive. With some people you really could change

their mindsets and their lives, and they were so grateful. I'd see big results ... I'm talking 20 kilos."

Nadia's *Masterchef* win put a temporary hold on her work with the Auckland Diabetes Centre, but she is still involved as an advocate and intends to re-commence clinics part-time this year.

"Diabetes already affects 10 per cent of the population and by 2025 almost a quarter of the population will have pre-diabetes or diabetes," says Lim, who has seen the effects of diabetes first-hand and describes the economic cost to the country as "phenomenal".

This background informs her cooking philosophy, but not in the way some people think.

"My food is certainly not trying to be low fat, low sugar, low salt – which is what a lot of people think when they hear I'm a dietitian," says Lim, who believes nutrition has become overly complicated, making people grapple with the likes of antioxidants or glycemic indexes.

"Instead of making nutrition complicated, it should be very simple. Like eat your colours. Eat together round a table. Snack from nature rather than from a vending machine. Eat food that comes from the ground, sea or sky.

"I want to show people that eating well – I don't like calling it healthy eating because it conjures up images of rabbit food in people's minds – means enjoying your food.

"If you're going to look after your health for the rest of your life then you may as well enjoy it."

This "eating well" philosophy is showcased in Lim's forthcoming cookbook *Nadia's Kitchen*, which takes a seasonal approach – "letting the produce dictate what you cook" – to producing a range of complete balanced meals following her simple, uncomplicated approach to eating well.

Oriental pork belly with a swede mash and smoked salmon waldorf salad are a long way from the \$1 of hot chips Lim would occasionally fill up on in her poorer moments when waiting for the next StudyLink payment, but she wouldn't change any part of her student days.

Apart from her academic credentials, she credits her Otago experience with giving her independence, tolerance of people and first-rate budgeting skills.

She does laugh about the lack of cooking skills she encountered among some of her flatmates, however, some of whom had evidently never even peeled a carrot.

"One day my flatmate asked me how to cook frozen vegetables. I was, like, are you serious?"

Lim believes that food television is playing an important part in educating today's younger generations about cooking and fostering in them a passion for eating well.

"The biggest fans of *Masterchef* are kids," says Lim. "There's huge interest among kids in cooking. When those kids get to university age they're not going to have to rely on 2-minute noodles and instant pasta snacks.

"Now that I think about it," says Lim. "I honestly think *MasterChef* could help change New Zealanders' health down the track."

And, if Lim has anything to do with it, it will certainly succeed.



Nadia Lim: "Instead of making nutrition complicated, it should be very simple."
Photo: Ken Downie

"I want to show people that eating well ... means enjoying your food. If you're going to look after your health for the rest of your life then you may as well enjoy it."

RWC: an opportunity missed

Tourism was a major justification underpinning the Labour Government-backed bid to host the 2011 Rugby World Cup (RWC). Such thinking is commonly associated with major sports events.

The British and Irish Lions' tour (June–July 2005) apparently attracted over 20,000 Lions' supporters during the winter tourism low season, injecting direct tourist expenditure that was “widely distributed across the cities and towns of New Zealand due to the spread of matches across the country” (Covec, October 2005: 1). RWC is the third largest global sports event as measured in cumulative television audience and attendance.

The GDP and employment impacts of such events are of considerable interest. So, too, are enhanced destination image and profile in key international visitor markets. The Ministry of Tourism noted in March 2010 that RWC 2011 would provide New Zealand with “an unprecedented opportunity to promote itself globally; and to attract a large number of high yielding international visitors to New Zealand”. Given the recent challenges of

global economic recession and natural disasters, RWC 2011 could not have come at a better time.

So how did we perform?

There is little doubt that the event itself was a great success. It has been widely acknowledged as a rare moment of national historic significance. International visitors in September 2011 increased by 26.3 per cent on the previous year. Spectacular sporting action blended with the celebration of Māori and Pacific cultures; the interplay of fans from New Zealand and around the world was transformative for all involved. It was unfortunate that the Tongan, Samoan and Irish teams (and their fans) narrowly missed progressing further in the tournament!

The action and atmosphere of the event was projected in real time to global audiences through television and internet broadcasts and via media reporting. Personal experiences were shared via Facebook, Twitter and other social media. Long term “legacy” benefits in the form of infrastructure investment and stadium development were captured in many centres.

The result, according to the Tourism Industry Association, New Zealand, is that RWC 2011 “turned what was looking like a flat year into a growth year” for many tourism businesses (TIANZ December 2011, np).

However, it is also true that many other tourism businesses in New Zealand experienced the displacement effects often associated with major sports events. Tourist attractions and activities that appeal to independent travellers generally benefited. Attractions that feature in pre-planned inbound tour itineraries suffered due to competition for limited accommodation during the timeframe of the event.

Price gouging caused reputational damage – Australian rugby fans threatened to fly in and out on match day to side-step inflated accommodation costs. Many restaurants and bars stood empty while fan zones bulged with partygoers. Traditional patterns of domestic tourism were greatly disrupted, particularly the school holiday and skier markets. Indeed NZTIA (December 2011) reports that approximately one third of its members described their business performance during the weeks of RWC 2011 as either “worse” or “much worse” than normal.

The upshot is that, for many, the lofty economic goals of RWC were almost certainly overestimated.

Economic goals aside, perhaps one particular opportunity was missed. Following the seismic events in Christchurch in September 2010

“RWC emerged as an opportunity to contribute to the rebuilding of Christchurch, and to revive the regional tourism economy that is so important to Canterbury and the wider South Island.”



Professor James Higham:

“It was unfortunate that Christchurch and the South Island were excluded from the latter part of RWC 2011.”

Photo: Alan Dove

and February 2011, RWC emerged as an opportunity to contribute to the rebuilding of Christchurch, and to revive the regional tourism economy that is so important to Canterbury and the wider South Island. More importantly, it offered a golden opportunity to boost the battered morale of the people of Christchurch – such a stronghold of domestic and All Blacks rugby in New Zealand.

The reallocation of matches away from Christchurch and the relocation of quarter-finals from Christchurch to the North Island was clearly justified on financial grounds – given that ticket sales were required to offset the significant financial risks that arise from the International Rugby Board’s RWC hosting arrangements. It was unfortunate that Christchurch and the South Island were excluded from the latter part of RWC 2011. While temporary seating was constructed in many stadia to boost attendance and ticket sales (including Eden Park) more could, perhaps, have been done to retain games in the Canterbury region.

The latter half of the tournament – and, therefore, much of the associated tourist activity – took place entirely in the North Island. Consequently, the “wide distribution of economic benefits in towns and cities across New Zealand” that occurred in 2005 was not repeated in 2011.

An opportunity did exist to boost the morale of the people of Christchurch, as well as the regional tourism economy of Canterbury and the wider South Island. It is unfortunate that the opportunity was not captured.

PROFESSOR JAMES HIGHAM
Department of Tourism

Diabetes self-management

Between 80,000 and 200,000 New Zealanders are estimated to be living with diabetes, but this number is expected to grow significantly in the future.

Maintaining good glucose levels is paramount for preventing the progress of the disease. However, a substantial number of people with type 2 diabetes do not maintain their glucose levels within the recommended range.

Researchers from the Centre for Postgraduate Nursing Studies are undertaking a research study to explore ways of supporting people to better self-manage their glucose levels.

They are recruiting almost 200 Cantabrians with diabetes and testing the effectiveness of three interventions.

Associate Professor Lisa Whitehead explains that one group is receiving the usual care - a yearly check-up with a GP nurse and a review of glycaemic control and lifestyle factors every three to six months.

A second group receives education regarding nutrition, blood, glucose, self-monitoring and medication administration.

A third group receives education, plus innovative ACT (acceptance and commitment therapy) training, which focuses on accepting the physical and emotional distress associated with the condition.

Whitehead says it is thought that teaching acceptance helps people to realistically address their condition and enables them to go on to focus on positive steps to control it.

Results are expected to be available in April.



Associate Professor Lisa Whitehead: Teaching acceptance helps people to realistically address their condition and ... to focus on positive steps to control it.

The passage of time

An Otago father and son combination is set to rewrite the origins of civilisations in Southeast Asia and China.

Professor Charles Higham (Anthropology) has been studying the prehistory of this region for more than four decades.

One of his greatest challenges has been dating his finds to build a picture of social change over the millennia.

Until now, radiocarbon dating has not provided sufficient accuracy for sound conclusions. But with new techniques developed at Oxford's Radiocarbon Accelerator Unit, where Higham's son Tom is deputy director, the margins of error have been substantially reduced.

Professor Tom Higham completed his BA and master's at Otago before a doctorate and an appointment at Waikato's radiocarbon dating laboratory. After being invited to Oxford, he joined the team developing ultrafiltration techniques that ensure the purity of samples being radiocarbon dated.

This makes it possible to pinpoint dates - even as far back as 3,000 years ago - to within plus or minus 25 years, or a couple of human life spans.

While Tom Higham uses the new technology in Europe to date Neanderthals, Charles Higham will be applying it to his lifetime

study of China and Southeast Asia, now with the help of a three-year Marsden Grant.

"With ultrafiltration we now have the opportunity to sort out the basic chronology of the last 5,000 years," says Charles Higham.

"Matching that timing against the research we already have should give us a handle on how quickly prehistoric societies changed and civilisations emerged."



Professor Charles Higham: "With ultrafiltration we now have the opportunity to sort out the basic chronology of the last 5,000 years."

Knowledge shared

A five-year project looking at the colonisation of Murihiku (the region of the South Island south of the Waitaki River) has revealed the importance of literacy and the sharing of knowledge among Kāi Tahu and Pākehā settlers.

The project, led by Professor Tony Ballantyne (History), aimed to chart Kāi Tahu's encounter with European learning and examine the development of colonial knowledge. With Marsden funding and drawing on a wealth of material from local archives and libraries, the project has so far produced more than 80 research outputs.

One of the key findings was the rapid uptake in literacy and appreciation for words on paper among Kāi Tahu as early as the 1840s as a result of their interaction with early whalers and sealers. Kāi Tahu quickly adapted to the use of paper for the dissemination of their own knowledge and actively engaged with new forms of knowledge they encountered as the Pākehā population expanded.

