The Crest

The outside red border – a stylised fern frond or pitau – symbolises new birth, growth, vitality, strength and achievement. Inside the border is the University’s coat of arms. The open book surrounded by the four stars of the Southern Cross is a symbol of learning. The crest design is in the University’s colours of black, red and gold.

For the People

The University’s motto, Ko Te Tangata, ‘For the People’, reflects our intrinsic belief that people are central to the institution and are its most valued resource.

Mission

To combine the creation of knowledge through research, scholarship and creative works with the dissemination of knowledge through teaching, publication and performance.

The Vision for the University of Waikato, informed by our existing high quality teaching and research, is to:

• Deliver a world-class education and research portfolio
• Provide a full and dynamic university experience which is distinctive in character
• Pursue strong international linkages to advance knowledge

The over-arching themes of the Vision are:

• Excellence
• Distinctiveness
• International Connectedness

Sustainability

As part of the University of Waikato’s commitment to sustainability, we prefer to communicate with our alumni and friends electronically when feasible.

The Alumni and Friends E-News is produced bi-monthly, enabling us to stay in touch throughout the year with a very light carbon footprint. If you wish to subscribe to the E-News, send us an email at alumni@waikato.ac.nz.

Off Campus magazine is published annually to showcase the year’s top stories and achievements and is posted to alumni and friends around the world. If you’d prefer to receive future issues in a digital format, please let us know.

If we have all your current details, email and postal, we can keep you updated on all the latest news about the University of Waikato and share the year’s highlights.

Email us at alumni@waikato.ac.nz or visit our website www.alumni.waikato.ac.nz.
Reconnect with us!

The University of Waikato would really like to stay in touch with all of our alumni. Every year we post out this Off Campus magazine, run events in New Zealand and around the world, and send e-newsletters. Please spread the word to your family and friends and remain part of our vibrant, international alumni community.

Check our list of ‘lost alumni’ and update your details at www.waikato.ac.nz/alumni

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From the Vice-Chancellor

Success continues

Welcome to another edition of Off Campus, the University of Waikato alumni magazine which gives us the chance to recount the successes of our alumni and the University itself.

We mark two major University milestones this year: 50 years of teacher education and 20 years of teaching law. And as we look ahead to the University’s own 50th celebrations in 2014, I encourage all alumni to remain in touch with us. I am keen to enhance our contact with alumni and friends as we prepare ourselves for the next 50 and 100 years. We are a young university now but we need to be giving a great deal of thought to how we ensure our continued success. It is important that we set strong foundations for an exciting future.

One of the most important and visible steps we are taking to ensure continued success is completing the Student Centre on the Hamilton campus. This $30 million project remodels the existing library into a state-of-the-art hub for staff, students and visitors. I am proud to report the University has gained a prestigious 5 Green Star Rating from the New Zealand Green Building Council for the design of the Student Centre. The organisation has endorsed the work to make the Student Centre sustainable while creating the social heart of the campus and providing a dynamic experience for those who walk through its doors.

We have introduced new programmes this year and continue to provide an excellent learning environment for students. This is increasingly important in the capped funding environment universities find themselves in.

Like many businesses, we are trying to do more with less, while delivering a world-class product. Thanks to the great efforts of staff, students are not impacted by this – they have room to focus on their study and see what a degree from Waikato can achieve.

This year’s Distinguished Alumni Awards again showed what a degree from Waikato can do. In August we acknowledged the success of alumni Sam Knowles, Dr Craig Nevill-Manning and Lt Col Tenby Powell.

These three alumni are a shining example of how studying at Waikato can set you up for the national and international stage. I am proud to feature them in these pages and to highlight their achievements to the people I meet in my role.

My best wishes to all alumni, and I look forward to reading about your successes as well.

Roy Crawford
Vice-Chancellor

We know how successful we are; I see it in the high numbers of qualifications earned and in our ever-growing graduation ceremonies. Indeed, in Tauranga this year, we had the largest graduation the city has ever seen. That is important to me because this University sees Tauranga as an increasingly important part of the University of Waikato. We continue to consolidate our relationships with Bay of Plenty Polytechnic and Te Whare Wānanga o Awanuiārangi, and we are working closely with stakeholders to consider a new campus in Tauranga. This will enable us to continue delivering world-class teaching and research.

The quality of our teaching was recognised this year with two prestigious awards for two excellent lecturers – Dr Alison Campbell and Te Kāhautu Maxwell. They won two of 11 awards at the National Teaching Tertiary Excellence Awards. These two lecturers are a great example of the excellence in teaching and learning that takes place at this University.

I am always proud to highlight these achievements to alumni and friends of the University, through functions, meetings and this annual magazine. Our website is also full of great reports of student and staff achievements, including the latest books being published by our world-class staff.

We have also been recognised by the Tertiary Education Commission for our achievements in progressing our students.

RECOGNITION: Vice-Chancellor Professor Roy Crawford with New Zealand Green Building Council Chief Executive Alex Cutler.
This year I have been privileged to meet many more University of Waikato alumni and friends throughout New Zealand and the world, listen to their success stories and share the University’s achievements.

In March, the Chancellor Rt Hon Jim Bolger ONZ hosted regional business leaders – many of them Waikato alumni – for a breakfast briefing about the University’s accomplishments and vital economic impact. In May, Wellington-based alumni enjoyed an evening with Waikato Distinguished Alumna Theresa Gattung, former Telecom CEO and current Chair of Wool Partners International.

June saw Vice-Chancellor Professor Roy Crawford travel to Shanghai as part of the Universities New Zealand and Ministry of Education trip to the World Expo. More than 80 of our alumni turned out to greet him. In August we celebrated our 2010 Distinguished Alumni and one of them, Dr Craig Nevill-Manning of Google, offered a public lecture at the Hamilton campus. November sees us in Beijing for an event with Rt Hon Jim Bolger and then back in New Zealand for an alumni event in Auckland before the close of 2010.

These events are one of the reasons we continue to search for alumni with whom we have lost touch over the years. In my first Off Campus issue in 2008, I noted we had details for only 27,000 alumni. That number has risen to almost 35,000, thanks to the hard work of staff across the University and alumni spreading the word to family and friends. I encourage all Waikato alumni to stay connected to the University and check our list of ‘lost alumni’ online for friends or relatives who may be listed there: www.waikato.ac.nz/alumni.

This push to find alumni is also related to two high-profile milestones this year: the 50th anniversary of the Faculty of Education and the 20th anniversary of Te Piringa – Faculty of Law. These faculties are in very different stages of their development and both have major accomplishments to celebrate. You can read more about these events in this edition of Off Campus.

The University of Waikato Foundation Chairman and alumnus Alastair Calder encouraged Māori alumni to stay close to the University when he spoke at this year’s Kingitanga Day, which celebrates King Tuhetiia’s birthday and our special relationship with Tainui, on whose land the University is built. Alastair spoke about the importance of our ongoing commitment to Māori and asked those present to stay connected with the University throughout their lives.

Meanwhile, we have been in touch with many of you recently through our alumni appeal. Following on from Rt Hon Jim Bolger’s appeal last summer, Faculty Deans are encouraging alumni to show their support for the University by donating to scholarships.

Whether you are an alumnus of the University or someone who simply values its place within our regional and national economy, I would encourage you to consider supporting us, particularly through scholarships. They enable Waikato to attract high quality students and help to make tertiary study accessible for deserving students. Please visit our website: www.waikato.ac.nz/foundation to donate online.

Supporting universities is an important part of the tertiary environment, both in New Zealand and overseas. The UK has just announced considerable cut backs for universities, which analysts expect to change the face of higher education in that country – fees will increase, facilities will deteriorate.

New Zealanders have the opportunity to watch how the UK manoeuvres through this time of fiscal challenge and step up to support New Zealand universities.

The University of Waikato drives economic growth and innovation, provides a world-class education and undertakes groundbreaking research here in New Zealand’s heartland that has international implications. I hope this issue of Off Campus will give you plenty of reasons to join me in supporting the University of Waikato.

Christine Brabender
Director of Development
A brilliant computer scientist, New Zealand’s best-known banker and a man who combined business success with a long career in the military were honoured at the University of Waikato’s annual Distinguished Alumni Awards dinner on August 27.

The function, hosted by University Chancellor Rt Hon Jim Bolger and Vice-Chancellor Professor Roy Crawford at the University’s WEL Energy Trust Academy of Performing Arts, recognised computer scientist Dr Craig Nevill-Manning, founding Kiwibank chief executive Sam Knowles and Lt Col Tenby Powell as Distinguished Alumni for outstanding professional achievement.

More than 200 people attended the event which, each year, celebrates no more than three Distinguished Alumni who have graduated from the University of Waikato.

Distinguished Alumni Awards

Three honoured at black tie dinner
**Dr Craig Nevill-Manning**

A New Zealand computer scientist whose work for search giant Google touches millions of people around the world every day is a recipient of a 2010 Distinguished Alumni Award from the University of Waikato.

Dr Craig Nevill-Manning began his outstanding academic career with an honours degree from Canterbury University followed by a PhD in computer science from the University of Waikato in 1996.

During his study at the University of Waikato, Dr Nevill-Manning created an award-winning open source digital library project called Greenstone, endorsed by UNESCO, and a novel algorithm that is now included in standard textbooks on data structures and artificial intelligence.

His post-doctoral work included a position in biochemistry at Stanford University and a position as assistant professor at Rutgers University.

A brilliant researcher, Dr Nevill-Manning’s work in the fields of data compression, information retrieval and computational biology led to him to a position with Google in 2001 where he founded and continues to direct the company’s New York-based software engineering team which now has more than 1,000 staff.

