

AUGUST 2010

# INSIDE | AUT

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

## Professor slates 'super-city' structure

**AN AUT PROFESSOR** who has been intimately involved in Auckland's development over the past decade has launched a broadside at what he describes as the demolition of local government in Auckland.

Professor Ian Shirley, Pro-Vice Chancellor and Professor of Public Policy with the University's Institute of Public Policy, addressed the National Policy Makers Conference 2010 in Wellington this month.

A current member of the Auckland Regional Economic Development Forum, Professor Shirley maintains that the proposed model for the structure of Auckland's governance effectively removes local government from Auckland.

He argues that local government in Auckland will be replaced with "a corporate structure where the major beneficiaries will be the exclusive brethren of big business, merchant bankers and a narrow range of consultants dominated by legal and accountancy firms".

"Within days of the publication of the Royal Commission's report on the governance of Auckland, the Minister of Local Government introduced a badly conceived strategy that effectively undermines local government in

Auckland," says Professor Shirley. "It ignores history, fails to connect in any meaningful way with the diverse populations and neighbourhoods of the region and has established a corporate framework and process that will not gain the trust of ratepayers".

According to Professor Shirley the policies are driven by a form of economic fundamentalism which equates 'governance' with managing a 'business' and reduces democracy to a token engagement in the decision-making systems of local and regional government.

In place of local government Professor Shirley says the 21 local boards proposed will be toothless. "The current prescriptions for these boards and the minimal allocation of support services make it clear that the boards will be largely irrelevant in decision-making."

"Further, 75 per cent of Auckland's public assets will be transferred to Council Controlled Organisations (CCOs) with the majority of directors for the CCOs appointed by government ministers. "In this case, CCO's stand for Corporate Controlled Organisations, with the elected members on local boards having little say over how those assets are used," he says.

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## Incubator challenge tests future designers

**NEW ZEALANDER** of the year Ray Avery put product design students to the test at the inaugural Product Design 3 Day Design Challenge last month.

Avery, whose not-for-profit company Medicine Mondiale makes affordable medical solutions for use in developing countries, challenged the students to create a humidification system for a baby incubator under strict time and budget restrictions.

With just three days, \$100 and basic prototyping materials, 10 teams of seven students from years one, two, three and postgraduate level competed to design a humidifier for the *Liferaft*, an infant

incubator designed to work in the extreme conditions of developing countries.

Students had to come up with a low-cost humidifying solution that could cope with poor water quality, function with as little electricity as possible and had a virtually maintenance-free lifecycle of 100,000 hours.

"This design challenge bridged the gap between academic disciplines and the product realisation process required to develop and commercialise world-changing technologies," says Avery, who briefed the students on day one and critiqued and judged their work on day three.

"In this regard our partnership with AUT

represents a groundbreaking approach to developing and culturing a new breed of commercially-savvy industrial designers who I am confident will make a huge impact on the world stage."

The winning team, which called itself PureLife, was made up of Tamarin Howse, Hannah Clark, Arvin Slayer, Daniel To, Vasyly Rabshytina, Jana Durdevic and Lucy Liu.

Using no additional electricity, their Pure Humidifying system uses gravity to pull the water through a micro-filter with magnetic properties, eliminating minerals and waterborne bacteria.

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## LETTER FROM THE VC



**THE PAST** couple of months have required a heightened focus on managing enrolments, both for 2010 and in preparation for 2011. AUT has managed enrolments closely since the beginning of the year to enable a second semester intake while still remaining within the 103% EFTS total we are allowed by Government. The rate of applications has continued to outstrip available

places, and in July we joined other New Zealand universities in halting domestic enrolments – meaning no further enrolments for second semester and limited places for summer school. With these measures we are able to remain on track to meet our Tertiary Education Commission (TEC) limit, which has been a challenge when there is such a high demand for our programmes. The TEC's stated reasons for limiting places include the need to preserve the quality of education provision, but the underlying reason is that even unfunded students, because they access loans and allowances, are a cash cost to the Government. Remaining as closely as possible within the TEC limit has become a criterion for receiving any of the limited additional funded university places next year. Observing this limit through careful management in 2010 has equated to around 2000 students missing out on places at AUT because programmes were full. Next year, this figure is likely to be around 3000.

In response to the altered control environment, AUT is changing its application and admission processes to streamline them and provide applicants with as much clarity as possible, as early as possible. In a situation where places are not always available for qualified students, it becomes even more important that those wishing to study at AUT have as much information as we can give them about where they stand in the application process. We have good systems and processes as it is, but the need to manage enrolment numbers far more tightly than ever before is a driver to do even better. Already there is evidence of unease in the prospective student market, no doubt fuelled by media coverage, from students, schools and parents concerned about the availability of university places in 2011. While we cannot guarantee every qualified student the programme of their choice, or even a place, we can and must endeavour to provide every student with the best service throughout the enrolment process. We will achieve this through the efforts of our schools, faculties and central administration staff working closely together to strengthen their collective contribution to the applicant experience. The changed external environment provides real opportunities for continuous improvement - to ensure that we are getting the right students into the right programmes, a key factor in widening university participation and maximising the chance of student success.