Ballantyne says the colonial settlements seem to have been obsessed by knowledge, with letters, postal records, newspaper distribution records and pamphlets indicating a thirst for useful knowledge, intellectual stimulation and "mutual improvement".

At first, Kāi Tahu shared their knowledge of the land with new settlers, but as the equal footing between local hapū and the

settlers shifted in favour of the newcomers, the open exchange of information, particularly about natural resources, diminished.

While developing knowledge about the landscape was central to colonisation, Ballantyne says the colonists placed real value on learning. "They really believed reading and writing changed the world."



Professor Tony Ballantyne: One of the key findings was the rapid uptake in literacy ... among Kāi Tahu as a result of their interaction with early whalers and sealers.

Science/art interface

Science and art may seem worlds apart, but Dr Jenny Rock (Science Communication) is working to bring them together in a way that goes beyond simple aesthetics.

"There's a really exciting and not often talked about cognitive role - how the way art can make us think, then affects our actions."

Rock says both education theory and neurophysiology show that being sensorily engaged with something leads to better cognitive processing and retention.

"It boils down to our physical, aesthetic and sensory interaction with the world - texture, weight, temperature and colour - and how these things affect how we think, how we process and how we value things."

Much of her own research as a biologist investigated temperature adaption - from fish and crustaceans in the Arctic and Antarctic, to geckos in Central Otago - understanding how non-mammalian organisms adapt to temperature change.

"There is no empathy between mammal and non-mammal in terms of temperature. We don't understand that 2-4°C for an insect, fish or lizard has enormous effect on how long they take to digest something or how fast they can move or grow or reproduce," she says.

"The question is how do we communicate this in a way that

people can really engage with it?"

For Rock, this is a key challenge for climate change communication, and integrating the arts and humanities with science is critical to the solution.

"When you recognise that aesthetics are important in the formation of the paradigms and process of science as well as art, then the barriers come down and you have reached productive common ground for problem-solving."



Dr Jenny Rock: "When you recognise that aesthetics are important in the formation of the paradigms and process of science as well as art, then the barriers come down ..."

Battling bacteria

Bacteria that thrive in extreme environments are providing important insights for a new generation of drugs to fight old enemies such as tuberculosis (TB).

Professor Greg Cook (Microbiology) has been awarded a James Cook Research Fellowship to explore the molecular biology of “extremophile” bacteria, which live in environments too extreme for normal life.

“If you look at disease-causing organisms such as pathogenic bacteria, you find these micro-organisms are also surviving in extreme environments. Our bodies have many defence mechanisms that are used to kill pathogens - so it can also be considered an extreme environment.”

Each year TB kills two million people, with 10 million new cases worldwide.

“The greatest threat to human health is the lack of new drugs to combat extensively drug-resistant TB strains. We have reached a point where we have no new drugs in our arsenal so there is a desperate need to discover new ones.”

The focus is on understanding how to disrupt the metabolism of disease-causing bacteria by targeting ATP synthase - the process by which they create ATP, an energy-carrier that powers

all living cells. Cook was involved in identifying the essential role of an enzyme already being targeted by a new class of drug, but his team is now focusing on understanding the enzyme’s molecular structure so they can improve such drugs.

“If we can understand how bacteria are metabolising in host tissue, we can design drugs that target that process. So this is the new area for drug discovery - looking at metabolism as a drug target.”



Professor Greg Cook: “We have reached a point where we have no new drugs in our arsenal so there is a desperate need to discover new ones.”

Reticence in raising AOD

Research by the Department of Primary Health Care and General Practice in Wellington has revealed that some GPs don’t readily raise the issue of alcohol and drug problems with their patients.

The study, recently published in the international journal *Family Practice*, reflects international findings and analyses the interactions of 15 GPs with 56 male and female patients, in which dialogue relating to alcohol and other drugs (AOD) occurred.

AOD-related key words were used in one third of 171 video-recorded consultations in the wider data set, although extended discussion was not common. When those key words were found, some AOD-related dialogue did take place in 75 per cent of consultations - that is, in almost 25 per cent (42/171) of all consultations.

Researcher Dr Maria Stubbe says a key reason for AOD matters not being raised is that patients come to GPs with specific health problems, usually not directly related to alcohol and other drugs.

“This means that in relatively short consultation periods AOD matters tend not to be the clinical priority, even though they may have relevance.

“Another reason for lack of extended discussion in this area is some GPs are not used to questioning patients about alcohol and drug abuse.”

The study finds many GPs want to maintain a relationship with their patients and their family, and can be reluctant to raise the issue of drug or alcohol dependency, unless it is raised by the patient.

Other factors contributing to the lack of AOD discussion include the management of routine screening time, funding for primary care, referred service availability for AOD needs, eligibility criteria and waiting lists.



Dr Maria Stubbe: “In relatively short consultation periods AOD matters tend not to be the clinical priority, even though they may have relevance.”

Are old males still good males?

It is one of nature's little paradoxes, but it seems that in many species females show a preference for older males.

Dr Sheri Johnson (Anatomy) who has been awarded a Fast-Start Marsden grant for her fertility research, says the theory is that older males are preferred because they have proven survival ability.

"So females mating with those males should also reap the benefits of those good genes."

But, as males age, they also accumulate mutations and their fertility and sperm quality decline, something that is apparent in human fertility.

It is a contentious area because the results of female preference experiments have varied. So, to get a clearer picture, Johnson is beginning a 28-month longitudinal study using zebrafish to track male sperm quality over time to see how reproductive success changes.

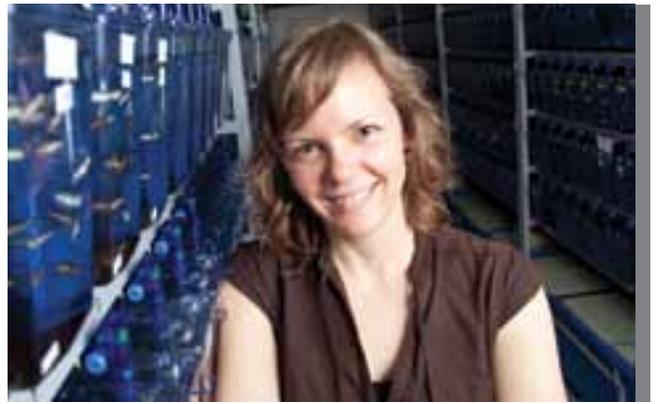
At the end of the experiment, choice tests will be used to see whether the females prefer older or younger males, or show no preference. In vitro fertilisation will then be used to see if it relates to the competitive success of their sperm.

The longitudinal study will also examine factors such as mating history and the impact on sperm quality for males who

have stored their sperm. One of the other innovative aspects of the research will be the use of molecular assays to explore what might be responsible for sperm function decline.

Johnson says the number of human fathers over the age of 35 has increased 16 per cent since 1980 so understanding how fertility changes with age is increasingly relevant.

"This applies directly to understanding human infertility issues which is, for me, one of the important parts of the research."



Dr Sheri Johnson: "Tests will be used to see whether the females prefer older or younger males, or show no preference."

True colours

For many southern rugby fans, 2011 was a year of two halves.

On the plus side, the All Blacks nailed rugby's greatest prize. On the negative side, the Highlanders' abrupt change from traditional regional colours to green induced widespread angst.

The Highlanders' board asked Dr John Guthrie and Associate Professor Ken Deans (Marketing) to survey fans to find out why the change of strip generated such vitriol.

Their online survey attracted more than 2,000 responses, some 85 per cent predictably in favour of retaining blue, gold and maroon as the team colours.

The big surprise to the board was the passion of the fans' reaction to the change.

"With a new team coach and a new stadium, the board felt a new strip was the way to go," says Guthrie. "What they didn't take into account was that the fans felt they should have been consulted."

While the survey was in part a peace offering, it also gave Guthrie and Deans insight into the thinking of supporters.

"There are a number of motivational factors driving fans' involvement with their team," says Guthrie.

"Top of the list is performance, but colours and venue are right up there in terms of what is important to a fan. If you play

around with those, you increase the potential for fans to pull away."

While the Highlanders' board hopes to use the feedback to help keep the fans on side, the researchers will be analysing wider variables from the questionnaire.

Footnote: As an incentive to take part in the survey, there was an optional draw for a signed 2012 Highlanders jersey - colour unspecified.



Dr John Guthrie and Associate Professor Ken Deans: "... colours and venue are right up there in terms of what is important to a fan."

Ambitious analysis

What makes one person a go-getting type A personality, while others are more content to cruise?

Dr Kristin Hillman (Psychology) is trying to find out, with a three-year Marsden Fast-Start grant to study the neuroscience behind ambitious behaviour.

Hillman is focusing on a region of the brain's prefrontal cortex that could hold the key - the anterior cingulate cortex (ACC).

"We're looking at how the brain makes decisions, particularly decisions that involve effort," she says. "What is it in the brain that differentiates type A and type B personalities?"

Early work with rats suggests that, at a neural level, the ACC has a strong role to play in influencing competitive behaviour such as working harder for appropriate rewards.

"We're trying to identify if this region of the brain really is the lynch pin of ambitious behaviour and, if it is, does its function translate across a range of different behaviours?"

Hillman believes this is the first time this kind of activity has been studied from a neuroscientific standpoint.

With a doctorate in pharmacology, she sees potential for her research to go far beyond expanding our knowledge of the brain.

"If this works out the way we think it might, it could highlight new directions for future drug development and potentially valuable clinical applications.

"Drugs could possibly be developed to stimulate the ACC in clinically depressed patients who don't want to do anything or, on the flip side, mitigate the behaviour of obsessive-compulsive disorder patients who are putting too much effort into futile activities."



Dr Kristin Hillman: "What is it in the brain that differentiates type A and type B personalities?"

Marketing value

As the economic and social repercussions of the 2008 financial crisis continue, Associate Professor of Marketing David Ballantyne argues that changes to traditional business thinking are essential, particularly as the rapid growth of social media provides new challenges.

