

APRIL 2011

INSIDE | AUT

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



Surfing the clean wave

AN ECO-FRIENDLY surfboard designed by product design graduate Michael Grobelny has won the industrial design category of the Australasian student design awards 2011. It is also a finalist in the IDEA international design awards run by Industrial Design of America.

Grobelny (pictured) designed the strong, lightweight, wooden board with the aim of eliminating the use of polyurethane foam, fibreglass and polyester resin from the surfboard-making process.

“The physical act and culture of surfing provides an intimate connection with natural forces,” says Grobelny, who designed the board as part of a research project for a Bachelor of Design (Hons) degree. “It’s this emotional and physical engagement with nature that makes surfing a powerful and enriching experience.

“In direct contrast, the use of toxic materials in the manufacture of surfboards is

STORY CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Facebook nabs AUT alumnus for global role

NEW ZEALANDER and AUT alumnus Mark D’Arcy has joined Facebook as its director of global creative solutions.

D’Arcy (39), who studied advertising at AUT University (when it was Auckland Technical Institute), joins Facebook from a previous position as president of Time Warner’s global media group. He was part of the team that came to New Zealand to resolve *The Hobbit* film dispute in October last year.

The Wall Street Journal said D’Arcy will lead a Facebook team with the task of boosting the appeal of the social network’s advertising offerings.

Facebook chief operating officer Sheryl



Sandberg told the *Journal* that D’Arcy “understands that marketing can be more engaging and effective when it is social by design”.

D’Arcy has been in the advertising game for more than 20 years. His first ad job was at the *New Zealand Herald* during school holidays, while attending Waitakere College. He liked it enough to realise he wanted to study advertising at AUT. His diploma in advertising and marketing took 18 months during which he worked part-time at a small agency on the North Shore.

After graduating, D’Arcy was employed as a copywriter and then headhunted by DMB&B (now part of Publicis), an international agency with clients such as Coca-Cola. By the age of

23, he was creative director and convinced the firm to send him to New York for two weeks’ work experience.

“I went out and had a good time, but I worked like a lunatic too. I talked to anybody I could and when I got back I called people, especially the recruiters in the company, and said I really wanted a job. I didn’t want to be a creative director; I just wanted a job.”

In 1995 he was offered a position as vice-president creative director in the New York office of DMB&B and then moved to Young & Rubicam. He lived in New Zealand for a year with his family in 2003 before returning to the US.

He recently told *The Listener* that AUT and Kea, an expat networking group, had helped him rekindle his ties with New Zealand.

LETTER FROM THE VC



This month we celebrate the beginning of construction for the next stage of development at the AUT Millennium campus on the North Shore. This development adds to the already significant facilities on the campus and will deliver AUT extensive postgraduate and research space, co-located with athlete development and community activity centres. It will enable us to further build on the renown

and success of our School of Sport and Recreation and Sports Performance Research Institute. The AUT Millennium campus reflects our commitment to being a great university for sport, and it is pleasing to see the capital works well under way.

Later this month AUT and AuSM will host the University Games 2011, the second largest multi-sport event in New Zealand. The annual event is a highlight on the sporting calendar, and brings together the best sports teams from across the New Zealand and Australian tertiary sector. I would like to wish our AUT Titans team the very best of luck as they compete. Over 400 AUT students will be involved either as competitors or volunteers for the event.

Next month AUT is once again proud to host Māori Expo – AUT's premier event celebrating Māori achievement. Now in its 15th year, Māori Expo brings together the arts, culture, education, business and entertainment in a vibrant festival setting. This year's Expo is on May 12 from 9am to 3pm and I encourage you to attend. Māori Expo is an energetic and inspiring event and one of the ways we express our aim to be the university of choice for Māori.

STORY CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

hazardous to board makers and the natural environment, but these synthetic materials are used because they provide a high level of performance which is not easily achieved with natural materials."