In all of this, it is noteworthy that despite the restrictions we face, we have the highest number of funded students we have ever had – and this is the case for the whole sector. On the other hand, and not surprisingly given demand, we also have the highest number of unfunded students we have ever carried.

## Professor slates 'super-city' structure

*From page 1*

"Auckland's multi-cultural populations have no structural form of representation within the super-city. There have been major changes in Auckland's population over the past two decades, with nearly one quarter of all children under 10 living in Pacific

households". Although Mayoral candidates have proposed the establishment of advisory boards for children as well as other specific population groups, Professor Shirley dismisses these proposals as 'clip-ons' controlled by Wellington.

"Overall the proposed new structure for Auckland's governance fails to address the distinctive characteristics of Auckland, its population profile, and its potential."

Professor Shirley is Pro-Vice Chancellor at AUT University and Professor with the University's Institute of Public Policy. His comments are based on a series of research studies as well as engagement with public policy in Auckland for more than 30 years. He is a member of the Auckland Regional Economic Development Forum and wrote the original outline for the Metropolitan Auckland Project.



**Professor Ian Shirley says the super-city strategy ignores history and undermines local government in Auckland.**

## Incubator challenge tests future designers

*From page 1*

A single drop of water drops from the reservoir in front of the incubator's fan and, using the airflow, evaporates into the incubator's atmosphere. Fabric over the incubator's outlet valve allows air to escape but not water molecules so that the water recondenses and can be re-used.

Product design head Andrew Withell says the incubator challenge fits well with the philosophy behind product design at AUT, where teaching is founded on concepts of socially responsible and environmentally sustainable design. "There is a strong nexus between our philosophy and the strong social and environmental responsibility behind Medicine Mondiale," says Withell.

Avery, who described some of the student outputs as "stunning" and "elegant", told students: "I don't like to think of anything that's a wrong answer as being a negative output. I like to think of it as being a cul-de-sac to the right answer. At the very least, know that your work will have purified and defined what we already know and at some point, when these things [incubators] are in every hospital in the developing world, you'll know that you were there and you did this."

## Vice-Chancellor's doctoral scholarship recipients

# Seeking to reduce maternal mortality in the developing world

**YOU COULD** be forgiven for thinking that vast numbers of women dying in childbirth was a problem confined to the dark ages. However, PhD student Kate Heard says it's still a tragedy on a global scale.

"In 2010 alone there are five major global health conferences focused primarily on reducing maternal mortality. Yet regardless of this world-wide attention the situation for childbearing women across the globe is dire, with one woman dying every minute, needlessly, in their effort to bring a child into this world."

A recent recipient of the Vice-Chancellor's doctoral scholarship, Heard's research provides an insight into maternal mortality in the developing world and considers what can be done to reduce the high numbers.

"Despite reducing maternal mortality being the outcome of one of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDG5), and the sustained efforts of aid and research advocates for the past 20 years, women are still dying at unprecedented rates in many of the world's developing nations. Following a recent update on the progress



**Kate Heard**  
*Health and Environmental Sciences*

of MDG5, while some gains have been made, the decline in numbers has been

small and only reflects a handful of nations."

Measuring maternal mortality is challenging at best and there is a dearth of qualitative research on the subject, says Heard. It is predominantly through the writings of journalists that the voices of those who are striving to achieve this goal are heard.

Heard has found her media experience to be a huge asset while undertaking her research that looks at the experience of aid workers in the developing world who face ongoing challenges trying to establish a sustainable and user-friendly maternal child healthcare service in at-risk developing nations.

"Receiving the doctoral scholarship is paramount to the success of my research. It allows me to study and complete my research two years prior to the United Nations Millennium Development Goals deadline of 2015. I hope my research will add to the body of knowledge surrounding maternal mortality and assist in the planning of future goals beyond 2015 in the hope of saving more women's lives."

# Protecting artificial neural networks

**Tim Seidenspinner**  
*Faculty of Business and Law*

**THE ADVENT** of artificial neural networks (ANN) has lifted problem-solving tools into a new realm. ANN have been successfully used to solve many complex and diverse tasks, ranging from detecting credit card fraud to autonomously flying aircraft or driving vehicles.

Beginning in September, Vice-Chancellor's doctoral scholarship recipient Tim Seidenspinner will be conducting a cross jurisdictional examination and evaluation of the nature and scope of intellectual property protection ANN, which

often represent a considerable investment of both public and private time, money and resources.

His thesis will focus on patent and copyright law and the treatment of ANN under the legal systems of his home country Germany, the United States, the European Union, Australia and New Zealand. His principal supervisor is Professor Louise Longdin in the School of Law.

Tim Seidenspinner says his research will build on the principal historical, philosophical and economic foundations for the protection of intellectual property.

"I will also examine the ways in

which the principal traditional modes of protection may overlap and interact with each other, sometimes with unexpected and undesirable results."

While Seidenspinner's thesis will explore whether it is both desirable and possible to adequately protect ANN, their components and any products in which they are incorporated under current intellectual property laws, it will equally examine the other side of the coin – the traditional concept of 'fair use', and consider the extent to which creators and innovators should remain free to build on artificial neural networks developed by others.

