

JULY 2010

INSIDE | AUT

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

New Zealand sport receives performance enhancing injection

High performance sport in New Zealand received its biggest injection yet, with the Government recently announcing a new high performance institute and a \$40m investment in a national training centre. The centre will be jointly run by AUT University and the Millennium Institute of Sport and Health (MISH).

Based at AUT Millennium Campus on the North Shore, the new centre sits at the core of the Government's national sports strategy. The centre brings together AUT's renown in sports science and research with MISH's track record as a provider of top sporting facilities and coaching services – with the goal of lifting elite sport in New Zealand to the next level.

The ultimate aim of the new high performance centre is to produce more

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AUT applauds significant investment in health research

THE TALENT of AUT University's health research was recently recognised after receiving over \$8m from the Health Research Council (HRC) – the best result AUT has ever had from an HRC funding round.

Research examining the current and future burden of stroke in New Zealand will receive over \$4.9m. Professor Valery Feigin, Director of AUT's National Centre for Stroke, Applied Neuroscience and Neurorehabilitation, currently heads the stroke research programme in collaboration with researchers from the University of Auckland, Waikato University, Waikato Hospital and the Ministry of Health.

Pacific children's health research will also benefit from the funding round with Professor Phillip Schluter leading a study assessing the hearing of 11-year-old Pacific children. The study receives over \$730,000.

Dr Kathryn McPherson heads two Health and Rehabilitation Research Institute projects, which receive significant funding. These include a study into traumatic brain injury recovery (over \$730,000) and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (over \$140,000).

From the Centre of Physical Activity and Nutrition, Dr Scott Duncan's 'Healthy Homework' research into physical activity

and nutrition interventions for children receives over \$1.1m.

Dr Geoff Dickson, Associate Dean (Research) for the Faculty of Health and Environmental Sciences, says this is a fantastic result for AUT University.

"Our health research keeps on going from strength to strength in terms of research output and research income. AUT's new generation of emerging researchers are not only producing an outstanding calibre of work but are also contributing to the development of a research-led university. This is a real investment in the future of health research."

LETTER FROM THE VC



FROM Vice-Chancellor's Research Awards and the latest round of Health Research Council funding success, to Queen's Birthday honours and a UNICEF award – this issue of *Inside AUT* features accolades for many of the talented individuals and teams who make AUT such a dynamic university.

I'd especially like to congratulate Professor John Moorfield for his Queen's Service Order award – recognising his services to Māori language education, and Dr Ian Hassall for his Aldo Farina award from UNICEF – recognising his contribution to child rights advocacy. In both cases the awards acknowledge a lifelong and learned commitment to an important societal cause, and we are fortunate to have such dedicated and distinguished individuals at AUT.

As we prepare for the next PBRF assessment in 2012, we are in the sure hands of our new Pro Vice-Chancellor Research, Richard Bedford. I know Professor Bedford was pleased with our excellent results in the latest Health Research Council funding round, and has his sights set on continued and enhanced research performance for AUT, as he explains in this issue.

At Executive Management meetings this month Deans, PVCs and General Managers have presented their business plans for the next three years. Those plans are all characterised by a strong sense of forward momentum. As we enter our second decade as a university, AUT's leadership team is dealing pragmatically with the challenges of external pressures – such as managing EFTS in a capped system, and at the same time pursuing strategies that will allow us to grasp opportunities and grow. Strategies to support quality research figure strongly, along with consolidating our most successful programmes, and strengthening those that are still growing. Collaboration across faculties and divisions has also been a key theme, with our leaders expressing a desire to work even harder to capitalise on the expertise and potential partnerships that exist right across the university, not just in their own areas. AUT has always been a flexible and contemporary university. Our current strategic planning process points to further demonstration of those qualities over the next ten years as we embrace and respond to the rapid rate of change in the world around us.

Derek McCormack

New Zealand sport receives performance enhancing injection

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world-class sporting champions by combining the best of sports research, coaching and management expertise from AUT University, Millennium Institute of Sport and Health and the NZ Academy of Sport. Bringing AUT and MISH expertise together will greatly enhance a collaborative approach to research and training and our contribution to elite sport, says MISH CEO Mike Stanley.

"The centre will be a multi-disciplinary centre of excellence fully committed to propelling our next generation of athletes onto a world stage. It will help drive the development of high performance sport in New Zealand through education, research and coaching."

In 2009, AUT University invested \$18m to form the AUT Millennium Trust in partnership with MISH. Vice-Chancellor Derek McCormack says the Government investment was a significant boost for taking high performance sport to the next level in New Zealand.

