

AUGUST 2011

INSIDE | AUT

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

AUT Business School recognised among the best in the world

THE AUT UNIVERSITY Business School has been recognised among the top five percent of business schools in the world.

AACSB International, the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business – an internationally renowned organisation – has acknowledged the AUT Business School's excellence in teaching and research with the distinction of AACSB accreditation.

Vice-Chancellor Derek McCormack is delighted with the global recognition offered by this leading management education body.

"AACSB-accredited schools are considered the best business schools in the world, with the highest standards of education.

"It is gratifying to be recognised for our commitment to rigorous and relevant business education by the longest serving global accrediting body for university business schools."

AUT Business School dean

Dr Geoff Perry says AACSB accreditation is a stamp of quality for both students and employers.

"We pride ourselves on developing students as confident, capable business professionals, ready to step straight into the workforce.

"Our graduates are highly valued by employers in New Zealand and overseas. Through our focus on student-centred learning and our strong connections with industry, our curriculum reflects the changing needs of contemporary business. Our research echoes this applied emphasis and is of value to both the business community and academia."

Dr Perry says of particular interest to AACSB International were the opportunities offered by the school's business internships, a unique programme of work placement that provides students with hands-on experience in the business world.

"Our internships enhance graduate employment opportunities and create further links between the Business School and industry. Furthermore, students can undertake these internships overseas or participate in our international exchange programme.

"These options for international exposure and experience significantly strengthen our students' professional and personal capabilities. The school has student exchange partnerships with some of the best business schools in the world and AACSB accreditation will help to expand these valuable relationships."

To achieve accreditation, a business school must undergo a meticulous review and evaluation process, stretching over several years.



Telescope network zooms into black holes

NEW ZEALAND and Australia's bid to host the international SKA radio telescope has taken a leap forward. A working optical fibre link now connects AUT University's radio telescope with CSIRO's Australian SKA Pathfinder (ASKAP) telescope in Western Australia and other radio telescopes across Australia.

The achievement was announced at the 2011 International SKA forum in Banff, Canada.

In June, radio astronomers used five telescopes – AUT's Warkworth telescope ASKAP, two more CSIRO telescopes in NSW and a telescope from the University of Tasmania – together to observe a radio source that may be two black holes orbiting each other.

Data from all five sites were streamed in real time to Curtin University in Perth, and processed there to make an image. This ability to successfully link antennas (dishes) over large distances is vital for the future \$2.5 billion SKA telescope, which will have several thousand

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The winning 2011 Plantation Business Challenge team from De La Salle College, accepting their award from AUT's Pauline Winter, director of Pasifika Advancement.

Manukau campus hosts 2011 Plantation Business Challenge

THE 2011 Plantation Business Challenge wrapped up in style at a recent awards ceremony at AUT's Manukau campus.

Now in its sixth year, the Plantation Business Challenge (PBC) developed in partnership with the Pacific Business Trust, is open to senior (Year 12 and 13) Pasifika students from schools around the Auckland region. The programme's focus is to encourage Pasifika entrepreneurship, raise awareness of business as a professional practice with Pasifika youth, and prepare students for tertiary study.

This year the competition was extended to 55 students from 11 schools, with 12 teams made up of four or five students each. Each team had 10 weeks to develop a business case within a particular category, before pitching it to a *Dragon's Den*-style panel of judges in the final week.

Speaking at the awards ceremony last week, judge and regional account manager (Manukau), Gareth Dyer said, "this was a really tough competition; one of the best in the past six years. The level of professionalism from the teams was really high, the calibre was amazing, and it was tough going for the judging panel".

First place was awarded to De La Salle College, for a presentation which Dyer said "knocked the judges' socks off". Second place went to Manurewa High School (Pac-Lan), with Auckland Girls Grammar coming in third.

Category awards:

- Best Business Plan – Auckland Girls Grammar
- Best Marketing Pitch – Manurewa High School (Pac-Lan)
- Business Development Award – Kelston Girls College & De La Salle College
- Applied Learning – Manurewa High School (Pac-Lan)
- Innovation in the Changing World – Kelston Girls College
- The Professionals – De La Salle College

Telescope network zooms into black holes

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antennas, up to 5,500 kilometres apart, working together as a single telescope. Linking antennas in such a manner allows astronomers to see distant galaxies in more detail.

"We now have an SKA-scale network in Australia and New Zealand: a combination of CSIRO and NBN-supported fibre and the existing AARNET and KAREN research and education networks," says Dr Brian Boyle, SKA director for Australasia.