## Vice-Chancellor's doctoral scholarship recipients

### Learning through experience

**DIRK STEINER'S** PhD research aims to inspire current mainstream educational practice as well as improving the Waldorf curriculum. His postgraduate research in the School of Education is exploring ways of holistic experiencing in Waldorf pedagogy.

Previously trained as a pedagogue and Steiner/Waldorf teacher in Stuttgart, Germany, Steiner has taught at and co-versed over a Steiner and Waldorf school in Germany for five years.

Steiner's thesis is directed towards the field of learning through experience, with a focus on the whole of the personality by equally appealing to head, heart, and hands, no matter whether subjects are practical or theoretical.

The Vice-Chancellor's doctoral scholarship award allows Steiner the

freedom of not having to worry about his living expenses, and enables him to fully dedicate himself to his work and really concentrate on the 'art of research' in his chosen area of interest.

"This aspect of not being pressured (apart from the standards I set myself) and being able to explore a topic for as long as needed will make quite a difference in the quality of my work," says Steiner.

Carrying out research at a relatively young institution like AUT University is an advantage, he says.

"It gives you a lot of freedom and opportunity since certain study areas are not being dominated too much and there are plenty of great resources and support available."



**Dirk Steiner**  
*Applied Humanities*

### Researching open text in creative writing



**Roderick Fee**  
*Design and Creative Technologies*

**IT WAS** a Masters in Creative Writing at AUT that led Roderick Fee to the idea for his PhD topic, investigating the manner in which prose can be written with open (ambiguous) text rather than closed texts (as most straightforward novels do).

His research also investigates the manner in which readers' responses to open text can be influenced by statements by the author as to their intention – given both before and after the text is read. This is important to reader response theory.

"During my masters at AUT I came across many examples of authors who denied the interpretations given to their work by critics and reviewers and went so far as to publish explanatory introductions in later editions."

Fee says he's always been interested in open texts. "As part of my masters, I created a work that was deliberately open text. I was delighted to find that different readers indeed interpreted this work in different ways.

"The nature of my thesis means that I am creating an entirely original creative piece of open text writing. Authorial intention in reader response has been little studied because it is seen as irrelevant to the response of the reader. I wish to examine the issue of reader response in the face of authorial intention more closely," he says.

This is increasingly interesting in a world where the author and publisher collaborate in a statement of intention in the media, on the web and even in study notes in the backs of books, he says.

Fee says the Vice-Chancellor's doctoral scholarship gives him release from the pressures of most part-time work that he would otherwise have to undertake while studying. "It also gives me the freedom to purchase resources as and when I need them. It is a very important part of my study at AUT for which I feel very honoured and am very grateful."

## Vice-Chancellor's doctoral scholarship recipients

### Interfacing evolution and ecology

**CRITICAL** scientific breakthroughs over the past fifty years, such as the discovery of DNA structure, have only enhanced understanding about the physical nature of our origins, and yet the widely accepted notions of evolution stem from the 1930's – a time when the concept of genes was purely theoretical.

Challenging the limitations of early evolutionary models has led PhD student Paul McBride to examine the diversity of life and explore evolution from a multidisciplinary approach, incorporating molecular genetics, biology and ecology. McBride – a recent recipient of the Vice-Chancellor's doctoral scholarship – says his research will hopefully challenge the outdated notions of evolution that have inherited assumptions from the pre-genetics era.

One of the key objectives of McBride's research is understanding patterns of global diversity and how the way we live impacts upon our environment and affects certain species more than others.

"Understanding how population size affects molecular evolutionary rates is critical for conservation management – if natural selection, rather than neutral genetic drift, is the primary molecular driver of evolution, then evolutionary potential increases with population size. Hence, our current conservation practice of retaining small, representative populations may be inadvertently putting the species we most want to protect at risk of extinction."

"Hopefully the nature of this research can influence long term conservation management," he says.



**Paul McBride**  
Health and Environmental Sciences



**Stephanie Rummel**  
Applied Humanities

### The impact of culture in the classroom

**A PERSON'S** culture can affect the way they learn in a classroom and thanks to a Vice-Chancellor's doctoral scholarship, Stephanie Rummel will be able to investigate this idea thoroughly.

Originally from the United States, Rummel's thesis looks at the impact of culture on English as a Foreign language (EFL) students' perception and use of written corrective feedback.

As a teacher Rummel has spent time in classrooms with a range of cultures represented. "I have always been interested in how their different backgrounds affect students as learners. Culture has been shown to influence many aspects of language education, but very little has been done to investigate the impact it has on corrective feedback," she says.

In the past, research has looked at how culture affects perceptions of feedback but none have gone on to show if those perceptions impact how students use feedback.

With a BA from Edinboro University of Pennsylvania and an MA TESOL from Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Rummel is hoping that this research will be useful for language teachers. "By better understanding the factors affecting their students, they can tailor their lessons to meet learners' needs," she says.

The Vice-Chancellor's doctoral scholarship will allow her more time to focus on her studies and removes the pressure of needing steady employment. "It will also allow me to conduct part of my research outside of New Zealand, a chance I wouldn't have had otherwise."