Inspired by the Hawaiians, who invented surfing using solid wooden surfboards, Grobelny researched different types of timber looking for something strong, light and sustainable. He settled on paulownia, a fast-growing, locally-available wood which is becoming popular in surfboard construction.

In AUT's product design workshop, Grobelny had use of a computer numerical controlled (CNC) router which he used to shape the overall form of the surfboard and remove excess material to create an internal honeycomb structure. This buoyant body was then sealed with a bamboo veneer deck before being coated with a biodegradable varnish. The resulting board weighs 3.3 kilograms and has the skeletal strength and high performance qualities obtained by synthetic short boards.

Throughout the project, Grobelny applied the environmentally-friendly guidelines of the 'cradle to cradle' design framework, which aims to create systems that are not only efficient but virtually waste-free. This meant waste sawdust from the routing process was reused as agricultural compost. To ensure a longer lifespan than lightweight synthetic boards, he chose natural materials with a high resilience.

"The robust nature of the bamboo veneer provided a great natural alternative to resin and fibreglass. Both bamboo and paulownia are extremely fast-growing, making them ideal for sustainably designed products, as they are more easily sourced from a sustainably managed natural plantation."

The combined aesthetic of its beautiful form and natural materials has transformed the surfboard from a relatively short-lived disposable sport product to a treasured artefact, increasing its inherent value and challenging the disposable mentality prevailing in current surf culture.



Māori achievement on show at expo

AUT UNIVERSITY is pleased to present AUT Māori Expo, with another great line-up of entertainment for the day.

AUT Māori Expo is the largest celebration of Māori achievement in all fields – cultural, political, sports, education and the arts.

Hosted again at Vector Arena on May 12 from 9am to 3pm, a highlight this year will be the political panel where the issues of the day will be debated.

AUT staff, family and friends are encouraged to attend this free event. Visit www.maoriexpo.co.nz for updates on the shuttle service.

Ground-breaking moment for AUT Millennium campus

CONSTRUCTION has begun at AUT Millennium campus – New Zealand’s new home of high performance sport.

The \$43 million redevelopment will create a world-class high performance sports facility on par with other sporting centres of excellence around the world, says Mike Stanley, CEO of the AUT Millennium Trust and president of the New Zealand Olympic committee.

In June 2010, Prime Minister John Key announced a massive \$40 million cash injection into high performance sport in New Zealand, including the major development of high performance facilities around the country. The government is also investing \$15 million into stage one of the campus.

The new centre will be operated by AUT Millennium Trust – a 50-50 partnership between AUT University and the Millennium Institute of Sport and Health, bringing together the best of sports science research, coaching and management expertise.

“The new centre ensures there are world-class facilities here in New Zealand for our athletes to train at. It will be *the* centre of sporting excellence which propels New Zealand’s next generation of athletes onto an international stage. It will also help produce more world-class sporting champions and increase our medal prospects at future Olympic games and world championships,” says Stanley.

Developments at AUT Millennium include

the creation of a high performance zone, a sports science centre, an environmental chamber, a strength and conditioning suite, expanded medical and specialist facilities, a 50-metre Olympic swimming pool, a new public health and fitness centre, significant additional office, education and meeting facilities, and accommodation.

AUT Vice-Chancellor Derek McCormack says the new developments at AUT Millennium will provide the best sports

science research labs in New Zealand, where AUT will lead research in the areas of biomechanics and human performance.

Minister for Sport and Recreation Murray McCully, hosted the official ground-breaking ceremony for the new developments at AUT Millennium campus in April. The opening was originally due to take place in late February but was postponed due to the Christchurch earthquake.



