

AUGUST 2009

# INSIDE | AUT

NEWS FROM AUT UNIVERSITY | TE WĀNANGA ARONUI O TĀMAKI MAKAU RAU

## SWAMP activist at CoLab

IT LOOKS like a dimple but the indent in Matt Kenyon's right cheek is actually a hole through which he threads a cable connecting a video camera in his mouth to a barcode scanner. The digital artist then walks supermarket aisles with his mouth wide open, 'consuming' barcodes and sending the data to a Nielsen Homescan scanner.

Kenyon is a mixed media artist who, as half of the collective known as SWAMP (Studies of Work, Atmospheres and Mass Production), stages witty and satirical interventions to critique global corporations, consumerism, mass production and political domination. He has recently completed a residency at AUT University's CoLab Creative Technology Centre.

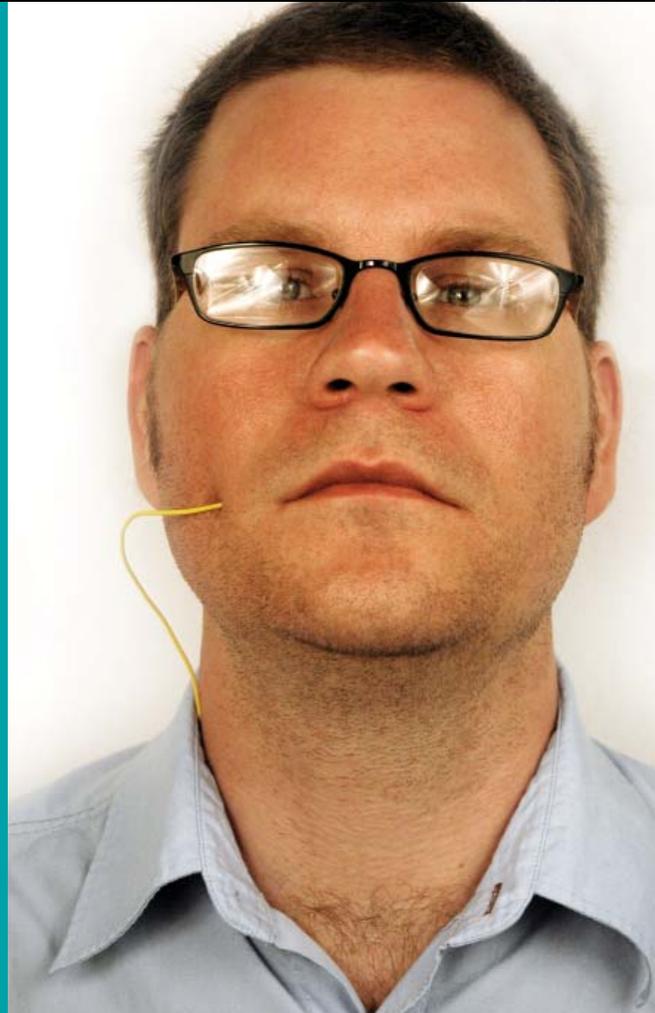
Originally a painter (his last work in the medium was a series of girls who resemble Britney Spears) Kenyon is an associate professor at Pennsylvania State University, USA where he teaches physical computing, video and 3D animation. The other half of SWAMP, Doug Easterly, is currently based

at Victoria University in Wellington teaching programming and multimedia.

During his residency Kenyon taught and was keynote speaker at 'Against Freedom', a CoLab panel discussion where scholars and artists explored notions of social activism, new technologies and the modern surveillance state. He also gave a talk and worked on a research project building a machine which puffs out clouds, the shape and size of which are determined by data on the US housing bubble pulled from the internet.

An exhibition of SWAMP's work is running at MIC Toi Rerehiko on Karangahape Road. It also includes Notepad which looks like an every day yellow legal pad of paper, but every line is constructed of micro-printed text containing the personal details of Iraqi civilian casualties. Editions of the notepad have been covertly shipped into the United States Congress offices where they act as Trojan horses – slipping the unwanted and unacknowledged civilian

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## New 'Team New Zealand' heads to Berlin World Cup



SIFE AUT presenter Akbar Makani with the 2009 SIFE National Competition Cup

AUT STUDENTS in Free Enterprise (SIFE) scored the hat-trick in July scooping its third consecutive win at the 2009 SIFE National Cup competition held in Auckland.

And like four AUT teams before, SIFE AUT now take on the heavyweight title of 'Team New Zealand'.

SIFE comprises tertiary students from more than 1800 institutions worldwide. Its aim is to improve the success and well-being of communities by creating and implementing ethical business enterprise projects locally, nationally and sometimes, internationally.

Masters of Business student and SIFE AUT president Clare George says working with global group Ooooby was the team's

most relevant project yet.

"Ooooby, which means 'out of our own backyards', is so right for the times," she says. "It's a networking website that links people who grow food with people who want to trade or buy food. It's about making sure that excess lemons that could be left to rot on lawns, for example, have a welcome home to go to."

SIFE AUT was tasked with increasing Ooooby's exposure in Auckland. George says the most satisfying measure of success was hearing about communities swapping food over fences because they now know who has what and who wants what.

The team of eight will represent New Zealand in Berlin in October.

## LETTER FROM THE VC



UNEMPLOYMENT and dole queues have garnered much media attention recently, and what's striking from AUT's perspective is the fact that in Auckland, one third of those on the dole are reported to be young – aged between 18 and 24. At the same time, many young people have qualified to attend university but have been turned away this year because of government-imposed enrolment caps; with an even greater chance of being turned away next year due to the limits on available places.

You might ask: why do we have limits in New Zealand at a time when other countries are boosting their investment in university education to open up more places?