AUT's Professor Sergei Gulyaev says, "SKA's thousands of dishes will produce so much information per second that recording over many hours would be simply impossible. Instead we will have to stream and process vast amounts of data in real-time. This is 21st century technology and we are proud that New Zealand is at the very forefront of this development."

The radio astronomers targeted a quasar more than twelve thousand million light years away. It emits a spectacular radio jet with regularly spaced bright spots in it, like a string of pearls. Some astronomers have suggested that this striking pattern is created by two black holes in orbit around each other, one black hole periodically triggering the other to "feed" and emit a burst of radiation.

From City campus to Cannes

AUT ADVERTISING graduates Pip Perkins and Jennie Ko have recently returned home from competing at the Cannes International Festival of Creativity. Perkins and Ko, who graduated from AUT in 2009, work for Auckland agency DDB and competed at the festival against 40 other teams in the Young Lions press advertisement competition.

They had 24-hours to work on their brief, to raise awareness of PumpAid, a charity that has helped individual villages to make and install more than 6,000 water pumps, benefiting an estimated one million African people. The pair's idea played on the fact that the pumps are easily assembled by the villagers themselves – with the line "anyone can build it" above an iconic Ikea-style furniture assembly guide for the pump.

The pair did not win the award but were able to attend seminars and a two-hour workshop while at the festival. Perkins and Ko won entry to the competition by winning the New Zealand Young Lions round, sponsored by Fairfax Media.

Māori, female and older most likely to volunteer

THERE ARE approximately one million New Zealanders who volunteer in one way or another, or make donations on a regular basis, according to research conducted by AUT's Professor Charles Crothers. This makes our volunteer rate higher than our UK, Australia and US counterparts.

Crothers (right), AUT's head of social sciences, conducted research on the characteristics and attitudes of the typical New Zealand volunteer, and also discovered geographical trends when it comes to volunteering.

"As expected, rural areas have more volunteers followed by more affluent areas," says Crothers. Rodney had the highest proportion of volunteers based on 2006 census population data (14.22%) followed by Franklin (14.03%), North

Shore (11.88%) and Papakura, Waitakere, Auckland City and Manukau City.

"However, people who help in other communities do not always see that as volunteering."

So who are those more likely to volunteer? "It is a well known view that those broadly involved with the voluntary sector tend to be attracted to it in some part because of the 'user-friendly' humanist values they hold," says Crothers. "The people in the sector carry with them their own values and approaches from the other parts of their lives."

Generally the characteristics of people involved in volunteering (unpaid work outside the home) tend to be older, not in full-time employment, and in the non-profit sector.



AUT researchers present at NetHui

TWO RESEARCHERS from AUT's Institute of Culture, Discourse and Communication (ICDC) have presented their findings from an international project at NetHui – an internet conference.

Philippa Smith and Jennie Billot from the World Internet Project (WIP) presented

at NetHui at the end of June, a conference that 'brings together everyone involved with internet issues in New Zealand'.

The theme for the 2011 conference was 'shaping our future together'.

The WIP was part of the opening plenary, says Dr Billot, which was attended by several

government members including the Hon Steven Joyce, Minister for Communications and Information Technology.

The presentation covered the most recent findings of the WIP longitudinal study that maps the use of the internet in New Zealand, as well as the impact it has on daily life.

Research has shown that New Zealand has the highest overall percentage in the world of people using the internet, along with Canada at 77 percent.

Surveys undertaken in 2007 and 2009 have provided valuable information about internet use and the 2011 survey will add further data to that analysis.

"This is research that will help us make decisions," said Smith in the presentation.

The survey will begin this month, with results published later this year or early in 2012.

The pair spoke at the event alongside experts in their field including Rod Drury, founder and chief executive of Xero and attorney general Hon Chris Finlayson.

Smith and Billot also facilitated a discussion online in the 'access and diversity stream' as part of the conference.



■ BRIEFLY

Academic appointed chair of panel

Dr Camille Nakhid, a senior lecturer at AUT University, has been elected chair of Auckland Council's Ethnic Peoples Advisory Panel.

The panel is responsible for providing a voice to the council on behalf of the more than 190 different ethnicities that make up Auckland's diverse community. Nakhid says the appointment is one she feels very strongly about and she is looking forward to representing and engaging with ethnic communities in Auckland.

"It is an important and wonderful opportunity to work towards ensuring that all ethnic communities are valued and the diverse lifestyles are respected and appreciated." She will hold the position for a year.