He has been a key contributor to Google’s product search facility and also played a key role in the setting up of Google Maps.

Dr Nevill-Manning continues to work tirelessly to raise New Zealand’s international profile and help New Zealand computer science graduates.

He helped recreate a little bit of Google’s famous workplace culture in the University Computer Science Department’s social space by upgrading facilities to encourage creativity and lateral thinking.

He has also secured internships for New Zealand graduates at Google and was instrumental in launching Google in Māori in collaboration with Te Taka Keegan at the University of Waikato and other Māori speakers. He has organised funding for New Zealand-based research projects and sabbaticals and speaking opportunities for New Zealand academics visiting the US.

**Sam Knowles**

The founding chief executive of New Zealand’s home-grown bank has been recognised by the University of Waikato with a Distinguished Alumni Award.

Kiwibank chief executive Sam Knowles was one of three alumni recognised at the 2010 Distinguished Alumni Awards at a function hosted by Chancellor and former Prime Minister Rt Hon Jim Bolger and Vice-Chancellor Professor Roy Crawford on August 27.

Mr Knowles did not set out to be a banker. After graduating from the University of Waikato in 1975 with a Bachelor of Science, he completed a Masters in Resource Management (First Class Honours) at Canterbury University before joining the Treasury in 1983.

From there he moved to the Bank of New Zealand where he set up a strategy and planning division before being posted to Melbourne when BNZ was bought out by the National Bank of Australia in 1992. He was made General Manager Marketing and Distribution before being appointed General Manager Global Product Development.

After returning to New Zealand, Mr Knowles was made chief executive of the state-owned enterprise At Work Insurance which competed with the Accident Compensation Corporation in the newly-privatised workplace compensation market. When ACC was renationalised a year later, Mr Knowles was asked by NZ Post to look into the idea of setting up a national, locally-owned bank.

At the time of its 2002 launch, “kiwi” bank was greeted with widespread scepticism. Today it is one of the country’s fastest-growing businesses with a customer base of 700,000.

Mr Knowles was honoured by the University for his lasting contribution to New Zealand and his outstanding record of public and corporate service to the banking sector and wider community.

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**HONoured: Dr Craig Nevill-Manning pictured with, left, Vice-Chancellor Professor Roy Crawford and the Chancellor, Rt Hon Jim Bolger.**

**RECOGNITION: Lt Col Tenby Powell receives his award from Chancellor Rt Hon Jim Bolger.**

**Lt Col Tenby Powell**

A New Zealander who has achieved outstanding success in both business and the military has been honoured by the University of Waikato at the 2010 Distinguished Alumni Awards.

Lt Col Tenby Powell joined the New Zealand Army while studying at the University of Waikato for a Bachelor of Social Sciences. After graduating in 1987, he began his business career at Fletcher Challenge, rising to Divisional General Manager of the company’s hardboard manufacturing business before moving to Viking Pacific Group (formerly Skellerup) in 1996.

Given the job of restructuring the company’s rental equipment arm Projex Ltd, then New Zealand’s largest general rental company, Lt Col Powell introduced major changes that resulted in a 25% increase in sales and a 30% increase in investment return.

In 1998 Lt Col Powell founded his own company, Hunter Powell Investments, eventually creating leading rental company the New Zealand Rental Group with such recognised brands as Hirepool, Port-a-Loo and Henderson Rentals.

Lt Col Powell’s career in the army has lasted 27 years. He has served in the New Zealand Army’s regular and reserve forces and was Deputy Commander of a United Nations mission in Lebanon between 2001 and 2002. He holds the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the New Zealand Royal Infantry Regiment and remains a serving officer in the Reserves.

He has combined two successful careers with community service and is on the board of Antarctica New Zealand and the Auckland Rescue Helicopter Trust. In 2009 he chaired the Entrepreneurial Summit, a gathering of top business leaders and entrepreneurs charged with coming up with ideas to jumpstart the economy on the back of the global credit crisis.

Earlier this year Lt Col Powell completed the Advanced Management Programme at the Harvard Business School and shares his knowledge and experience with others as a business adviser.

**LASTING CONTRIBUTION: Sam Knowles was honoured for his service to the public and corporate sectors.**
Graduation

Waikato graduates ready to take on the world

Thousands of pictures were snapped as hundreds of Waikato University students were capped during graduation ceremonies this year. Students were conferred at the University’s Te Kohinga Mārama Marae, Founders Theatre and the Holy Trinity Event Centre in Tauranga – which this year saw a record number of students graduate.

Some graduates and their families took the chance on their special day to have photos taken on campus. They also had the opportunity to mix and mingle with the Chancellor Rt Hon Jim Bolger, Vice-Chancellor Professor Roy Crawford and guest speakers including Simon Bridges, MP; Dr Apirana Mahuika, University Councillor; Distinguished Alumni winner Sam Knowles and Julie Rickman, Hamilton lawyer, after the ceremonies.

In both May and October, graduates took to the streets of Hamilton with bright red balloons for a march from Civic Square to the Founders Theatre.
The innovative design and energy-saving features of Waikato University’s new Student Centre have earned the building a 5-star rating from the New Zealand Green Building Council.

The $30 million Student Centre, due for completion around the middle of 2011, is the first educational building in the Waikato region to be recognised with a 5-green star rating from the council.

“Sustainability is a key driver of this University and this achievement demonstrates our ability to apply our core values in ways that will benefit students, staff and the community,” says Vice-Chancellor Professor Roy Crawford.

The 5-star rating recognises the environmental and sustainable features of the Student Centre, including use of recycled material wherever possible and energy-saving features such as sophisticated lighting and heating controls, solar water heating and energy-generating lifts. Rainwater collected from the roof can be stored onsite and recycled through toilets.

The University was informed of the rating in June. Building council chief executive Alex Cutler says the rating demonstrates how the University is preparing for the future and its long-term commitment to sustainability.

“This is evidence of long-term planning that will reap economic rewards by reducing operating costs and reducing the environmental impact of our built environment.”

The Green Star rating tool was developed by the Green Building Council and is a voluntary rating system that evaluates the environmental attributes and performance of buildings in New Zealand to help promote the development and adoption of market-based green building practices.

Project manager Tony Dicks says incorporating environmentally sustainable design into the building means the Student Centre will be an exemplary facility that is a pleasure to use.

“We scrutinised the design and development at every level and in every aspect to ensure we made it as sustainable as possible,” he says.

The Student Centre project remains on budget and on time. The reconstruction of Level 2 of the Library is now complete and Library staff have moved to their permanent and temporary locations on Level 2 while work continues on Level 3.

University Librarian Ross Hallett says staff are beginning to get a much better idea of what the refurbished space will look like. “It’s not just the former building redecorated, but a whole new look.”

Level 3 will be completed by November and work on Level 4 will be finished by the beginning of A semester next year.

The final stages of the Student Centre project will see the reconstruction of Level 1 and Level 0 begin next year. Once completed, Level 1 will house Bennetts Campus Bookshop, office spaces and the Library’s rare book collection. Level 0 will open up to a plaza, which will be an ideal spot for students to relax and socialise.
The strong partnership between the University of Waikato and Bay of Plenty Polytechnic has been demonstrated again this year with the opening of a new building to be used by both institutions. The $4.6 million Maharaia Building, formally opened by Māori King Kingi Tuheitia in February, was partially funded by the Tertiary Education Commission. It is named after distinguished educator and community leader Dr Maharaia Winiata (Ngāti Ranginui, Bay of Plenty).

Dr Winiata (1912-1960) was the first Māori to gain an overseas PhD, as a Nuffield Scholar studying at Edinburgh University during the 1950s. He devoted his life to improving educational outcomes and bettering the lives of Māori in the Waikato region.

He had strong links to the Kingitanga movement including joining the council of the then Māori King Koroki. Dr Winiata’s namesake and brother to King Tuheitia, Maharaia Paki, currently represents Tainui on the University of Waikato Council.

The two-storey Maharaia Building, designed by Chow Hill and shared by staff at the University and the Polytechnic, is in the main Bay of Plenty Polytechnic Windermere campus.

Its light and airy atrium reaches the full height of the building which has offices, several large conference rooms and study space for postgraduate students.

Art work was commissioned specifically for the building.

The University and the Polytechnic have worked together for more than a decade to help bring excellence in all aspects of tertiary education to the Western Bay of Plenty.

"Co-locating our staff will boost our partnership and allow us to achieve the scale and standard of intellectual output necessary to drive innovation, entrepreneurship and productivity in one of the country’s fastest-growing economies," said University of Waikato Vice-Chancellor Professor Roy Crawford.

New Chair of Coastal Science

An eminent marine ecologist has been appointed to the inaugural Environment Bay of Plenty Chair of Coastal Science.

Dr Chris Battershill comes from the Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS), where he is currently Principal Scientist and Research Team Leader (Supporting Sustainable Use of Marine Biodiversity).

His research focuses on marine ecology and environmental science, and he is responsible for the establishment of the first dedicated marine biodiscovery teams in Australia and New Zealand, focusing on the medicinal and agricultural sectors.

Dr Battershill holds BSc, MSc (Hons) and PhD degrees from the University of Auckland, and is currently Adjunct Professor at the University of Western Australia and James Cook University. He has formerly held positions with the DSIR NZ Oceanographic Institute, NIWA and DoC. He takes up his new position in Tauranga in January.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Roy Crawford says the establishment of the new Chair of Coastal Science is evidence of the University’s commitment to working with key stakeholders in the Bay of Plenty region to deliver world-class teaching and research.