In answer you'll sometimes hear it asserted that we have too many people at university, and not enough young people considering trades and other vocational training. Obviously we need both and must continue to provide accessible and attractive opportunities across the tertiary education and training spectrum. But if we look at the proportion of the population with a degree level qualification, we find that New Zealand is ranked 18th out of 30 countries of the OECD. Ahead of us are the Northern European countries, Japan and Korea, all the English-speaking countries – Canada, UK, USA, Ireland and most notably Australia, which is ranked ninth.

Conversely, New Zealand ranks 11th out of 30 OECD countries and well ahead of many others when it comes to people with trade or vocational qualifications. So New Zealand is in a good position with trades and vocationally qualified people, but much worse off for degree qualifications. Even Treasury, briefing the incoming government, has acknowledged that New Zealand needs more people with degrees to secure and advance its economic future.

The government says that it is looking at "maintaining, rather than reducing, the level of university provision that we have had". Maintaining is clearly better than reducing but not enough. It ignores the fact that 2006 to 2008 saw lower levels of participation in degree education than at any other time in the past decade. And it ignores the fact that the global financial situation has closed off the alternative of employment for thousands of young people.

A KPMG study in Australia last year identified that government investment in university education and research had huge returns, far above levels required to justify investment of taxpayer money. Despite the economic crisis – in fact, in some cases because of it – and despite the fact that they are already ahead in the degree graduate stakes, the Australians, the Americans, the British, and others, are investing more in universities. The British have recently opened up 10,000 extra university places to cope with surging enrolments, with which the capped system they introduced last year couldn't cope. Their intention is to keep young people off the dole queues. Similarly, Australia has just announced a huge investment in its universities, expected to return an average of \$1.6 billion annually over the next decade from a consequential increase in GDP.

The dole queue is not going away. There is a choice to be made now between merely supporting unemployment and furthering educational opportunity and the economic capability of our nation.

Derek McCormack



## SWAMP activist at CoLab

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body count into official government archives.

In 'Coke Is It' a robot seeks out Coca Cola and sprays itself with the drink until it eventually erodes and self-destructs.

Designed to search and consume until it kills itself, the robot embodies a form of modern-day lifestyle and exposes the marketing hypocrisy of linking the consumption of toxins with an elevated self-worth.

The exhibition runs until August 22.

## Manukau Campus consultation update

AUT RECENTLY conducted its community consultation regarding the Manukau Campus. The process, which began in April and concluded in June, involved discussions with a range of businesses, community groups, education and health providers, government departments, and Māori and Pasifika networks. The results of the consultation have now been analysed and AUT is pleased to report some very positive feedback.

The key findings included strong community support for the establishment of a first-class university campus offering complete degrees across a range of programmes, with a solid research presence and a role as a thought leader in the region. Feedback indicated that AUT would be welcomed as an expert, experienced, authoritative and politically neutral organisation able to contribute to the local community and economy in the areas of social and economic development, health and education.

AUT's approach to pedagogy, including co-operative placements, industry collaborations and a team learning approach in the classroom, along with our excellent suite of student support programmes, was seen to be a great fit for the region. The programmes the community rated as top priorities to teach at Manukau were business, engineering/manufacturing, design technologies, health and education.

Respondents also expressed an overwhelming desire to 'own' the campus as an important and welcoming community facility, using it for a range of community projects, especially those that align with AUT's core programme strengths.

The consultation has enabled AUT to effectively plan programme offerings at Manukau, and more information will be provided when the final details are confirmed.

## Solar energy – spreading the word

A HOME with no power bills sounds like a mid-winter dream. But for Eric Jansseune that dream is very real – he generates his own power and even sells the excess back to Contact Energy.

Jansseune has built New Zealand's first "energy positive" home in Kaiwaka, Northland, with energy efficient features including LED lighting, rainwater supply, gas cooking and full insulation. As a result of these measures, Jansseune expects to save around \$1400 per year on electricity costs. This semester he will share his knowledge and experience of solar solutions with AUT University engineering students, teaching a new master's paper: Advancements in Solar Energy.

Jansseune expects his class to include a range of building industry professionals, keen to educate themselves about the future of solar energy. As well as learning more about the fundamentals and potential of solar energy, students will have the chance to visit the Kaiwaka house and other solar sites around Auckland.

Worldwide the use of renewable energy is rising, and Jansseune is keen to see New Zealand follow this trend. "The first step is for professionals like architects, engineers and resource planners to update their knowledge about the potential of solar energy. And the next step is for ordinary New Zealanders to recognise the possibilities of solar energy."



## Unemployment figure reporting masks real issues

AN EMPLOYMENT relations Professor says the daily reporting of employment statistics masks the real economic issue facing New Zealand.

Professor Erling Rasmussen, author of the new book *Employment Relations in New Zealand*, says New Zealand's low productivity goes back several decades and there are very real barriers to the country lifting its performance.

The Professor of Work and Employment says New Zealand is a small market trying to build a service and knowledge economy and this brings enormous and sustained challenges.

"Many service industry jobs, for example, are largely lowly paid, don't establish long-term careers and are not known for good employment conditions," he says. "And across many industries, employees experience relatively low pay levels."

"This means that in a strong global economy, consumerism floats into our labour market and our best and brightest head overseas. Meanwhile, we suck in a lot of extra people to keep the economy going."



Professor Erling Rasmussen

"This low-wage route mentality doesn't bode well for New Zealand's overall productivity. The end result, no matter whether we're in an economic boom or bust, is an unstable economy."

The flow-on effect for New Zealand becomes problematic in terms of career longevity, productivity and skills training, he says. While offshore Kiwis may be returning home currently, it doesn't solve the country's underlying issues.