"While the most successful businesses are engaging with customers, focusing on value given and received, too many large corporations are still thinking in terms of 'business as usual' with a short-term view of profits and productivity."

Ballantyne and his colleagues in the Business School argue for business practice based on service and value, such as the service-dominant logic pioneered by American Professors Steve Vargo and Bob Lusch. This was the subject of the third *Otago Forum*, sponsored by the Business School in December.

"Value is determined when customers interact with business, or use purchased goods - when goods serve us," Ballantyne explains. "All business transactions are really exchanges of mutual service. Value is not embedded in the goods purchased, but is a judgement made in their use."

While this concept appears to promote a return to old-fashioned values, Ballantyne says today's social and business environment is more complex. "The effectiveness of traditional

consumer advertising is diminishing, while the growth of social media, such as Facebook and Twitter, is challenging the supplier-dominant communications balance in business relations.

"Marketing managers can, of course, continue to make exciting promises to attract customers, but if these promises are not fulfilled consistently, Twitter and YouTube will report on it. The bigger the defaulting firm, the more likely its brand value and corporate reputation will catapult into the hands of social media."



Associate Professor David Ballantyne: "Marketing managers can, of course, continue to make exciting promises to attract customers, but if these promises are not fulfilled consistently, Twitter and YouTube will report on it."

Defining spirituality

A University of Otago study offers a definition of spirituality to help health-care professionals understand its importance for those facing sickness and death in an age when terminal illnesses are often prolonged.

“What is spirituality? Evidence from a New Zealand Hospice Study”, by Dr Richard Egan, Associate Professors Chrystal Jaye and Joanne Baxter, and Professors Rob McGee, Peter Herbison and Rod MacLeod, has been published in the journal *Mortality*.

Egan (Preventive and Social Medicine) says spirituality has largely been ignored within medicine and health care, and yet this study shows it is important to a vast majority of people at end of life.

“Spirituality means different things to different people,” he says. “It may include a search for one’s ultimate beliefs and values, a sense of meaning and purpose in life, a sense of connectedness, identity and awareness, and, for some, religion. It may be understood at an individual or population level.”

The study is based on 52 interviews and a survey of 642 patients, most near the end of their lives. Researchers also spoke to family members and staff from 25 hospices. It will provide a platform from which more research will be conducted.

“For example, we don’t know much about the spiritual care of the tens of thousands of people in aged care.

“Hospitals often don’t have enough time or money to worry about spirituality and most of us die in hospital or aged care. However, by ignoring the spiritual dimension there are whole aspects of person-centred care that are missed; needs can be missed.”



Dr Richard Egan: This study shows that spirituality is important to a vast majority of people at end of life.

Planning and engaging

Since the Resource Management Act 1991 expedited the way for iwi management plans, the effects have been vastly different around the country. The Department of Geography’s Associate Professor Michelle Thompson-Fawcett, in conjunction with Jacinta Ruru (Law) and Gail Tipa (Kāi Tahu ki Otago), has been examining the plans’ effectiveness.

“Iwi management plans have grown hugely in number, but they are diverse in the sorts of issues they cover, their audience and whether they sit at a philosophical level or get into detail.”

Thompson-Fawcett became involved after southern rūnanga began reflecting on the process of developing iwi management plans and whether the plans were achieving the outcomes iwi wanted, given the resources required to develop them.

“There was also the question of whether the outcomes were being achieved in a way that was consistent with traditionally-based, but contemporary, iwi modes of operation, or were plans too tied to a Western style of thinking and working?”

“We found that the plans are very useful for iwi in terms of setting down their priorities and working out processes of developing priorities. They’re also useful for establishing a practice of engagement between iwi and local authorities, and other environmental managers and resource users.”

Thompson-Fawcett says results are best when relationships between iwi and local authorities are strong and the commitment from local authorities is high.

“What it all boiled down to in the end was the issue of relationships. Iwi management plans can be a really useful tool, but the value of them is highly dependent on the kind of ongoing relationships that are established.”



Associate Professor Michelle Thompson-Fawcett: “Iwi management plans can be a really useful tool, but the value of them is highly dependent on the kind of ongoing relationships that are established.”

Love of the Irish

Australian-born Peter Kuch, the inaugural Eamon Cleary Professor of Irish Studies, came to Dunedin tasked with establishing Irish Studies in a town that “prides itself on its Scottish heritage”. Despite the challenges, Kuch has successfully created Australasia’s only programme offering an undergraduate minor in Irish Studies.

Growing up in Gippsland, Australia’s idyllic farming region in Victoria, where unspoilt beaches, lakes and mountains frame a rich rural community, you might expect farming to be in Professor Peter Kuch’s blood. And it is.

But the only son of the youngest of a family of five farming brothers had other plans for his future. The young Peter loved to read.

“My escape was to say I was going to do medicine,” says Kuch, the inaugural Eamon Cleary Professor of Irish Studies.

“I started first year, but felt uncomfortable and left. I was very young. I said to my parents, ‘I think it would be good if I had a year overseas’. My mother’s English and my father’s ancestry is German, so they agreed.”

The rest is history – or at least, history in the making.

On arriving in London, Kuch cashed his return ticket and, after a stint travelling around Europe, applied and was accepted at the University of Wales to study English literature.

“While I was there, I read Richard Ellmann’s biography of James Joyce and thoroughly enjoyed it,” Kuch says.

“The works of Yeats, Synge, O’Casey and Heaney also proved exciting discoveries.

“I love that lively intersection between individual lives and language, and the politics, the history and the culture of the day that great Irish literature offers.”

After finishing an honours degree at Wales, Kuch went to Oxford to complete an MLitt and, later, a doctorate, studying with Richard Ellmann – who instilled in the young academic a further love of Irish literature.

While working at Newcastle University, Kuch was invited to give a lecture at the Princess Grace Irish Library in Monaco – where he was offered a job at the University of Caen in France. A year later, and another guest lecture – this time at the Australian National University – Kuch was offered a visiting fellowship. Clearly, he is an impressive speaker.

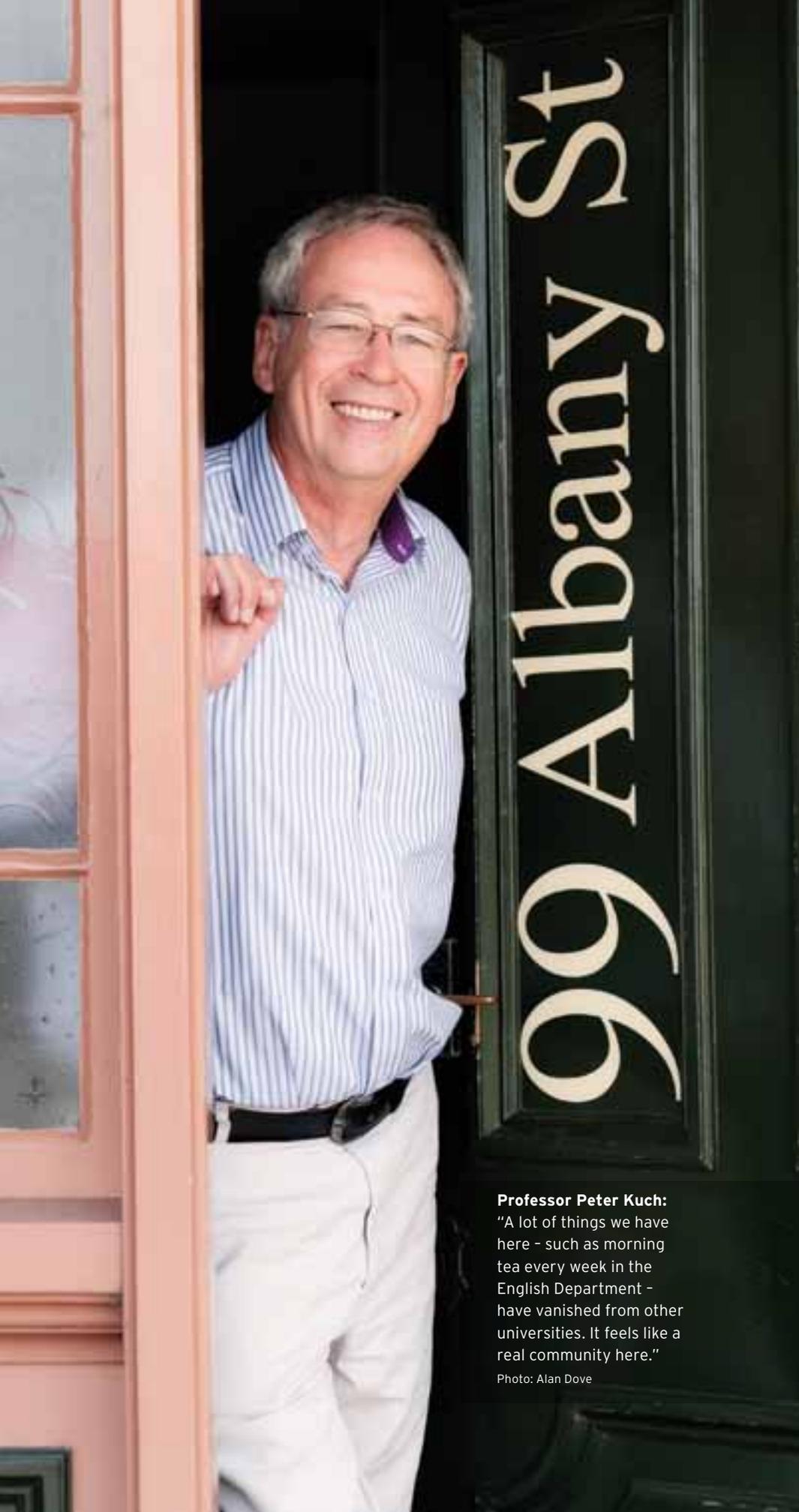
His next job – at the University of New South Wales – lasted 16 years, where he began an Irish Studies programme (officially launched by then Irish President Mary Robinson at the Opera House) which, in addition to courses in literature and history, featured an Irish Film Festival in Sydney and Melbourne.