## Vice-Chancellor's doctoral scholarship recipients



**Pauline Penney**  
*Health and Environmental Sciences*

### Managing responsibilities in community-based teams

**SHORTAGES** in the global healthcare workforce are widely reported, but what is being done to address this increasing problem?

As part of her PhD, Pauline Penney is researching how interprofessional collaboration across the health sector can benefit the community, district health boards and healthcare professionals by improving healthcare delivery.

“As a health professional in this field, I see multiple challenges faced by people working in community-based health teams. The workforce resource is scarce and is being asked to fulfill increasingly challenging roles and responsibilities as people with complex rehabilitative needs are increasingly being supported by the community.

“Often it is the case that little training is provided to manage new responsibilities and teams appear to be struggling with demands to be collaborative, while still maintaining professional boundaries. This research will help to address the gap in understanding.”

Penney says that without the Vice-Chancellor's doctoral scholarship, she wouldn't be undertaking such vital research.

“Developing understanding in this area has the potential to improve the quality, efficiency and effectiveness of healthcare delivery to patients and their families.”

### Implications for aquaculture

**UP-AND-COMING** marine scientist Tim Young (recently featured in Inside AUT) can add yet another important award to his list after receiving a Vice-Chancellor's doctoral scholarship, in addition to a variety of other scholarships, research grants and two commercial patents for his aquaculture research.

Young's research into the mussel aquaculture industry has both academic and commercial benefits, which is key for an industry currently worth over \$200 million per annum to the New Zealand economy. Government strategy aims to increase New Zealand aquaculture sector sales to \$1 billion per annum by 2025.

So far, Young's research has looked at the settlement behaviour of the green lipped mussel – part of his masters in marine and environmental sciences. Continuing on from this line of research, Young's PhD is now examining the chemical cues for settlement behaviour for marine invertebrates.



**Tim Young**  
*Health and Environmental Sciences*

“My PhD aims to identify functional differences in the proteomic and metabolite profiles of the New Zealand green lipped mussel during early larval development. Of most interest is the period when settlement behaviour and metamorphosis occurs. This identification of specific molecular biomarkers for settlement behaviour and metamorphosis will help us to unravel the complex molecular pathways of these important life processes.”

Comparative investigation into other species of marine mussels may provide important insight into currently unknown relationships yet to be uncovered by traditional genetic taxonomic groupings, says Young.

Ultimately Young's research could assist with increased growth and retention of mussel yield, potentially increasing the economical viability and volume of mussel production in New Zealand for the international marketplace.

## Vice-Chancellor's doctoral scholarship recipients



Suzie Gorodi  
Design and Creative Technologies

### Embodied ways of seeing

**VIDEO** artist and sculptor Suzie Gorodi has received a Vice-Chancellor's doctoral scholarship for her PhD topic *Embodied ways of seeing: Drawing close in an age of distance*.

Gorodi says her topic follows on from her Master of Art and Design (also done at AUT) which looked at notions of seeing and knowing, underpinned by 'performative and phenomenological fields of enquiry'.

Her long-standing interest in film, video and sculpture as mediums that provoke ways of seeing led her to her doctoral topic, which she is pursuing through the School of Art and Design in the Faculty of Design and Creative Technologies.

For her PhD Gorodi's video practice follows her interest in embodied 'ways of

seeing'. She aims to challenge 'ways of seeing' via investigations into the mobility of the lens.

"I am exploring embodied ways of seeing in encountering film and the sensate experience of the viewer. My video installations look at a juncture between performance and film as a pivotal mediation point. As such my research proposes an investigation into the notion of the lens as a tangible interface between viewing film and the world."

After her PhD Gorodi would like to participate in an international post-doctoral residency as she continues to actively engage with the art and film communities of New Zealand.

### Team dynamics in software engineering

**ALTHOUGH** grounded in the world of software development, Sherlock Licorish says his study topic would be of interest to any project manager in any industry.

Licorish has been awarded a Vice-Chancellor's doctoral scholarship for his PhD titled *Software engineering team dynamics: Assessing the impact of personnel and personality changes over the duration of software projects*.

"Group dynamics and group maturity processes generally, but more specifically as they apply to software development, stimulate my curiosity and inspire my research passion," says Licorish.

"Having had the exposure and privilege to work on one level as a software engineer and on another as a manager of a software development organisation, I gained first-hand insights into how individuals and their roles (emergent and otherwise) evolve when they are organised into or form groups.

"I have observed how deliverables from groups are affected, but not necessarily

caused, by individual personalities and their changes over a software projects' lifecycle, and how an individual's interactions and involvement in groups are linked to personal motivation and public persona. My personal group experiences, derived from involvement in the corporate world, academia and social networks, also inform my convictions about the complex and subtle contributions individuals and group dynamics bring to software development."

Licorish began his academic career with a BSc (Distinction) at the University of Guyana. He then came to AUT University to study and was awarded a Masters of Computer and Information Sciences (First Class Honours) in 2007. That year he was also awarded the Eagle Technology scholarship for the top MCIS. Since then he has been a lecturer and co-ordinator of BSc research at the University of Guyana and Nations University.