THURSDAY MAY 12 2011 VECTOR ARENA 9-3PM	
DJ Porouffessor	9.30am – 2.30pm
Kapahaka - Te Te Rumaki Reo o Ngā Puna o Waiorea	10.00am – 10.20am
Kapahaka - Te Kura Māori o Ngā Tapuwae	10.25am – 10.45am
Kapahaka - Te Kura Kaupapa Māori O Piripono Te Kura Whakahou ki Otara	10.50am – 11.10am
1814	11.30am – 12.20pm
Lighthouse dance crew	12.35pm – 12.55pm
Fashion show	1.00pm – 1.30pm
Prestige dance crew	1.35pm – 1.55pm
Judges Tohu - Kapahaka winners announced	2.00pm – 2.20pm
Karakia	2.25pm – 2.30pm



AUT to host university games

UNIVERSITY GAMES APRIL 26-29 2011 WWW.UNIVERSITYSPORT.ORG.NZ

FROM APRIL 26 TO 29 AUT and students' association AuSM will host University Games 2011, the second largest multi-sport event in New Zealand.

Following a 109-year-old sporting tradition, the event is New Zealand's primary inter-university sporting event. Tertiary institutions from both Australia and our own backyard will compete.

Branded this year as the 'Super City Games', this annual event is hosted by different tertiary institutions around the country each year. This year's event features more than 1,000 students and more than 20 sports codes.

For the first time, the 2011 games will feature wheelchair rugby as a demonstration sport, allowing high calibre athletes such as Wheel Black Cameron Leslie (left) to showcase the high performance skills in disability sports.

AUT sport and development support manager, Bruce Meyer, says the games

are an opportunity to showcase AUT, its facilities, study and career opportunities.

"AUT is recognised internationally as a leader in sports science, so there is a natural fit in us hosting the games. AUT can draw on a number of experts to raise the bar in delivering a high quality event.

"With the number of sporting facilities available and the range of sporting bodies that exist, the 2011 competition will provide more simultaneous sporting events than any other city."

In addition to a team of 400 athletes expected to represent AUT at the event, AUT students studying sport and recreation, business, physiotherapy and communication are involved in all aspects of the event delivery.

AUT provides support to quake-affected students

WHEN THE EARTHQUAKE struck Christchurch in February, AUT was quick to offer support to students displaced by the disaster. AUT accepted 30 Christchurch students who relocated to Auckland, either temporarily or permanently, to enable them to complete their studies.

Vice-Chancellor Derek McCormack said immediately after the quake that AUT was willing to help those students affected by the disaster.

"Some Christchurch students have been completely displaced due to loss of accommodation, family moves and other impacts of the disaster.

"As the nation comes together in support of the recovery, I believe it is important that AUT, with other institutions, does whatever it can to help affected students settle into study as soon as possible."

AUT extended its admissions season to accommodate displaced students, and was able to grant students extraordinary

circumstances admission. AUT was also part of the official exchange programme with the University of Canterbury, allowing students to transfer their studies for semester one, and return to study with their original institution next semester.

Kurtis Bell was appointed as AUT's Christchurch student liaison co-ordinator. Along with a team from the international student centre, schools, faculties, and university admissions, Bell supported displaced students during the difficult time by connecting them with student services available.

"We received approximately 155 enquiries in total, and continue to receive small numbers of enquiries looking at enrolling for semester two and beyond," says Bell.

"We led multiple efforts to support displaced students. Our focus was to get students into class as quickly as possible, to minimise any disruption to their studies."

Dedicated student advisors assisted with

helping students transition back into their studies. Faculty registrars and programme leaders were able to monitor students in the classroom to provide additional administrative support if required.

Ongoing monitoring and personalised support will continue to be offered throughout the duration of the students' study.

Bell says it was humbling to work with students in need, and he was impressed with the speed of the response. "Processes were put in place immediately after the earthquake occurred. We quickly advertised our support online and in the media, and were well placed to respond to enquiries quickly and effectively as they came in."

AUT has also launched a Christchurch earthquake donation appeal to support the people of Canterbury as the region recovers from the February quake.

The appeal will allow AUT staff to donate to the Red Cross earthquake appeal via deduction from their salary. Payroll giving (salary sacrifice) will go to the Red Cross to support the rebuilding of the Christchurch community. More information can be found on AUT's intranet.