In an all-time coup, he also managed to secure the rights to perform the play written by Oscar Wilde’s grandson, Merlin Holland, on Wilde’s famous trial. Staged at Sydney’s Justice and Police Museum to celebrate Wilde’s 150th anniversary in 2004, Kuch was able to assemble a formidable cast. Merlin Holland played his grandfather. Australian QC Francis Douglas uncannily a distant relative of Wilde’s enemy, the Marquess of Queensberry, played prosecutor Edward Carson. Justice John O’Meally played the presiding judge, Justice Henn Collins.

“The phones jammed within an hour of tickets going on sale. It was just an incredible event,” says Kuch. “It is one of the highlights of my career, so far.”

Then to Dunedin, where Kuch was attracted by the challenge offered by the newly-established Eamon Cleary Chair in Irish Studies. That, and the University’s culture and “magnificent library” – further improved by a generous \$5,000 donation from the Dunedin University of the Third Age in the centre’s first year for books on Irish Studies – proved irresistible.

“The first night we were here, we were in the Executive Residence and it was O



Professor Peter Kuch:
“A lot of things we have here - such as morning tea every week in the English Department - have vanished from other universities. It feels like a real community here.”

Photo: Alan Dove

Week. It was bitterly cold. There was a nasty wind blowing and the students were out partying and shouting in the street. I said to Liz, ‘I have to come here. This is great.’

“In many ways, it’s like Oxford – a small collegial, university town. A lot of things we have here – such as morning tea every week in the English Department – have vanished from other universities. It feels like a real community here.”

If every academic’s motto is to “publish or be damned”, Kuch is far from ruin. The author of some 50 refereed articles, book chapters and books on Yeats, Joyce, Eliot, Irish theatre, Irish and Australian film, literary theory, Australian literature and Australian history, Kuch is also commissioning editor for *The Irish Studies Review* and is on the editorial board of several other prestigious journals.

For fun – and the extra challenge – he also organised an Irish Film Festival in Auckland and Dunedin, and still finds time to host student classes every year for dinner.

With a career filled with such prestigious academic conquests, it’s no wonder that Kuch’s appointment was mentioned in the Irish Parliament and that he received letters of congratulation from Seamus Heaney and other great Irish poets and writers.

But, despite his success, being an Australian starting an Irish Studies programme in a Kiwi town that prides itself on its Scottish heritage has proved a challenge.

“As I said to the then Vice-Chancellor and Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Humanities, ‘I can come in and say this is how we

It is also one of the few Irish Studies departments in the world with its own building - perfectly located with a bottle store, pub, fish-and-chip shop and pizza joint all within easy reach.

should do this' but I would prefer to find out what people would like to do. So, we called everyone together and asked them. And that's how the Irish Studies programme and the centre came into being."

What resulted was Australasia's only Irish Studies Department offering an undergraduate minor in Irish Studies – officially opened in 2007 by Irish President Mary McAleese, who received an Honorary Doctorate from the University.

It is also one of the few Irish Studies departments in the world with its own building – perfectly located, Kuch laughs, with a bottle store, pub, fish-and-chip shop and pizza joint all within easy reach.

When the centre was extended to include Scottish Studies – with Liam McIlvanney being named the inaugural Stuart Professor of Scottish Studies and Angela McCarthy appointed as Professor of Scottish and Irish History – it became the Centre for Irish and Scottish Studies.

For a student population of some 22,000, appointing three professors and granting them a building for their centre, signals a major investment by the University and the community. It's an investment we are keen to honour, says Kuch.

He says the support from the Irish Consul-General, Rodney Walshe, fellow academics, staff and the community

has been inspiring, while getting to know Irish businessman Eamon Cleary – who, through the University's Leading Thinker's initiative, generously endowed the Chair of Irish Studies – has been a highlight.

Above all, the student response has been fantastic. Not only does Irish Studies have a vital postgraduate culture, but it has a strong undergraduate following, with an average of 25 to 30 students in any one year enrolled in each of the nine papers that make up the minor in Irish Studies. For example, Joyce's *Ulysses*, once strictly the domain of only the most dedicated literature student, is now being studied by pupils majoring in medicine, sciences and even commerce.

"*Ulysses* is generally studied in terms of its experimentation with form, with an emphasis on theory – and we certainly cover that. But it's also a book about how a husband copes with his wife having an affair. About how a husband and wife re-establish their relationship when they have lost a son. About how they cope with a daughter gaining her independence – the empty nest syndrome! It's about male friendship, about how a person copes with bigotry and prejudice, death, ageing, doubt, feelings of inadequacy, about how we respond to the pressures of advertising and consumer culture, the bustling

business of the modern world. All of these things relate to people's lives."

Kuch has also recently graduated his first postgraduate student. Within a few years, five others will complete doctorates in a range of subjects – from Irish literature to music – while his postdoctoral fellow has just completed a book.

So, what will the next five years bring for a centre already punching above its weight?

"I would much rather reinforce sensible growth with consolidation. I would like to be able to come back in 25 years and find the centre, not only bigger, but as strong and as vital as it is presently. The brief is very much growth with consolidation.

"That's about improving opportunities for students, such as named scholarships for students, including travel scholarships. For instance, the more named prizes I can attract for essays in courses, the better.

"We've had a great five years. We want to continue to build on what we have achieved so far."

AMIE RICHARDSON

Students volunteer for islands clinics

University of Otago dental students will once again be giving up their mid-year holidays this year to take part in a volunteer dental-care project in the Cook Islands.

Six senior students were selected from more than 40 applicants to accompany their supervisors, Dr Jonathan Leichter and Dr Colleen Murray, to the island group. They will be providing free dental care, donating dental supplies and taking part in an oral health-care promotion programme for the people of Rarotonga, Mauke and Aitutaki. This programme has been running for seven years and has established a long-term partnership with our Pacific neighbours.

The Cook Islands has a population of approximately 12,000 people and there is a high prevalence of periodontal disease, dental decay, diabetes and cardiovascular disease. Geographically, the islands are widely dispersed and access to dental care is limited. The outer islands have no resident dentist and infrequent visits from dental therapists.

Leichter, the group leader and a senior lecturer at the School of Dentistry, and Murray, a professional practice fellow, visited the Cook Islands as part of a World Health Organization-sponsored continuing education programme for dentist and dental therapists in 2004. They established contacts with the Director of Dental Services and the Ministry of Health in order to establish a co-operative effort between the University of Otago and the Cook Islands.

Liaising with the Director of Dental Services for the islands, a framework for this project was created. Relying on donations from charitable organisations and the New Zealand dental community, Leichter says the project has treated innumerable children and adults, has donated tens of thousands of dollars in



Otago dentistry student Jessica Po with one of her young Cook Islands patients.

supplies and has provided health-care education for the children of the Cook Islands.

"We want this to be an enduring collaboration. We want to leave the Cook Islands this year better off in terms of supplies and in terms of dental education. I hope we can continue our work on an annual basis," he says. "Students from next year's senior class are already submitting expressions of interest in being part of this project next year."

This year's six students were selected on their clinical, academic and personal skills. Leichter says they are all excited and feel privileged to have been chosen for this unique opportunity. "Past student volunteers say that volunteering in the Cook Islands was the highlight of their dental school experience. They have all expressed a strong interest in being involved with future volunteer projects."

Everyone wins with this project.

"The students gain invaluable clinical experience. They have an amazing cultural immersion experience that allows them

to provide care in a culturally-sensitive manner for the rest of their working careers.

"The Cook Islanders receive excellent free dental care and oral health-care education from our students under the supervision of their tutors and the Cook Islands Dental Service receives much-needed supplies and equipment to allow them to carry on treatment when we return to New Zealand," says Leichter.

"I am able to provide a series of continuing education programmes to the few remaining dental providers in the Cook Islands, to allow them to better treat their citizens. And lastly, New Zealand wins, as we have better trained, more experienced, and community-minded dentists who are likely to be active in volunteer projects for the rest of their working lives."

Otago staff shine in national research awards

The outstanding achievements of four Otago researchers were nationally recognised by the presentation of medals last November, including New Zealand's highest science and technology honour, the Rutherford Medal.

The awards were presented at the Royal Society of New Zealand 2011 Research Honours event at Parliament.

Professor **Christine Winterbourn** (Pathology, University of Otago, Christchurch) was awarded the Rutherford Medal for seminal discoveries in free radical biology, promotion of rigorous standards in research and fostering excellent scientific education (see story pages 12-15). This is the second year running that an Otago researcher has been awarded the medal, with Professor Warren Tate (Biochemistry) winning it in 2010.

Emeritus Professor **Jim Flynn** (Politics) received the Royal Society's inaugural Humanities Aronui Medal for his work in political philosophy, with particular recognition of his world-renowned work on IQ that led to his discovery of what has become known as the "Flynn Effect", the phenomenon of IQ scores increasing over time in many countries.

Dr **Chris Pemberton** (Medicine, University of Otago, Christchurch) was presented with the Health Research Council of New Zealand's Liley Medal. The medal recognises research that has made



an outstanding contribution to health and medical sciences. In a paper published in the leading cardiovascular research journal,

Circulation, Dr Pemberton and colleagues uncovered evidence of a new biomarker for early-stage myocardial damage.

Professor **Robert Poulin** (Zoology) was awarded the Royal Society's



Hutton Medal for excellence in animal sciences. Professor Poulin was cited for his leading research in the field of parasitic diseases, especially for his work in ecological

parasitology, an area of particular relevance to New Zealand's marine and freshwater ecosystems.

Salvation Army and University sign MOU

The University and the Salvation Army have signed a memorandum of understanding aimed at ensuring the agency's social services are based on the best possible national and international research.

The agreement will see some of Otago's leading academics team up with the Salvation Army to evaluate its current social programmes, provide rigorous international research-based evidence for those programmes, and help inform the policy debate around social deprivation, alcohol and gambling, mental health and family violence.

Salvation Army Territorial Commander Commissioner Don Bell says the University of Otago was chosen because of the "independence and research prowess of its professorial, research and academic staff", and because its achievement in the areas of social, health and theological research aligned closely with the work of the Salvation Army's social programme department.