*Employment Relations in New Zealand* is the extensively revised and updated edition of the 2002 text of the same name by Deeks and Rasmussen. It includes chapters on changes in occupational health and safety, vocational training and equal employment opportunities, and negotiation and conflict resolution.

Professor Rasmussen says that New Zealand's disproportionately high number of SMEs adds to the country's underlying productivity issue.

"Up-skilling staff through training and development is one of the few issues on which employers and unions agree but putting it into practice in an SME environment is not always realistic."

"SME employers operate from a necessarily survivalist approach. Their focus is on tax, revenue, getting products to market, intellectual property and so on. The bigger issues of productivity and skills shortages are in fact often counter-productive to employers achieving their immediate and short-term business objectives."

"So for New Zealand, a coherent, strong lift in the country's productivity becomes problematic," he says. "There's no magic wand, but discussions on how we address the issues needs to be brought more into public debate."

## AUT completes Ministry funded research



DO ESOL teacher aides in schools have the right training and support they need to work effectively with students who are learning English as an additional language?

In 2007 AUT was contracted by the Ministry of Education to investigate the answer to this and other questions. The research, headed by Dr Sharon Harvey (pictured above) of the School of Languages and Social Sciences, looked at paraprofessional practice in ESOL programmes in primary, intermediate and secondary schools in a large regional

study across the Auckland isthmus.

The two-year research contract from the Ministry was worth \$162,000 and was conducted by Dr Harvey and researchers Karen Stacey and Heather Richards.

"This is the largest research grant of its kind for this School, and it has paved the way for further Ministry of Education research contracts currently underway" says Dr Harvey.

"There has been little research conducted on teacher aide practices in New Zealand and internationally, and the emphasis lies in the special needs rather than ESOL area. The research has already attracted interest from overseas by a key paraprofessional academic at the University of Vermont, Professor Michael Giangreco."

The research team was surprised by the range and diversity of settings, practices and materials utilised in supporting students in their initial reading and wider ESOL programmes. The levels of effectiveness of paraprofessionals across all school sectors also varied widely with some paraprofessionals working in contexts beyond their skill and experience level.

Findings from the research also indicated the need for ongoing specialised ESOL training for paraprofessionals as well as professional development for the teachers who direct their work.



## Thai Minister visits AUT

THAI MINISTER of Foreign Affairs Kasit Piromya visited AUT last month and delivered a talk on the current state of Thailand's political and economic situation. Minister Piromya (above), who was in Auckland for official talks with the New Zealand Government, spoke to an audience of around 40 people at AUT and outlined some of the current issues and challenges facing Thailand.

The Minister spoke directly about the challenges in dealing with poor governance and corruption, and in developing quality education, especially research in the university sector.

He also expressed a keen interest in achieving greater cooperation with New Zealand. In particular, he saw the two countries working together on high quality research on agricultural based products so that Thailand, like New Zealand, could gain higher returns for its exports.

The event was co-hosted by AUT International (International Relations and Development) and the Auckland Chapter of the New Zealand Institute for International Affairs.

## Plugging the gaps in resettlement

A PILOT refugee resettlement programme has been trialled at the AUT Centre for Refugee Education in Mangere and is now being offered in the community.

The programme is an extension of the six-week-on-arrival programme and aims to build on refugee strengths so they have confidence to participate in communities and addresses resettlement issues and challenges. These challenges include parenting in a new culture, living in a secular society, dealing with stress, coping

with cultural diversity, solving problems in non-violent ways and making friends in a new society.

As part of the programme AUT senior lecturers Maria Hayward and Jacqueline Mortimer-Hughes have been running discussion groups with refugees and talking about set topics in a bid to help them overcome the day-to-day problems that crop up when refugees come to a new country.

"We ask refugees what they know about New Zealand and then we plug the

gaps around what they don't know," says Hayward. "So we begin with refugee-based knowledge then build from there which is a different approach to traditional learning."

As part of the evaluation of the programme, teachers and facilitators' reflections of the programme content and its delivery were recorded. Findings will be presented in a research paper which will be delivered in the first instance at the AUT National Refugee Conference in Auckland in November.



ARE YOU READY TO GROOVE?

INSIDE **AUT**

## Aged care focus for nursing scholarship

ATTRACTING NEW blood into aged care health roles is the focus of a new scholarship being offered to AUT University nursing students.

Oceania Group chief executive Geoff Hipkins says the scholarship is part of a wider commitment to aged care and to developing a workforce that exceeds the expectations of residents in the organisation's care.

National training manager Mike Knowles says aged care is often overlooked but it is a vital nursing role and one which "puts the care back into nursing".

"Aged care is an area of nursing that doesn't often get new blood and yet it presents a unique opportunity to apply a unique spread of nursing skills."

"By aligning with AUT, we are able to work with these nursing students and graduates to train them and offer them a long-term career path."

AUT Bachelor of Health Sciences third-year student Holly Parmenter is the first to receive the \$3000 cash scholarship and job placement with Oceania Group.

"Gerontology or elder care is where I want to work. It is such an important area of healthcare and yet it is an area where sadly the quality of care can fall short."

"The scholarship provides a guaranteed job and a great start for my career. I am going to use the time with Oceania to learn as much as I can, to get as much experience as I can - I'll be a human sponge."

Parmenter will begin working in one of the Oceania Group homes next year, but she has not decided which one. Oceania has 63 sites throughout New Zealand, including the North Shore, and employs around 3400 staff.

Oceania Group is offering six scholarships in 2009 for nursing students and graduates and will continue to build on the initiative next year, opening the programme to students through year one to year three of their studies.



One of the advertisements designed by AUT students as part of the supercity newspaper campaign.

## Advertising students win awards

AUT ADVERTISING creativity students made a strong showing at the Newspaper Advertising Bureau Awards last month.