Youthline fono looks at health issues affecting Manukau youth

AUT and Youthline Manukau recently hosted a youth health council fono that looked at key health issues affecting Manukau youth and the difference health promotion makes in the community.

Taking place at AUT's Manukau campus, 300 year 12 and 13 students from across the region considered a variety of health and social issues, from healthy eating to alcohol and drug harm.

The role that health promotion plays in the community can make a huge difference by helping people to take responsibility for their wellbeing and to make healthier lifestyle choices, says Ruth De Souza, programme leader for health promotion at AUT and co-ordinator of the National Institute for Public Health and Mental Health Research.

"Prevention is better than cure. Many health and social issues such as obesity, diabetes, heart disease, depression, alcohol

and drug abuse are largely preventable. Health promotion practitioners work with individuals and communities to improve wellbeing and prevent illness and disease."

The youth health councils play a vital role dealing with the entire wellbeing of a person, often setting up initiatives to improve the health status of youth, says Grace Taylor, youth development worker at Youthline.

"If youth can be supported to take responsibility for their own health and wellbeing and to make positive changes now, the flow-on effects for the future will be invaluable."

A report from the Counties Manukau District Health Board in December highlights the need for youth health councils – it states that less than one in ten adults in Counties Manukau aged 15 and over are leading a healthy lifestyle.

De Souza says that one of the key

impacts of health promotion is working with the community.

"Manukau is one of the most dynamic places in New Zealand. As the first university in the Manukau area, AUT is playing an important role towards improving the health and wellbeing of this multi-ethnic community."

The fono – supported by Counties Manukau District Health Board and the ASB Charitable Trust – will also help connect students who have an interest in working in the health care sector with people they could potentially work with.



Student marketers of the year

AUT ADVERTISING GRADUATES Christabel Spong (centre) and Erin Gulyas (right) were named NZ Post student marketers of the year at the 2010 RSVP and Nexus awards. Judge Fiona Woolley described Spong and Gulyas' campaign for Westpac as "strategically excellent and well-executed". Two other AUT teams were named runners-up for the award: Joe Stuart and Lydia Moore, and Frances Cooke and Wicky Tafau.

Charting the future for R&D

HEAD OF AUT'S ENGINEERING SCHOOL and Pro Vice-Chancellor (innovation and enterprise) Professor John Raine, has been named chair of a review panel established by the Ministry for Science and Innovation. The panel has been asked to examine how research and development can better support the New Zealand manufacturing and services sectors.

"There needs to be better transfer of R&D from the research sector through to businesses, and for businesses to be investing more in R&D," says Minister for Science and Innovation Wayne Mapp.

Professor Raine is joined on the panel by Professor Mina Teicher (Bar-Ilan University, Israel) and Phil O'Reilly (chief executive, Business NZ). The panel's recommendations are due shortly.

Creative technologies punt pays off for Urbis Design Day

AN INTERACTIVE JOURNEY through a 'home less ordinary' showcased the work of Bachelor of Creative Technologies (BCT) students at Urbis Design Day last month.

Design studio We Love Inc enlisted the help of Nick Redwood, Christine Probert, Ryan Smale, Charlotte Alexander, Judith Klein, Tapani Heikkinen and Dylan Turney to create *Chain Reaction*, a sprawling interactive machine which took visitors through seven exhibitions celebrating colour by Dulux and furniture from Furniture Lab.

The result of months of "mad scientist

activity and invention", *Chain Reaction* was designed to get the audience involved, says We Love Inc creative director Joanna Alpe. Guests were able to experiment with chromatography, spray paint, postcards and bid on paint-splattered Thonet Rombus chairs they created with help from the machine.

Alpe, who has a graphic design degree from AUT, came to the university looking for students who could help design and engineer the project.

"I wanted them to be keen for an

interesting challenge and some exposure to the industry. AUT was my first stop for finding students who not only had the technical skills but conceptual and rigorous thinking."