Pacific Research Protocol

The University has launched a new Pacific Research Protocol that sets out guidelines researchers should consider when they interact and collaborate with Pacific peoples as part of their projects.

The document is available to all Otago researchers and for other New Zealand universities to use, if they wish. Its primary purpose is to ensure that research is conducted in a manner that is sensitive to the cultural ways and protocols of individual Pacific communities.

University Vice-Chancellor Professor Harlene Hayne says the guidelines are designed to foster research with Pacific peoples and to maximise the outcomes for both researchers and participants.

"The development of these guidelines represents a significant step forward for our University, at a time when ties between Otago researchers and people in, and from, the Pacific are very strong," Professor Hayne says.

Key points in the document include the need for respect, cultural competency and protection of values, as well as cognisance of the Christian faith.

Otago has a thriving Pacific Research Cluster and Pacific health is taught in all of the health professional courses.

University's stadium presence

Students are now benefiting from the outstanding facilities in the University's recently completed building adjoining Dunedin's new stadium.

The four-storey, Oamaru stone-clad building is located on the western side of the Forsyth Barr Stadium at University Plaza.

As well as being the new home of Unipol Gymnasium and Recreation Centre, and the University of Otago Language Centre and Foundation Year Programme, it also features the family-friendly Plaza



University Plaza Building One adjacent to the Forsyth Barr Stadium.

Café on the ground floor that is open to the public all year round.

The new Unipol facilities are spread over three floors and include two full-sized gymnasiums on the first floor, two smaller gyms on the second floor, changing rooms and fully equipped cardio and weight training areas.

The building has been designed and constructed on environmentally sustainable principles, including features such as solar hot water heating, rain water harvesting, and using certified timber and materials with low environmental impact.

Otago's Marsden funding

Otago researchers gained \$17.8 million to undertake 26 leading-edge projects in last year's Marsden Fund round.

The highly competitive Marsden Fund is regarded as a hallmark of excellence, allowing New Zealand's best researchers to explore their ideas.

For the seventh successive year, Otago researchers gained the largest share of funding available in the round. The research topics they are addressing range from delving into the physics of ultra-cold atoms to critically examining the notion of "informed choice" in young adult smokers.

Eight of the Otago projects are Fast-Start grants designed to support outstanding early-career researchers.

Chair in Neurosurgery

The recruitment search has begun for the recently announced Neurological Foundation Chair in Neurosurgery.

The professorial position will be split evenly between academic work at the University and clinical duties at Dunedin Hospital. Supported by the ANZ National Bank, the *Otago Daily Times* and the *Southland Times*, a public campaign, launched by the Neurological Foundation of New Zealand in conjunction with the University of Otago and Southern DHB, aims to raise \$3 million to fund the position in perpetuity.

Working alongside the recently announced senior lecturer, British neurosurgeon Mr Reuben Johnson, the professor will ensure the continued development and growth of neurosurgery and all neuroscience in Otago and Southland. Last year, an expert panel set up by the government recommended establishing an academic unit for neurosurgery based in Dunedin. Academic units already exist in Canada, the USA, UK and Australia, and the panel hopes a similar New Zealand unit will form the nucleus for an academic neurosurgical centre of excellence here at Otago.

The unit will play an essential role in delivering neurosurgical services to the community and will also add significant value to neurological research in New Zealand. The Neurological Foundation Professor in Neurosurgery will be supported to establish programmes in both laboratory and clinically-based research stemming from Otago, and bring

collaborations with international peers. To donate to the campaign or to find out more, go to www.chairofneurosurgery.org.nz

Appointments

Mr **Philip Kearney** as the University's Director of Development and Alumni Relations. Mr Kearney, who graduated from Otago with a Bachelor of Commerce in 1984, comes to the University from the New Zealand Charities Commission where he was General Manager,



Education. He succeeds Associate Professor David Gerrard, who has returned to the Division of Health Sciences after three years in the position.

Dr **Elaine Webster** as Director of the University of Otago Summer School and Continuing Education. Dr Webster was formerly the University's Research Advisor, Humanities, and has held academic positions in Sociology and Clothing and Textile Sciences at Otago. She succeeds Dr Claire Matthewson who is retiring after 10 years in the role.

Achievements

The Prime Minister's Science Prize was awarded to the Centre for Chemical and Physical Oceanography (see story pages 5-8). The centre is a collaboration between the Department of Chemistry and NIWA, and is based at the University. The team of scientists, led by Professor **Philip Boyd**, won the \$500,000 prize for their investigations into how the ocean controls the Earth's climate and evaluating ways to reduce greenhouse gases.

Professor **Allan Herbison** (Physiology) received the University's highest research honour, the Distinguished Research Medal, in recognition of his outstanding scholarly

achievements in investigating how the brain controls fertility (see story pages 20-22).

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Enterprise) Professor **Richard Blaikie** and Professor **Gerald Tannock** (Microbiology and Immunology) were elected Fellows of the Royal Society of New Zealand. Professor Blaikie is a leading international contributor to the rapidly developing field of nanoscale optics and Professor Tannock is a world-leading authority on gastrointestinal microbes and their role in health and disease.

Mr **John Harraway** (Mathematics and Statistics) has been elected president of the International Association for Statistical Education. The association seeks to promote, support and improve statistical education at all levels around the world.

Professor **Andrew Geddis** (Law) and Associate Professor **Fiona McDonald** (Physiology) received Fulbright New Zealand Senior Scholar Awards, and Ms **Jacinta Ruru** (Law) gained a Fulbright-Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga Senior Scholar Award. The awards support them to undertake three to five months of study in their fields of interest at institutions in the United States.

Professor **Martin Kennedy** (Pathology, University of Otago, Christchurch) received the Life Technologies/New Zealand Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology award for his research into genetic factors behind mood disorders such as depression and bipolar disorder.

Professor **David Lont** (Accountancy and Finance) has become the New Zealand president of the Accounting and Finance Association of Australia and New Zealand.

Professor **Mark Stringer** (Anatomy) was named Lecturer of the Year at the OUSA teaching awards and Dr **Gill Rutherford** (Education) won the Disability Awareness and Inclusive Teaching Award.

Fellowship

Professor **Greg Cook** (Microbiology and Immunology) was awarded a prestigious James Cook Research Fellowship to pursue research involving bacteria that thrive in extreme environments (see page 30). Professor Cook also recently had one such bacterium named in his honour, *Amphibacillus cookii* sp. nov., which flourishes in the hot and highly salty environment of the Great Salt Lake in Utah. It was named to acknowledge his contributions to the microbiology and bioenergetics of extremophilic bacteria.

Obituary

Emeritus Professor **James Laurence (Laurie) Wright** (96). A Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the Otago Medical School from 1951 until his retirement in 1981, he was a leader in promoting maternal and perinatal mortality documentation and review to improve clinical safety.

New professors

Fourteen of the University of Otago's leading academics have been promoted to full professorships.

They are: **John Broughton** (Oral Diagnostic and Surgical Sciences, Preventive and Social Medicine); **Vicky Cameron** (Research Professor - Medicine, Christchurch); **Marie Crowe** (Psychological Medicine, Centre for Postgraduate Nursing Studies, Christchurch); **Andrew Day** (Paediatrics, Christchurch); **Catherine Day** (Biochemistry); **Bernadette Drummond** (Oral Sciences); **Robin Gauld** (Preventive and Social Medicine); **Juergen Gnoth** (Marketing); **Ken Hodge** (Physical Education); **Brian Hyland** (Physiology); **Ian McLennan** (Anatomy); **Ted Ruffman** (Psychology); **Struan Scott** (Law) and **Jean-Claude Theis** (Surgical Sciences).

New Year Honours

Alumni and staff recognised in the New Year Honours included:

Order of New Zealand (ONZ): Sir **Ralph Hotere**, for services to New Zealand.

Knight of the New Zealand Order of Merit (KNZM): Sir **Graham Henry**, for services to rugby.

Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit (CNZM): Mr **Malcolm Farry**, for services to the community; Dr **Bruce Hadden**, for services to ophthalmology; Mr **Martin Snedden**, for services to sporting administration; Mr **Ian Taylor**, for services to television and business.

Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit (ONZM): Mr **Ulu Aiono**, for services to business; Professor **Michael Ardagh**, for services to emergency medicine; Dr **Arie Geursen**, for services to science; Professor **David Lamb**, for services to health.

Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit (MNZM): Dr **John Angus**, for services to the state; Dr **Timothy Carey-Smith**, for services to palliative care; Dr **John Carnachan**, for services to medicine and the community; Associate Professor **Merata Kawharu**, for services to Māori education.

Queen's Service Medal (QSM): Dr **Ralph Allen**, for services to conservation; Mrs **Metua Bates-Faasisila**, for services to the Cook Islands community; Mrs **Gaynor Brown**, for services to education; Mrs **Kitty Chiu**, for services to the community; Mr **Paul Ferris**, for services to education; Mrs **Jean Rutherford**, for services to the community.

New Zealand Distinguished Service Decoration (DSD): Squadron Leader **Keith Bartlett** (Royal New Zealand Air Force).

Looking “Back Word”



Shane Cotton, *Back Word*, 2011, acrylic on linen, 2200 x 1500 mm.
Image courtesy of the artist and Hamish McKay Gallery.

A painting by Shane Cotton has been on the “to buy” list of the Hocken Collections since 1998, when he was the recipient of the University of Otago’s Frances Hodgkins Fellowship. The acquisition of works by past fellows and artists of Māori descent - who are currently under-represented in the collection - are seen as a priority for the development of the Hocken Pictures.

Art acquisitions are bought using funds from the Hocken Endowment Trust and successive Hocken Librarians, Stuart Strachan and Sharon Dell, have allowed a surplus of interest payments to accrue so that such a significant painting might eventually be purchased.