AUT third year students came first, second and third in the supercity newspaper campaign category with outstanding campaigns from three teams. The winners were Martin Sutcliffe and

Deborah Bull, James O'Sullivan and Adam Barnes, as well as Kate Gamble and Susan Ashford came second, while Kishan Chopra and Julia Rogan came third.

AUT also came second and third in the topical category with Bernard Law and Shirley Yuen in second place and Jennie Ko and Phillipa Perkins in third.

## Online tools for economic growth and tourism in Niue

NIUE'S TOURISM industry has been given the tools to boost the country's economic base, giving the beautiful island nation more financial independence.

A recent online visitor departure survey, conducted by AUT University's New Zealand Tourism Research Institute (NZTRI), has provided the Government of Niue information on where to grow its vital tourism industry and how to maximise the economic benefits for the country.

NZTRI Director Professor Simon Milne says the survey creates a cost-effective ongoing barometer of economic change that can measure the performance of the Niue tourism industry and the way in which the nation's tourism industry is developing on an ongoing basis.

"Niue and other countries in the Pacific have been characterised by a series of snapshots of their tourism industry; one-off studies which are perhaps useful in the

short term but don't really allow us to look at how things are evolving over time."

Professor Milne says the survey yielded a lot of detailed information such as how visitors spend their money while visiting Niue, and how they find out about Niue as a destination, but the most important findings were those that highlighted how Niue can maximise the benefits associated with tourism.

"We now have a baseline of information which can be used to help plan and develop a more sustainable tourism industry. Another goal of the research programme is to assist Niuean communities to develop a set of online resources with which to market themselves.

"Our long term goal is to enable villages to construct and build their own web-based content, reflecting the stories and culture of Niue."

# Encouraging and Supporting Innovation

THIS MONTH we focus on the Encouraging and Supporting Innovation (ESI) funding programme. The ESI fund was established in 2007 to encourage and support innovation in the tertiary sector.

AUT currently leads four projects that have received ESI funding. The Tertiary Education Commission (TEC) has recognised AUT's innovative approaches to student engagement and new technologies. TEC Senior Advisor Petra Lenihan visited AUT in June to meet a number of the ESI project teams. Maureen Reid, Director of Planning, says that

feedback from the visit was very positive.

"This was a great opportunity for us to highlight the successes of our ESI projects. It's one thing to see a report about our projects, it's certainly another to meet the people face-to-face and to see first hand what the projects are actually achieving".

"We're very proud of our ESI projects, and Petra signalled that she is very keen to visit AUT again to see their progress" Reid said.

The university's four projects are Te Ipukarea – The National Māori Language Institute; the CoLab creative technologies centre; the Rangatahi project and the Agents of Change programme.

### Te Ipukarea – the National Māori Language Institute

Te Ipukarea – the National Māori Language Institute is a collaboration of partners whose goal is the pursuit of excellence in scholarship, teaching and research in the Māori language. Headed by Professor Tania Ka'ai and hosted by Te Ara Poutama at AUT, the institute was established in 2008 and received \$1.5 million over three years. Institute staff are developing digital resources for Māori language learning, teaching and research, with the aim of increasing digital literacy and fluency amongst Māori speakers. Partners include Te Ataarangi, Te Kawa a Māui and Te Herenga Waka of Victoria University of Wellington, Te Panekiretanga o Te Ro Māori of Te Wānanga o Aotearoa, Te Puna Wānaka of Christchurch Polytechnic Institute of Technology, Aotahi: The School of Māori and Indigenous Studies of the University of Canterbury, Lincoln University and Te Ara Poutama, AUT University.

### CoLab

CoLab received \$1.2 million over three years to develop new technologies for creativity and communication. Researchers work with everything from electronic clothing for the theatre industry to real time 3D gaming. Headed by Associate Professor Frances Joseph and based in the Faculty of Design and

Creative Technologies, CoLab brings art and creativity together with engineering and computer science and industry partners. It aims to become New Zealand's leading contemporary creative media and interdisciplinary arts centre.

### The Agents of Change

The Agents of Change programme received the largest single contribution from the ESI fund, with \$3.3 million over three years. Led by Student Recruitment Director Rebecca Davis, the aim is to encourage more Auckland secondary school students to consider tertiary education by making it a fun, relevant and interesting experience. Agents of Change is made up of five sub-projects: Males in Education Now, Plantation Business Challenge, SHINE Sports, Justice, and Prefects Training Programme. Each targets a different group, including young men, Māori, Pasifika, those with leadership potential and elite athletes, with the intent to lift aspirations amongst young people.

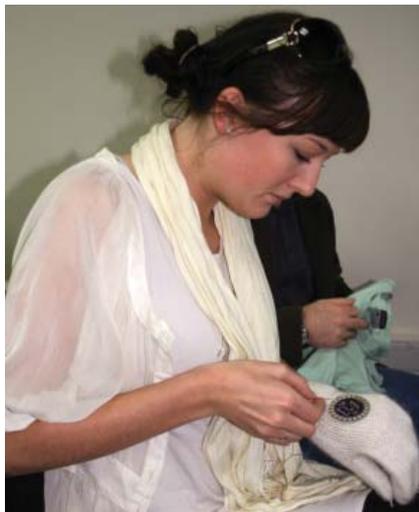
### The Rangatahi Project

The Rangatahi Project, also known as the 'Enhancement of AUT University Health Science Degree Programmes for Success of Māori Students' is a project that assists Māori secondary school students into health professional careers, where Māori are currently under-represented. Students with an interest in or aptitude for health programmes receive mentoring, work experience and academic support while at secondary school and then while studying the health science degree programme at AUT.