She is currently the chair of the Migrant Action Trust, a founder and member of the Waitakere Ethnic Board, an executive member of the West Indian/Caribbean Society and has served on the Henderson Community Board. She is also the manager and band captain of the Caribbean Southern Stars steel band.

AUT ranks in top 200 universities for accounting and finance

AUT has ranked as one of the top 200 universities in the world for accounting and finance, according to the 2011 QS World University Rankings® by subject. The QS World University Rankings® by subject are the first in the world to rank universities at individual subject level. With a methodology tailored to fit each subject, the rankings are based on academic reputation, employer reputation and citations per paper.

Geoff Perry, Dean of the Business School is delighted with the result. "These rankings are based on responses from global graduate employers, identifying the universities that produce the best graduates. For our business school to be voted amongst the best is a significant achievement."

WG precinct begins to take shape

IT'S NOW nine months in to the construction of the WG development and the scale of this new precinct is starting to take shape.

Head upwards in the lifts in WA, WE, WT or WF and you'll be rewarded with a bird's-eye view of the building site, swarming with Fletcher workers and industrious machinery. Cast your eye around the entire perimeter and only then will you get a sense of just how big this complex will be.

"It's on a scale that will surprise many people," says David Mahon, senior project architect at Jasmax. "Think along the lines of a civic space like Britomart. It's going to completely transform the university."

Neil Poulton, project manager from the estates group, says he is happy with how the construction programme is tracking.

"Work is progressing on forming the basement concrete floors, and the large lecture theatre foundations are still being completed. The floor slabs of the new specialist studio spaces are nearing completion and the first section of the external plaza area by the WE lift tower has now been created.

"The last remaining piles adjacent to WH are being prepared, and the central lift core walls have also started, which will continue to rise up over the coming months."

When it opens at the start of semester one 2013, this brand new precinct will

contain a 12-storey tower and glass-roofed atrium. Main entry to the university will be from Mayoral Drive and once inside, students, staff and visitors will find themselves in a large open-space plaza. Modern lecture theatres – including the university's largest, seating up to 400 students – will be found amongst a multitude of flexible blended classrooms and collaborative social study areas.

Located within the tower will be the most advanced and contemporary communication school in the country, bringing together a screen and television studio, motion capture and chroma key studio, performance studio, radio station, sound studios, edit suites, and digital media computer labs, all under one roof.

An on-site café and free Wi-Fi throughout will support the many social gathering spaces; while exhibition spaces and function areas will attract wider Auckland audiences.

To replicate some of the classroom styles planned for WG, three traditional classrooms on campus have been refurbished into state-of-the-art flexible learning spaces – WT604 and WT 605. The new teaching spaces, décor, audiovisual equipment and furniture will support collaborative learning.

Keep an eye on the progress of this exciting development at www.aut.ac.nz/futureme.



Supporters' challenge wins design competition

A CONCEPT to get rugby fans battling for their teams was the winner of the 24 Hour Design Challenge competition this year.

On July 18 and 19, teams of AUT product design students took part in the contest which tested their creativity and skill to come up with ideas for temporary moveable structures or spaces to welcome rugby supporters to Auckland.

The 10 teams, 70 students in total, were randomly assigned to work with different areas along the official Rugby Walk from Auckland's Britomart waterfront area to Eden Park. Each design had to exploit unique aspects of the location to give people on the journey from city to park a series of stimulating and different experiences.

The winners, Wilson Sue, Alldyla Firdauzy, Josh Munn, Nikolai Sorensen, Justine Keyworth and Jennifer Clent, were given the end of K Road/start of New North Road. As it is roughly half way to Eden Park they gave their area a 'half time' theme with the aim of hyping supporters for the rest of their journey. They designed an area where



The winning team (l to r) Justine Keyworth, Nikolai Sorensen, Alldyla Firdauzy, Josh Munn, Wilson Sue

supporters could write support messages for their teams on iPads or similar devices, take part in virtual shearing contests and compete to out cheer each other.

The judges, including James Coleman the host of TV3's *Bigger, Better, Faster, Stronger*, said the winning concept forced

people to engage and was very viable.

The runners up designed giant cloud-like structures suspended above Queen Street which fans could climb into for a break.

The AUT Product Design Challenge is an annual event which tests product design students over a limited time period. Last year's challenge was to develop a humidification unit for 2010 New Zealander of the Year, Sir Ray Avery's Liferaft baby incubator.