Sherlock Licorish  
Design and Creative Technologies

On completion of his PhD he would like to resume his lecturing and research career and engage in post-doctoral research and specialising in software engineering research and practice.

"My primary objective is to be the best intellectual I can possibly be!"

## Vice-Chancellor's doctoral scholarship recipients

### Management accounting and the public sector

**IN TIMES** of greater transparency and accountability it's little surprise that the public sector is under more scrutiny than ever before. AUT doctoral student Shilinka Smith intends to peer behind the screens to see what makes this sector tick and, more significantly, how it can be improved.

The public sector world is always changing, says Smith, and she would like to see her research applied as new public service reforms are being developed.

"I'm focused on public sector reforms," she says. "I hope that my research findings will make a difference to the functioning of government and the lives of all New Zealand citizens."

Smith is the recipient of a Vice-Chancellor's doctoral scholarship and is undertaking research in management accounting with supervisor Professor Deryl Northcott, herself a leader in public sector research. She is looking at the effects of devolved managerial responsibility

on government sector performance management and accountability.

Previously, Smith gained a Masters in Public Policy at Victoria University of Wellington and a BA in Chinese and politics at the University of Auckland. Bizarrely, she says, it was while studying accountancy "for fun" that she discovered that not a lot was known by the public sector about management accountancy and its importance to the effective running of the country.

"It's only recently that I discovered how relevant management accounting was to public sector work. Not a lot of policy specialists know that, and that partly prompted me to undertake this research," says Smith.

"Hopefully my findings will introduce sector practitioners to management accounting's useful tools and skills."

As she embarks on full-time study having left a career as a long serving public servant, Smith says receiving the doctoral



**Shilinka Smith**  
Faculty of Business and Law

scholarship means freedom, opportunity and hope.

"I now have the freedom to pursue academic study without the need to satisfy a client or employer. This will enable me the opportunity to develop robust, academically credible and practice-relevant research findings."

### Success from a Māori perspective

**Jen Martin**  
Te Ara Poutama

**SUCCESS:** What is it and who or what determines if you're successful? It's a tricky question and Jen Martin's PhD thesis aims to examine the notion of success and its place within Kura Kaupapa Māori (KMM).

Her PhD looks at success from a Māori perspective, essentially arguing that current measures of success in the New Zealand education system do not align with Kura Kaupapa Māori philosophy.

"Nor do they accurately reflect the true wairua (spiritual essence) of Te Aho Matua (the philosophical doctrine of Kura

Kaupapa Māori). Rather, they are the product of Western ideals and values that are inconsistent with Kura Kaupapa Māori and thus provide a skewed picture of the ways in which Kura Kaupapa Māori are operating and performing," says Martin.

*He kurahāpainga, He kurahuna, He kurawaka, He kurakārero, He Kurakura* is the working title of the thesis and, as a former pupil of KMM education, Martin says she always wanted to give something back to Kura Kaupapa.

"I'm hoping this research will illustrate that KKM are inherently different to mainstream schools and therefore evaluation processes need to acknowledge this. I also want to challenge government,

the Ministry of Education, the Education Review Office, and mainstream society in general to recognise the validity of Māori ways of thinking, knowledge, customs and protocols, history and language in the education of children. By the same token, I want this research to encourage Māori to recognise that mainstream education is not necessarily the only option for providing a good education."

For Martin, the Vice-Chancellor's doctoral scholarship will take away the pressure of having to work full-time. "It has allowed me to focus my energy on research and studies to ensure I produce a well researched and written piece of work."

## Supporting trends in new technologies

**AUT** continues to be at the forefront of technology with the organisation's recent participation in the X-World 2010 event held in Sydney last month. The Apple University Consortium (AUC) event was an intensive training session where workshops in iPhone and iPad applications were delivered to participating organisations.

"One of the workshops we found really valuable was the iPhone/iPad application development basics, which gave us an insight into possible applications we could develop for the university" says Takeo Echizenya from ICT Services, who attended the event.

"We are officially an iPhone/Mac/Safari developer organisation, so we can develop on any of these platforms with the resources provided by Apple, including Xcode and the software development

kits. To begin with we could translate the commonly used internal applications and services as iPhone applications."

AUT is no stranger to delivering learning and teaching via mobile devices, with Te Ara Poutama leading the way with their widely acclaimed Te Reo Māori iPod/iPhone applications and online dictionary.

Dr Stanley Frielick, AUT Director of Learning and Teaching, says there is rapidly increasing interest in new technologies by both staff and students.

"ICT Services are working hard to support this trend, particularly with the Active Directory Mac integration project and the upgraded wireless access across the university."

Echizenya, who is working on the Active Directory project, says it will streamline the user experience. "Mac computers will no

longer require a separate user account. Once the Mac computers are centrally managed, it will make it easier for both staff and students, and as a result the number of related service desk calls will be reduced."

With the increasing number of mobile devices logging into the AUT network, wireless coverage is essential. Wireless coverage now reaches over 80% of AUT, with full campus coverage for students at the new Manukau campus.

Alongside the infrastructure requirements for the new technologies, new iPhone/iPad Apps are also being developed. Hohepa Spooner continues his work for Te Ara Poutama and Peter Unsworth is currently working on an application which will include an AUT campus map for staff and students.