"While New Zealand is renowned as a great sporting nation, performing extraordinarily well on passion, natural

ability and pride alone is simply not enough for developing future athletes – the focus has to be on unlocking human potential through leading science and innovation," says McCormack.

"The weight of AUT's sport research and scientific expertise will sit behind our athletes and beside their coaches and managers, ensuring that solutions to their training, medical, nutritional, technical and performance needs are informed by the latest research and knowledge available."

The high performance training centre will be a training ground for champions in the lead-up to the 2012 Olympic Games in London and other future sporting events. It will provide our best athletes, coaches, training specialists and scientists a dedicated world-class training, testing and research facility spread across two levels. The additions will nearly double current floor space and will include the creation of a high performance zone to complement existing facilities.

Construction is planned to start in November, with the first facilities available in September 2011.



Artist's impression of the new high performance centre

Vice-Chancellor's awards for research 2010

Enhancing health and wellbeing

FINDING better ways to enhance the health and wellbeing of people with experience of disability is core to Professor Kathryn McPherson's research. The AUT Professor of Rehabilitation and Laura Fergusson Chair is this year's recipient of the Vice-Chancellor's award for outstanding researcher.

McPherson has authored over 100 peer-reviewed publications in her specialist area of rehabilitation along with many commissioned reports and papers for voluntary organisations. She has demonstrated a trans-disciplinary and translational approach to her profession, and this has been recognised in political circles, Ministry responses and statutory bodies involved in injury and rehabilitation.

Subsequent to training as a nurse in Australia at Sydney's Royal North Shore Hospital, McPherson completed midwifery and Health Visiting in Edinburgh, Scotland. She completed a psychology honours degree with the Open University (UK) before undertaking her PhD at the University of Edinburgh, graduating



in 1998. She was Associate Dean, Postgraduate Studies at the University of Otago (Wellington) and Reader in Rehabilitation at the University of Southampton (UK) before joining AUT in 2004. Most of her research focuses on finding better ways to enhance

health and wellbeing for people with experience of disability.

McPherson's skills are in high demand as an invited speaker, industrial collaborator and postgraduate supervisor. She has also shown enormous energy in establishing networks with the clinical community, Māori and Pasifika stakeholders, and serving on University and professional bodies.

"The two things about my job that I get most satisfaction from are investigating assumptions about health and healthcare (many of which are wrong) and seeing new researchers advance in their careers," says McPherson.

"It is exciting to see rehabilitation, and indeed AUT, attracting more and more research funding."

McPherson and colleagues have recently been awarded three grants in the most recent round of the Health Research Council totalling over \$8 million. AUT received the third highest amount of funding in the round, after the University of Auckland and University of Otago.

Space research from the ground up

MANY 'FIRSTS' for AUT and New Zealand can be counted among the achievements of the Institute for Radio Astronomy and Space Research – the recipient of the award for outstanding research team.

Professor Sergei Gulyaev, who has a substantial personal career in radio astronomy, built the team and the infrastructure for space research at AUT entirely from the ground up.

With the support of AUT internal investment, the team harnessed an international network to establish the first fully functional research radio telescope for New Zealand. It then established national and international credibility for New Zealand's inclusion with Australia in the next global 'mega-science' project, the Square Kilometre Array – a massive

radio telescope comprising thousands of radio telescope dishes spread over large distances. The IRASR team was instrumental in achieving Prime Ministerial endorsement for the project in New Zealand and Australia.

Another New Zealand first for the team was the creation of an astronomy major nested within the computer and mathematical sciences disciplines as opposed to physics. Members of the award-winning team are: Sergei Gulyaev, director; Tim Natusch, deputy director; Lewis Woodburn, maintenance manager; Stuart Weston, software engineer; Jordan Alexander, PhD student; Mahmoud Mahmoud, research assistant; Paul Banks, research assistant and Patricia Sallis, administrator.



Professor Sergei Gulyaev, Institute for Radio Astronomy and Space Research

Vice-Chancellor's awards for research 2010

Sustainable development rewarded

THE VICE-CHANCELLOR'S award for excellence as an emerging researcher comes as recipient Dr Helen Tregidga embarks on her three year Marsden Fund research project.

Last year Dr Tregidga was successful in her bid for funding in the 2009 Marsden fund round from the Royal Society, for her Fast Start Marsden application 'Corporate chameleons, greenwashing and counter-narratives' where she receives \$300,000 over three years.

Dr Tregidga is joined by colleagues Professors Kate Kearins of AUT and Markus Milne from the University of Canterbury who are associate investigators on the project.