“The appointment of Dr Battershill will help further consolidate our strong relationships with regional and local bodies, groups and iwi in the area.”

The new Chair is an integral part of the INTERCOAST programme, established by Waikato University and Bremen University in Germany to create a major centre of marine research excellence in the Bay of Plenty region.
In 2006, Aamir Mukhtar threw caution to the wind. Despite English being his third language, he packed his bags, left his family in Lahore, Pakistan and headed to Hamilton to embark on three years of PhD study in Materials Science and Process Engineering at the University of Waikato.

Intrigued by developments in the burgeoning powder metallurgy industry in New Zealand, especially in titanium, Dr Mukhtar was delighted to be offered a place on Professor Deliang Zhang’s research team in the Faculty of Science and Engineering at Waikato. Powder metallurgy is the process of turning metal powder into solid objects. The task ahead was to produce a new type of copper composite and alloy powder with vastly improved mechanical strength and electrical conducting qualities that had previously only been achievable with pure copper.

“It took me a year to get everything together to leave Pakistan but once I left, I never looked back,” Dr Mukhtar says. “I love it here.”

In Lahore, Dr Mukhtar completed his MPhil in Solid State Physics in 2003 and taught Physics at a Lebanese high school. At the time he was also conducting research in thin film technology for solar cells.

With his PhD complete, earlier this year Dr Mukhtar started working at the Titanium Industry Development Association’s (TiDA) new facility at the Bay of Plenty Polytechnic Windermere campus in Tauranga, which the University of Waikato shares. His wife, who is a teacher, and three school-aged children joined Dr Mukhtar in 2009 and the family have settled in Hamilton, with Dr Mukhtar commuting between Hamilton and Tauranga weekly.

TiDA sprung from the work of Titanox Development Ltd, which in turn sprung from the work of the University’s Professor Zhang. TiDA was formed two years ago through government agencies and private enterprise to help firms develop new titanium products for the international market. In September, the University of Waikato and TiDA signed a Memorandum of Understanding to work collaboratively to develop research, teaching and resources to support the development of the titanium industry in New Zealand.

Titanium is light, non-toxic, biodegradable, corrosion-resistant and is the fourth most abundant metal in the earth’s crust. It is mainly used in New Zealand for medical purposes, such as hip implants and dental tools, or in engine components. In other countries it is used in the aerospace industry.

At TiDA, Dr Mukhtar uses the latest scanning electron microscope (SEM) to analyse shape, size and microstructure of metal powders; elemental composition; and fracture analysis of metals and powders. Dr Mukhtar says the facility will help New Zealand companies develop new products for the international marketplace.

“There are around 30-40 companies in New Zealand that have shown an interest in using the technology. At the moment titanium research is in its infancy, but by making better powders, ultimately we can make better products,” says Dr Mukhtar.

New and improved products, such as shape memory alloys, are continually being developed and tested, and are an indication of where research could lead the country in the future. Dr Mukhtar says the new facility – which boasts some of the latest technology in the world – is an excellent opportunity for local businesses.

“TiDA’s goal is to help New Zealand companies tap into the emerging global industry. We can help them produce revolutionary new products in an environmentally-friendly and cost-effective way,” he says.

“We’re lucky to be working with the latest software and can get results much more quickly than before when companies had to send their products overseas.”
**Honorary Doctorates**

**Prestigious awards given**

**Jon Mayson CNZM**

Jon Mayson CNZM first went to sea at the age of 16, qualifying as a master mariner in the Merchant Navy before becoming Tugmaster and Pilot at the Port of Tauranga.

After 26 years he took up an operational management role at the Port of Tauranga and, after gaining a NZIM Diploma in Management and an MBA in International Management, was appointed Chief Executive in 1997.

Under his leadership, the Port was an early adopter of ‘triple bottom line’ reporting which demonstrates the company’s social, environmental and economic sustainability. His leadership style has been the subject of research published in the Harvard Business Review.

He helped the kiwifruit industry become the country’s largest horticultural exporter when he persuaded the Port’s Board of Directors to extend special credit to the industry after a disastrous season. He has been a strong supporter of the arts in Tauranga and was behind Tauranga’s successful bid for the “Around Alone” single-handed yacht race in 2003.

**Professor Margaret Bedggood QSO**

Professor Margaret Bedggood QSO has been awarded an Honorary Doctorate from the University not only for her tireless work for human rights in New Zealand but for helping broaden international understanding of what human rights involve.

After finishing her law studies at the University of Otago, Professor Bedggood joined Amnesty International in 1968, eventually being elected one of nine members of the organisation’s International Executive, a position she held between 1999 and 2005.

During this time, Amnesty International implemented fundamental reforms including enlarging its mandate to include social, economic and cultural rights as well as civil and political rights.

Professor Bedggood is a former Dean of the University of Waikato’s Faculty of Law and continues to supervise PhD students as an honorary professor. She also teaches human rights law at Oxford University.

**Roka Pahewa Paora QSM**

A dedicated teacher and expert in Māori language, Roka Pahewa Paora, QSM, (Te Whānau-ā-Apanui) was born in 1925 and later completed teacher training in Auckland. She returned home to Te Kaha where she taught at primary and secondary levels for more than 20 years.

She was a member of a pioneering group of Māori language teachers from the 1960s who worked tirelessly to develop creative resources and ways of teaching Māori to primary and secondary students.

She wrote her first book in 1971, Learning Māori with Parehau and Sharon, and has translated popular children’s books such as Winnie the Pooh into Māori and co-edited editions of the Williams and Ngata dictionaries.

In 1984, Mrs Paora was awarded a Queen’s Service Medal and in 2002 she received the Kingi Ihaka Award. Now living in Ōpōtiki, Mrs Paora worked at the University of Waikato where she was contracted to the School of Māori and Pacific Development to help staff expand their knowledge of Māori language and literacy.

**Max Gibbs**

During his 45-year career, Max Gibbs has worked all over New Zealand and offshore studying water quality, sediment, sustainable aquaculture, chemistry, hydrology, pollution and lake restoration.

He began work at the former DSIR’s Chemistry Division and worked for the department’s marine and freshwater division in Taupo for seven years before taking up a Visiting Fellow position with Edinburgh University, based in Cumbria, England.

After returning to New Zealand in 1992, he was invited to join the newly-established Crown research institute the National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research where he devised new isotopic and nuclear techniques to assess land use activities on soil loss and sediment.

He is one of five international consultants doing research in this area.

He has also written or co-written 63 refereed publications in international literature and his scientific contributions have helped shape the thinking of colleagues and students working in similar areas of research.
Following on from the success of last year’s inaugural Postgraduate Research Month, the event has become a permanent fixture in the University’s calendar. The month, held in October, highlights the importance of postgraduate research and supervision as fundamental parts of the University’s core business.

“Research is the lifeblood of the University and postgraduate researchers and their supervisors are highly valued members of our research community,” says Waikato University’s Pro Vice-Chancellor (Postgraduate) and Professor of History Giselle Byrnes. “Postgraduate Research Month aims to boost the profile of the University of Waikato as a site of research and supervision excellence, as well as celebrate our postgraduate student researchers, their supervisors and other supporters.”

During October, information evenings were held for those considering postgraduate study, and we ran workshops for research students and supervisors. Two Faculty-run conferences were held and postgraduate students got to know each other at meet and greet sessions during the University’s cultural hour. The month also reached out to the University’s Tauranga campus, with a doctoral workshop held for postgraduate research candidates and supervisors in the Bay of Plenty.

The University aims to ensure that research supervisors feel supported by the University and have the opportunity to talk through and exchange ideas about supervision with their colleagues. A series of Supervisors’ Conversations have been held throughout the year.

Waikato University’s annual Thesis in Three competition drew an audience of hundreds to the finals in late October.

The hugely popular event, in just its second year, had to be moved from the University to a large Hamilton theatre to accommodate the numbers.

A PhD student studying corporate bullying and governance issues in East Asian businesses was named the winner. Azilawati Banchit, who is from Malaysia and studying at Waikato Management School, beat nine other finalists for the $5,000 prize. She is studying mergers and acquisitions in the region over a decade and the impact it has on people and business.

Second placing and winner of the people’s choice award was Computer Science student Michael Walmsley who is developing an interactive computer program that helps people learn a foreign language. He used Te Reo Māori as his example to outline the three stages of his learning program and won a total of $3,000 to put towards his research.

The 10 doctoral students each had three minutes to outline their theses before judges and the audience, and their presentations were judged on their ability to effectively communicate their research to a general audience using a single power point slide.

Other topics on finals night included sports and ethics, banking and small business, translating sacred texts from and into Te Reo Māori, science education, loss of language, dog training, predicting seizures, and the role of justice in democracy.

The judges were the University’s Deputy Vice-Chancellor Professor Doug Sutton, Hamish Keith OBE who was given a Waikato University Honorary Doctorate last year, and Hamilton Garden Arts Festival Director Sarah Bettle. Award-winning comedian Te Radar was the compere.

More than 60 students competed in heats during October’s Postgraduate Research Month. The month aims to highlight how important postgraduate research and supervision is to the University.

Postgraduate Research Month

Three minutes across the ditch

Doctoral student Fiona Martin travelled to Australia in September to compete in the inaugural Australasian Three Minute Thesis competition.

Fiona outlined her entire thesis in only three minutes. Her research is looking into what characters say before they die in plays by Shakespeare and lesser known writers. “I’m interested in the historical events and cultural trends as background to the plays, looking at how they influenced the final speeches,” says Fiona, who won Waikato’s version of the competition last year.