## In first Gair

**IN HIS EARLY 80s** the Hon George Gair could have happily sat back and reflected on his years as a former Member of Parliament, North Shore City Mayor, High Commissioner to London, and journalist.

But a challenge from an old parliamentary colleague has seen him recently graduate from AUT University with a Masters of Philosophy in Public Policy.

The prompting came from the Institute of Public Policy's Professor Marilyn Waring whose father, also in his 80s, had gone back to university. Gair says it was a friendly challenge from Professor Waring who suggested that age was no barrier.

The hills ahead still have some steep slopes in terms of what Gair wants to achieve, he says. "It's never too late to do it. You're never too old to be learning and keeping the mind active."

While a masters is a huge undertaking for anyone, Gair, who originally delayed starting his MPhil due to poor health, says he looked upon it as an exercise to prepare himself better for writing his own autobiography one day.

Along with Professor Waring, Grant Gillon, a former Alliance MP, also helped to supervise Gair. The trio would meet

regularly to go over his research and plan the next steps.

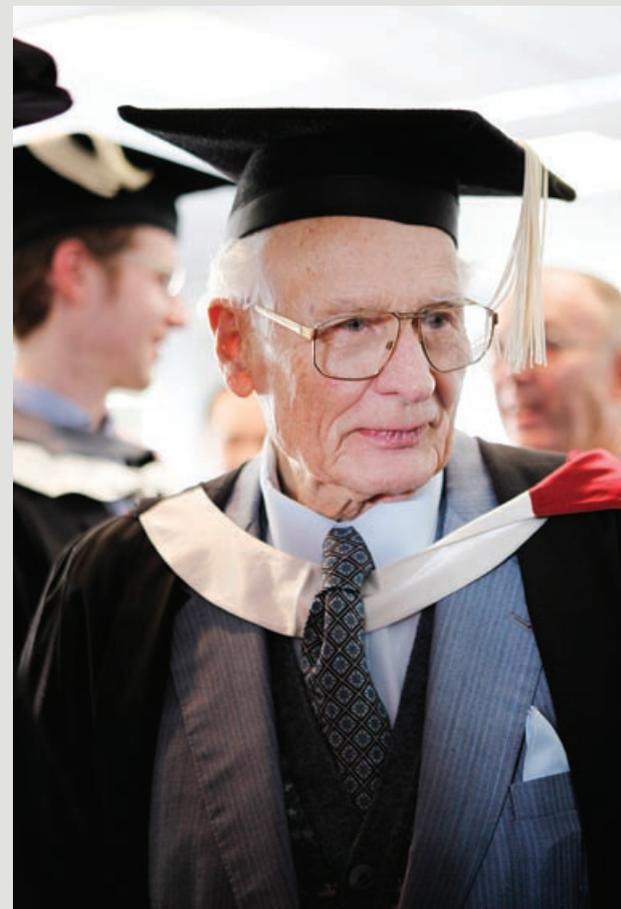
Gair's thesis, *Managing change as a minister of the crown*, did not survey other peoples' thoughts and opinions as the field work for most masters study does. Rather "it was essentially semi-autobiographical," he says.

"In the change process, every change is different, there are different reasons for change and you need to address each situation differently. But the common factor in all change is the 'people factor'," says Gair.

"In the process of managing change, it's about how you manage people – colleagues, the opposition – you need to reduce their ability to frustrate you and avoid getting them all whipped up on something."

Gair's thesis reflects on his experience from parliament where at one point he was looking after health and social welfare and responsible for spending about 40 per cent of the government's budget.

"I think there's a great deal that can be learned from looking at past experiences. There's no formula in the change process that automatically applies because the solution relates to the nature of the problem you're dealing with."



## ■ BRIEFLY

### New head of School of Art and Design

Ron Left has been appointed as the head of the School of Art and Design. Ron brings considerable management knowledge and experience to the role; he has held the position of associate and deputy head of the school for the last three-and-a-half years, has been acting head since the beginning of 2010, and previously played a key role in the management of the visual arts programme in the school.

### Māori Expo runner-up at event awards

AUT's flagship event Māori Expo 2009 was runner-up for the best established event at the 2010 Event Industry Awards held in Christchurch this month. AUT Māori Expo, held biannually, celebrates all things Māori, from education, entertainment, fashion, sports and culture. AUT events manager Renata Blair says the awards ceremony recognises AUT Māori Expo as one of the premiere events celebrating Māori achievement in New Zealand. "It's great that Māori Expo has been recognised and is well known around the country. We are already well into the planning stages for the 2011 expo, which promises to be bigger and better than the last one."

### CIO of the year finalist

AUT's Liz Gosling was a finalist at the 2010 CIO of the Year awards held in Auckland earlier this year. The award, sponsored by NetApp, celebrates the success of an individual Chief Information Officer (CIO) and recognises excellence in management and for using technology to achieve business goals. Gosling is the Director of Information Communication Technologies (ICT) services at AUT. Peter Finch of Gen-I, and Mike Foley of Watercare Services were the other finalists, with Foley taking out the award at the ceremony held at Auckland's SkyCity convention centre.