Dr Tregidga has specialised in the study of the discourse of organisations in relation to sustainable development. This involves studying the use of language in identity construction and relates to the wider social movement to sustainability.

Her Marsden funded research will look at New Zealand commercial mining and commercial fishing. Dr Tregidga says business has adopted 'greener' language



and imagery portraying an image of a reformed corporate citizen.

"There is some concern about the substance of this image, and whether it could be false or even misleading," she says. "There is still some debate around whether they're acting green. Some worry this reincarnation of

business may amount to 'greenwash'.

"On the other hand, environmental groups appear to have adopted business language and strategies, and now it looks like both groups are occupying the same space. I'm interested in what this means and how narrative and counter-narratives operate in this discursive space."

Dr Tregidga first established herself as an emerging researcher by gaining an Exceptional Thesis Award from the University of Otago and generated a portfolio of articles published in high profile international publications. Book chapters, conferences and international awards have followed.

She has also undertaken numerous national and international editing, disciplinary and professional roles, including acting as an independent judge of the National Sustainable Business Network Awards for the last three years. She continues to apply her research across many collegial networks inside and outside AUT and works with colleagues to produce award winning New Zealand-based case studies.

Undertaking challenging research

YUN SING KOH'S Vice-Chancellor's award for excellence as an emerging researcher recognises that as a young researcher, she has distinguished herself by zeroing in on the research topics that others avoid.

"Yun Sing has shown a lot of courage to undertake novel and challenging research, sometimes arguing against the status quo. And she has shown insight that one would normally expect from a more seasoned researcher," says Dr Russel Pears, from AUT's School of Computing and Mathematical Sciences.

Since joining AUT as a lecturer in 2007, Koh has made a strong contribution to the improvement of algorithms for mining datasets for rare events, in collaboration with Dr Pears.

Future applications for her research include fraud detection. Koh has already worked with the Trade Me website to test the algorithm in detecting fraudulent use of the site. It's early days for such applications though, and Koh, who enjoys the pure research side of her work, expects to spend the foreseeable future perfecting the algorithms.

The award recognises Koh's very high publication rate. She has published more than 12 academic papers and one academic text since 2007, delivered conference presentations, contributed to teaching and course development and has been involved in organising several international computing conferences.

Koh recently took up a post-doctoral fellowship at the University of Auckland,



which will allow her to continue her data mining research full time. She is working with Professor Gillian Dobbie at the University of Auckland, as well as continuing to collaborate with Russel Pears.

Vice-Chancellor's awards for research 2010

Passion for research

AS THE DIRECTOR of the New Zealand Tourism Research Institute and a passionate researcher, Professor Simon Milne greatly values his ongoing involvement in postgraduate student supervision.

Professor Milne is currently supervising nine PhD students and his Vice-Chancellor's award for excellence in postgraduate supervision is testament to his dedication and professionalism.

In his 20 years as an academic he has graduated 14 PhD students, with three more pending. He has also supervised 22 Masters/Master of Philosophy students to completion.

Supervisory highlights at AUT for Professor Milne include the graduation of AUT's first Pasifika PhD student, the successful completion of one of AUT's first recipients of a Foundation for Research, Science and Technology Top Achiever

doctoral award, and the supervision of students from a range of cultural backgrounds including Vietnam, Ukraine and the Maldives.

The secret to being a good supervisor is realising that supervision isn't something that can simply be taught in a workshop, says Professor Milne. "It is something that requires experience and awareness that every student is different with different needs and abilities. Graduate supervision, especially PhD, is not a 'one size fits all' kind of thing.

Many of Milne's PhD students have gone on to work in academic positions around the world. Some are in positions in high ranking universities (for example Queens and York universities in Canada and the National University of Singapore) or have obtained influential posts in national and international development agencies.



Most rewarding for Professor Milne is seeing past students go on to become academic leaders and policy makers. "Recently I attended a workshop for a major research programme in Canada that is run by one of my ex-graduates. I supervised him in the mid-90s. Past graduates form an amazing global network of immense value to the supervisor and AUT."

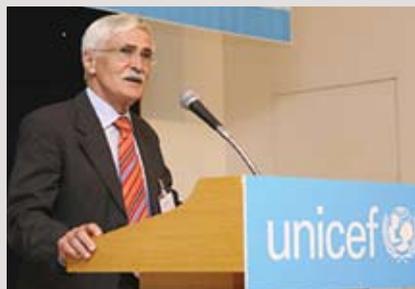
New Zealand's number one child-minder

HE WAS THE first appointed Children's Commissioner in New Zealand, played a major part in a world-first cot death study, and has just received an award from the UN for his work with children. If ever there was a child advocate who walked the talk, Dr Ian Hassall is that person.