The Australasian Three Minute Thesis Competition was held at the University of Queensland in Brisbane from September 20-21, and saw competitors from 33 universities in New Zealand and Australia present their research. Fiona won her heat and was named one of 10 finalists.
Distinguished University of Waikato Māori academic, Professor Ngahuia Te Awekotuku, was named a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit in the 2010 New Year’s Honours list for services to Māori culture.

Professor Te Awekotuku works in the culture, arts and heritage sectors and has served on various governance bodies including Te Papa Tongarewa/Museum of NZ, the NZ Film Archive and Creative NZ. She has been a governor of Creative NZ for the past nine years including chairing the Te Waka Toi/ Māori Arts Board for three years. She led two government delegations to the UN World Intellectual Property Organisation in Geneva and to cultural events in the Pacific region.

Professor Te Awekotuku has published extensively on heritage and social issues and is co-author of Mau Moko: The World of Māori Tattoo, which won the 2008 Montana Lifestyle & Contemporary Culture Award. She has also produced two works of fiction.

She is currently co-leading a unique project at the University of Waikato to examine tangihanga and the Māori experience of death. A passionate supporter of Māori rights, and an early leader in the lesbian/gay/transgender movement, Professor Te Awekotuku says the honour was completely unexpected.

“So much of my activist behaviour and published fiction and scholarly works have been challenging and transgressive,” she says. “I haven’t ever really been an accepting, compliant person; I’ve always questioned and probed and agitated. But as I’ve grown up, my agitating has been more mellow – and probably more effective.”

Ngahuia Te Awekotuku

Honours for staff

Terry Healy

A leading University of Waikato coastal scientist was made a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit in this year’s Queen’s Birthday honours.

During a long and distinguished career, the late Professor Terry Healy’s work was acknowledged with several top honours including a University of Waikato Medal and a life membership of the NZ Coastal Society. He won international recognition as a scientist, engineer and educator.

His environmental expertise and leading-edge research helped port and regional authorities across New Zealand run their operations efficiently while maintaining the environmental health of harbour and coastal environments. He was also a primary adviser to Civil Defence on tsunami.

In the 1980s his advocacy for using knowledge of tides and currents to dump sand dredged from navigation channels in order to build adjacent beaches was regarded as pioneering. It is now commonplace. He is particularly credited with making a significant and ongoing contribution to the sustainable growth of the Western Bay of Plenty economy.

Since gaining a professorship in 1990, Professor Healy built the University’s Coastal Marine Group into a leading research group of its kind. His professorial Chair, sponsored by the Port of Tauranga Ltd since 1990, was the first Chair in Science to be sponsored by industry in New Zealand.

His work was widely acknowledged internationally. He was Adjunct Professor at Nanjing University, China, serving in that role since 1995. He was also a major driver behind the New Zealand and German INTERCOAST initiative. He was recognised as a “Top 100 Scientist” by the International Biographical Centre, Cambridge, UK and in 1997 was the first New Zealander to receive the Alexander von Humboldt (AvH) Foundation Preistrager Award.

Since 1989 Professor Healy had been a Director of the US-based International Coastal Educational Research Foundation. He also served as Vice-President of the Scientific Committee for Oceanic Research of the International Council of Science, UNESCO.

Professor Healy had a long and distinguished publication record, winning 150 research contracts totalling more than $10 million and leading 21 major projects and expeditions, including two to Antarctica.

He counted his work for the Port of Tauranga as his greatest achievement and also once said he wanted to be remembered for his support of graduate and postgraduate student researchers.

TOP SCIENTIST: Professor Terry Healy’s work as a leading coastal scientist was recognised with a Queen’s Birthday Honour in 2010. Professor Healy died in August.

PASSIONATE ADVOCATE: Professor Ngahuia Te Awekotuku was honoured in this New Year’s Honours for services to Māori culture.
Two University of Waikato staff were presented with excellence in teaching awards at this year’s national Ako Aotearoa Awards ceremony held in Wellington and funded by the Tertiary Education Commission.

The Department of Biological Sciences’ Dr Alison Campbell and School of Māori and Pacific Development’s Te Kāhautu Maxwell each received a national Tertiary Teaching Excellence Award for teaching that is student-focused and promotes effective learning.

Dr Campbell has a long history of excellence in teaching and innovative practice, making it a priority to be aware of new things coming up in science literature and incorporating them into her teaching. Since her early days as a high school biology teacher, she says she has loved the interaction she has with students and the buzz she gets seeing something ‘click’ with a student.

She says winning the Tertiary Teaching Excellence Award was not something she could have achieved by herself.

“I am constantly talking with my teaching colleagues, tutors, Teaching Development Unit staff and the students themselves, and it is my interactions with all these other people that has enhanced my teaching practice and ultimately led to this award.”

Te Kāhautu Maxwell, a senior lecturer in the School of Māori and Pacific Development and head of Aka Tikanga, received his award for excellence in tertiary teaching in the new Kaupapa Māori category. He accepted it on behalf of all academics at the University of Waikato.

“This award helps profile our Māori distinctiveness,” he says. “In accepting, I want to acknowledge my predecessors Wharehuia Milroy, Hirini Melbourne, Timoti Kāretu, Tamati Reedy and all my mentors that have been part of my development as an academic.”

Staff who win Faculty and then Waikato University Teaching Excellence Awards can be nominated for the national awards by the University. Dr Campbell encourages staff nominated for these local awards to keep in mind the criteria for the national Tertiary Teaching Excellence Award when they are preparing their portfolios, as this will give them the best chance of success.

University of Waikato staff have received a wide range of honours and awards this year, continuing the University’s reputation for excellence and achievement in all areas of research and learning.

Engineering Professor Janis Swan was awarded the JC Andrews Memorial Award from the New Zealand Institute of Food and Science Technology in recognition of her substantial contribution to science and technology in the food industry.

Professor Ian Witten’s work in making New Zealand an international leader in the provision of digital library software was honoured with a 2010 World Class New Zealand Research, Science and Technology Award sponsored by the Foundation of Research, Science and Technology.

An outstanding contribution to physical education has seen Faculty of Education’s Sport and Leisure Studies Professor Bevan Grant awarded the Sir Alexander Gillies Medal from Physical Education New Zealand, the organisation’s highest award.

An international award from Chapman University in Los Angeles was given to Professor Russell Bishop, acknowledging his leadership in developing and directing the Te Kotahitanga project, designed to lift Māori achievement and now running in 50 New Zealand secondary schools. He is one of only three people to receive the Paulo Freire Democratic Project Social Justice Award in the past eight years.

Sandy Morrison was inducted into the International Adult and Continuing Education Hall of Fame. The School of Māori and Pacific Development senior lecturer is the first New Zealander to be inducted into the Hall since the organisation began in 1995. Ms Morrison has worked in adult education at Waikato University for more than 20 years.

Feminist geographers Professor Robyn Longhurst and Associate Professor Lynda Johnston have been acknowledged by the New Zealand Geographical Society. Professor Longhurst was awarded the society’s most prestigious award, the Distinguished Geography Gold Medal for outstanding and sustained contribution and service to geography. Dr Johnston was awarded a Distinguished Service Award for her significant contribution to New Zealand geography and its community over the last five years. Both women obtained their doctorates from Waikato.
Scholarships

Making a contribution

Through scholarships and grants, University of Waikato students are making their contribution in areas of important research both in New Zealand and overseas, while the University also hosts scholars from other countries.

Fulbright Fellow

A former Peace Corps volunteer who turned a short term posting to the tiny Pacific Island nation of Kiribati into a 10-year project is spending a year as a Fulbright Fellow at the University of Waikato.

Mike Roman is researching the lives of migrants from Kiribati as part of his PhD on what happens to the language and culture of I-Kiribati (as people from the islands are known) when they leave their homeland.

New Zealand accepts 75 I-Kiribati migrants a year under the Pacific Access Category migration scheme as well as some through seasonal employment schemes.

Mike says his research is the culmination of 10 years’ work.

“I was a migrant to their world, through Peace Corps, and now they are migrants to my world. That’s something I try to share with the anthropology students I tutor at Waikato.”

Based at the University of Pittsburgh, Mike secured prestigious Fulbright funding for his fieldwork and chose to come to the University of Waikato because of Hamilton’s relatively large I-Kiribati population.

“I’m doing a comparative study of I-Kiribati communities in the US, New Zealand and Fiji,” he says. “The continental US population is tiny, less than 200; here, there are definitely more than 200 in the city of Hamilton!”

Mike is married to an I-Kiribati woman, and while she has remained in the US to complete her medical studies, Mike has been welcomed by her relatives into the Hamilton I-Kiribati community and works side by side with many of them in pack houses and glasshouses.

Earlier this year, he arranged a special day at the University for 15 I-Kiribati youth to introduce them to the campus and what’s on offer at Waikato.

Georgetti Scholarship

Two University of Waikato alumni are among this year’s winners of prestigious William Georgetti Scholarships.

The scholarships are awarded for postgraduate study in a field that will benefit the social, cultural and economic development of New Zealand.

Tehnuka Ilanko, an honours degree graduate in earth sciences, will receive $108,000 over three years for doctoral studies in volcanology at Cambridge University. She’ll be working with Cambridge Volcanology group co-ordinator Dr Clive Oppenheimer on a study of the active lava lake at Mt Erebus in Antarctica.

“An active lava lake is like a window into what’s going on deep inside a volcano – and Mt Erebus is home to one of the world’s few long-lived active lava lakes,” says Tehnuka.