This project secured over \$800,000 for three years and is a collaborative project between AUT University's Faculty of Health and Environmental Sciences, with project lead, Associate Dean (Māori Health) Kate Haswell, and the Auckland District Health Board (ADHB) and the Rangatahi Trust (a mentoring organisation for Māori youth). On graduation, students are encouraged to apply for positions within the ADHB.



Above: Petra Lenihan, Senior Advisor, University Investment Group, TEC (third from the left), with the Maori Health – Rangatahi Project Team. Below: Student Nicky Walsh working on her e-mitten at the Lilypad e-textiles workshop run by Dr Leah Beuchley, developer of the Lilypad system.





GROOVE THE NIGHT TICKETS

INSIDE AUT

## ASK AN EXPERT

AUT Corporate Events Manager, and the man responsible for AUT Māori Expo, Renata Blair, tells us about the event and how to get there.

### What is AUT Māori Expo?

AUT Māori Expo is about celebrating Māori achievement in a number of areas, from music and performance, to business and politics. It's a day for everyone, regardless of ethnicity, culture, age or religion. This year's event will feature exhibitor stalls from AUT and other universities; live entertainment from dance crews; kapa haka; a fashion show; topical debates featuring politicians and sportspeople; and of course no Expo would be complete without some good old fashioned kai in the form of mussel fritters, hangī and raw fish.

### What is different about the event this year?

This year AUT Māori Expo is going to be bigger and better than ever. We are moving downtown to Vector Arena, and we are really excited about having Vodafone onboard. The biggest change is the addition of a night concert, Groove the Night. Groove the Night will kick off after the day has finished, and will feature some of New Zealand's finest musical

talent. We've got Che Fu, Tahuna Breaks, Three Houses Down, House of Shem, Cornerstone Roots and Herbs. It's going to be a great night, as it will be a chance for the audience to see our local music on a stage which has been host to some of the world's best.

### Why does AUT host this event?

Māori Expo represents AUT's strong commitment to the Māori community and being the university of choice for Māori. It has a clear education focus for the Māori community and celebrates the achievements and success of Māori in an urban contemporary city. The event also allows AUT to showcase leading staff, programmes and students.

### How do AUT students and staff get tickets?

While the Expo during the day is free to attend, Groove the Night tickets cost \$40. We really want everyone to be able to get down and see this event, so for AUT staff and students, tickets are only \$30. To receive a discounted ticket, staff and students can use the code word



Headlining act Tahuna Breaks

"AUT" when purchasing their tickets from Ticketmaster. Visit [www.ticketmaster.co.nz](http://www.ticketmaster.co.nz) to purchase tickets.

### Win Groove the Night tickets

To go into the draw to win yourself a double pass to Groove the Night, email [tessa.prebble@aut.ac.nz](mailto:tessa.prebble@aut.ac.nz) by August 14 with the subject line "Get me to groove" and tell us two of the six bands playing Groove the Night.

## Art and Design challenges research models

AUT'S SCHOOL of Art and Design is joining a group of Australian universities to examine the practical challenges of writing about art, media and design in a research context.

As a comparatively new grouping of research oriented disciplines, art and design has in the past borrowed research models from the sciences, which are not always appropriate or relevant, says Art and Design Associate Professor Nancy de Freitas.

"We are a young growing field of research and we are looking at different ways of building a research community without having to follow the scientific model. Science is typically about reporting facts. Art and design is interpretative. The aim is to give art and design its own research orientation, its own unique critical footprint."

AUT is collaborating with the Victorian College of the Arts, Swinburne University, Melbourne University, and Monash University

to hold a colloquium, called Art, Media, Design/Writing Intersections, which will take place in Melbourne in November.

Associate Professor de Freitas says that while the colloquium will use some conventional research quality processes such as peer review and a post colloquium journal publication of papers, the format will differ from the usual model. It will allow participants to engage in discussion and feedback in the lead-up to the colloquium event and afterwards, prior to publication of outcomes. It will be a collaborative process, starting online, becoming live and continuing online.

To achieve this, the School of Art and Design has built a website for virtual colloquium activity. Abstracts will be submitted, vetted and published on the website for comment. On the colloquium day, participants will have 10 minutes



Developing the site with William Lu, web developer for the School of Art and Design

to speak to their papers in themed, discursive groups.

"The School of Art and Design will be a part of this valuable initiative, building our research capability through open discussion and collective honing of the language we use and the research approaches we develop for our creative work."

## BRIEFLY

### Business briefs

PROFESSOR RAY Markey and PhD scholar Katherine Ravenswood attended a symposium at Aalborg University in Denmark as part of a collaborative project involving AUT's NZWALMI. The pair will undertake research alongside researchers from Aalborg and the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU).

DR SHIRLEY JÜLICH has supported Louise Nicholas to write her first report as the Government appointed Survivor Advocate. It is entitled *Kia kaha stand strong: The Louise Nicholas report*. Auckland: Rape Prevention Education.

Dr Jülich was also commissioned to prepare a background paper for TOAH-NNEST, a bi-cultural organisation representing groups working with and for victims/survivors of sexual violence in New Zealand entitled: *Te Ohaakii A Hine – National Network Ending Sexual Violence Together (TOAH-NNEST): A background paper for the sexual violence sector*.

