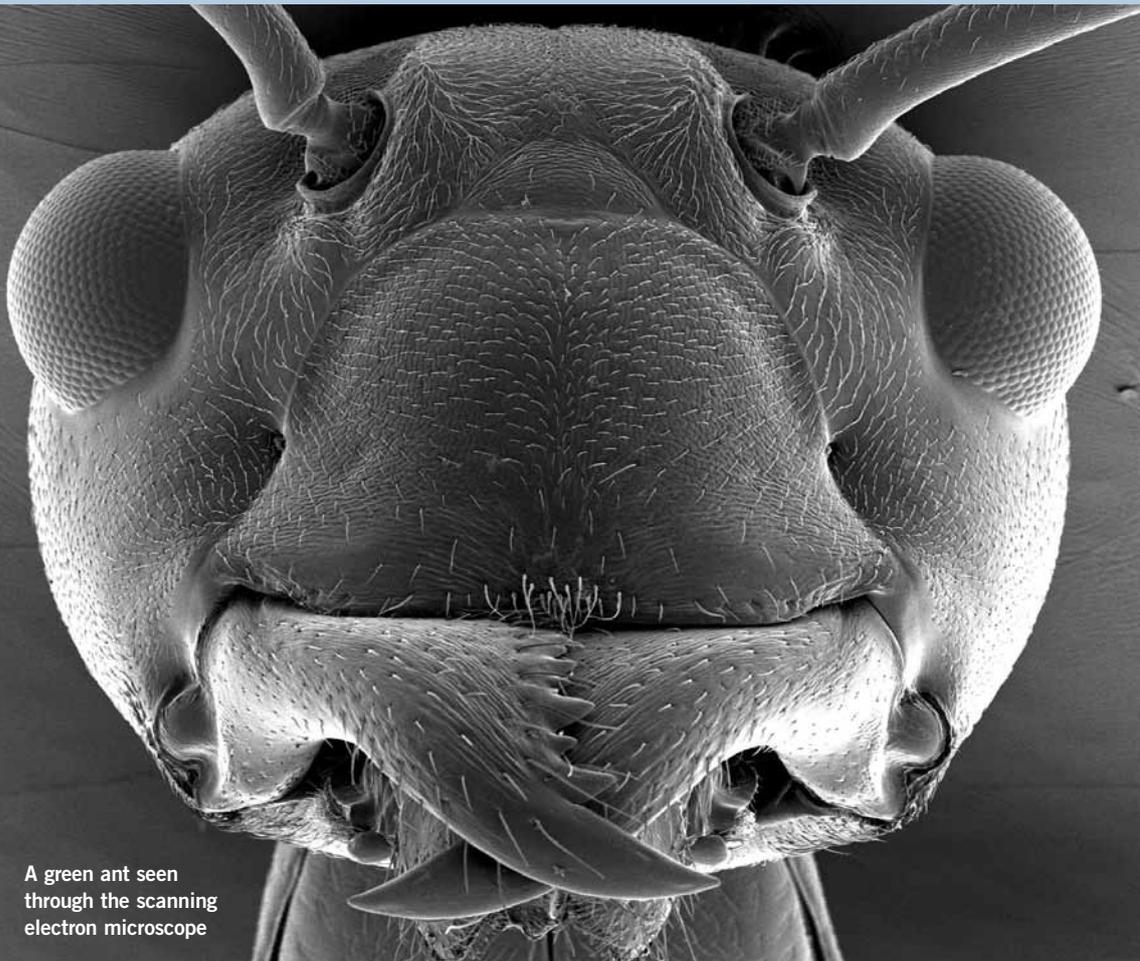


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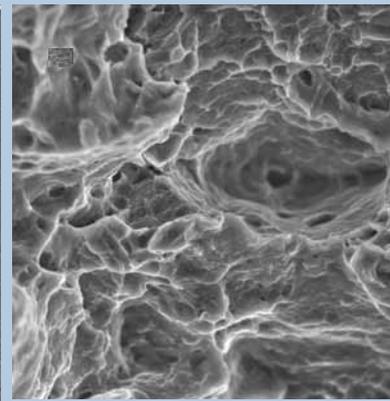
# INSIDE | AUT

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

## New technology good for industry links



A green ant seen through the scanning electron microscope



**INVESTMENT IN TWO PIECES** of cutting-edge equipment is set to tighten links between AUT and industry.

The university has purchased a scanning electron microscope and a laser sintering machine – both of which are housed in the bottom floor of the Engineering building. The electron microscope is under the careful watch of technician Jen Wilkinson and the laser sintering machine is already being put to good use by Professor Olaf Diegel in the Rapid Prototype Laboratory.

Both items will benefit students across the university as well as those working with industry partners on postgraduate study.