A member of AUT University's Institute of Public Policy (IPP), Dr Hassall was recently awarded the Aldo Farina award by UNICEF, which recognises contribution to child rights advocacy. The bi-annual award is given to one person out of 194 countries.

Originally a paediatrician, Dr Hassall started his career with children at the Princess Mary Hospital (now the Starship Children's Hospital) where he spent eight years as a specialist. He left clinical practice to become the medical director of Plunket in 1978.

In 1987 New Zealand conducted the first comprehensive cot death study in the world at a time when 200 babies a year were dying of the mysterious illness. Dr Hassall was a key figure in the research which would forever change the way New



Zealanders and the rest of world put their babies to bed.

"After the research was published cot deaths came down from 200 a year to 50. That's something I regard as very important," says Dr Hassall. "As was campaigning to ensure home swimming pools were fenced adequately. After laws were passed requiring all pools to be securely fenced, the drowning rate of children under the age of four at home decreased from 12 a year to under five a year. Those kinds of results are very satisfying."

Dr Hassall thought it a worthy career move to pursue full time the "upstream problems that lead to the downstream

illnesses and death in children".

"In some instances it was totally clear what the problem was and it wasn't medical. The excitement of research and discovering something new no matter how small was what drew me in eventually," he says.

In 1989, while Dr Hassall was on the National Advisory Committee for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect, the Children, Young Persons and their Families Act was enacted with a provision for a Commissioner for Children. Following this Dr Hassall was appointed New Zealand's first ever Children's Commissioner.

When his five-year term as Commissioner finished, various consultant opportunities presented themselves. Work with the Health Research Council, the Domestic Violence Centre and an international conference for child abuse prevention followed.

In 2001 Dr Hassall came to IPP to continue his research, and with others developed the Children and Public Policy masters programme.

■ BRIEFLY

AUT academic NZ Commissioner for Prague Quadrennial

Sue Gallagher, the head of postgraduate studies in the School of Art and Design, has been appointed NZ Commissioner for the 2011 Prague Quadrennial of Performance Design and Space. The Quadrennial, which takes place in Prague in June 2011, has been held every four years since 1967. Work from more than 70 countries is presented in three sections: countries and regions, theatre architecture and student. Ahead of the Quadrennial, Gallagher is curating a performance art exhibition at ST PAUL St gallery. LIVE.REPEAT.PLAYBACK will run from 13-28 August, aiming to generate discussion, ideas and direction for the three New Zealand exhibitions at the Quadrennial. For more information please visit www.colab.org.nz/node/472

School of Education conference

The School of Education will hold its annual conference on September 6th at the North Shore Campus.

Conversations on Research is the topic for this year's conference and keynote speakers include AUT's Professor Peggy Fairbairn-Dunlop and Dr Stanley Frielick, plus a special guest speaker at the conference dinner.

Submissions of interest can be sent to angela.skelton@aut.ac.nz by August 6th. For conference costs and more details please visit <http://www.aut.ac.nz/study-at-aut/study-areas/education/news-and-events/events/research-conference>.

Former AUT academic receives Queen's Birthday honour

Former head of AUT's Computer Studies and Applied Mathematics department, Dr Gillian Reid, was awarded the Queen's Service Medal for services to the community in the 2010 honours list. Dr Reid has been president of the New Zealand Computer Society and a leader in the Scout movement and is currently the deputy chairwoman of the Selwyn Foundation.



A lifetime of work recognised

AUT UNIVERSITY'S Professor John Moorfield was recognised for his work in this year's Queen's Birthday Honours list.

He was made a Companion of the Queen's Service Order (QSO) in the 2010 list for his services to Māori language education.

To those around Professor Moorfield it was no surprise given he's dedicated his working life to Māori language teaching. But Moorfield himself says he was surprised to receive the letter from Wellington offering him a QSO.

"I had to think about it for a while. There are a whole lot of reasons why you accept these things, not least of all for the effort people went to to nominate me."

Professor Moorfield says the honour recognises that Māori language is important and that people who are teaching the language are important.

"I've been working on the Te Whanake resources for 25 years and I guess it's recognition for that long service. It's always been a team of people working on it but basically the bulk of the work was done by me. I think it just recognises what I've been so heavily involved with my whole working life and I think in some ways it

also acknowledges all the people who have helped me in the field."

Te Whanake (the development) is the single largest set of digital language resources for any indigenous language in the world.