### Public reading

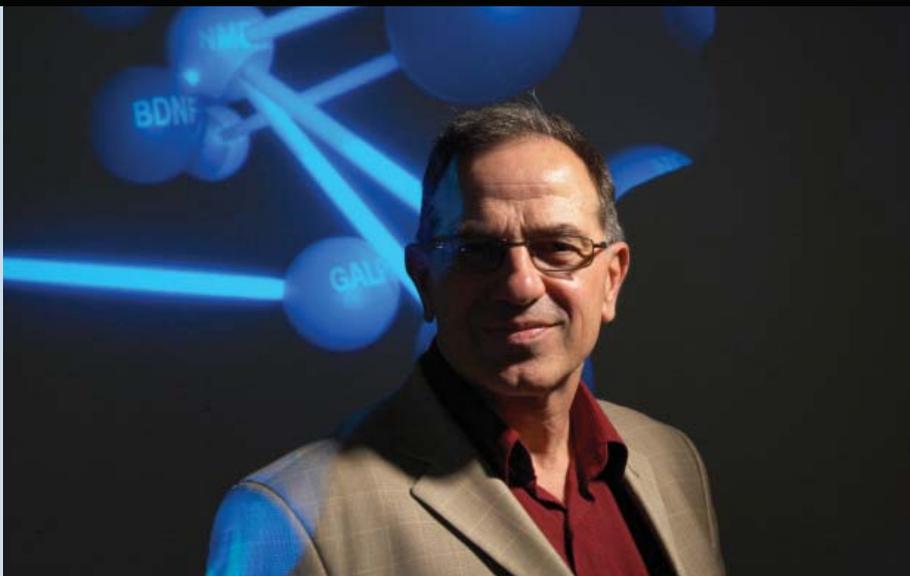
Students from the Centre for Modern Writing were given the chance to present their work to the public last month. Three Master of Creative Writing students read to lunchtime attendees at the New Voices session of writers run by the New Zealand Society of Authors and the Auckland Art Gallery.

Tim Heath, Michael Botur and Jenny Purchase read excerpts from their novels and short stories to a full and appreciative audience.

### Seamlessly alpaca

The Textile + Design Lab is developing alpaca knitwear for Auckland company Waitakere Alpacas using its whole garment knitting machine.

The knitting machine, which produces seamless garments, has been used to produce ponchos for the Alpaca Roecoert range of natural clothing. The garment is made from fibre spun from 80% alpaca and 20% fine merino wool.



## KEDRI joins research on brain wasting diseases

A TRIP to Atlanta by the School of Computing and Mathematical Sciences' Professor Nikola Kasabov has yielded exciting research opportunities for AUT.

Professor Kasabov (pictured), director of the Knowledge Engineering and Discovery Research Institute (KEDRI) and president of the International Neural Network Society (INNS), opened the International Joint Conference on Neural Networks (IJCNN), held in Atlanta, USA in June and was invited to talk.

Before the conference Professor Kasabov was invited to the IBM Brain Research Centre at Almaden, California. He and centre director Dr Dharmendra Modha agreed to jointly develop a large scale simulator of about 10 million neurons and several billions of connections. The simulator will be based on Professor Kasabov's probabilistic mathematical model and will run on IBM's in-house Blue Gene supercomputer. Such a model, the first of this scale, will be further used for the study of brain diseases and also for solving complex engineering problems.

After the IJCNN conference, Professor Kasabov met with six European partners to discuss building large scale neural network models for neuro-degenerative diseases. The consortium includes the University of Ulster and Imperial College (UK), Kaiserslautern (Germany), Trento (Italy), La Coruna (Spain), Grenoble (France), AUT's KEDRI and the Centre for Stroke

and Applied Neuroscience. The partners will meet again this month in Munich to finalise their proposal, this time with the participation of another leading researcher AUT Professor Valery Feigin.

Turning to China, last month KEDRI signed a memorandum of understanding with Xinjiang University in West China and Shanghai Jiao Tong University to take part in a project on intelligent information systems for exploration, understanding and prediction of ecological and environmental problems. The systems developed will use novel neural network models developed at KEDRI.

Beijing-based New Zealand Embassy educator counsellor Guergana Guermanoff says, "This is very prestigious for AUT. So far New Zealand is the only country to have set up such tripartite relationships to work with Western region universities as well as key ones on the east coast. Australia and Canada are now racing to emulate our example."

Next year China will host Expo 2010 in Shanghai which will coincide with the Seventh International Symposium on Neural Networks also to be held in Shanghai. Professor Kasabov, who is a plenary speaker at the conference, will use his visit to strengthen the university links established by KEDRI. He is working alongside Chris Hawley, director of International Relations and Development and Dr Ellen Forch, director of research and development at the University Research Office.



SEE PAGE 7 FOR YOUR DISCOUNT

## AUT student represents New Zealand in China

FOR THE first time an AUT University student is representing New Zealand in the annual 'China Bridge' competition in China. What's remarkable about this achievement is that Todd Ventura is only a second year Chinese major student at AUT.

The Auckland preliminary competition was held in May, and contestants had to demonstrate language skills, knowledge of China, and give a cultural performance such as a Chinese dance, Chinese martial arts or Chinese calligraphy. Ventura was awarded the top accolade, a special prize, which included an all expenses paid trip to China for the semi finals and finals, competing with some 120 university students from around the world.

Ventura will take part in organised sightseeing as part of the competition and will learn more about Chinese culture. Apart from giving a speech, answering questions on China and giving a cultural performance, Ventura will also be tested on what he has learned there on the spot as part of the semi-finals process, all in Chinese. If he is successful he will automatically go on to compete in the finals.

Carl Burrows, a third year Chinese major student, was also awarded an all expenses paid trip to China to attend the competition camp and observe the competition which starts in late July and goes through till early August.

AUT lecturer Susan Yue Hua Sun says there are many careers in which learning another language and the intercultural competence that comes with it are useful, including tourism, hospitality, customs, translation and interpretation services, social work, teaching, trade, IT, and the diplomatic service.

Ventura will stay on in China after the competition and complete his semester two studies at Jinan University as part of an AUT exchange programme.

## Trusted mark of safety for AUT

AUT OUTDOORS has been awarded the OutdoorsMark qualification for its excellence in all areas of health and safety, placing it a cut above the rest.