The scanning electron microscope is the first of its kind in New Zealand and offers

ultra-high resolution. It specialises in material analysis and has two specialist sensor systems – both of which have been used to help explain a common effect observed in the manufacturing of aluminium.

The microscope's uses are not limited to engineering. Its ultra-high resolution makes it a valuable resource across the university, for the likes of food technologists investigating bacterial growth (biofilms) and scientists looking at very small variations in insect species.

Another addition to AUT's hardware is a state-of-the-art plastic laser sintering machine – the only machine of its kind in New Zealand – which is already churning out production quality omni directional robot wheels and full-

strength nylon gears.

The laser sintering machine can make small production runs of different components at the same time. Each component is printed layer-upon-layer out of plastic powder that is selectively melted by a laser, and the machine is capable of manufacturing complete working assemblies, which take the assembly labour out of the equation.

“By exposing industry to the machine's expansive list of uses we may be able to help bring some of the high-value manufacturing back to New Zealand,” says Diegel.

Engineers and product designers at AUT are already putting the machine to the test, working with partners in the fields of health care and conservation.

PHOTO CREDIT: DR KEVIN BLAKE FROM JAMES COOK UNIVERSITY, AUSTRALIA

PHOTO CREDIT: DR KEVIN BLAKE FROM JAMES COOK UNIVERSITY, AUSTRALIA

## LETTER FROM THE VC

**THE NEW AUT STRATEGIC PLAN** is a brief, high-level document that I hope will help us focus together on the big directions and our shared goals, whatever our role at AUT. It will be delivered to all staff in November.



During the consultation process, hundreds of staff and students contributed to the strategic plan. I think a sense of ownership is clear in the final document. The concept of connections is also central – we need to be mindful of how our work in one

area can, and should, influence other areas of significance.

High levels of staff engagement are important as we strive to achieve the ambitious goals we have set ourselves for the next five years. The staff engagement survey carried out this year gives us a good snapshot, highlighting what we are doing well and identifying areas that need work.

Overall, the results of the survey are positive. Compared to other large organisations in the public, private and education sectors, AUT has an above-average level of staff engagement. Staff get a strong sense of personal achievement from their jobs and feel positive about the opportunities they have here.

A major topic in the tertiary sector recently has been voluntary student membership (VSM), which comes into effect on 1 January 2012. AUT is working with AuSM to ensure that the level of service delivered to AUT students is not adversely affected by this change. Our collaboration with AuSM is an important piece of work, because the quality of the overall experience students have at AUT is fundamental to our future success.

The recent opening of the National Training Centre for high performance athletes at the AUT Millennium Campus was a milestone for AUT as New Zealand's leading sports science research university. The opening was officiated by the International Olympic Committee President, Dr Jacques Rogge, and the Minister for Sport and Recreation, Hon Murray McCully. This world-class training and research centre demonstrates the very useful connection that can exist between research and 'real life', in this case with the outcome of athletes who are even more competitive.

Finally, I want to congratulate Professor Stephen Henry, of the School of Applied Sciences and Director of the Biotechnology Research Institute, for being awarded the 2011 R.J. Scott Medal for engineering science and technology work of great merit. This prestigious award is for the development of a unique technology that represents a step change in the ability of scientists to create, manipulate and study the effects of carbohydrate structures on intercellular processes. The award recognises the tremendous contribution made by Professor Henry to research and development in New Zealand.

## Marsden research on male advantage, game theory

**DR IRENE RYAN** of the AUT Business School was among the 8.2 per cent of researchers in New Zealand awarded Marsden Fund grants in October.

Focusing on the role sport plays in male-dominated leadership cultures, Ryan's research will seek to determine how the perceived ability to talk sports, play sport and utilise sport strategies is advantageous for certain men, and how these three activities align with leadership masculinities.

In *'Something Else is Happening! The Invisibility of Female Leadership'*, Ryan will seek to make sense of the part sport plays in work settings, and to identify whether anyone is advantaged or disadvantaged.

"In this country, sport is pervasive and yet the way it relates to managerial skills, organisational performance and leadership cultures is hidden, with these arenas seeming to be gender-neutral and sites of meritocracy," says Ryan.

"The proposed study turns the lens towards male advantage – in contrast to female disadvantage, and will add a further dimension to documenting and theorising the invisible factors that impede equal opportunity outcomes – despite four decades of effort. Such invisible factors continue to result in inequalities in leadership and governance roles in New Zealand business in both the public and private sectors," she says.

Also receiving a Marsden Fund grant this year was Dr Jiamou Liu, lecturer in computing/information sciences. Liu will use the fund to further his research into mathematical theories behind computer science, in particular, how a computer system allocates resources for all the services it provides, and how it prioritises the conflicting requests it deals with from its multiple tasks.

Liu believes we may be able to teach a computer to (in essence) think for itself. The result would be more efficient computers with faster response times.