Back Word was created for an exhibition of Cotton’s paintings titled “The Treachery of Images” at the Hamish McKay Gallery, Wellington. Cotton is widely recognised as a

leading exponent of contemporary Māori art in this country. His work has consistently explored the themes of colonialism, the landscape and the power of words. *Back Word* is also autobiographical in that it pays tribute to many prior bodies of work, each a milestone in Cotton’s enduring and prodigious artistic career.

The painted words atop the landscape recall the artist’s major series, *Artificial Curiosities* (1994), which first brought Cotton widespread acclaim. The stack of horizon lines echoes the striated appearance of the paintings that Cotton created during his fellowship year and his *Heke* series of the following year. The idea for this structure originates in the patterns on the rafters of the whareniui or Māori meeting house.

The composition of *Back Word* reflects Cotton’s ongoing interest in presenting “alternative histories”, challenging the presentation of history as a fixed, linear narrative. The left to right action of reading through the title, “Beneath Thy Protection”, encourages a downward glance to the simultaneous presentation of the landscape’s surface and the underground, shown as solid black bands overdrawn with marks alluding to the Manaia. The Manaia, which Cotton describes as “conceptually ambiguous, mysterious and transitory”, undermines the notion of fixity.

Further illusions to history-making can be seen in the way the bands of *Back Word* have taken on the appearance of shelves in a museum display. A range of motifs from the *Virgin Mother of Nazareth* and exotic anthropomorphic blue stones to a reference to Fouquet’s *Mother and Child* c. 1450 painted on a contemporary billboard, have become historicised “collected” objects.

In conjunction with this purchase, Cotton has gifted a recent work, *Diamond and Pearls II* (2011), to the Hocken.

NATALIE POLAND

Curator, Hocken Pictorial Collections

HOCKEN GALLERY EXHIBITIONS

Until 20 February

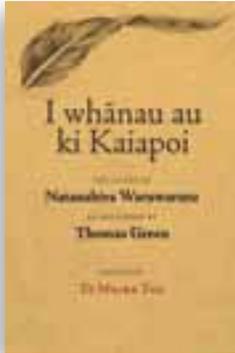
Ralph Hotere: Zero to Infinity

25 February - 14 April

All Things to All Men: Kushana Bush

21 April - 30 June

Ship Shape: Portraits of Ships from the Hocken Collections



I whānau au ki Kaiapoī / I was born in Kaiapoī

The story of Natanahira Waruwarutu as recorded by Thomas Green

Edited by Te Maire Tau, December 2011

Natanahira Waruwarutu was a child at the time of the capture of Kaiapoī Pā by Te Rauparaha's Ngāti Toa warriors in 1832. The early years of his life, recounted here in a transcription of the original Māori text and parallel English translation, were a turbulent time for the Māori communities of Waitaha (Canterbury) and Akaroa.

Ōtākou leaders set aside Moeraki, further south, for Kaiapoī refugees and Waruwarutu moved between the two places until he died in 1895. Before his death, he passed on to scribe Thomas Green, himself a Ngāi Tahu elder, a substantial body of material that now defines modern understanding of the traditional history of Ngāi Tahu. This manuscript was part of that material and, as Te Maire Tau describes in his introduction, has a history of its own.

The story in this book is not a Ngāi Tahu "grand narrative". As Te Maire Tau says, Māori history simply does not work like that. Rather, it is one narrative by a survivor of the period that "recollects the reality of what he saw as a child; on this basis, it is a superb example of an oral tradition".

The author has included a chapter on the historical context of the Waruwarutu manuscript and annotations for both Māori and English texts. A further chapter presents in Māori with English translation a text recorded by scribe Charles Creed that supplements Waruwarutu's account of his induction into the Kaiapoī whare pūrākau (house of learning). It is one of the few manuscripts that provides a glimpse into a world that no longer exists.



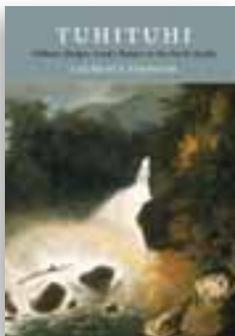
Early New Zealand Photography

Images and Essays

Edited by Angela Wanhalla and Erika Wolf, December 2011

As participants in an ever-more visual culture, we rarely give thought to the ways that photographs shape our experience and understanding of the world and historical past. Looking at a range of New Zealand photographs up to 1918, the contributors to this book analyse them as photo-objects, considering how they were made, who made them, what they show and how our understanding of them can vary or change over time. This emphasis on the materiality of the photograph is a new direction in scholarship on colonial photographs.

The writers include photographers, museum curators, academics and other researchers. They explore a host of issues related to the development of photography in New Zealand. World War I is the end point, as it coincided with profound cultural shifts, with the expansion of the mass illustrated press and the rise of consumer photography, as well as a change in New Zealand's place in the world.



Tuhituhi

William Hodges, Cook's Painter in the South Pacific

Laurence Simmons, December 2011

This book follows the progress of Cook's voyage on the Resolution, for which William Hodges was hired as official artist, a "landskip painter". In the Pacific, painters like Hodges found themselves staring again and again in disbelief at landscapes and seascapes that stretched 18th-century conventions of painting (such as the "picturesque", the "sublime" and the "beautiful").

Each chapter focuses on the close reading of a significant painting of a South Pacific location by Hodges and opens fresh theoretical perspectives on the representational problems raised by these early Pacific works. The final chapter considers the important influence of Hodges' work on a series of paintings by the major 20th-century New Zealand painter Colin McCahon.



Dunedin Soundings

Place and Performance

Edited by Dan Bendrups and Graeme Downes, December 2011

The “Dunedin Sound” of the 1980s is a phenomenon known throughout the world. But what does Dunedin music-making sound like in the 21st century?

The “soundings” in this book are from musicians, composers and scholar/practitioners. They discuss genres as diverse as brass band, opera, classical, Indonesian gamelan, jazz, rock and more, the intricacies of the composition and lyric-writing processes, digital remixing, and scoring for film and TV. Together, they reveal the

ways in which these supposedly separate music fields have the potential to inform and stimulate each other.

The theoretical idea behind the book is that performance and composition practices constitute a process of research. The writers are practitioners who are recognised nationally and internationally for their contributions to New Zealand music across genres, including composer Anthony Ritchie, the Verlaines’ Graeme Downes and Emmy-award nominee Trevor Coleman.

For further information and more books:

Otago University Press

Email university.press@otago.ac.nz or visit www.otago.ac.nz/press

Books by Otago alumni

The Lighthouse Kids of Maatsuyker

Island, by Jonah Wiltshire, Evie Wiltshire and Sheryl Hamilton, Forty Degrees South Pty Ltd, October 2010.

Instant Messages, by Laura Solomon, Proverse Publishing, Hong Kong, 2010.

The Travelling Restaurant, by Barbara Else, Gecko Press, April 2011. (IBBY New Zealand 2012 Honour Book for Writing.)

Desert Surgeons, New Zealand’s Mobile Surgical Unit in World War 2, by Michael Shackleton, Ngaio Press, June 2011.

Trauma and Transformation at Ground Zero: A Pastoral Theology, by Storm Swain, Fortress Press, August 2011.

Nation Dates, by Wendy McGuinness and Miriam White, Sustainable Future Institute, Wellington, September 2011.

Janet Frame: In Her Own Words, edited by Denis Harold and Pamela Gordon, Penguin Books (NZ), October 2011.

Fishing the Remote Coast, by Andrew (Andy) Macleod, Bateman.

Hetero-Aromatic Nitrogen Compounds:

The Azoles, by K Schofield, M R Grimmett and B R T Keene, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge (UK) and New York.

The Spirit of the Past: Essays on

Christianity in New Zealand History, edited by Geoffrey Troughton and Hugh Morrison, Victoria University Press, 2011.

Empire and Environmental Anxiety: Health, Science, Art and Conservation in South Asia and Australia, 1800-1920, by James Beattie, Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2011.

By Birdlight, poems by Sue Wootton, Steele Roberts, October 2011.

Ewan McDougall: Paintings, edited and published by David Marks, foreword by David Eggleton, poetry by Sarah McDougall, Art ‘n’ Stuff Publishing [London] October, 2011.

Trust God, Keep the Faith, by Bartha Hill, Inheritance Publications, Canada.

Young Man, Go South: A Doctor’s Memoir (1931-1963), by Johannes (Hans) Swier, Longview Publications.

Great Mates, edited by Barbara Else, Random House, 2011.

In Vitro, by Laura Solomon, HeadworX, 2011.

Health Professionals and Trust: The Cure for Healthcare Law and Policy, by Mark Henaghan, Routledge-Cambridge, October 2011.

Hilary and David, by Laura Solomon, Proverse Publishing, Hong Kong, November 2011.

Anthropology at the Front Lines of Gender-Based Violence, edited by Jennifer Wies and Hillary Haldane, University of Vanderbilt Press, 2011.

Historical Portraits of Women Home Scientists: The University Of New Zealand, 1911-1947, by Tanya Fitzgerald and Jenny Collins, Cambria Press, 2011.

At the Heart of Sport: The New Zealand Olympic Committee and the History of the Olympic Movement in New Zealand, 1911-2011, by Geoffrey Kohe, New Zealand Olympic Committee, Wellington, 2011.

Singing the Sacred, by William L Wallace, World Library Publications.

Historical Portraits of Women Home Scientists: The University of New Zealand, 1911-1947, by Tanya Fitzgerald and Jenny Collins, Cambria Press, December 2011.

Alumni:

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



Alison Finigan:
Head of Alumni Relations

A word from the Head

2012 marks the beginning of my sixth year as Head of Alumni Relations. There have been many changes over the past five years, including the merger of the Alumni and Development offices into a single entity and the introduction of NetCommunities. This web-based communication platform that enables alumni to network directly with each other has proved popular and we encourage those who haven't yet registered to take a look. You might also want to sign up for an @otagoalumni email address.

www.alumni.otago.ac.nz

International alumni activity has increased over the past five years, with flourishing networks in the USA, UK, Malaysia, Australia and Canada. Members of these groups organise formal and informal social functions, fundraising campaigns, local support for exchange students and other activities that reflect their pride in their alma mater. The University owes a debt of gratitude to these alumni whose steadfast commitment and support enhances Otago's reputation all over the world.