Industry body 'Outdoors New Zealand' designed the safety assurance programme following a series of deaths within the sector and has been auditing providers of outdoor education, outdoor recreation and adventure activities.

Mark Jones, a senior lecturer in the School of Sport and Recreation, says that all outdoor education providers have been under the spotlight, and health and safety practices scrutinised since the 2008 Mangatepopo tragedy.

"I think it's a very positive initiative," he says. "It will give substandard operators a standard to aim for and create a universal level of safety needed within our industry."

To secure the OutdoorsMark qualification, safety policies, procedures

and practices are audited with examiners heading out 'into the field' to assess instructor conduct, compliance with policy and equipment safety.

"We have always taken the approach that it is important that we model sound health and safety practices to our students. If anything, this validates that the procedures and systems we are running meet the mark."

Jones was quick to remark that risk management is a continual process that requires constant review.

"It's a lot like learning actually," says Jones. "The moment you think you know it all, you're heading for trouble. Continued scrutiny of our own systems and procedures and contribution to research into outdoor risk management will help ensure we remain leaders in our sector."

## Midwifery training via satellite

MIDWIFERY DEGREE programmes delivered on AUT's North Shore Campus are reaching into the Northland, Taranaki and Counties Manukau communities. Videoconferencing facilities have allowed AUT to deliver lectures in real-time to students via satellite links, alongside "traditional" classes.

AUT Head of Midwifery Jackie Gunn says chronic midwife shortages and a real desire on the part of the health sector to provide community-sourced midwives have driven the initiative which has strong support from the District Health Boards.

"Sourcing midwives from the community is far cheaper than bringing them in. It gives greater continuity to services and the likelihood is that the midwives will have a better understanding of their own community and its needs."

District Health Boards in Northland, Taranaki and Counties Manukau are supporting the initiative by providing access to video conferencing facilities, priority access to clinical education centres and access to the DHB libraries.

"We've had a small group of students in Northland since 1990, with registered



nurses taking on the midwifery training, but without the video conferencing facilities the fallout was that their families were uplifted from Northland to Auckland."

With videoconferencing in place, students studying the Bachelor of Health Science (Midwifery) by distance only travel to the North Shore Campus for some core units of the degree, taught in short blocks, and complete compulsory clinical hours in their own communities.

There are currently 11 students taking part in Northland, two in Taranaki and capacity for 15 in South Auckland.

## CEPD CLIPBOARD

### Developing interactivity in new teaching spaces

DURING the week before semester two around 60 academic staff gathered in the new teaching environments at the North Shore Campus. Peter Mellow from CEPD led a discussion around the new technologies and pedagogies for large space learning. AF114 (300 seats) and AF116 (150 seats) are traditional lecture theatres; however they have two-screen projection technology and utilise the Symposium system.

AF124 has been refurbished in the style of an interactive lecture theatre, similar to



LeBaron Hall at Iowa State University, where one row of students can easily turn around and talk with the students behind them.

The main theme of the discussion was one of developing interactivity in lectures

between the lecturer and students, and among the students themselves. Some examples of how to make your lectures more interactive are available at [www.thiagi.com/interactive-lectures.html](http://www.thiagi.com/interactive-lectures.html)

### Allied staff development series – School of Art and Design

FROM THE 13th-15th July allied staff in the School of Art and Design embarked upon a three-day staff development programme, the brain-child of School Manager Andrea Morgan. Approximately 22 staff were offered the programme that covered a variety of work skills, teambuilding activities, IT updates, networking and knowledge sharing opportunities.

Desna Jury, Head of School for Art and Design, opened the programme endorsing the value of ongoing learning. The programme finished with an energetic treasure hunt that involved participants familiarising themselves with areas of the City Campus they would not usually associate with.

Vivienne Duffy, CEPD, assisted with the provision of workshops during the three days as well as organising workshops by other



Above: Vivienne Duffy, CEPD (left) and Andrea Morgan, Art and Design

AUT staff. Judy Rooney (Student Services) offered a workshop on effective customer service, and Eamon Wright (Library) facilitated a minute-taking workshop.

Morgan commented that with the help of Vivienne and Lorraine, the programme came together easily. “The staff thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to work together and share their expertise and experiences, and are keen to repeat the exercise next year.”

### “De-stressing” at lunchtime

AT AN AUT management breakfast in June, Dr Mark Le Fevre, senior lecturer in the Faculty of Business and Law, presented an overview of his research on stress and performance in managers. As a follow-up Le Fevre generously offered to run four short sessions for AUT managers, through CEPD, using ‘on the spot’ stress management techniques that featured in his research.

Over the four lunch-hour sessions Le Fevre introduced a group of 18 AUT managers to a range of relaxation and guided visualisation techniques using both somatic (physical) and cognitive (psychological) methods. The initial sessions involved well-known ‘slower’ techniques but over the weeks built up our ability to use brief ‘on the spot’ techniques that have shown to be much more effective in a busy work environment.

Diary 9th September – 2009 Allied Staff Development Conference – “Resilience in Turbulent Times: Keeping ahead of the game?” This year’s conference features inspirational keynote speaker Ngahihi o te ra Bidois plus a wealth of motivational and informative workshops. If you would like to contribute please call Carol or Vivienne at CEPD.



## Taking learning to work

WHEN LENAIRE Wilcox decided to return to study after 10 years, AUT was the obvious choice for her. Having completed her Bachelor of Business degree with Honours, she is now looking at a masters in management and Māori development.

Wilcox (above) works as a Business Innovation Manager for ANZ Bank and says her choice to focus on Māori development as part of her business degree was an easy one.

“There’s not a lot of research out there specifically on Māori in big business or corporate environments. There’s a bit of research into Māori entrepreneurs but I wanted to look at the Māori experience of work, particularly in large Pakeha-dominated corporates.”