Professor Ajit Narayanan, Head of the School of Computing and Mathematical Sciences, says the findings of this research could have huge implications for industry.

"Understanding whether computers have the ability to adjust their own strategies without any outside help is very exciting. It puts AUT University at the forefront of research in the area of game theory."

The Marsden Fund supports leading-edge research, and is regarded as a hallmark of excellence. It is administered annually by the Royal Society of New Zealand and funded by the New Zealand Government.

## AUT Strategic Plan 2012-16

**MOST LARGE** organisations publish a new strategic plan every few years, and AUT's 2012-16 Strategic Plan is now ready, based on an extensive consultation with its communities of staff and students.

The opening whakatauki (proverb) signals the AUT values: *Tāwhaitia te ara o te tika, te pono me te aroha, kia piki ki te taumata tiketike* ('Follow the path of integrity, respect and compassion; scale the heights of achievement').

This plan builds upon the strategic direction of the current strategic plan. But there are changes in emphasis that reflect the development of the university in its first ten years and a desire to increase its contribution.

The plan is based on a set of carefully considered values. And importantly, it acknowledges that themes are interdependent. The five main themes that the plan is structured around are: learning and teaching, research and scholarship,

staff, engagement with communities, and continuous development.

"The university's success in one area is affected by its success in all the other areas. To have inspirational learning, we need excellent teachers who bring their research into the class and a curriculum that is informed by our relationships with communities, professions, industry and business," says Vice-Chancellor Derek McCormack.

"In March and April, AUT's Head of Strategic Developments, Jenny Bygrave, ran more than 100 consultation sessions with staff and students. There was a strong sense of ownership from staff and students, who expressed high aspirations for the university and belief in its potential and the contribution it can make."

Stronger links between the strategic plan and planning for faculties and directorates are a focus of the new plan, which aims to give AUT an overarching sense of direction



that will cascade through its other planning processes.

"This is a strategic plan about linkages and connections," says McCormack.

All AUT staff members will receive a copy of the Strategic Plan 2012-16 in November.

## Strong academic direction for Manukau

**DR MARION JONES**, Associate Dean Postgraduate for the Faculty of Health and Environmental Sciences, was recently appointed Dean, University Postgraduate Studies and Academic Lead for the Manukau campus.

Jones will bring experience across curriculum development, leadership and community consultation to her new role at the Manukau campus.

Since opening in March 2010, the campus has been highly successful in terms of meeting its EFTS targets, but attention has now turned to clearly defining the academic direction of the campus to 2020. And while feedback from many students has been that the campus' environment is conducive to learning, Jones says it is important to gain feedback and consultation at this stage of the campus' development to ensure the academic direction is robust.

"Part of our strategy is defining what Manukau is going to be known for and how this will profile AUT as a whole,"

says Jones. "The Manukau campus has amazing potential to look for synergies and respond to the community over time."

Responding to the community will be critical; Manukau is ethnically diverse as well as being the fastest-growing area in the country. It has a large European, Māori and Pasifika population, as well as a significant Asian population, which is expected to account for most of the area's growth in coming years. Jones says it is important that the suite of programmes available at the campus responds to the area's diverse population.

Providing a seamless transition for undergraduate students into postgraduate programmes is also part of the strategy.

"In terms of postgraduate and research, the campus is ready. Given that we will be moving into a third year of undergraduate teaching in 2012, it absolutely follows that we continue with the development of postgraduate offerings. We will do this by ensuring we consult with faculties to decide the best way forward."



**Dr Marion Jones**

Postgraduate options are already growing – from 2012, students will be able to choose from qualifications in health, sport, computing and applied humanities.

"This role is a privilege," says Jones. "It has given me a unique opportunity to lead the academic development of a new campus, and to look at how to develop it as a quality, active and exciting teaching and learning hub. The potential is huge and exciting."



## Cruise ship research makes waves

**RESEARCH CO-AUTHORED** by AUT University's head of hospitality Dr Jill Poulston about sexual harassment on cruise ships has become a talking point in New Zealand and beyond.

Poulston's research, completed in conjunction with Professor Ross Klein from Memorial University of Newfoundland, St John's, Canada, found that the rate of sex-related incidents on cruise ships is almost 50 per cent higher than the rate of sexual assault on land in Canada.

Perpetrators were most often male crew members and victims were most often female passengers. Although assaults could occur almost anywhere, most frequently they occurred in passenger cabins.

The research captured the interest of New Zealand media, with coverage in the *New Zealand Herald* quickly followed by numerous radio interviews.

Interest in the study's findings also came from travel publications, blogs and a rape prevention organisation.

Poulston has previously completed research on sexual harassment in hospitality.

## New chair for language revitalisation centre

**THE INTERNATIONAL CENTRE** for Language Revitalisation recently welcomed its inaugural chair, Professor of Language Revitalisation Muiris O'Laoire.