"I love working on resources for Māori language learning. At the moment I'm using every spare moment I have working on the online dictionary adding example sentences to every entry I can. I've been working on it for eight months now and I'm up to the K's, so I've still got a fair way to go on that."

Professor Moorfield is sure that with the increased level of commitment from a growing number of people, the risk of the Māori language dying has been reduced.

"There's been enough done so far to ensure people will speak it. I'm more concerned with the quality of the language that people speak. There's more of a shift towards improving the quality of the language – putting some polish on it for people who speak relatively fluent Māori. Those people are going to be important in the future. I want to ensure the language survives but also that the language survives in a healthy state. It's exciting being part of that."

Senior research appointment

PROFESSOR Richard Bedford (right) has been appointed to the role of AUT University Pro Vice-Chancellor Research. His appointment is a part-time one.

The Professor of Migration Studies comes from the University of Waikato where he is Professor of Population Geography in the Population Studies Centre, also on a part-time basis. In the early 2000s he was Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research at the University of Waikato where he oversaw Waikato's participation in the 2003 and 2006 Performance-Based Research Fund (PBRF) assessments.

Professor Bedford gained his PhD from the Australian National University in 1971. He was a staff member in the Department of Geography at the University of Canterbury until 1989 when he joined the University of Waikato.

Professor Bedford is currently a member of the Marsden Fund council and convener of the Marsden Fund social sciences panel. He is also a member of the Ministerial Advisory Committee on Official Statistics (ACOS).

As chair of the AUT research committee of Academic Board, Professor Bedford's immediate priority is to assist with preparations by the university for the 2012 PBRF assessment. He says PBRF is critical to the university's growth and reputation.



"I am very keen to help staff develop their research portfolios and interests," says Bedford. "The PBRF is the one benchmark for research for New Zealand universities and I would like to see AUT increase its overall research performance."

Bedford agrees with the approach of research-led teaching and encourages programmes to be informed by current research.

"There's no doubt teaching can become even more powerful when led by research active staff. I look forward

to creating an environment that further supports staff to undertake research."

Professor Bedford's current research interests in the Pacific region began 45 years ago with his Master of Arts thesis on population issues in the former Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony (now the independent countries of Kiribati and Tuvalu). Currently, he is undertaking research which examines the impacts of the New Zealand Recognised Seasonal Employers Work Policy on island nations. His research will assist the Department of Labour's ongoing evaluation of the work policy.

The distinguished Professor is a member of the inter-governmental International Metropolis Project, and was chair of its research committee. In 2000, he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of New Zealand; in 2007 he was awarded the Distinguished New Zealand Geographer Medal by the New Zealand Geographical Society; and in 2008 he was made Companion of the Queen's Service Order for services to geography.

Professor Bedford is also on several editorial advisory boards for journals including *Population, Society and Place* (UK), *The Journal of Migration and Ethnic Studies* (UK), *The Journal of International Migration and Integration* (Canada), *Geographical Research* (Australia), *The Journal of Population Research* (Australia), and *Asia Pacific Viewpoint* (New Zealand).

Look out for *Microsites*

THE STREETS around the Learning Quarter (Albert Park, AUT and the University of Auckland) will become home to a series of new contemporary artworks from July 31. Work by 12 artists, including AUT alumni and students, will "run against the grain or interfere with everyday perceptions". *Microsites* is a public art initiative of Auckland City Council in partnership with AUT University and the University of Auckland. AUT alumni Thomas Stewart and Agnes So, and current students Anthony Cribb, Rachel Shearer and Amber Claire Pearson are included in *Microsites*. For more information, including a map of where to find the artworks, go to www.aucklandcity.govt.nz/whatson/arts/publicart



Artwork by Amber Claire Pearson





I'm still learning: Ray McVinnie on *MasterChef*

EVEN FOR a master chef himself, Ray McVinnie (left) says judging the hit series on TV ONE was still an opportunity for him to learn.

The first season of *MasterChef NZ* has now finished but McVinnie, a lecturer in gastronomy at AUT University's School of Hospitality and Tourism, is already looking forward to the next one.

McVinnie says the point with food is that you never stop learning. "Every time you cook you learn something new and that's the thing I love about food. I learnt from every chef who came on the show, from the other judges, from the contestants. In fact, I'd say if I hadn't learnt anything then I should probably go and do something else."

For the man who came across as having nerves of steel and completely unflappable he says it was sometimes hard to just stand back and watch people make mistakes.

"People are people, they're all different, sometimes they do silly things and sometimes they do great things. There are times when you can see they are doing something wrong and your natural instinct

is to help them or tell them to do it another way but you've got to be fair to everyone. It was a contest after all.