## Dispatches from a Kiwi commander in Afghanistan

**THE HEAD** of AUT's Vice-Chancellor's department Richard Hall recently celebrated the release of his book detailing his time as Commander of the New Zealand troops in Bamiyan Province in Afghanistan.

*A long road to progress: dispatches from a Kiwi commander in Afghanistan*, published by Random House, is Colonel Hall's personal reflection of six months leading the New Zealand Defence Force Provincial Reconstruction Team (NZPRT) in Afghanistan from October 2008 to April 2009. The book's recent launch was attended by a range of defence force personnel and AUT colleagues, including Minister of Defence Wayne Mapp and Vice-Chancellor Derek McCormack.

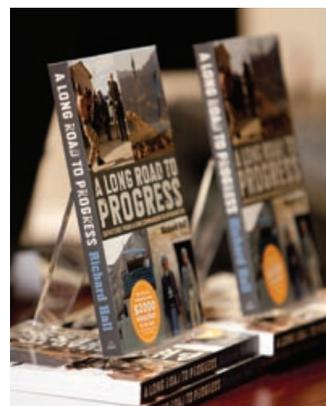
With the recent tragic news of a New Zealand soldier being killed in Afghanistan, Hall's book has been in the media spotlight and has garnered much attention.

"I wrote the book as I felt that most New Zealanders did not really understand what we were doing in Afghanistan, or why," says Hall. "The tragic death of Tim O'Donnell has raised awareness in a way that my book could never do. I have tried to use my media experiences to explain that this is a complex situation with no easy answers but, despite that, New Zealand has made a significant contribution and assisted a people whose plight deserves our sympathy."

Hall had a long and illustrious history in the British Army, before retiring to New Zealand in 2000 and taking up a role with AUT.

He was awarded the MBE in 1991 for his contribution in the first Gulf War and the OBE in 2001 for leading the implementation of a strategic defence review. At the end of the Afghanistan tour he was awarded a US Meritorious Service Medal. In the 2010 New Years Honours list he was appointed an Additional Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit in recognition for his service in Afghanistan.

Hall's candid dispatches cover the wide range of issues that Kiwi soldiers have to deal with as they serve in a harsh climate amid daily threats to their lives and to those of locals. He says the book writing process was a challenging experience while working full-time. "I gave myself a deadline for completing the manuscript to ensure that the book was relevant and not outdated. I was fortunate that I kept a journal, so I had the basis for the book. I enjoyed the experience and the satisfaction when I received the first printed copy was huge."



Richard Hall (left) and Minister of Defence Wayne Mapp.

## Winning students head to LA for World Cup

**SIX AUT** students have their sights set on bringing home the World Cup this October. AUT Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) scooped its fourth consecutive win at the 2010 SIFE National Cup competition held in Auckland in July. They will now compete for the global title.

SIFE is a worldwide organisation that comprises tertiary students from more than 1800 institutions. SIFE teams aim to improve the success and wellbeing of their communities by implementing ethical business enterprise projects locally, nationally and sometimes, internationally.

SIFE AUT includes president Ekaterina Melnikova, Maria Catoto, Yvonne Feleti, Rita Langstone, Danielle Schofield and Deepa Subramanian, with technical support from Chloe Fagence and Yernar Baizhumayev, and academic support from Dr Mark Le Fevre and Helene Wilkinson.

Its projects include providing work skill seminars for teenage mothers to increase their employability; teaching high school students financial literacy; and running speed interviewing networking events to help students with interview techniques.

SIFE AUT comprises around 65 AUT students and supporters from across the university but mainly those studying for a Bachelor of Business degree.

This is the fifth national win for SIFE AUT. In 2005 they took home the top trophy and placed 20th in the world competition. In 2006 they were placed second in the national competition, and in 2007, 2008 and 2009 SIFE AUT represented New Zealand at the World Cup in New York, Singapore and more recently Berlin.

## Best practice in Pacific education

**A SHARED** vision for a collaborative model of tertiary education, and in particular Pacific education, has led to a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Best Pacific Institute of Education and AUT.

The MOU aims to engage Pacific youth in tertiary education, improve educational achievement levels for Pacific people, improve literacy, numeracy and language skills outcomes for Pacific people and provide clear pathways from foundation learning through to degree and postgraduate study.

AUT welcomes the collaboration with Best Pacific Institute of Education, which will see Pacific students encouraged and guided into continued education in degree programmes at AUT's new Manukau campus.

The MOU also outlines the need for a virtual network of Pacific tertiary providers so Best Pacific Institute of Education and AUT will work towards the establishment of a virtual "Oceania Ako'anga" to achieve the vision for Pacific education.

It is envisaged this will lead to enhanced tertiary education opportunities and investment for Pacific students; formal collaboration agreements on programme development and delivery that facilitate the articulation of Pasifika students into AUT degree programmes; working together, with government and with the private sector, to promote investment in digital learning platforms for Pasifika students in order to help improve the digital and functional literacy levels of Pasifika people.

## Coach attends Unity Cup in South Africa

**HELPING** to build the self esteem and confidence of players with disabilities is one of the motivating factors behind Kevin Hodges' volunteer work. As coach of the North Harbour Special Olympics soccer squad for the past six years, he has dedicated much of his spare time to supporting sports players with disabilities.