**Where were you working before starting in your role at AUT?**

I was in Ireland working as a senior lecturer in Irish language and cultural studies at the Institute of Technology in Tralee, County Kerry. I also worked as a postgraduate research supervisor in sociolinguistics and applied linguistics.

**Why did you choose to work in endangered languages?**

Irish is a minority language spoken as a first language by less than five per cent of the Irish population. Issues regarding the language and its extended use were always a concern for me. My PhD examined the revitalisation of Hebrew. I became aware of the growing number of near-extinct languages over the years; there are 6,800 languages worldwide and half will be at risk by the end of the century. Ninety-five per cent of these languages are spoken by less than five per cent of the world's population.

**Why did you decide to come to AUT and be the new chair of the centre?**

This was a tremendous opportunity to be a professor in a new centre with new energy and be part of a deeply committed team of experts led by Professor Ka'ai and Professor Moorfield and their team.

**Why do you think it is important for AUT to be focusing on the centre?**

Language revitalisation is usually subsumed in sociolinguistics departments in a lot of universities, so space and visibility in a designated centre where scholarship and enthusiasm meet is really important. This is also about producing new and cutting-edge research and it shows AUT's commitment to te reo and to international scholarship and new research epistemology.

**What are your goals as the new chair?**

As a new professor here I want to grow the research base, attract a sizeable cohort of international students and learn

from and work with an energetic team. **Since AUT is 'The University for the changing world', why should we work on revitalising endangered languages?**

The future is actually about diversity and we are in a knowledge society. When we go back to revitalise we are acknowledging this diversity and culture and this has a place in the future. We don't know where we are going unless we know the past.



AUT's new Professor of Language Revitalisation, Muiris O'Laoire

## AUT staff has energy and commitment: academic audit

**THE ENERGY AND COMMITMENT** of AUT staff is recognised in the university's latest academic audit report, carried out by the New Zealand Universities Academic Audit Unit. The audit examines AUT's academic activities and progress towards its goals.

As well as acknowledging the energy of staff and their contribution to the evolution of the university, the report commends AUT's senior management and council for their responsiveness, agility and leadership.

"The report commends AUT's learning and teaching approaches, affirms development of our research and recognises our community engagement strategies," says Vice-Chancellor Derek McCormack.

The university's preparation of students for professional practice and employment gets a special mention, and the report confirms that students rate AUT highly with regard to class interaction, active learning and work-related learning.

The university has made a "significant investment" in increasing its research capability and infrastructure through investing in staff and resources, according to the report.

Read the full text of the audit at <http://www.nzuaau.ac.nz>



## Fattened eels could open door to export market

**AN AUT RESEARCHER'S** determination to understand overseas markets has led to the creation of an eel-fattening technique that could open the door to a lucrative international market. By using the technique to fatten its wild eels, New Zealand could participate in an international eel market worth around US\$1.2 billion per annum.

Once Dr Jorge Hirt-Chabbert discovered that only fatty eels attract a premium on the international market, he set about creating a high quality New Zealand eel product that offered the right level of fattiness and could also thrive in New Zealand conditions. He achieved this via short-term fattening of wild shortfin eel (*Anguilla australis*).

Hirt-Chabbert's research could prove very valuable for the New Zealand aquaculture industry, which does not currently have eel farms.

"At the moment in New Zealand, we only catch wild eels to sell locally and internationally," says Hirt-Chabbert. "Unfortunately, those wild eels are not considered quality product internationally, because their body fat is generally below ten per cent, too low for high-value markets accustomed to fatty cultured eels."

The global eel market trades around 270,000 tonnes a year. Over 97 per cent of that trade is in European and Japanese eels, which have body fat of 13-25 per

cent. "The global eel industry is strongly dominated by cultured eels. There has been a decline in the wild eel stock around the world and a significant reduction in the supplies of European and Japanese glass eels. This decline has placed a commercial premium on the development of intensive eel culture," says Hirt-Chabbert.

"The body fat content and its fatty acid profile are among the main factors that define the flesh texture, flavour and aroma of any fish product. Fatty fish give a smooth and succulent sensation while less fatty fish give a more dry sensation. The juiciness of the fish product depends on the muscle fat content rather than the moisture content. These qualities determine consumer acceptance of the eels."

Hirt-Chabbert says there is a growing interest in culturing freshwater eels in New Zealand. He has had promising talks with Māori iwi and industry leaders about the possibility of using his research to develop a cultured eel product.

Hirt-Chabbert is the recipient of an AUT University Postdoctoral Fellowship 2011 and the author of a New Zealand fish species guide. Originally from Argentina – where he gained a masters degree in Natural Resources Management from National University of La Plata – he has over 18 years of experience working as a biologist specialising in conservation, fisheries, seafood processing and aquaculture.