Alpe hadn't heard of the creative technologies degree, which launched after she'd graduated. "I took a punt that they were going to have the right skills for the task and they definitely did. If I had my time again, the BCT looks like the kind of degree I would run to. It's innovative, future-focused and has a brilliant mix of conceptualising and making things happen. I can't speak more highly of it."

Another key member of the team in charge of the project's concept and direction was We Love Inc's Emily Priest, who graduated from AUT with a Bachelor of Design (Hons) specialising in spatial design.



Collaborative social learning at Manukau

THE REFURBISHMENT of AUT's Manukau campus continues as buildings undergo renovations to turn previously unusable spaces into state-of-the-art classrooms.

Office space on level two of MB building (the main reception building) has been converted into postgraduate facilities. Level two of the MC building has been fitted out to provide more classrooms, computer labs and collaborative social learning spaces

for students.

The social learning spaces are all equipped for wireless access for laptops and represent the best in design and construction materials.

"The collaborative social learning areas provide students with a range of spaces where the learning process can continue in a friendly and comfortable environment," says Suzanne Webb, director of asset

development.

Plans are also underway to develop a changing facility for the pool and tennis courts later this year.

The Manukau campus will also be equipped with a small gym facility, due to be opened at the start of semester two this year. It will be located on the ground floor of MD building and available for general student and staff use outside of teaching times.



Above (left to right): AUT student documentary maker Markus Kitione, Graduate Diploma in Pacific Journalism student Tupouseini Taumoepeau, AUT Pasifika student advisor Isabella Rasch, Master of Communication Studies student Yvonne Brill, Graduate Diploma in Pacific Journalism student Ana Moala and AUT recruitment's Gareth Dyer. Story by Yvonne Brill, Pacific Media Centre.

Digital fale at Pasifika

PACIFIC CULTURE fused with technology in the AUT 'digital fale' at last month's Pasifika festival.

The digital fale showcased the work of AUT Māori and Pasifika media and arts students. With large plasma screens and Mac computers displaying visual artworks, documentaries and digital media produced by AUT students, the fale was part of a larger celebration of Pacific culture – with dance, food, music and crafts from nations around the Pacific on display.

Representatives from the Pacific Media

Centre, Graduate Diploma in Pacific Journalism students and AUT's Pasifika student support team spent the day sharing campus life and achievements with passersby.

According to estimates from Auckland City Council, 200,000 people passed through Western Springs park, which was turned into a Pacific 'island' for the day.

Ten 'villages' representing individual islands were spread throughout the park, and offered visitors a diverse range of cultural experiences.

Saudi student support recognised

AN INTERNATIONAL student advisor has been recognised for his work supporting Saudi students at AUT.

Haitham Mazyan, an advisor with International Student Support Services (ISSS), was presented with the award by the AUT branch of the Auckland Saudi students club at a ceremony on March 21.

The award acknowledges support services provided to international Saudi students, and

Mazyan says he is humbled.

"I was actually surprised and overwhelmed as I wasn't expecting anything like this," says Mazyan. Having only been at AUT for one year, the ISSS team is proud that his efforts have been recognised by the Auckland Saudi students club, which is sponsored by the Saudi Consulate in Auckland.

Mazyan says he is dedicated to providing excellent support services for Saudi students, and looks forward to developing the service to meet the demands of AUT's dynamic international student community.

The ISSS team provides support for all AUT international students as they study, helping them to feel a sense of belonging in a safe and supportive community.

Finalist in high-tech awards

THE WORK OF Professor Olaf Diegel, director of the Creative Industries Research Institute, is a finalist in the Dell Innovative Hi-Tech Hardware product award 2011. The nomination is for a plug-in dimmer cabinet for TV and film studios, theatres and concert halls that he designed for Auckland-based company Theatrelight. Hi-Tech awards winners will be announced on May 6.

International expert: say no to privatisation

AUT'S INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC POLICY recently hosted international expert David Hall to talk about privatisation and public private partnerships in light of discussions on selling state owned assets.

Hall says there's a perception that public spending and public servants are "parasitic on the real productive sectors of economies".