Rebecca Rose, a conjoint Bachelor of Management Studies (Economics) and LLB (Hons) graduate, was awarded up to $45,000 for a one-year Masters degree in law. She has yet to decide where she will study, but is considering top universities in the UK and US.

She will study how economic analysis can be applied to legal rules, policies and institutions to make them more efficient without compromising recognised justice and equality aims.

“If you can change the incentives for people to act in particular ways, then you can potentially change social outcomes – and perhaps that way we can move New Zealand up the OECD rankings,” she says.

The William Georgetti Scholarships are managed by Public Trust and administered by the New Zealand Vice-Chancellors’ Committee. Four awards totalling $318,000 were made this year.
A mother of two high-achievers has been awarded a University of Waikato Doctoral Scholarship to study the experiences of students who enter university at a young age.

Ann Easter, mother to Ashley and Caitlin, has been working at Waikato University in the Faculty of Education for a decade but began her PhD in March this year.

"Overseas evidence shows that advancing gifted children through the education system is beneficial," says Ann, "but there’s a lot of negative reaction to it in New Zealand, often around the social and emotional development needs of children not being met.

“But very little research has been carried out in this country, so I’ll be talking to students who have started university early to find out what it was like for them.”

Ann’s scholarship will cover her fees and provide a modest living allowance.

Son Ashley was 17 when he started university, not much younger than most first-year students, but at 23 has left Waikato to study for his PhD at Cambridge University in the UK. He’s one of three New Zealanders to receive a Woolf Fisher Scholarship, worth about $250,000 over three years. Ashley will be part of a team of scientists at the Laboratory of Molecular Biology working to determine the structure of large protein complexes that modify mRNA molecules before proteins are synthesised.

Caitlin Easter represents Waikato in netball and swimming and is in the third year of a Bachelor of Social Science. She’s at the University on a Sir Edmund Hillary Scholarship which covers course fees and provides leadership training and extra sports coaching.

Dad Michael is Network Manager at St Paul’s Collegiate but also attended Waikato University, one of the early graduates of a Master of Science in biochemistry.

Two University of Waikato students have been awarded Te Tipu Pūtaiao Fellowships for environmental research that could benefit the Waikato region.

PhD student Shane Carter’s innovative idea on how to turn waterweed into a source of energy, and chef-turned-student Sam Pachal’s research on ways to add value to the titanium by-products of iron sand mining, have both won funding from the Foundation for Science, Research and Technology.

Shane’s research is aimed at developing sustainable technology to anaerobically digest waterweed and utilise energy created during the process.

He has been working with a US company and is confident any technical problems can be overcome.

"It’s simply a matter of putting the waterweed together with bacteria in the right way and turning it into a methane gas you can burn,” he says. "The remaining sludge can also be used as a fertiliser on land.”

After trading in his chef’s hat for a lab coat, Sam Pachal, who is of Ngaiterangi descent and has just completed a chemistry degree, will be working with Māori-owned Taharoa mine, south of Kawhia, to help boost the mine’s potential.

"The Taharoa iron sands contain relatively high levels of titanium – 7% – which actually causes some trouble during the steel-making process,” he says.

"Currently it’s too expensive to extract, so in this project we’re focusing on ways to add value to the titanium so that it becomes worthwhile to extract.”

The scholarships are worth $107,500 over three years for the waterweed research and $34,500 over two years for the work on titanium in sand.
Three promising young University of Waikato engineers have been awarded scholarships being offered for the first time by leading New Zealand engineering consultants Beca.

Peter Leijen, Sam Garrett and Kevin Weller are the winners of the inaugural scholarships, worth $2,500 each. Offered to high-achieving students in their third year of a Waikato Bachelor of Engineering degree, the scholarships are designed to help address the skills shortage in engineering.

“As one of the largest engineering companies in the country, encouraging the best and brightest engineering students is part of our business,” says Beca regional manager John Revington. “We have offices in Hamilton and Tauranga so working with the University of Waikato’s School of Engineering is really an obvious fit for us.”

When the idea for a university in Hamilton was proposed, Mr Flower was one of the first to volunteer his services. He became friendly with founding Vice-Chancellor Don Llewellyn and for nearly 50 years has supported building projects and given prizes to economics students. Professor Frank Scrimgeour, economist and Dean of Waikato Management School, says he admires Mr Flower’s commitment to education and to the University.

“He’s a thoughtful man who’s done a lot of work with young people over the years, giving them opportunities they might not normally receive. The fellowship is a very generous example of Bill’s kindness.”

A successful farmer and property developer who left school at the age of 12 is offering a University of Waikato fellowship for research in the agricultural sector. Bill Flower, aged 90, has had a strong association with the University for more than 50 years. He says he would like the Flower doctoral fellowship, of $30,000 a year for three years, to go to a postgraduate student interested in New Zealand’s agricultural future and the role it can play in feeding an increasing world population.

“It may be something that focuses on the need for greater food production, free trade agreements, New Zealand’s natural advantages in global agriculture or the impact of government policy and social ideology that shapes New Zealand agriculture,” he says.

Mr Flower’s long career included farming at Longacres in Morrinsville for 15 years. He also bought commercial property. During the Depression he left school at the age of 12 and at 20 moved to New Zealand from Australia. He flew Halifax bombers during WWII and on his return to New Zealand married Joan, his wife of 64 years.

“I was stationed near Oxford during the war and took the opportunity to do a couple of economics papers. They taught me how the economy worked and I gained a better understanding about how I could do better financially,” he says.

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Professor Janis Swan, Associate Dean of Engineering at Waikato, says working with potential employers such as Beca helps ensure the Waikato degree is relevant to industry.

“By creating these scholarships, Beca recognises that Waikato University is producing high-quality engineering students,” she says.

“We very much appreciate this initiative – student fees are an ever-important subject for students and their parents and supporters.”
Management School alumni Christine and Matthew Boyd are supporting scholarships at Waikato. Here they tell their story of why they are giving back.

“We studied management from 1978 -1981, the early years of the School of Management, the days of Mac Forbes and Professor Schmitt. As BMS graduates we were equipped for interesting and challenging careers in New Zealand and abroad. We were also fortunate to be part of that generation where bursaries and grants for tertiary education covered the bulk of a student’s financial needs. Sure, you had to work to supplement this financial support, but nothing like the students of today.

“The next generation of our family is also cementing ties with the University. Our daughter Courtney is a third-year BMS student and will be an economics tutor this year. In her first year she was a recipient of a Vice-Chancellor’s Award. Like us, Courtney was a resident of Student Village during her first year. There were only four accommodation blocks in our day which had grown to 10 by the time she took up residence 30 years later.

“We now live in Paauanui, having returned to New Zealand five years ago from Singapore.

“Christine has retired from her career, which began in marketing and moved to mergers and acquisitions, while I continue to manage Asia Pacific regional airline relationships for an American company based in New Zealand.

“I am also on the boards of NZ Softball and the Chiefs rugby franchise. As for our daughter, we shall see where her career path takes her but for now we are happy for her to be enjoying her time at the University of Waikato. So thank you, University of Waikato, for everything you have done for us and our family.”

Successful academic and businessman Ian Graham has no musical talent but is a strong supporter of a chamber music group associated with the University of Waikato.

Dr Graham, Dean of Computer Science and Maths at the University for 14 years, left academia for business in 2004 to found Endace, a company that became too big to allow him time for two careers.

But with his wife Agi, he has retained links with the University, choosing to support the New Zealand Chamber Soloists anonymously over a number of years until a $25,000 donation this year.

The Chamber Soloists last year performed in Europe, the US and South America. This year they launched their Elegy album, which has a Russian focus and includes Rachmaninov’s single-movement Trio Elegiaque, Shostakovich’s E minor Trio and the melodies and rhythms of the 1952 Piano Trio by Armenian composer Arno Babajanian.

Last year the group’s CD Ahi was nominated at the annual RIANZ classical music awards.

Dr Graham said he was listening to the radio one afternoon when Waikato pianist Katherine Austin was interviewed about the NZ Chamber Soloists.

“Austin was interviewed about the NZ Chamber Soloists. “During the interview I received a phone call to say my mother had died. Later, Agi and I talked about doing something in my mother’s memory, we’d done well out of Endace and we decided the Chamber Soloists should benefit from our support. So it all fell into place.”

Katherine Austin, fellow Music Department staff members cellist James Tennant and violinist Lara Hall are the key members of the group. If works require a different combination, they call in other musicians.

Dr Graham says the trio attracts some strong reactions with some of their musical interpretations.

“Perhaps New Zealand musicians are less bound by convention. I like that, and to support the group financially is helping promote New Zealand chamber music at home and overseas.”
In the community

Fieldays success

The National Agricultural Fieldays got underway in typical crisp cold Waikato weather this year with the University of Waikato heavily involved in a range of events.

A particular highlight was the University Rural Challenge Quiz for the Rural Bachelor of the Year and the Good Keen Girl contest. Questions for the quiz came from all seven of the University’s Faculties and included such brain teasers as, “In Switzerland, what device is illegal on Sundays?” (Answer = a lawnmower).

The University also hosted its annual Fieldays Seminar Series which this year featured economist and commentator Gareth Morgan, Professor Barry Barton of the Faculty of Law, Nigel Slaughter of WaikatoLink and Dr Murray Pearson, formerly of the Faculty of Computing and Mathematical Sciences.

The University’s Innovation Breakfast was followed by the University and WaikatoLink teaming up for the 80-strong VIP stakeholder breakfast.