Since 2009 the Development and Alumni Relations Office has been led by Associate Professor David Gerrard, who was seconded from a senior position in the Medical School to establish the role of Director. David's term expired in January and he has now returned to the Medical School to continue his research and teaching activities. As a popular public figure, David made a significant contribution to the work of the office and I know that alumni will join me in thanking him and wishing him well for the future.

Supporting Otago

Alumni Appeal

Once again Otago alumni have shown their willingness to support their alma mater with an outstanding response to the 2011 Alumni Appeal, launched in November. As in 2010, nearly half of the communications were sent by email and a growing number of donors chose to make their gift electronically using the online donation page or via internet banking.

In total, 725 gifts had been received by the end of 2011, with an average sum of \$173 per gift – an excellent response. A sincere thank you from the University to all who have contributed.

Projects supported by the Appeal in 2011 include scholarships for students in their first year of study, as well as research projects from each of the four academic divisions:

- The National Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies (Humanities)
- The Alpine Fault Seismic Imaging Study (Sciences)
- The Sir John Walsh Research Institute (Health Sciences)
- The Centre for Entrepreneurship (Commerce).

Alumni funded scholarships enabled 16 young people to pursue first-year studies at Otago. The following comment from one of the recipients sums up the real difference that winning the scholarship makes in their lives.

"The Alumni Appeal Scholarship that supported me through this first year of my degree has been extremely valuable. Due to my family's situation my parents were unable to assist me financially and being awarded the Alumni Scholarship has relieved my family and me of much stress and worry. I must thank the Alumni of the University of Otago for their generous

support. Receiving this scholarship has been such an honour and a gift. It has allowed me to settle into my new home down here in Otago and to achieve results I am proud of."

For more details on research projects and scholarships supported by alumni donations, or if you would like to donate to the University, please visit www.alumni.otago.ac.nz/supportotago

Otago's international networks

Alumni of the University of Otago in America, Inc (AUOA)

The board of the AUOA continues to devote time and energy to promoting the University in the United States. Its membership was augmented in 2011 by the appointment of Nevada-based alumnus Nigel Bain (BSc (Hons) 1977). The following projects were supported by the board in 2011:

- Scholarships for deserving first-year students were awarded to Wangying (Claudia) Dong (Palmerston North Girls' High School) and Zarina Miller (Rangitoto College) for study in Health Sciences.
- The AUOA launched an Endowment Fund in 2011 to provide scholarships in perpetuity for first-year students. The first scholarships from this fund will be awarded at the end of 2012.
- AUOA Student Exchange Awards provided grants to 15 Otago exchange students attending US partner institutions in 2012.
- Contributed to the School of Physical Education Smithells Undergraduate

Scholarship, established in honour of the founding director of the School of Physical Education. The scholarship will allow for an annual award to be made to a student beginning their third or fourth year of study.

- EMAN Student Prize (Oien Award). Future energy shortages will present the world with a set of difficult challenges for the future. The Oien prize encourages the best energy management students at Otago to rise to these challenges.

- Geology Field Projects fund is used to support field-based research projects for senior students who need to work in remote areas.

- Musgrave Scholarship is a Department of Philosophy initiative to raise funds for a scholarship, to attract high calibre international students to study for a master's degree in Philosophy. The scholarship honours Professor Alan Musgrave.

The board of the AOUA continued its fundraising efforts in 2011 with an appeal launched in November last year. The University is grateful for their commitment to supporting research and scholarship at Otago.

For more information, please visit www.alumniuoa.com

UK and Europe Alumni Network

Alumni activities in the UK and Europe are co-ordinated by a committee of dedicated alumni, headed by chairman Sir Paul Beresford. The committee organises an annual reception in London for alumni and friends and, in 2011, this took the form of a black-tie dinner in the Members' Dining Room of the House of Commons.

The reception also provided an opportunity for the University to

recognise the work of Dr Neville Bain, who last year stepped down from the role of Treasurer after being involved with the group since the early 1990s. Neville has had a very successful career in business, and has written extensively on strategic management and corporate governance. He is a proud alumnus of the University and received an Hon LLD in 1994. A scholarship in his name is awarded annually to an outstanding MBA student.



UK and Europe Alumni Committee (left to right): Alistair Wishart, Kirsty Fiddes, Mistelle Jack, Sir Paul Beresford, Louise Holding, Dr Neville Bain.

The University of Otago Foundation for Malaysia

The University of Otago Foundation for Malaysia continues to work to support alumni in Malaysia, as well as Malaysian students currently enrolled at Otago.

At the 2011 AGM held in Ipoh in June, foundation members voted unanimously to continue funding for the student award set up in 2009. This year's recipient is second-year student Yang Safia Binti Mior Azli who is majoring in English and TESOL. She has made an outstanding contribution to the Malaysian student community as a member of the Malaysian Students' Association. The University of Otago is very grateful for the generous donation from the foundation that makes this prize possible.

The University of Otago Canadian Network

Last year the Canadian Alumni Network assisted three Canada-bound Otago exchange students with a grant of \$NZ2,000 each and, in 2012, three more students will be helped thanks to the generosity of Canadian alumni. Hannah Harland, enrolled in a BSc, is heading to Dalhousie University; Griegan Panckhurst, studying for a BCom/ DipGrad, is enrolled at the Schulich School of Business at York University; and Shane Turner will study at the University of British Columbia as part of his Otago BCom. The Otago Global Student Exchange Programme is grateful for the support of Canadian alumni in assisting students to study in Canada.

The Canadian Network is also co-ordinating efforts to connect local alumni with students to help them to settle into their new homes. If you are interested in participating, please contact Brian Merrilees at brian.merrilees@utoronto.ca telephone 416 489-4300.

To contribute to the Canadian Alumni Travel Award scheme please visit the University's secure payment website at <https://secure-www.otago.ac.nz/alumni/donations/> and follow the instructions. Alternatively, you may send a money order in New Zealand dollars to the Development and Alumni Relations Office, PO Box 56, Dunedin 9054. In each case you will receive a receipt acceptable to Revenue Canada and the Canadian dollar equivalent on your credit card or bank account will be tax-deductible.

For further information visit www.alumni.otago.ac.nz

For information about regional alumni networks please visit the Alumni and Friends website www.alumni.otago.ac.nz/regionalgroups

Alumni events 2011

Edmonton, 25 October, home of Dr Christopher and Mrs Beverley Hoskins



Toronto, 2 November, University of Toronto Faculty Club



Philadelphia, 5 November, Hotel Palomar Ballroom



London, 10 November, House of Commons



Upcoming celebrations, events and reunions

2012

MB ChB class of 1967 reunion

1–4 March, Nelson. Visit www.classof67reunion.co.nz or contact Stuart at gowland@classof67reunion.co.nz

MB ChB class of 1970 reunion

1–5 March, Nelson. Contact John Emanuel at johnliz.emanuel@gmail.com

MB ChB class of 1962 reunion

6–9 March, Queenstown. Contact Allan at allan.viv@paradise.net.nz or Mary Miller at marymill@orcon.net.nz

MB ChB class of 1959–60 reunion

9–11 March, Napier. Visit www.otagomed59-60.co.nz or contact Michael Fogarty at fogarty1@ozemail.com.au

Hayward College anniversary

(invitation only)
10 March, Dunedin. Contact Pauline Donovan on (03) 479 5523.

BDS class of 1966 reunion

15–18 March, Christchurch. Contact Freerk Kempkers at jill109@xtra.co.nz

MB ChB class of 1953 reunion

23 March, Wellington. Contact Graeme Sharp at graemesharp@paradise.net.nz

MB ChB class of 1972 reunion

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

BDS class of 1964 reunion

5–7 April, Dunedin. Contact Denis Cosgrove dns.cosgrove@gmail.com

University of Otago, Christchurch School of Medicine 40th anniversary

5–7 September, Christchurch. Visit www.otago.ac.nz/christchurch/about/anniversary212/index.html or contact Virginia Irvine at virginia.irvine@otago.ac.nz or phone 03 364 0038.

MB ChB class of 1997 reunion

19–21 October, Dunedin. Contact Rochelle at rochelle.phipps@gmail.com

Dominican Hall reunion

6–7 October, Dunedin. Contact alumni@otago.ac.nz

Physiotherapy class of 1960–62, 50-year reunion

10–11 November, Dunedin. Contact Molly Fulton at jimandmollyfulton@ihug.co.nz or Judy Wilson at judwil@kinect.co.nz

2013

MB ChB class of 1955 reunion

8–10 March, Christchurch. Contact John Musgrove at john.musgrove31@gmail.com

MB ChB class of 1963 reunion

15–18 March, Wellington. Contact Peter Dukes at pmdukes@clear.net.nz

School of Physiotherapy centenary and conference

April (date tba). Please contact database.alumni@otago.ac.nz

School of Pharmacy's 50th jubilee

April. Please email database.alumni@otago.ac.nz

Arana College 70th anniversary

Date tbc, Dunedin. Contact database.alumni@otago.ac.nz

2015

MB ChB class of 1964 reunion

8–11 April, Dunedin. Contact Colin Fitzpatrick cbfitz@ihug.co.nz or Alex Dempster alex.dempster@sclabs.co.nz

Studholme College centenary celebrations and reunion

Date to be advised. Contact database.alumni@otago.ac.nz

Further information about reunions and other events can be found on the Alumni and Friends webpages at www.alumni.otago.ac.nz/events or contact us at functions.alumni@otago.ac.nz or phone 03 479 4516.

40 Years of Research and Teaching
1973–2012

UNIVERSITY OF OTAGO, CHRISTCHURCH

In 2012 the University of Otago, Christchurch celebrates 40 years of research and teaching. Christchurch alumni, be part of the celebration. 5–7 September, 2012.

The celebrations will also be an acknowledgement of the impact of Canterbury earthquakes on staff and students, and recognising our bright future.