"The reality is that for economic growth to occur there needs to be a rise in public spending." Hall argues that public private partnerships (PPPs) do not necessarily provide value for money, efficiencies or accountability.

New Zealand's level of public spending is about average when compared to the EU or other OECD countries. "Your government debt is one of the lowest though. Just about every other country would kill to have public debt as low as New Zealand's," says Hall.

Hall says while PPPs may ensure cheaper construction costs, the cost of raising capital in the first place is more expensive, transaction costs (procurement and monitoring) are more expensive and uncertainty is higher with PPPs being more risky.

AUT leads world-first research in BMX

BMX IS THE NEWEST kid on the Olympic block and AUT is leading the world in researching the power outputs of riders. It's a fast-paced, high-energy sport and, according to AUT researcher John Cowell, riders need a few screws loose in their heads to race.

Cowell, AUT PhD student and New Zealand Academy of Sport strength and conditioning coach, is currently leading world-first research into the power output of BMX riders. Ultimately research will help to produce faster BMX riders and enhance New Zealand's gold medal prospects in future Olympic games.

"BMX was only introduced as an Olympic sport in 2008. It's not a sport that is thoroughly understood, especially when considered in the context of athletics or other cycling disciplines. It's time we pull it from obscurity," says Cowell.

BMX is a technique-intensive sport, but most of the training is currently based on intuition and experience, not objective measures or data. Currently there is no existing science around

BMX power output.

"BMX riders not only have to be strong, they have to be powerful...and a little extreme! The research we are doing is unique in that we're the first to do it. Essentially, we want to know how to make our riders faster than anyone else. A lot of the existing cycling research for the various disciplines is just not applicable to what we do," says Cowell.

BMX is unlike any other cycling discipline as it's contested primarily from a standing position. It's also a mass start event, and the pedaling efforts are continuous with over 30 percent of time spent pedaling (as much time as is spent in the air). Cowell says currently there's not a strong relationship with BMX training performance and racing performance.

"Our research goal is to initially quantify the sport – how much are riders pedaling, jumping and cornering, for example. These factors have to be considered to improve overall performance."



Although it's the newest Olympic sport, New Zealand's medal prospects are already looking exceptionally strong.

"Currently we have Sarah Walker, who was the 2009 world champion, and Marc Willers, who was one of the top three riders in the world last year. BMX talent in New Zealand is only getting deeper," says Cowell.

AUT's partnership with the Millennium Institute of Sport and Health is a key ingredient in developing BMX as a high performance sport in New Zealand.



AUT launches winemakers' series

AUT'S INAUGURAL winemakers' series kicks off next month and tickets are still available. The 2011 series includes four dinners, each featuring guest winemakers from various regions across New Zealand.

The dinners will be held on Friday evenings in Four Seasons restaurant, AUT's fine dining showcase restaurant. Only 60 seats per dinner are available.

The dinners will provide a platform for guests to gain a greater understanding of a region's wine and vineyards. Winemakers will take the guests through an interactive culinary journey featuring five of their wines, matched with a five-course degustation menu prepared by some of New Zealand's best chefs teaching at AUT. Winemakers will talk guests through each wine and corresponding course as the meals are served. The evening is informal and guests will have the chance to talk with the winemaker before or after the meal.

David Green, restaurant operations manager at AUT, says each dinner will focus on different winemaking regions within New Zealand.

"The team at AUT is spending considerable time coming up with menus that perfectly match each wine. Diners are in for a fantastic experience with top-class chefs and wines involved".

Cameron Douglas, master sommelier, will emcee the events. Tickets are \$95 each. To book your place at one or more of these dinners, please phone Ina Ismail on 921-9932 or email ina.ismail@aut.ac.nz.

DATE	REGION	VINEYARD
6th May	Waiheke	Stonyridge
24th June	Hawke's Bay	Esk Valley
26th August	Marlborough	Mahi
28th October	Martinborough	Murdoch James



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