The focus of the University’s stand this year was ground-breaking research in everything from waterways management and carbon sequestration to bioplastics and sustainable aquaculture. Researchers were on hand to engage with visitors and promote the University’s wide range of research areas and expertise.

“As a research-led university, ideas are our stock-in-trade and we understand the importance of making those ideas relevant and useful to our community and the agricultural sector,” said Vice-Chancellor Professor Roy Crawford.

The University has been a strategic partner of Fieldays since 2007. The long-standing association with the event began with first-ever Vice-Chancellor Sir Don Llewellyn who helped establish Fieldays in the 1960s.

A Great Race on Father’s Day

Thousands of people again lined the banks of the mighty Waikato River on Father’s Day in anticipation for the annual Gallagher Great Race in September. The day featured Waikato University men’s and women’s eights against crews from Cambridge and Sydney universities.

Once again, the University of Waikato men’s crew were up against arch rivals Cambridge University. Previous battles between these crews saw scores level at two-a-piece.

Waikato University named a young crew this year, with several national age-group representatives, including Matthew Glenn, Richard Harrison, Andrew Healey, Giacomo Thomas, Andrew Myers, Anthony Berkers, Jonathan Nabbs, Finian Scott and coxswain Ainslee Ashton.

The two crews battled it out for 4.2 kilometres against the gruelling current. Waikato had an incredible start on their Cambridge rivals, but midway through the race they crashed into each other. After the clashing of oars the Cambridge team took the lead and Waikato was unable to recover. Despite the encouragement from the crowd, accompanied by mooloo bells, Waikato University could not close the gap, and Cambridge University rowed away with the Harry Mahon Trophy.

The women’s race was a fantastic battle of domination on Waikato University’s part. The Waikato women’s eight took the lead which their Sydney University counterparts could not reduce and the local girls brought the Bryan Gould cup home.

The University of Waikato sponsors the secondary school races, which cover 3 kilometres up river, and saw Hamilton Boys’ High and Waikato Diocesan victorious.
Our City, Our Region was at the heart of Waikato University’s Spring Lecture Series. Once a week for five weeks in September, leading university academics and experts discussed the opportunities on offer for the Waikato region at the free public lectures.

MP Nanaia Mahuta opened the series, with a talk on the development opportunities that exist in the Waikato region and the gains to be made through seeking engagement with Māori and local iwi. She was followed by Waikato Management School’s Associate Professor Stuart Locke who looked at pathways to sustainable prosperity. He identified critical issues for the region and suggested options for advancement, including the $10 million Joint Venture funding the Government is providing for regional tourism organisations.

WEL Networks CEO Dr Julian Elder, gave the third lecture and examined new global initiatives that aim to make better use of resources and improve services. Waikato University’s Population Studies Centre Director Professor Natalie Jackson spoke on the demographic challenges and opportunities in the region.

Faculty of Science and Engineering Dean Professor Bruce Clarkson and Chair of Lakes Management and Restoration Professor David Hamilton rounded off the series. Their talk focused on the impact of terrestrial and aquatic initiatives on enhancing biodiversity and ecosystem services. WEL Energy Trust helped support the lecture series.

Kīngi Tuheitia launched the University of Waikato’s online catalogue in Māori at this year’s Kīngitanga Day, the second year of an annual event to celebrate the relationship between the University, Tainui and the Kingitanga.

The day included seminars, presentations, weaving and craft workshops, food and merchandise stalls, live kapa haka and the Waikato Student Union Royal Carnival.

The Academy of Performing Arts gave demonstrations on designing korowai and there was a dance performance by Faculty of Education staff member Karen Barbour. Dr Charles Royal and the University Orchestra also performed.

The day coincided with Kingi Tuheitia’s birthday so at day’s end a toast was proposed and a ‘Royal cake’ cut.

The University has had strong links to the Kingitanga and Tainui since it was founded in 1964. The Māori King Movement, or Kingitanga, was established more than 150 years ago in response to the loss of Māori land and to promote unity among the tribes.

Out at Rowing New Zealand’s High Performance Centre at Lake Karapiro, there’s a desk reserved for Waikato University PhD researcher Brett Smith. Mr Smith has been hanging out with our elite rowers since 1998 working with head coach Richard Tonks on how to get the best from these finely tuned athletes.

Mr Smith went to the Athens and Beijing Olympics with our rowers and worked for many years with the Evers-Swindell twins, Rob Waddell, Mahe Drysdale and other top rowers, to develop a model for monitoring optimal performance. He was also closely involved in this year’s World Rowing Championships at Karapiro in early November.

“What we haven’t tested isn’t worth knowing about – time and time again we’ve tested bloods, saliva, hormone levels, immune function, muscle damage, heart rates, etc – a large portion of the biological system to identify at what point rowers go from optimum training to over training,” Mr Smith says.

“Comprehensive experimentation with the elite rowing team has shown that the often-promoted tools for predicting overtraining are not accurate enough to monitor these world class athletes.”

This has led Mr Smith in collaboration with SPARC to investigate a range of innovative strategies for monitoring the athlete and the boat.

One monitoring tool has shown so much promise that despite it still being in early development, every coach in the elite programme now uses it to monitor their crews. Many are Waikato University students who juggle their studies with the high demands of top-level rowing.

University support for Rowing New Zealand enabled the sport to go on the road earlier this year with the RowBox to market the 2010 World Rowing Championships. The RowBox is the seven-metre container with four rowing machines connected to a digital display of Lake Karapiro, so people could simulate racing on the world championship course.
This year has been a major milestone for the Faculty of Education, formerly Hamilton Teachers’ College.

In November the Faculty celebrates 50 years of delivering excellence in teacher education, with a round of symposia, the hosting of an APEC meeting, a stakeholder dinner, a staff dinner and a huge reunion on campus for former and current staff and students.

Current Dean Professor Alister Jones says it’s important to remind the wider community just how much the Faculty of Education delivers regionally, nationally and internationally.

The Faculty has had many innovative firsts over the years – the formal merger of the Teachers’ College and the University, the offering of early childhood qualifications and distance education programmes, new technology graduate qualifications and a range of innovative initiatives in Māori medium teacher education, including bilingual classes and schools, kura kaupapa Māori and wharekura.

The Faculty of Education is now the biggest faculty on campus with more than 400 staff and more than 4,000 students including Pathways College.

But without teacher education, the University itself might never have come into existence. It was the serious shortage of teachers in the 1950s that prompted the government to consider plans for a teachers’ college in the Waikato region. And where there was a teachers’ college, there needed to be a university to give students access to undergraduate courses.

Initially, that task fell to Auckland University, which agreed, albeit with some reluctance, to offer two subjects – English and history – in the Waikato outpost.

In February 1960, Hamilton Teachers’ College opened its doors in its temporary home in what would become Melville High School. Right up to the last moment, the new principal, John Allan, and his 12 staff were sweeping sawdust and wood shavings off the floor before the first intake of students arrived. A month later the Branch University moved in upstairs above the Teachers’ College.

“It was a very interesting but exhausting time,” Mr Allan recalls. “I had so many balls in the air I sometimes wondered how to keep them going.

“I was keen to create a qualification that teachers could be proud of, and I wanted the Teachers’ College to become somewhere where teachers could go to fulfil their professional needs at any stage. And I was desperately keen to get the length of training increased from two years.”

He was also tasked with developing links with the new University – something that had never previously been achieved in New Zealand. Thrown together by circumstance, the Teachers’ College and fledgling university shared facilities, including a staffroom, and also combined forces in planning a new joint campus on farmland at Hillcrest. It was the start of what was to prove a most fruitful relationship.
A celebration to mark the 20-year anniversary of the University of Waikato’s Te Piringa – Faculty of Law was marked by memories of how the law school almost didn’t happen.

Planning for the school was already at an advanced stage when, in 1990, then-National Government Education Minister Lockwood Smith told the University $10 million in establishment funding was being withdrawn. Founding Dean, Professor Margaret Wilson, said with staff already appointed and 1,000 applications for 350 student places, it tested her physical, emotional and intellectual stamina.

“But it made my future roles look easy,” she said, referring to her later political career which included roles as Cabinet Minister and Parliamentary Speaker.

Once the law school was established, the University chose not to follow the traditional models of the country’s other four law schools but instead planned degrees around an integrated and distinctive curriculum that focused on professionalism, law in context, biculturalism and the Treaty of Waitangi.

Judge Stephanie Milroy completed her Masters in Law at the University, taught in the school and was responsible for developing health law. She worked on the school’s bicultural legal education and curriculum.

“People described us as visionary, brave... and foolhardy,” she said. “But we wanted (the school) to be the Māori law school of choice and a number of initiatives we implemented enabled us to do that.”

Current Dean, Professor Brad Morse, told the gathering of staff, students, supporters and friends that his goal was to finally undo the continuing effects of the loss of the original $10 million government commitment.

“The Faculty of Law has obviously long since outgrown the ‘temporary premises’ put up in a rush in 1990 to meet the arrival of students.”
Identical twins Mark and Simon Wilkinson graduated from the University of Waikato with identical degrees and have both gone on to do a Masters in the same subjects.

The former Cambridge High students say they’ve been confusing people all their lives.

“It’s hard to differentiate our CVs,” says Mark, who graduated this year along with twin Simon with a Bachelor of Management Studies (Honours) degree majoring in economics and finance.

“We even did our final year 599 investigation reports for the same organisation,” Mark says. “The Capital Markets Development Taskforce was looking for two students, so it was a perfect coincidence.”

Even the Treasury couldn’t choose between them - based on their 599 reports, the twins were jointly awarded the inaugural prize for a student dissertation on capital markets sponsored by the Reserve Bank, the Treasury and the Ministry of Economic Development.