Wilcox says the support AUT offers to students is better than anywhere else she has experienced and says the Wananga was a great place for her to concentrate on her study. She also took advantage of all the free KEYS courses AUT offers students.

Wilcox hopes to take what she has learned and apply it to her current role at ANZ. She is part of the bank’s Māori and Pacific staff network group and wants to look into how the group can include their Māori and Pacific values into their work with staff, customers and the wider community.

“I wanted to add to my knowledge for the benefit of my people and AUT gave me the support I needed to be able to do this.”

## Learning the ropes at Westfield Style Pasifika

Five AUT students are being given internships in the production of one of New Zealand’s most colourful and spectacular events – Westfield Style Pasifika.

Westfield Style Pasifika is a live and televised show of traditional and contemporary fashion, dance and music reflecting the theme of Mana Pasifika.

Two students in event management, two in fashion design and one in television will work on the event to gain invaluable experience in their chosen areas of study. The work experience is part of a new partnership with AUT to encourage Pasifika students to take on careers in the creative industries.

The event management students will work with Westfield Style Pasifika producer Stan Wolfgramme on all aspects of event production including scheduling, forecasting, budgeting and sponsorship. The fashion design students will work with



the event’s head of wardrobe and will have roles in the prejudging of more than 300 garments by judges such as Francis Hooper and Liz Mitchell. A television student will work with TVNZ from the creation of a show format for broadcast through to filming, post-production and delivery.

As part of its sponsorship AUT will also host 25 secondary school students who are interested in fashion design and their parents or family members at the live show on September 4.

## Taranaki student awarded TVNZ journalism scholarship

TARANAKI HAS produced television stars Jim Hickey and Toni Street and now another talented young broadcaster with a promising career in television journalism has emerged from the province.

Eighteen-year-old Kimberlee Downs of New Plymouth has been awarded the TVNZ Journalism Diversity Scholarship at AUT University. Downs is a third generation Chinese New Zealander with an excellent academic and sporting record from Sacred Heart College in New Plymouth.

The scholarship is valued at more than \$30,000 and is open to New Zealanders who are of Māori, Pacific Island or Asian ethnicity, who meet strong community and media criteria and are accepted to the Bachelor of Communication Studies

programme. All fees are paid for during the three year degree and paid holiday work is offered at TVNZ.

Head of news and current affairs, Anthony Flannery says the scholarship is about telling New Zealand stories and having kiwis on screen.

“The scholarship is designed to make the TVNZ newsroom more diverse and better reflect the perspective of all New Zealanders in the news.

“I’m confident Kimberlee will help us achieve that goal. She was an outstanding candidate, and would have been in any field she’d entered. I’m sure she will be very successful and the Chinese community in New Zealand will be very proud of her.”



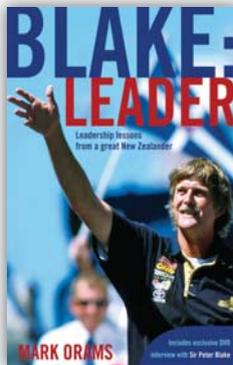
## A makeover for the changing world

FROM THIS semester, two of AUT's shuttle buses will be sporting a new look fit for the changing world. The brown and tan façades have been replaced with modern, contemporary designs as part of AUT's marketing campaign.

Nick Swallow, Director of Marketing, says the new designs are part of the broader AUT marketing campaign showing AUT as a new university that is relevant and responsive to the changing world.

"The buses form a part of the outdoor campaign that aims to take awareness to a much broader group than just students, including employers, parents and influencers. This is supported with bus shelter advertising, plus a TV and print media campaign that complete the story about AUT. The AUT buses are a low cost medium for the amount of exposure they provide" says Swallow.

Two of AUT's shuttle buses have already had their makeover, with the two more earmarked for 2010.



## Winners of Blake: Leader

Congratulations to Jo Stone and Sharrol Borges who won last month's Inside AUT competition. They each received a copy of Mark Orams' newly published book Blake: Leader. The answer was: Sir Peter Blake.

## 'Scooter sisters' prefer two wheels to four

NEXT TIME you're stuck in rush hour traffic, you might see one of AUT's 'scooter sisters' overtaking you and whizzing down the road.

AUT colleagues and friends Judy Rooney (Student Information Centre), Lynette Edmonds (Admissions) and Denise Clarke (HR) are just three of the growing population of people turning to two wheels to commute into the CBD.

A familiar sight driving down St Paul Street early in the



morning, the 'scooter sisters' as they are affectionately known, say there are heaps of advantages to leaving the car at home.

"It's cheap, quick, and fun. Plus you can smell the café food and coffee on the way to work" says Clarke, who has been driving a scooter to work for over five years.

Rooney, manager of the AUT Student Information Centres and the most recent convert to the scooter club, says you can't beat the convenience. "I never have to hunt for a car park, and when the traffic is bad, I can get through a lot quicker."

"The convenience of being able to manoeuvre safely through traffic is a big plus, as is the cost. A scooter is so cheap to run, especially when petrol is so expensive" adds Edmonds.

AUT travel plan co-ordinator Susie George says more and more people are looking at alternative travel options due to the cost of petrol and the increasing amount of congestion on Auckland's roads and motorways. She says AUT is supporting regional efforts by promoting public transport and sustainable travel options including walking, cycling and running.

This includes supporting the recent reduction of tertiary student ticket prices (through AuSM), offering free shower and changing facilities to staff and students who walk, cycle or run to AUT, giving away free public transport passes and installing more cycle racks, walkways and electronic signage on campus. For more information about AUT's travel plan initiatives you can contact [susie.george@aut.ac.nz](mailto:susie.george@aut.ac.nz)