"It's natural for all cooks to want to help and share their skills," he says. "It's more than just sharing the food at the end, it's also about sharing the process. I always tell my students that they can have everything in my head. I'm happy to share it."

So how does the average New Zealand cook really stack up compared to the masters? McVinnie says he was surprised at the skill of the amateurs and how they improved so quickly.

"Thirteen episodes aren't really a lot and these guys didn't get any training or much at all. I think it could be a trait that kiwis have and it's part of that 'number 8' wire thing. We're good at turning our hands to anything. I wouldn't really like to say, but could cooking be a national trait?"

What you see is what you get with McVinnie. "That was the great thing about the show; all they wanted me to do was what I do. I didn't have to do anything I didn't like. The Ray you see on TV really is the Ray who teaches at AUT."

School students try on fashion careers for size

THIRTY South Auckland primary school students had the chance to try out the life of a fashion designer in June, as part of the KidsCan Stand Tall programme. They enjoyed a day-long session at AUT University, creating their own collections inspired by popular movies under the expert guidance of Auckland fashion designer Claire Kingan-Jones.

The children were split into three teams, with each team member taking on the role of a model, designer, hair and make-up artist or creative director. AUT fashion staff and students and Kingan-Jones and her staff were on hand to help as each team created a collection based on a movie: *Avatar*, *Alice in Wonderland* or *Twilight*. The biggest smiles of the day were reserved

for the runway show at the end, when each team proudly presented their collection.

The Stand Tall programme is run by charity organisation KidsCan, which works with low decile schools to encourage children to reach their potential.

"We really open their eyes to the world of opportunity by showing them what careers and further education are possible. We want to provide support and resources throughout their schooling to help them take advantage of these opportunities," says Carl Sunderland, General Manager of Stand Tall.

Sunderland says the programme aims to teach the students leadership skills and to generally boost their confidence, showing them the range of job opportunities within different industries.



Primary school students model their designs as part of the KidsCan Stand Tall programme

From pastimes to profits

SHE MAY BE small, but Meera Bhattarai's conviction and determination make her seem larger than life. The pint-sized and energetic Nepalese native has taken craft-making in Nepal from a pastime to a successful business enterprise that delivers profits and a viable profession for women.

Recently hosted by AUT University's School of Languages and Social Sciences and Trade Aid, Bhattarai presented to a packed conference centre at AUT during Fair Trade Week about her work, the hardships in getting to where she is and the outcomes she has achieved.

Working for a Nepalese women's organisation from the age of 20, Bhattarai quickly recognised the potential held by women producers of handcrafts to become part of a powerful enterprise. It was 10 years later, driven by hopes and dreams for her fellow women, that Bhattarai opened the doors to a new organisation: The Association for Craft Producers (ACP).

The event, attended by Trade Aid representatives, the director of the Himalayan Trust, Diane McKinnon and Sarah Hillary was also an opportunity for AUT to launch its new Bachelor of Arts – International Studies, the first of its kind in New Zealand.

Dean of Applied Humanities, Professor Nigel Hemmington, says the event was a good fit with the launch of the new International Studies major.



Meera Bhattarai (centre) talks to guests at the event hosted by AUT's School of Languages and Social Sciences and Trade Aid

"We encourage students to look abroad at the way other cultures live and work and to bring that experience to their learning and work. Meera's way of life and what she has achieved is very different from the way we operate in a place like New Zealand. Nevertheless, there's a lot we can learn from her achievements," he says.

International Studies can be taken as a single or double major or minor in the BA. It can also be taken as an additional major in other degrees

to provide an international focus. Students are encouraged to study overseas for up to one semester to prepare them to be successful in multicultural settings internationally as well as nationally.

"Global issues, combined with intercultural competence and transnational competence are some of the key skills required for today's job market. We believe the BA International Studies will provide these skills for our graduates," says Professor Hemmington.

Lecturer's short film to premiere at International Film Festival

A SHORT FILM by AUT visual arts lecturer Nova Paul will have its world premiere at the New Zealand International Film Festival in July. In *This is Not Dying*, Paul uses an early cinematic process akin to Technicolor to film daily life around her marae Maungarongo under Whatitiri mountain. Featuring a soundtrack by kaumatua and New Zealand Māori show band musician Ben Tawhiti, the film traces places that are significant to Paul and her family. *This is Not Dying* will screen before the Brazilian film *I Travel Because I Have To, I Come Back Because I Love You*. For more details, go to www.nzff.co.nz



A still from Nova Paul's *This is Not Dying*

■ BRIEFLY

AUT role in Pingar Impressions software

Artificial intelligence experts at AUT University played a key role in developing new software just released by New Zealand search software company Pingar. The Impressions software, launched by Pingar at the Microsoft SharePoint conference in Wellington, offers a new way to analyse documents that appear in search results, without even opening the files.