“Mine was on Kiwisaver and Simon’s was on interest rates in New Zealand,” says Mark. “Simon opened his award letter first, and I was absolutely gutted. Then I opened my one to find we were sharing the $1,500 award.”

The twins are doing their Masters degrees in applied economics and finance, and both are looking at careers in the finance industry.

Not surprisingly, they’ve applied for exactly the same jobs. “We’ve definitely made an impact,” says Mark. “I got a phone call from one company for a second interview, and the woman said to just pass the phone over to my brother.”

Simon and Mark are due to finish their Masters degrees in December and take up positions at the National Australia Bank’s Wholesale Bank in Sydney in February next year.

The twins put their success at securing job interviews down to Waikato Management School’s good reputation. It’s one of only three institutions in Australasia to have triple crown accreditation, an international acknowledgement of excellence in business education.

“Coming from Cambridge, we’re so lucky to have the best business school in New Zealand just up the road,” says Simon. “Employers really care about the triple crown accreditation, so that makes a huge difference going for jobs.”

“When we go for jobs in Australia, they know the quality of our degrees is as good if not better than Australian degrees,” adds Mark.

Luckily, the twins draw the line at sharing girlfriends. “I do feel sorry for them, but we haven’t had too many troubles,” quips Simon.

A team of computer science students from the University of Waikato made it into the New Zealand world finals of the Microsoft Imagine Cup 2010.

Team eUtopia competed with three teams from Auckland for the opportunity to represent New Zealand at the worldwide finals in Poland in July.

The Microsoft Imagine Cup is the world’s largest technology competition, challenging students from around the globe to develop technologies to help solve the world’s toughest problems.

More than 300,000 students from 100 countries participated in this year’s competition, with the theme based on the United Nations Millennium Development Goals.

eUtopia is the brainchild of Waikato students Laura Bocock, Matt Bird, Carlo Meister and Gabe Young. Their project aims to harness the power of ‘human computing’ to protect wildlife and help preserve the world’s biodiversity.

Using a live video distribution system, or liVID, with webcams in, for example, safari parks, zoos, marine reserves and native forests, the project will link conservation organisations to the public and allows for remote monitoring, private research and even surveillance of animals.

“People who want to be involved in the project can have the live webcam feed constantly running in a corner of their screen as they work on other things,” explains Matt Bird.

“Watchers can ‘tag’ the video when something interesting or unusual happens, like a kiwi egg hatching or a poacher entering a wildlife reserve. These tagged bits of video can then be put together for educational or research purposes.”

The team had approached conservation organisations for their input into the project as possible users.

“We’ve been talking to Hamilton Zoo and the Otorohanga Kiwi House,” says Gabe Young, a Hillary Scholar at the University of Waikato.

“Hamilton Zoo is interested in using the webcam for research purposes, such as seeing what’s happening in the zoo at night, while the Kiwi House sees it as a way to better engage with the public.”

The team already has a prototype website up and running (www.lividlive.tv) and is working on getting the first cameras into Hamilton Zoo.
we had made the call a few weeks earlier to “Not wanting to enter a war zone unnecessarily, camps across the nearby border with Uzbekistan. forced to flee their homes and settle in refugee tens of thousands of Uzbeks living in Kyrgyzstan saw several hundred people killed, with further Kyrgyzstan, where riots in Jalalabad and Osh June, the violence made its way to southern Kyrgyzstan has been plagued with violence since riots in Bishkek in April of this year. In "Kyrgyzstan has been plagued with violence since riots in Bishkek in April of this year. In 1991 when the USSR dissolved, but remains in political turmoil: called the 51st Traverse, the trip was two years in the planning and will take them from the Russian Far East through Mongolia and Central Asia, across Turkey and southern Europe, and up through France.

Law graduates Rob Gray and Rob Climo joined forces with Waikato management graduate Mike Jacobson and two friends, Tom Anselmi and Misha Kravcenko, to complete the 25,000 kilometre motorbike journey, which began in April.

Called the 51st Traverse, the trip was two years in the planning and will take them from the Russian Far East through Mongolia and Central Asia, across Turkey and southern Europe, and up through France.

Rob Gray has been posting regularly to the New Zealand Herald website, detailing the group’s adventures. In July, he posted this blog from Kyrgyzstan, a Central Asian country that achieved independence in 1991 when the USSR dissolved, but remains in political turmoil:

"Kyrgyzstan has been plagued with violence since riots in Bishkek in April of this year. In June, the violence made its way to southern Kyrgyzstan, where riots in Jalalabad and Osh saw several hundred people killed, with further tens of thousands of Uzbeks living in Kyrgyzstan forced to flee their homes and settle in refugee camps across the nearby border with Uzbekistan.

"Not wanting to enter a war zone unnecessarily, we had made the call a few weeks earlier to skip Kyrgyzstan entirely. But now, with the violence settling to an uneasy calm, Kyrgyzstan was back in the plan. We would ride through Southern Kyrgyzstan to get to Tajikistan - but we would ride fast, and we wouldn’t stop, particularly in Osh, taking the by-pass around the city."

"Somehow, heading south from Jalalabad, we miss the by-pass, and find ourselves on the road into Osh. Like a secret we aren’t supposed to discover, it is a shocking sight. For perhaps two kilometres, everything is razed. Osh has been raped, stripped, beaten, looted by her own people. Fire has swept through the area, and doors, windows, roofs are gone.

"Ghosts of normality haunt the place: a sign advertising shashlik (kebabs), a billboard, a pile of watermelons. It is hard to believe that this destruction was caused by man - by hands, by fists, by matches, by angry incitement. And then, we reach an intersection, turn left, and... there is no trace of destruction. We are back in the usual bustling chaos of a city."

The group aimed to raise money for the Living Hope charity, set up by New Zealander Rachel Hughes.

Rob Gray works at leading law firm Russell McVeagh in Auckland while Mike Jacobson works as a sales and marketing consultant at Auckland-based Business Mechanix. Rob Climo works at Auckland Law firm Buddle Findlay and met Rob Gray on a Copenhagen university exchange in their final year of study at the University of Waikato.

The University’s Faculty of Education and Te Whare Wānanga o Awanuiārangi in Whakatane have signed a $7 million contract to deliver a new leadership programme to mainstream New Zealand secondary schools.

He Kākano is being funded by the Ministry of Education over three years and will support leaders in 100 secondary and area schools to become culturally responsive in their leadership.

It complements the existing University of Waikato project, Te Kotahitanga, which is designed to lift Māori achievement and promotes the understanding that Māori students learn better when they have strong learning relationships with their teachers.

He Kākano covers seven areas that will help schools to be culturally responsive. Among other things, it works to help schools understand the profile of their Māori students’ learning; set targets for improvement in performance for and with Māori learners; and build relationships and networks with whanau, hapu and iwi to support improvements around leadership, teaching and learning.

Waikato University has finally arrived on Facebook… a little late but the new page is our official presence in the Facebook space.

The page will act as a hub through which the University aims to keep connected with alumni, friends and stakeholders. The page has competitions, discussions and the University aims to keep connected with alumni, friends and stakeholders. The page has competitions, discussions and the University aims to keep connected with alumni, friends and stakeholders. The page has competitions, discussions and the University aims to keep connected with alumni, friends and stakeholders. The page has competitions, discussions and the University aims to keep connected with alumni, friends and stakeholders. The page has competitions, discussions and the University aims to keep connected with alumni, friends and stakeholders.

Content will be constantly changing so make sure you check the page on a regular basis.

Perhaps most important of all is hearing from alumni, friends and other stakeholders on the page.

So, join the conversation and help the University build a meaningful community. The University’s motto is ‘Ko Te Tangata’ (‘For the People’) and that’s exactly what this Facebook page is about.

’Like’ our official University of Waikato Facebook Page at http://www.facebook.com/pages/Hamilton-New-Zealand/University-of-Waikato/108216269242463
Around the Faculties

Scientific contributions acknowledged

Two Waikato University academics have been acknowledged at the Kudos Awards, held to celebrate scientific achievement in the Waikato.

Small mammal authority, Dr Carolyn (Kim) King has been given a Lifetime Achievement Award for her work in biological sciences and freshwater scientist Dr Kevin Collier won the WEL Networks Environmental Science category. Dr Collier, who shares his time between the University and Environment Waikato, has been researching river management and restoration for 25 years, particularly rivers and streams in the Waikato.

At community level Dr Collier has had active involvement with groups and councils to improve urban stream health, he co-founded the Mangakotukutuku Stream Care Group and developed the www.streamcare.org.nz with Hamilton City.

Dr Carolyn King studied weasels at Oxford University for her doctorate and came to New Zealand originally to work for the DSIR’s ecology division. “I started by getting rangers in all the National Parks to collect and freeze all their dead stoats. Then twice a year I’d drive around New Zealand talking to them about the results and encouraging them to continue.”

With her colleagues, she was able to prove the link between occasional big seed falls in South Island beech forests and the increased numbers of mice, stoats and other small mammals, and the subsequent threat to bird life. “We could monitor numbers as they changed and then pin down the reasons. DoC can now know six months from seed fall when the forests are going to be overrun with stoats and mice in summer, and can put measures in place to protect the birds.”

Dr King hopes to be teaching for a while yet. While she’s thrilled to receive her Kudos lifetime award for her career achievements and major contributions to science relevant to the Waikato region and the international profile of New Zealand, she’s also quick to point out that research is never done alone, that she’s really celebrating the work of the teams she has worked with. “I’m just one in the crowd.”