Ko Awatea lights the way for healthcare education

ON A CRISP winter's morning, as the sun cast its first rays and a haunting karakia sang out across the grounds of Middlemore Hospital, hundreds gathered to mark the opening of Ko Awatea.

Ko Awatea is a new health innovation centre that will be a hub of leading research and education facilities focused on developing quality healthcare services. Ko Awatea means "first light" in Māori.

Counties Manukau District Health Board has partnered with AUT University, Manukau Institute of Technology and the University of Auckland to jointly address South Auckland's future health workforce needs. The \$9.8 million project houses a 250-seat lecture theatre, 17 workrooms, an e-library and open, creative spaces.

Professor Max Abbott, Dean of AUT's Faculty of Health and Environmental Sciences says Ko Awatea is all about

connecting with the community, developing our future health workforce and driving innovation in health care.

"We are responsible for educating tomorrow's health professionals. The purpose of the new centre is to encourage stronger links across the sector so students have a greater sense of engagement with DHBs. These links will be strengthened around the provision of clinical placements, and transition to the workforce. The centre will help bring staff and students from different disciplines and institutions together."

Students from a range of disciplines across AUT will benefit from Ko Awatea, including medical laboratory science, nursing, midwifery, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, oral health, podiatry, psychology, health promotion, paramedicine and mental health.

What the centre represents was best

summed up by a local kaumatua at the opening.

"A tapestry can't be woven by one strand alone. Ko Awatea is a weaving together of partnerships. The many parts of healthcare, mental, physical and spiritual are all integrated here in the rich tapestry of this whare."

Professor Jonathon Gray, director of Ko Awatea and a recently appointed adjunct professor at AUT, says Ko Awatea brings together healthcare professionals, education and international organisations to improve efficiency and achieve effective application in healthcare.

"The Counties Manukau region has the largest Māori, Pacific and Asian demographics in New Zealand. The region also suffers from some of the highest socio-economic deprivation and lowest health status rates in New Zealand with increasing rates of diabetes, obesity and heart disease."

Over the past two years both Counties Manukau and Waitemata DHBs have been developing the health innovations centres. Work is still underway for Awhina, the new centre at WDHB.

Improving health in the Pacific

AUT PHD student Katja Siefken has returned to Vanuatu to look at the effects of a programme which aims to improve the health and wellbeing of female civil servants. Funded by the World Health Organisation, Wokabaot Jalens is a joint effort between AUT and Vanuatu's Ministry of Health.

Results from the programme will be part of Siefken's doctorate, supervised by



Professor Grant Schofield, director of the Centre for Physical Activity and Nutrition (CPAN).

Siefken says she was surprised to see how keen the women were to be involved. "They were very enthusiastic. More than 300 women wanted to take part but unfortunately we could only take 210.

"It really felt like I was making a contribution and making a difference."

The objective of the programme is to measure the improvements to health indicators after a sustained period of increased physical activity.

At the start of the programme Siefken measured the women for a range of health indicators, including weight, cholesterol, blood pressure and Body Mass Index (BMI).

The women were required to walk for an extra 30-minutes a day, five times a week. To help motivation, they were put into groups of up to five with one leader per group. Each participant was in email contact with Siefken over a three-

month period.

The same parameters were tested again in July, with the results to be publicly announced this month at the Pacific Medical Conference.

Siefken says one of the reasons for choosing Vanuatu is the prevalence of obesity in that country. It is a challenge that many Pacific countries face.

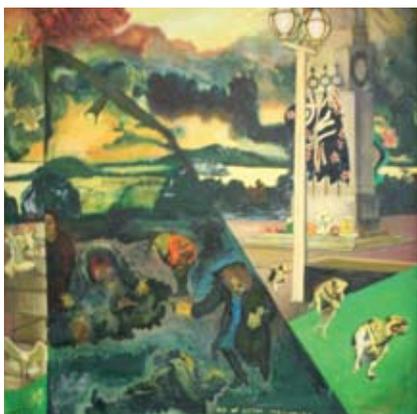
At the start of the programme, the mean BMI for the women was 29.4 – a measurement of 30 is considered obese.

While the final results have not been finalised, Siefken says there has been some extremely encouraging anecdotal evidence.

"One woman on the programme is now walking two and a half hours every morning. She won the one million step challenge after just six weeks. Another diabetic lady reported that she is now able to feel her legs again. These success stories motivate me to conduct research in a low income country."