## Minister marks Mental Health Week

**IN RECOGNITION** of World Mental Health Day and New Zealand's Mental Health Awareness Week, the Associate Minister of Health Hon Dr Jonathan Coleman, recently spoke at AUT, where he addressed the state of mental health policy in New Zealand.

The minister was one of several speakers taking part in 'The Great Push: Investing in Mental Health', hosted by Professor Max Abbott, Dean of AUT's Faculty of Health and Environmental Sciences, in association with the Mental Health Foundation of New Zealand, Waitemata District Health Board and Te Pou.



## Statistics: a passport to publication

**AUT STATISTICIAN** Dr Robin Hankin classifies himself as a ‘specialist in generalities’ and his favourite problem is one he can’t solve.

A recent addition to the mathematics staff, Hankin’s skill set is useful to a broad range of university staff and students carrying out research and wanting to secure coverage in top international journals.

So far he has put these skills to good use assisting students and staff at both Cambridge and Southampton, in the UK, before coming to New Zealand.

“My job is to help get AUT research published in top international journals and I can do this by offering support in the area of statistical analysis,” he says.

“International journals are insisting on ever-higher standards of statistical analysis for their research articles.

“Very often AUT academics collect an outstandingly high-quality dataset that requires sophisticated analysis to extract the scientific information. That’s where I can help.

“My job is to find the right statistical technique for any scientific hypothesis and it’s my responsibility to explain how theory is helping the scholarship. As a research-active statistician I spend a fair few hours a week keeping on top of new theories and approaches. A problem that I can’t answer and have to develop a new statistical technique for – this is absolute gold dust to me!”

Hankin gives a talk called ‘How to Use a Statistician’ and his take-home message is: get statistical help early. Don’t leave it until the last minute.

Hankin adds that the process is time-consuming because it is inherently interdisciplinary. “I need to understand the scientific problem in order to suggest the appropriate analysis, and the client needs to understand the statistical theory, so they can check that I’m doing the right thing. So it’s much more of a research collaboration than anything.”

Hankin says the ultimate goal for him in this new role is more published research

for AUT. “The best-case scenario is a problem that results in publishable science and the creation of a new statistical technique. With any luck we can secure two research publications: one in the client’s discipline and one in the specialist statistical literature.”

Contact Dr Robin Hankin on [robin.hankin@aut.ac.nz](mailto:robin.hankin@aut.ac.nz) to find out more.



**Robin Hankin**

## Closely held media could threaten democracy



**AN AUT JOURNALISM** report that says New Zealand media ownership has become too concentrated has opened up a public debate about the threat this poses to democracy in this country.

The ‘New Zealand Media Ownership Report 2011’ authored by journalism postgraduate student Merja Myllylahti was released by AUT’s Research Centre for Journalism, Media and Democracy (JMAD) at the JMAD conference ‘Political Economy of Education’ in September.

The report argues that news stories are being informed by fewer sources, resulting in fewer voices being heard.

“Broadly speaking there are fewer mainstream content providers and less choice for consumer-citizens,” says Myllylahti.

The report says the New Zealand media companies are increasingly dominated by global and pan-regional media corporations and are vulnerable to commercial and

shareholder pressures. In response to these pressures New Zealand media companies have continued to economise and started to digitalise, developments which have led to the closure of a 20-year-old weekly business paper, job losses for journalists, printers, advertising and distribution workers, and government loans for a conglomerate with major broadcast holdings.

“There are now three major players that own 80 per cent plus of the New Zealand media – APN, Fairfax and MediaWorks,” says JMAD co-director and AUT journalism lecturer Associate Professor Wayne Hope.

“The sphere of public debate is shrinking, with fewer voices, fewer journalists and fewer outlets. Every New Zealander relies on mass media for information about the world around them. In a situation where we have concentration of ownership into a few hands and profit becomes more important than public interest, the danger is that not only do we get less information overall, we also get less variety of information.”

## Artefacts campaign aims for evolution



**AUT'S NEW 'ARTEFACTS'** advertising campaign began to roll out in print and online in September and October. Each faculty has selected a group of artefacts that represent priority areas. The objects have their own interesting 'story' (around a programme, a project, an AUT community or discipline area), and deliver not only an aesthetic but real content about AUT, showcasing AUT's stories and strengths.

With the existing branding still working well, "evolution not revolution" was the brief to AUT's advertising agency, Consortium.

"The AUT brand look and feel has had a unique presence amongst tertiary advertising since 2000. That branding has given us a strong external image, and also helped to create a cohesive approach to marketing across AUT. This is the first major evolution of the brand since it was created," says Director of Marketing Tania Kearns.

"With this campaign we were looking for an update and refresh – a creative solution to take us into 2012 and beyond. But it had to build on our existing campaign."