Keynote speaker:

Sir Michael Marmot, world-renowned health inequalities researcher and advocate

Wednesday 5 to Friday 7 September: Scientific Sessions

Thursday 6 September: Alumni Reception

Friday 7 September: Anniversary Dinner

For more information and to register:

go to www.otago.ac.nz/christchurch or email virginia.irvine@otago.ac.nz

Alumni in the news

Assil Russell (BDS 2011) was still in high school when she dreamed of establishing a charity to assist children in Iraq, the land of her birth. Now, with the assistance of her parents, Hanan and Amir Russell, and her brother, Mahmood, she has established I Care, a charity for poor and orphaned Iraqi children who are in desperate need of medical and dental treatment.

“I Care’s long-term goal is to send teams of New Zealanders to Iraq for a week or two each year to perform the surgeries,” says Assil. The first medical and dental volunteer mission travelled to Iraq last December to deliver health-care products, hold education sessions and contribute their skills to communities in need. To find out more about I Care, go to www.iraqicare.com



Assil was a recipient of the Alumni Scholarship in 2007.

Peter Archer (BCom, BSc 2011) was awarded the Defence Force’s Reservist of the Year title in July 2011. Lance Corporal Archer beat a field of representatives from the 11 major Army, Navy and Air Force Reserve units from all over New Zealand in a test of skills that included weapons handling, first aid and physical fitness, as well as public speaking.



Since joining the Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment Territorial Forces in 2006, Peter has received the New Zealand Operational Service Medal and Timor-Leste Solidarity Medal after tours of duty in the Solomon Islands and Timor-Leste. He has also served in the Defence Force contingent that was deployed to Christchurch in the wake of the September 2010 and February 2011 earthquakes. In civilian life, he works as an accountant with Ernst and Young.

Robert Bell (BCom 2004) won first prize for Best Payments Initiative in the 2011 Financial World Innovation Awards, held in London in December. Robert runs a New Zealand-based currency exchange service company, KlickEx, that has also recently won a prize for business initiative sponsored by the University of Auckland Business School.



Hal Weston (MBA 1) and **Manish Sawadkar** (MBA 34) represent the oldest and youngest Otago MBA graduates and capture the changing face of the Otago MBA over its impressive 35 years.

Manish, who hails from Vashi, Navi Mumbai, was recruited as part of Otago MBA’s Six Continent Selection Strategy, which aims to reinforce the programme’s global perspective. The Otago MBA is New Zealand’s leading full-time, campus-based MBA.



Hal came from a background in radio and television. He was in the first intake of Otago MBA students and graduated in 1981. Manish now works as an ICT technical consultant for Objective Corporation in Wellington.

Hal and Manish met recently during the Otago MBA alumni road-show entitled World Future, NZ Future, MBA Future held in Wellington, Auckland and Dunedin.

You can activate your own @otagoalumni.ac.nz email address by registering as a member of Your Otago Link. Visit the Alumni and Friends webpages at www.alumni.otago.ac.nz

Marama Hall was the venue for a special 90th birthday celebration for alumnus Emeritus Professor **John Ritchie** in October.

Ritchie graduated from Otago in 1944 with a Bachelor of Music and pursued a distinguished career in music as an academic, conductor and composer. He was Head of Music at the University of Canterbury, served on numerous international music organisations, founded the Christchurch Civic Orchestra, was musical director for the 10th Commonwealth Games in 1974 and the visit of Pope John Paul II in 1986, and has guest conducted both the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra and the New Zealand Ballet.

To mark his 90th birthday, the New Zealand String Quartet performed two of Ritchie's own compositions, *String Quartet*, written in 1962, and *Turkey in the Straw*. The *String Quartet* featured a new last movement, composed by Ritchie in 2006, following the death of his wife, Anita.

His son, Dr **Anthony Ritchie**, who is an associate professor at Otago's Department of Music, wrote his own piece for the occasion, *Episode for String Quartet*, which he dedicated to his father. Following in his father's footsteps, Anthony Ritchie arranged the choral parts for all 20 national anthems performed during last year's Rugby World Cup and conducted those played in Dunedin and Invercargill.

Atoll Records has also released a CD of his recent chamber music pieces, entitled *Octopus*, performed by members of the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra and Australian flutist Alexa Still.



Dr **Anthony Ritchie** and Emeritus Professor **John Ritchie**, with the New Zealand String Quartet.

Photo: Graham Warman

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... Disability Information & Support?

When Donna-Rose McKay (Disability Information & Support – Head of Service) was a student at the University of Otago in the late 1970s and early '80s her experience was vastly different to that of students with disabilities today.

Sitting in her wheelchair outside the Registry building, in the rain, waiting for her bursary cheque to be brought out was pretty much the norm.

“My long-suffering friends pulled me up two or three flights of stairs twice a week to the top of the Quad Geology building to my stats lecture because they refused to move the lecture to somewhere more accessible.”

But attitudes were changing and, in 1992, McKay was taken on as a part-time disabilities co-ordinator, making 2012 the 20th anniversary of the Disability Information & Support (DI&S) office.

The then equal employment opportunities co-ordinator Kris Smith had been helping students with disabilities and, with the support of other staff and students, had formed a group called DAG – the Disability Action Group. It was a huge help as McKay developed her fledgling role and, by 1996, the position was full-time.

“One of the interesting things about it was that the University put this role in place prior to people with disabilities even having human rights in New Zealand,” she says.

“It was even before the Ministry of Education mandated that tertiary institutions needed to consider the needs of disabled people – so Otago was ahead in both areas. It says a lot about the University and for DAG who were fighting like mad at a time when there was nothing to support them.”

By 1998, increased funding saw a project officer and an administrator added, allowing McKay to begin establishing formal systems and start strategic planning.

“Until then we didn't think about processes: we just thought about who was at the door, who you were sitting down with, what they needed, how to get it – and, sometimes, where the money might come from.”

One of the people who was there in those early days is student advisor Emma Holt who originally started out as project officer, taking on a research project focusing on postgraduate students.

“I found I was really enjoying working with students. So, when the research project finished, I moved straight into student advising.”

Holt stayed in the role for several years as the services grew, but left at the end of 2000 as she began a family. Upon her return in 2009 she immediately noticed changes.

“I was thrilled to see that the team had grown in number and was providing a much more professional service. The impression I got was that the University was really supporting the office as it could see that much-needed support and information was being offered.”

McKay and her nine dedicated staff cater for a wide range of needs, from medical conditions and physical mobility impairments, through to specific learning disabilities and mental health conditions.

Demographic data for 2010 showed that 1,413 students, or 6.38 per cent of the student population, were identified as having a disability. Of those, 852 had a disability that affected their study. DI&S resourced 653 students providing more than 25,500 hours of learning assistance.

Services range from employing note-takers to organising alternative test and examination arrangements, which can vary from providing a computer to having someone to write for them. Other services include providing interpreters, tutors and research assistants, or arranging the alternative formatting of printed material.

“... the University put this role in place prior to people with disabilities even having human rights in New Zealand.”



The Disability Information & Support team: (back row from left) Emma Holt, Eileen O Regan, Helen Ingrams. (Front row from left) Jenny Week, Donna-Rose McKay, Kim Daufratshofer.

Photo: Graham Warman

Full-time student advisers, based at the new DI&S offices in the Information Services Building, are available for students to discuss their requirements with and they will work with students to put in place a learning support plan.

During the course of the year DI&S employs between 300–350 casual staff to take on these roles. Most are students, but they also have graduates and former staff involved. They are trained and get supervision and feedback to help them develop.

Half of the budget is funded by the Tertiary Education Commission (TEC) and the remainder comes through the University which also funds other disability-related initiatives.

While learning support services are a core function, there are times that advisers need to help the students advocate for themselves or, with the student's permission, advocate for them.

Acting learning support manager Jackie Fox says it can be as simple as liaising with a department because the student is anxious about doing it

themselves. A lot of advocacy can be around things such as helping a student get an extension for an assignment or concerns about having difficulty accessing information.

“It may involve getting together with people in that department and brainstorming about ways to meet the student's needs.

“We do have a philosophy of ‘nothing about me without me’ so, if we are going to be talking about student issues or on behalf of a student, then the student is always involved in that.”

But DI&S does need to advocate in the wider sense when policy changes are proposed, to make sure they have a positive rather than negative impact on students with disabilities.

McKay's own role now has moved away from hands-on operational work to a more strategic one, looking at how they can make the campus even more inclusive.

“The aim is to give departments greater responsibility to support students, but, at the same time, provide them with

the tools and the confidence to do that.

“A common misconception is that students with disabilities all cost money – they don't. In the majority of situations, what is required is a change in process, of attitude and the way you possibly do things.”

McKay says that having lecturers who teach inclusively and cater for a range of learning styles makes a big difference.

“If the way they teach meets the needs of all the students in the class, including disabled students, that would take so much work off our shoulders.”

It is a formula that is still developing and evolving, but over the years DI&S staff have seen some amazing success stories with students going on to achieve highly in their chosen fields, yet McKay deflects any credit.

“The bottom line is that the students did the work themselves: we supported them and they are continuing to achieve in their paths.”

MARK WRIGHT

POSTGRADUATE STUDIES AT OTAGO

Giving new meaning to smoke and mirrors

Logan Elliott discovered a passion for business while studying science at Otago. So the biotechnology graduate joined fellow Otago alumnus Dan Hendra in the unique performance-based business Highly Flammable Ltd, and the two pioneers set about the serious business of entertaining people with the ephemeral phenomena of flame.

Looking to extend his commercial know-how, Logan enrolled in the Master of Entrepreneurship programme. This gave him the opportunity to apply innovative learning to the real-life challenges involved in running a start-up. "Circulation", an annual arts, music and performance festival that he and Dan set up, benefitted directly from Logan's new skills too.

With his qualification completed, Logan's now blazing trails with Highly Flammable by co-developing new products like the uber cool, ultra-reflective Mirrormen. With a postgraduate qualification from Otago, you could be hot on the trail of your place in the world too.

www.otago.ac.nz/postgraduate



DAN HENDRA
Bachelor of Arts

LOGAN ELLIOTT
Master of Entrepreneurship

YOUR PLACE IN THE WORLD