New works from Wallace Arts Trust

A MAJOR installation of new works from the Wallace Arts Trust Collection has been installed in AUT's main City campus building (WA). The new collection display is the result of an extensive collaboration with the trust to curate a dynamic loan, reflective of AUT's culture and vision. The new loan includes a cross-section of senior and emerging artists from the trust's collection, and



Jacqueline Fahey's *Hill of Bitter Memories* from the collection of the Wallace Arts Trust

includes paintings, photographs, drawings and prints. In total 46 new art works have been installed on campus.

The loan features a number of significant works, including Jacqueline Fahey's *Hill of Bitter Memories*, which can be found outside the library entrance. The painting from 1981/1982 explores both Maori and Pakeha history, and the tragedy of local and international wars. Fahey is a prominent New Zealand painter, born in 1929, and the 2006 monograph on her, *Something for the Birds*, can be found in the WA library.

Another senior New Zealand artist represented in the atrium is Ian Scott. His painting *Summer Lightening* (1985) is one of his mid career abstract works that explore the formal properties of line and colour. Scott's work can be found on every campus at AUT, from his sprayed line paintings, reminiscent of old canvas striped beach chairs, (*Auckland Morning*, 1974, WF building) to his later works such as *Colin McCahon* in 1961 (1986, North Shore campus library) which

appropriates excerpts of McCahon's paintings as part of the whole. These works testify to the eclectic nature of Scott's long career.

Many of AUT graduates are featured in the Wallace Arts Trust Collection. *The Ufological Village of Tasalovae* (2009) by Andy Leleisi'uao, can be found on the seventh floor outside the Vice-Chancellor's office. Leleisi'uao, who received a Master of Art and Design from AUT in 2002, makes works that engages with experiences of Samoan diaspora and the complex issues of human and family relationships. A recipient of the prestigious 2010 McCahon House Artists' Residency, Leleisi'uao work is held in major collections around New Zealand.

AUT has hosted work from the Wallace Arts Trust Collection since 2001, when a long term revolving loan of artworks was negotiated for the WA building launch. Since then, the loan collection has grown to include a substantial number of artworks. Currently there are 171 artworks on loan to AUT from the Wallace Arts Trust.

New culture provides engaging PhD experience

A **VERY** different way of life and culture hasn't deterred three Vietnamese students from studying their PhDs at AUT's Institute of Culture Discourse and Communication (ICDC) and School of Languages.

In fact, the extreme culture difference is helping them with their research on enhancing learning outcomes and cultural competence for students studying English in Vietnam.

Thi Hang Nguyen (Hang) and Thanh Long Nguyen (Long) are both here on Vietnamese government PhD scholarships and are experienced English lecturers from a university in Vietnam.

Hang's research focuses on how Vietnamese students switch between English and Vietnamese both inside and

outside the classroom. She will look into the various linguistic, socio-linguistic and pragmatic features of code-switching and explore the functions which code-switching serves for these students. Her primary supervisor is Professor Allan Bell.

Long's PhD (primary supervisor Dr Sharon Harvey) will examine how intercultural communicative competence can be integrated into tertiary level English language education in Vietnam. He will look how the concept of intercultural competence is understood in Vietnam, and to what extent it is currently integrated into English language education, before considering how integration should take place to ensure the best outcome for students.

Thi Thu Trinh Vu (Trinh) is studying on

a New Zealand government funded NZAID scholarship. Her PhD, also supervised by Dr Harvey, will investigate the challenge of developing high quality, relevant training for teachers of English as a foreign language (EFL) in Vietnam. Her case study will focus on Gialai province where she has lived and worked as an educator for twenty years. She will use a critical ethnography approach to achieve an understanding of the issues affecting EFL teacher training.

In choosing to come to AUT, Long and Hang said they researched the supervisors here and liked what they saw. They say the New Zealand way of life is very different for them but living in another culture has been the best way of learning.

"I can look at books and the internet to study cultural differences," says Long, "but nothing beats firsthand experience of actually living in a different culture."

Baffled by Baffin Island

EVER HEARD of Baffin Island? It's not a place we hear much about here in New Zealand. But this month Dr Len Gillman will be able to tell you all about it, after he returns from an expedition to the island in the Canadian territory of Nunavut.

Gillman, head of AUT's School of Applied Sciences, headed off on July 8 for a month-long expedition as part of a project to make short-term environmental sculptures, created on high peaks around the world. The sculptures and environmental artwork are designed to draw attention to sustainability. They are part of a long-term project by Martin Hill, communications designer, environmental artist, and photographer.