As well as being aesthetically engaging, the artefacts serve as gateways into stories about AUT faculties, research and people. They also tell AUT's audience about the technology used at the university (some of the models were made in-house).

"The campaign aims to say, 'we are The University for the changing world. We are contemporary; we stand out and spark conversation,' says Kearns. "It is about building reputation, highlighting research and postgraduate work, and the amazing technology that we have at AUT."

Evolving the creative concept without losing the underlying concepts that have made AUT's advertising so successful has been both challenging and rewarding for Kearns and Group Director of Marketing and Communications Nick Swallow.

The key, says Kearns, was finding a balance between creating impact and setting AUT apart from its competitors, and ensuring that the brand and messages represent the actual experience students have at AUT.

"To get the support of the Vice-Chancellor and the executive management team, we had to show that the new campaign offered a strong link between what AUT actually has to offer, and the audience we want to connect with," says Kearns.

"Our creative also needed to work well in the realm of digital and social media, because print is no longer the primary domain for our advertising. Telling stories and letting people experience the culture and feel of AUT via online media is where universities' marketing is heading.

"We are getting tech-savvy kids to follow the trail from adverts and click through to specially built web pages and find out more about our courses straight away. First impressions are more important than ever, because this audience will decide very quickly whether or not AUT can meet its needs."

New technology makes it even easier to track the effectiveness of marketing campaigns: "We can gather a lot of data about where our audience goes once they have read our ads. The aim, of course, is to see them click through to web pages about our programmes, find out more about what AUT has to offer, and ultimately, apply to study here".

Look at AUT's new advertisements on The Wire: <https://thewire.aut.ac.nz/services/marketing>



PHOTO CREDIT: EXPLORE NZ

A Bryde's whale feeding

## New joint degree programmes in Asia

**THE SCHOOL OF COMPUTING** and Mathematical Sciences (SCMS) has started two new joint degree programmes in Asia. In China, 91 students have enrolled in the Bachelor of Computer and Information Sciences in IT Service Science which AUT is offering with China Jiliang University (CJLU), Hangzhou.

AUT senior lecturer Leo Hitchcock, who has managed the joint degree process, spoke to an audience of about 4,000 people at a ceremony in Hangzhou to open the academic year for CJLU.

SCMS will also start delivering a collaborative IT programme with PSB Academy in Singapore next April.

## Survival depends on slower ships, fewer nets

**THEY'RE KNOWN AS** the 'kiwis of the sea' but we're in danger of losing Hector's dolphins and other rare marine life if we don't make some changes.

Marine tourism Professor Mark Orams has major concerns about the potential decline of Hector's dolphins and the Hauraki Gulf's Bryde's whales.

Recent media reports have highlighted the plight of both species of marine mammals. The deaths of Hector's dolphins by drowning in gill nets and of Bryde's whales as a result of ships running them down has led to predictions of the possible localised extinction of both species.

"Hector's dolphins are an extremely valuable resource for this country. Not only are they an iconic and endemic New Zealand animal but they contribute hugely to the tourism dollars this country relies on," says Orams.

"How will the continued decline and potential extinction of one of our iconic native animals look? Not only would it be a tragedy from a conservation point of view, but it would be damaging to our reputation and branding as a destination

internationally. And all because we don't have the guts to ban gill nets in the widest possible area where these dolphins might live."

Whale watching is also a popular tourism activity and the death of another Bryde's whale due to a ship colliding with it in the Hauraki Gulf recently was a wake-up call. Estimates suggest there are probably less than 80 individual Bryde's whales that visit the Gulf and there are seldom more than a dozen or so in the area at a time. As the only great whale that is not migratory, they are semi-resident in the Hauraki Gulf. Because they forage relatively close to the surface, they are rarely able to detect or react to fast-moving large ships.

"We have been aware of this problem for over a decade now, and we know the solution, we must slow ships down in the Hauraki Gulf," says Orams.

"International research shows that the incidence of ships hitting whales and the injuries and fatalities caused drop dramatically when ships are slowed to ten knots or less," states Orams. "It's a relatively easy thing to implement for the outer Hauraki Gulf where these whales are found."



## Law dean confirmed

**PROFESSOR IAN EAGLES** has been confirmed as Dean of the AUT Law School from 2012-2014. Professor Eagles is the Foundation Dean of the Law School having been appointed when the school was established in 2009. He has a doctorate from Cambridge University, a strong research profile in the area of competition law in particular, and teaching and supervision experience in New Zealand and Australia.

## Inside the WG precinct

**PROVIDING AN ADDITIONAL** 20,000 m<sup>2</sup> of new facilities, AUT's brand-new WG precinct is going to transform the City campus when it opens in 2013.