Professor Albert Yeap and his team at AUT's Centre for Artificial Intelligence Research helped to develop Impressions, with a \$1.7 million grant from the Foundation of Research, Science and Technology.

AUT inventor recognised in French innovation awards

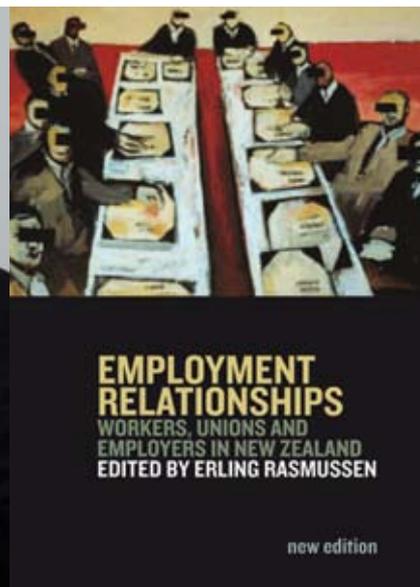
A portable medical fridge invented by AUT University's Professor Olaf Diegel has won the Handicap prize for socially responsible products at the 2010 Concours Lépine, a European innovation contest. The Medifridge is used to transport temperature-sensitive medicines like insulin, beta-interferon and fertility treatments, giving patients freedom to travel. Once charged via mains or battery power, it can keep medicines cool for around 24 hours without power.

The Concours Lépine is one of the world's most important platforms for inventors. Held yearly in Paris since 1901, it attracts thousands of inventors from all over the world.

New director for ST PAUL St

Charlotte Huddleston has been appointed as the new director of AUT's ST PAUL St gallery. Most recently she worked as curator of contemporary art at the Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa, with previous experience at the Govett-Brewster Art Gallery in New Plymouth, the Enjoy Public Art Gallery, Wellington and the Adam Art Gallery Te Pataka Toi, Wellington. Charlotte begins at ST PAUL St on 19 July.

Youth unemployment, brain drain critical issues for NZ, academic warns



AN EMPLOYMENT relations professor says ten years on, the Employment Relations Act has facilitated some disappointing outcomes and New Zealand is headed towards relative economic decline.

Professor Erling Rasmussen, editor of a new book *Employment Relationships: Workers, Unions and Employers in New Zealand* being launched this month, says the country is again facing the issue of brain drain and youth dropping out of the workforce altogether.

The AUT University Professor of Work and Employment says New Zealand appears to be going the wrong way.

"We are currently in the situation where once again people are moving to Australia or overseas," he says. "Alongside this, around 17% of our young people are unemployed.

"If we're not careful, our brightest workforce will disappear and we'll create a low-skilled casualised workforce, and that's a recipe for economic decline."

Professor Rasmussen says the Employment Relations Act 2000 was aimed at driving better productivity and flexibility, but it hasn't achieved the expected outcomes.

"We now have the situation where people don't talk a lot about the

workplace as a way of solving productivity issues. Rather the focus is on tax cuts, extracting resources, making the public sector more efficient and cutting back in areas like education.

"The current Government has fiddled with key details of the Employment Relations Act, such as reducing the personal grievance protection of some new employees, but this doesn't mean they will be more efficient or productive.

"It doesn't appear sustainable. It's not balanced or heading in the right direction. We're not building a high waged, highly skilled, highly productive economy."

Employment Relations in New Zealand brings together the views of employers, unions and academics. High profile contributors include former speaker of the house, Professor of Law and Public Policy, Margaret Wilson, former government minister Laila Harré and employment lawyer Andrew Caisley.

It looks at the major issues from the perspectives of all the major players: public policy, collective bargaining, employee representation, labour market adjustments, productivity, changes in employment law and trends in employment institutions.

MEN programme continues to shine

AUT'S Males in Education Now (MEN) programme continues to gain momentum after another successful round of leadership camps was held last month. The MEN programme aims to address the discrepancy between males and females in education by engaging and connecting with male students in year 10. It gives participants the skills, experiences and new role-models so that they don't give up on education before they gain valuable qualifications.

A recently released report by the Ministry of Education shows teenage boys are less likely to gain university entrance than their female classmates, and more likely to leave school before the age of 17. Teenage boys are also over-represented in stand-down and suspension rates at secondary schools.