Gillman's role in the expedition will be in logistics. He has 36 years of climbing experience behind him, as well as a passion for sustainable development.

He is also an evolutionary ecologist with an active interest in conservation having held executive positions on the Native Forests Action Council and Maruia Society, and having acted as a board director of the Environmental Defence Society.

"As head of the School of Applied Sciences I am keen to promote research that can make a difference,"

says Gillman. "We are strong in conservation biology, food science and aquacultural science here at AUT and these are all disciplines that will make an important contribution towards moving New Zealand, and the rest of the world, into a future that is ecologically sustainable."

Baffin Island, north of the Arctic Circle, is completely remote and includes the world's largest and greatest concentration of vertical rock faces and melting glaciers.

Gillman says all of this means the weather can be severe. Despite this, he says adventure and escaping into the wilderness is something he is looking forward to, and something he does not get to do New Zealand.

"Unfortunately in New Zealand we are constantly eroding wild remote places by increasing the accessibility to the more spectacular locations within our parks and reserves."

This intrusion can come in the form of huts, unnecessary signage, handrails and over-designed benched tracks.

"This happens without consideration of the impact on New Zealanders' experience of adventure and wilderness, and it happens in tiny incremental steps each of which goes unnoticed.



Len Gillman

"We need wilderness that retains a sense of remoteness. I hope I can draw some attention to the need to stop the ever-continuing degradation of our wilderness in New Zealand."

HRC success for AUT health researchers

AUT'S HEALTH research received a \$2.5 million injection after a successful funding round from the Health Research Council (HRC).

Professor of Nursing and co-director of AUT's Interdisciplinary Trauma Research Centre, Jane Koziol-McLain (right), received over \$1.1 million for her research into internet-based interventions to improve mental health outcomes for abused women. Her work is focused on improving the health system response to violence against women and children.

Koziol-McLain says the objective of this research initiative is to develop culturally appropriate and accessible interventions that will help women develop a personalised safety plan during the critical decision making period within an abusive relationship.



"Research consistently demonstrates a strong association between intimate partner violence, increased rates of depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, substance abuse and suicide. One of the most widely recommended interventions for abused women is safety planning."

Associate Professor Denise Taylor currently heads AUT's Neurological Rehabilitation Team and receives over \$986,000 for stroke research which looks at telerehabilitation to improve outcomes for people with chronic stroke.

"Whether an individual receives ongoing stroke services is often related to non-stroke factors such as resource availability and location. There is emerging international interest in the provision of

rehabilitation using technology such as telerehabilitation."

The study will use a combination of telephone and texting communication in addition to face-to-face contact. An overarching goal of the research is to facilitate increased participation in community and social activities by improving the functional independence of the participants.

Traumatic brain injury (TBI) research receives \$345,000 which goes towards Professor Valery Feigin's ongoing study on the incidence and outcomes of TBI in New Zealand.

Feigin, director of AUT's National Institute for Stroke and Applied Neurosciences, says the initial findings from the BIONIC (Brain Injury Outcomes New Zealand in the Community) study have revealed the overall incidence of TBI is far higher than anticipated and the percentage in Māori is also higher than expected.

Applied sciences opens new food sensory suite

A NEW food sensory testing facility has recently opened in the School of Applied Science.

With the establishment of the Food Science Research Centre, food science is a key area of growth here at AUT, says Nazimah Hamid, senior lecturer in the School of Applied Sciences.

"Sensory science is one of the key elements of food science. The expansion of the school's profile in the food industry and the associated research now requires a modern functioning sensory suite."

In this new facility, testing will be carried out on foods, beverages and consumer products. Types of testing include difference testing, descriptive analysis and consumer sensory testing. The new facility is equipped

with a sophisticated computerised sensory data collection using the FIZZ Biosystemes software. This allows computerised ballot development and design that contribute to rapid and efficient sensory data collection and reporting.

While the primary purpose of setting up this facility in the School of Applied Sciences is to support the research of members of the school, their students and collaborators, the facility can also be used to provide scientific and technical support to food-related and consumer products industries.

"The new suite allows us to carry out top quality research and teaching. As AUT is Auckland based, it has the added advantage of being in the largest



Nazimah Hamid and students at the launch of the sensory evaluation suite last month

industrial centre for processed food. With a sophisticated sensory testing facility, AUT will have the opportunity to work alongside many food industries."

The new sensory suite is based at the top of the WN building where KODE Biotech is also located.