Large enough to house 6,100 people (or the equivalent of the populations of Lyttelton and Warkworth combined), it will contain a large glass atrium, theatre block, 12-floor tower, plaza and green quad.

The ground floor (level one) will largely include a loading dock and workshop, with some additional space for services. Head up to Level 1.5 and you'll find the entrance to Mayoral Drive. You'll also have access to the glass-walled lecture theatre, collaborative social learning space, lobby area and reception/exhibition space. Take the escalators or lift up to Level 2 and you'll find yourself in the large forum, with access to the WA conference room (and the remainder of WA, Level 2), as well as screen, performance, digital media and audio studios.

Level 3 provides access to Governor Fitzroy Place, and entry to the largest

lecture theatre at the university (with a capacity of up to 380). You will also find another lobby area, collaborative social learning spaces, student kitchen and the public cafe, radio station studio and a number of different-size studios.

Level 4 will also provide entry to the large lecture theatre, as well as collaborative social learning spaces, bridge access to WA Level 4 (library), case room, a 'treehouse' area and the quad.

Level 5 will house the brand new media centre, as well as multiple collaborative social learning spaces.

Levels 6 to 10 are reserved for teaching and classrooms, Level 11 will have studio space for the Bachelor of Design Technologies and the top floor, Level 12, is reserved as office space.



## Call for carers' policy change

**RESEARCH LED BY** Professor Marilyn Waring has recently been published in a new book about unpaid carers looking after those with HIV and AIDS.

The research highlights the fact that many unpaid carers are living in 'servitude', with little choice or state support to care for family members sick with HIV and AIDS.

The book, *Who Cares?: The Economics of Dignity*, calls on governments to make changes to their policies to recognise the rights of unpaid carers.

"We have really challenged some of the fundamental understanding on human rights, particularly on dignity," said Waring.

"We asked the unpaid carers if they had any choice about what they were doing. Not one of them had a choice."

The research took three years and was conducted in 11 countries: Bangladesh, Botswana, Canada, Guyana, India, Jamaica, Namibia, New Zealand, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea and Uganda.

Waring's book was commissioned by the Commonwealth Secretariat. It is based on her research and that of three other academics.

## Success at international business competition

**A TEAM OF AUT** business students placed third in the inaugural Asian Business Case Competition in Singapore in October. The four students were accompanied to the competition by their coach, Associate Professor of Management Coral Ingley.

*The Careers@Enterprise Challenge* tested competitors along the triple bottom-line dimensions of sociological, ecological and financial sustainability.

Business students Nick Barrett (BBus Hons), Rhiannon Snell (BBus/LLB), Olivia Portman (BBus), and Garrick Garz (BBus) competed against students from eight international universities in the annual four-day challenge. Teams had to prepare a mini business case and present it to an audience of 300 students, faculty and industry representatives.

Ingley says as well as winning third place in the competition, the students gained an enormous amount from the experience including the chance to develop their own global networks.

**From left to right:** Olivia Portman, Garrick Garz, Rhiannon Snell, Coral Ingley, Nick Barrett.





## Virtual galleries showcase student talent

**VIRTUAL WORLD TECHNOLOGIES** have long belonged to the gaming and online communities, but recent developments are seeing them morph into the education sector, with retail not far behind.

AUT University's creative technologies research centre, CoLab, has partnered with Exhibit, makers of virtual gallery and exhibition environments, to build a customised virtual space for AUT's students and staff to present creative work in a live, three-dimensional space.

"Our students are the first to have access to technology that is redefining how design can be shared in the digital world. It presents all sorts of possibilities for us," says Associate Professor Frances Joseph, co-director at AUT University's CoLab.

The 18 m<sup>2</sup> virtual exhibition gallery has been developed to work across a range of disciplines and can be replicated thousands of times, allowing many students to work with the software and the gallery at any given time.

Built using a gaming engine, the software is simple to use.

Students select a gallery space, and create an exhibition in it. More technically advanced students can also go about redesigning it to suit their needs.

Users can include audio or video functions, add more windows to increase natural light, replace walls or create feature walls, and scan in objects with a 3D scanner and upload, drag and drop them into a chosen space.

The finished exhibition can be embedded into AUT's website, the student's own website, emailed or shared via social media platforms such as Facebook or Twitter.

Navigation is easy – by moving the mouse you enter space and move through rooms. You can walk around sculptural installations and up and down stairwells to access other floors.

The software can also be used as a shared online workspace and a space in which to present postgraduate research.

"As we develop the space further, our postgraduate students will be able to present their research findings to thousands of people at once," says Joseph.

## Learning on the job

**THE SIGHTS**, sounds, tastes and energy of India were everywhere at the recent Diwali (Festival of Lights) and contributing to the sensory experience were three classes of event management students from AUT University.

The students were part of the Diwali event at Aotea Square, run by the Auckland Council.