Over 150 students attended the latest leadership camp, which focused on both the physical side of learning, and important values and skills, such as team work, motivation, effective communication

and leadership. The camps were based at MERC (Long Bay, North Shore), and Outdoor Education at Woodhill.

MEN project leader Paul Tupou-Vea says the camp tries to create a balance between physical activity and theory. "The morning and evening workshops run by AUT facilitators focus on the students' abilities to reflect and value their individual contributions to the team, clarifying personal goals, and broadening their understanding of themselves, the challenges and the opportunities.

"We push students outside their normal bounds in activities like high ropes, mountain biking, sailing and raft building, all whilst dealing with the social challenges of working with boys from other schools. Along the way we constantly challenge the boys to reflect on how these exercises aid us in becoming better men and better students."

MEN is a year-long programme involving six schools around Auckland.



Photos from the leadership camp held as part of the Males In Education Now (MEN) programme, aimed at connecting Year 10 students with future education



Showing some mussel

FOR SOMEONE who isn't very fond of mussels, doctoral student Tim Young (right) spends a lot of time studying them.

As part of his PhD in marine biochemistry, Young is currently analysing the settlement behaviour of *Perna canaliculus*, otherwise known as the green-lipped mussel – a staple in the diets of seafood lovers worldwide.

The New Zealand green-lipped mussel represents the largest shellfish industry, with over \$200m per year in exports. For New Zealand to grow its aquaculture sector and increase its international competitive edge in the seafood market, innovative research is essential – cutting edge research such as Young's.

At the recent School of Applied Sciences awards ceremony, Young was presented with two awards for his research into larval settlement of the green-lipped mussel: the Clark Henriques memorial prize for the most outstanding postgraduate student in environmental studies, and theASUREQuality prize for the top master's thesis.

Initially, with an interest in chemistry, Young started out at AUT University in

2001 studying a Certificate in Applied Sciences, followed by a Bachelor of Applied Sciences (in applied chemistry). With little consideration for a future in aquaculture, it was only in the latter stages of his bachelors degree where an interest in marine sciences emerged, studying the synthesis of fatty acids in pipis under Dr Andrea Alfaro. Young then went on to do a Masters of Applied Science in Marine and Environmental Science, where he says it was great to finally indulge in his own curiosity and develop his research into marine invertebrates.

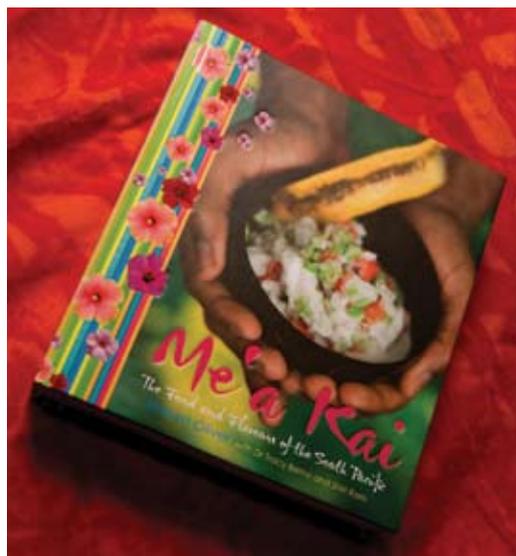
"There has been a strong relationship between my foundation in chemistry and studying marine sciences, because how marine invertebrates interact with their environment is all chemically influenced."

Although the green-lipped mussel is extensively cultivated in New Zealand, very little is known about its larval behaviours. The longer-term implications of Young's research could result in increased growth and retention of mussel yield, potentially increasing the economical viability and volume of mussel production in New Zealand for



the international marketplace.

With numerous scholarships, research grants and two commercial patents already to his name under the tutelage of Dr Alfaro and Dr John Robertson, Young is already paving the path for being one of New Zealand's leading marine scientists.



Piko serving up Pacific menu

PIKO RESTAURANT in the School of Hospitality and Tourism will be serving a Pacific-inspired menu created by famous chef Robert Oliver from July 26th to September 3rd. Following the sell-out release of his book *Me'a Kai*, Oliver has teamed up with Piko to create a menu which features dishes from six different Pacific Islands.

"If you liked the food in Robert's book, you will love the food we will be serving in Piko," says AUT's new restaurant operations manager, David Green. An à la carte menu will be available for lunch and a degustation menu for dinner will run in the refurbished restaurant on Wellesley Street, Auckland City. For reservations call (09) 921 9932.