Last month Hodges, who works as general services administration manager,

facilities management at AUT, got to accompany North Harbour soccer player Mark Liggins to South Africa, where he played in the Special Olympics Unity Cup.

The Unity Cup is a football match that featured Special Olympic athletes playing alongside football legends and other celebrities in a friendly match. The inaugural game took place at the Cape Town stadium in South Africa just prior to the quarterfinal of the 2010 FIFA World Cup between Germany and Argentina.

"One Special Olympic player was invited from each of the participating countries playing in the World Cup," says Hodges. "Mark Liggins was selected by Special Olympics NZ to represent New Zealand, and as his coach and manager I was given the opportunity to accompany him. It was a privilege to do this and was the result of a five year journey with Mark since I took over managing the North Harbour football squad. I felt a real sense of achievement from seeing his self esteem and confidence build over this time."

Hodges says the experience was fantastic despite the long 22,000 mile journey. He even got the chance to meet the South African President. "President Zuma was friendly and was right behind the Unity Cup. He even insisted on being at the practice session the day before the match," says Hodges.

By taking place against the backdrop of the 2010 FIFA Worlds Cup it was hoped that the Unity Cup would showcase the abilities of Special Olympic athletes on the world stage and help promote the acceptance of people with intellectual disabilities.

In 2009 Hodges was given a North Harbour Sports acknowledgement award for services to football. The dedicated volunteer continues to coach players at North Harbour. "My players have outstanding abilities, and I enjoy helping people reach their full potential, particularly those who need a helping hand."



Kevin Hodges (right) with soccer player Mark Liggins (centre) in South Africa.

## Gender: cultural not natural



**DR SHARYN GRAHAM DAVIES** is one of only a handful of people in the world who has studied gender in Indonesia. Her research has featured on the National

Geographic channel recently and now she has launched her book *Gender Diversity in Indonesia*.

Aimed at academics, postgraduate students, clinical and psychological counsellors and people working in the field of gender studies, the book explores the nature of gender diversity in Indonesia, and with the world's largest Muslim population, it also examines Islam in this context.

Based on Dr Davies extensive ethnographic research, it discusses in particular calalai – female-born individuals

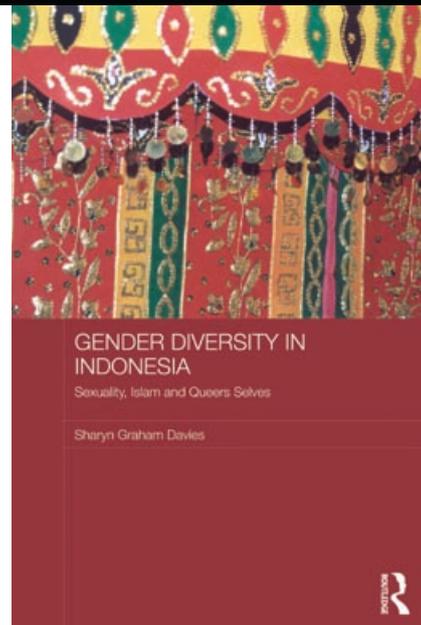
who identify as neither woman nor man; calabai – male-born individuals who also identify as neither man nor woman; and bissu – an order of shamans who embody female and male elements.

Ten years of research and about nine trips to Indonesia gave Dr Davies the material she needed for the book.

“When I first went to Indonesia I was going to study women, but it’s much more interesting than just women though. There’s nothing natural about gender, it’s cultural. I’m interested in what makes some people want to challenge that. Most of us are just accepting of what society expects of us and don’t question it. But there are those who do question it.”

A fluent Indonesian speaker, Dr Davies says she likes the interplay between the theory of gender and what people are actually doing and how they are living.

“In most countries the government has a very clear idea about what gender is, but this is often contradicted in real life.



“Indonesians draw on their religion as a way to differ from what the government says. Also some traditional religions believe in multi-gender Gods so there’s some tolerance for gender diversity there.”

Dr Davies book is available through [www.routledge.com](http://www.routledge.com).



## AUT features large at fashion design awards

**AUT FASHION** honours student Blaire Archibald (Nga Puhi/Ngati Ruanui) was named overall winner at the 2010 Miromoda Fashion Design Awards, which celebrate the work of Māori fashion designers.

“I always set high expectations for myself, which sometime leads to disappointment. So when I heard my name announced I was thrilled to have my hard work recognised and appreciated,” says Archibald (pictured, left), who also won the emerging designer category.

His winning collection of “soft, loose and gentle menswear in luxury fabrics,” grew out of the collection he showed at AUT Rookie last year.

Two other AUT fashion graduates were also recognised at Miromoda: Adrienne Whitewood (Rongowhakaata) was named as runner-up in the emerging designer category and Ana Hau (Ngapuhi/Te Rarawa) won the haute couture category.

As Miromoda winners, Archibald, Whitewood and Hau all get to show their collections at New Zealand Fashion Week in September. Determined to put his best foot forward, Archibald is busy finalising his collection. “It’s another opportunity to exhibit my skills and show my point of difference.”