Event production lecturer Alison Booth says the production paper gives students the opportunity to apply theory to real industry clients.

"Students are taken from the safety of the classroom into the event industry arena. Key event management principles are applied by forming teams and figuring out how they can add value by producing unique event concepts that conform to the requirements of their industry client."

The students had a variety of roles ranging from observing how

a big event runs, to helping with rangoli (decorative floor designs) and lantern-making workshops.

Booth says the students learned how, as volunteers, they could add value to organisations that work on tight budgets and have limited resources. The experience also gave them the chance to build contacts.

Another AUT student who got involved with Diwali was postgraduate digital design student Krittika Gregory, who designed an interactive artwork that was on show at the Aotea Centre in early October.

The artwork, *Sparkling Spices*, reacted to movement and released fireworks made from traditional Indian artwork and patterns.

The Diwali festival was presented by Auckland Tourism, Events and Economic Development (ATEED) in partnership with the Asia New Zealand Foundation and with support from AUT and other sponsors.

## Business ideas get a head start

**THE BUSINESS SCHOOL** hosted an awards ceremony in September to announce the winners of the 2011 AUT Venture Fund.

Business student Nick Barrett and his business partner Paloma Ozier were awarded top prize for 'best big idea' for *Create a Story Picture Book*. The online wordless picture book – which will be available as a tablet application – will allow children to follow a sequence of pictures to create their own story.

"It's a new way to share a story with a child – helping them to become creative and think for themselves," says Barrett.

The judges, including CEO Tony Falkenstein, who contributed to the \$10 million start-up fund three years ago, Dr Stephen Bowden from Waikato Management School, and Pete Russell, founder of Oooby and social entrepreneur, awarded the venture a total of \$7,300.

Rebecca Dai, who has a Bachelor of Communication Studies from AUT and is currently studying for a Graduate Diploma of Business, was also awarded \$5,900 towards developing *Punch! Social* - a collection of ready-to-use, self-service applications that enable businesses to create and manage promotions on Facebook. Tim Hall, a Bachelor of Business student, was awarded a Rogen SI leadership mentoring session worth \$2,000 to help with the set-up of Securus, a computer system that offers schools the chance to monitor computer use through his company Monitaur.

The Business School established the AUT Venture Fund in 2009 to give students and alumni a head start in setting up their own businesses.



From left: Tony Falkenstein, Rebecca Dai, Tim Hall, Paloma Ozier, Nick Barrett, Geoff Perry, Derek McCormack

## Quitting is the hardest thing

**AHEAD OF THE INTRODUCTION** of AUT's smoke-free policy on 1 February 2012, AUT's smoking cessation nurse Joanne Barker shares her own experiences of giving up smoking, and offers tips for those thinking of doing the same.

### What led you to train as a smoking cessation nurse?

As an ex-smoker I knew I would have the empathy needed. Quitting was the hardest thing I ever did, and still is. But it's also the best thing I've ever done.

### How hard is it to give up smoking?

It's really hard. I definitely wouldn't recommend going cold turkey! There is so much support available and if you use it, you can double or triple your chances of quitting for good.

### What is the best way to quit?

It's about breaking the physical addiction as well as the habits and rituals around smoking. I always tell my patients, "Don't be too hard on yourself, just never stop trying to give up." The most popular way to quit is with nicotine replacement therapy (NRT), in the form of gum or patches. It is cheap (\$3 for an eight-week supply) and really effective if used properly.

### How can you help?

Staff and students can come and see me for a free consultation. We can talk through their plans for quitting and I can explain and prescribe NRT.

### What are the main reasons people choose to quit smoking?

Most people want to improve their health, save money or stop for the sake of their children.

### What are the highlights of quitting?

Quitting just feels better and better. The physical improvements take a while, but over time you feel healthier. You are no longer a slave to smoking and can stop worrying about what others think of you.

### Are there any negatives?

Quitting can feel like you have lost a dear friend, and with that there can be a really low mood and a feeling of depression. Thankfully, that does pass.

### Do you think the smoke-free policy will encourage people to quit?

Yes it will. For me, the harder society made it to smoke, the more adamant I became that I had to quit. But I do have a lot of sympathy for those who smoke. Most of them already want to quit, but quitting is hard.

### Any last words of advice?

If you are thinking of quitting, reach out for help. Make an appointment to see me at the City or North Shore health centres, or ring Quitline (0800 778 778).



**SMOKE  
FREE**



**AUT**  
UNIVERSITY

**From 1st February 2012**

**To find out more search  
smoke-free at [www.aut.ac.nz](http://www.aut.ac.nz)**

**Quitline**  
0800 778 778  
[www.quit.org.nz](http://www.quit.org.nz)

AUT Health, Counselling & Wellbeing  
City / Manukau: WB219, ext 9992  
North Shore: AS104, ext 9998