Doctorate caps off principal’s achievements

A mother-of-eight who was offered a job as primary school principal on the same day she was accepted into a University of Waikato doctoral programme graduated this year.

“I applied for the Doctor of Education programme and for a principal’s job, and was accepted for both on the same day,” recalls Lesley Murrihy. “I had a huge panic attack before my first EdD session at Waikato. And after that first week, I felt I’d jumped off a hundred foot-high cliff and was still falling.”

Nine years ago, just the prospect of beginning the doctorate was enough to send Dr Murrihy into a spin but after eight years’ of study, she says it helped her in her role as principal.

“I was working as a new principal on how to become more culturally responsive in our teaching,” she says. “As we began to talk about these things it began to challenge some quite deep personal beliefs – we all had quite different takes on history, culture and race. My research has shown that coaching is able to provide a way to positively process these types of responses.”

“Coaching is about listening and asking questions rather than telling someone what to do. And the control is in the hands of the person being coached. One definition is that a coach is someone that takes a person from where they are to where they want to be.”

Dr Murrihy has received international recognition for her work. Together with her academic supervisor, Associate Professor Jan Robertson, she was awarded an International Research Associateship with the UK’s National College of School Leadership and the University of Warwick to explore the relationship between the personal and professional development of teachers.

And, as one of four finalists in the 2006 National School Leadership Awards, she represented New Zealand at an international school leaders’ workshop in Beijing.

While studying and working full time, Dr Murrihy has also helped her husband home-school the couple’s eight children but Dr Murrihy says she wouldn’t have had it any other way.
A University of Waikato graduate was named Supreme Award winner at this year’s Attitude Awards which celebrate the achievements of people with disabilities.

Robbie Francis, a University of Waikato Bachelor of Arts graduate who wears a prosthetic limb, says she wants to make a difference on a world scale.

“I just love people, and want to serve people in every way possible,” she says.

Ms Francis has phocomelia syndrome, a congenital condition where the bones in the lower half of the body fail to develop properly before birth. She had her left leg amputated at age 12, and may yet lose the other despite surgery.

She has spent time in India where she volunteered at a slum school and a school for children with disabilities in Kolkata (formerly Calcutta and the capital of the Indian state of West Bengal). She has also visited the child she sponsors in Bangladesh who, like herself, is an amputee.

“I really loved working in the slum school, it was an amazing experience,” she says of her time in India.

She has also worked with young people in Hamilton and as a victim support volunteer. She says winning the Attitude award is a big boost for her work.

“It raises awareness and puts me in an advocacy role, but it doesn’t change what I do – I’d do it in any case.”

Ms Francis, who majored in world religions and human development for her degree, has a strong Christian faith and became fascinated by religions while at University.

“The religious studies lecturers were fantastic, and the topic completely captured my attention,” she says.

She now has her sights set on easing religious conflict.

“I’ve been awarded a one-year Rotary ambassadorial scholarship for postgraduate studies in conflict resolution and peace studies,” she says. “I’m looking at going to Tel Aviv or Europe, as my passion is religion, specifically relations between Islam, Christianity and Judaism. I want to work with people caught up in extremism and conflict.”

SAMARITAN WITH ATTITUDE: Robbie Francis has set her sights on easing religious conflict.

A London-based former University of Waikato doctoral student who works in the emerging field of responsible enterprise is considering turning her completed PhD into a book.

Nicky Black now works as an independent research consultant in London. Her four-year doctorate, studying corporate citizenship in the oil and gas sector in Myanmar (also known as Burma), involved interviewing 125 people in seven countries and she returned to the University briefly this year to have it conferred.

“I chose the topic for my thesis after being approached by a peace-building organisation that had been working in Myanmar for many years and that wanted to understand how it could engage with business as potential partners in transforming the conflict in Myanmar,” she says.

Myanmar has a history of conflict and political repression. The gas sector is the main source of foreign income for Myanmar’s military government. Dr Black analysed the strategies and effectiveness of human rights campaigns that sought to influence the activities of companies from the Asia region in relation to Myanmar. Her main findings were that campaigners based in the West find it very difficult to influence the situation, although companies in China, Thailand, India and South Korea are aware of the groups’ existence.

Dr Black’s recent projects have included guidance on responsible business in regions of conflict for the UN and business responsibility for a large North Korean consumer goods company. As a result of that work she has been recruited by the world’s largest diamond company, De Beers, as their corporate citizen manager.

Dr Black has already posted her thesis on her website (www.nickyblack.com) and wants to turn it into a book due to the interest it has attracted.

THESIS INTO BOOK: Nicky Black wants to turn her doctoral studies into a book.
Sword of honour for Waikato graduate

Playwright Albert Belz has been writing full time for nearly a decade but says the University of Waikato’s Writer in Residence for 2010 allowed him to focus solely on entirely new work and complete works already begun.

“It was great to have the Waikato residency,” he says. “First, because I have two daughters living in Hamilton, so it was great being closer to them, but also having a regular income for a year meant I could focus solely on writing, not making money. When I came to Waikato I already had an idea for a play – to do with the Old Testament – tentatively titled Lightbearer, only I’m not saying anymore than that at the moment.”

Belz has been writing full time for nearly a decade, mostly for the theatre but also for film and television.

He is perhaps best known for his play Awhi Tapu which had a sell-out North Island tour and won a Human Rights Commission award for its “positive contribution towards harmonious race relations”. In 2006 he won the Bruce Mason Award for outstanding emerging playwright, and the following year his play Yours Truly won best play at the Chapman Tripp Theatre Awards.

Other works include Te Maunga, Te Karakia, Guardians of Boy, and Whero’s New Net. His themes are many and varied covering reconciliation, love and loss, identity, Māori and Pākehā relations. Critics have regularly described his work as challenging.

He says he’d tackle almost any subject if he has an idea he thinks will work – anything except romantic comedy.

Ms Burtenshaw went from University straight into naval training in July this year.

“The first ten weeks were pretty much boot camp,” she says. “The second part focused on leadership training for officers. Because I’d come out of uni, the academic side wasn’t too difficult for me so I could focus on the physical side, which I wasn’t so used to.”

Ms Burtenshaw’s Bachelor of Management Studies honours degree, where she majored in Marketing and Strategic Management, also helped.

“Everything I’d studied applied in leadership training; it was just a matter of transferring it to a military context. And you have to do heaps of speeches, so my experience in doing case competitions was really valuable for my confidence.”

As part of her degree, Ms Burtenshaw completed a practical investigation looking at the Navy’s ability to recruit tertiary students.

“I’d always wanted to join the Navy, so I signed up while I was at university,” she says. “I ended up getting a free degree and a job at the end of it. I think if more people knew about the Navy’s tertiary schemes, more people would want to do it. Not having a student loan to worry about is awesome!”

Award-winning playwright 2010 Writer in Residence

A Waikato Management School student graduated with flying colours not just from her degree studies but also from junior naval officer training.

Emma Burtenshaw received the prestigious Ministry of Defence Sword of Honour from the Minister of Defence Wayne Mapp, an award only given to an exemplary candidate in recognition of excellence and distinguished performance as a midshipman.

Ms Burtenshaw also won the Blanchard Leadership Award, the RNZN Academic Award, the Guard Commander Tankard and the Junior Officer Common Training Cup.

“The most special award to me was the common training cup because the winner was nominated by all the course participants, so that meant they all thought I’d done a good job,” she says.

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Bellbirds back after century-long absence

University of Waikato staff and students played a key role in a major urban restoration project to bring bellbirds back to Hamilton City after the bird’s disappearance more than a century ago.

New Faculty of Science and Engineering Dean, Professor Bruce Clarkson, appointed to the role this year, headed the overall project while Faculty of Science and Engineering research assistant Calum Ninnes co-ordinated the release of 50 of the birds into Hamilton Gardens in May.

The bellbird project was co-led by the University and Landcare Research with support from Environment Waikato, Hamilton City Council, Ngā Mana Toopu o Kirikiriroa, and the Department of Conservation.

Predators and urban development in the past century have stripped the city of many of its native plants and animals. The urban restoration project, which has been running for six years and is funded by the Foundation for Research, Science and Technology, aims to restore natural ecosystems in city areas with depleted biodiversity.

Many of Hamilton’s gullies, and Waiwhakareke (or Horseshoe Lake), are being returned to their original environments through the replanting of indigenous plants and much of the work is supported by research.

Professor Clarkson says species such as the bellbird are common in other parts of New Zealand but have been missing from Hamilton city for about 120 years.

“The landscape in Hamilton city has been depleted to such an extent that the only way viable populations of native plants and animals can be maintained is by doing this sort of reconstruction,” he says.

“The whole goal here is to reverse that transformation to the point where we can have viable populations of indigenous birds and plants. So we’ve reached that threshold now where we can start considering bringing back wildlife that has been gone for a hundred years or more.”

Calum, a research assistant at the University’s Faculty of Science and Engineering, has been co-ordinating the bellbird project and says bellbirds are a good species for first introduction.

“Bellbirds are a classic, iconic and endemic songbird,” he says. “The habitat they’re being released into should be adequate because they are generalist feeders, eating insects, fruit and nectar, so they should be able to find plenty of food.”

He says the birds are also a great disperser and pollinator of native species and this will in turn help the bellbird urban restoration scheme.

“The Hamilton Gardens are on the river which acts like a corridor for the bellbirds to move between different local gully systems,” Calum says. “It’s also adjacent to Hammond Bush which is a really important remnant of native bush, and could be a place where they prefer to go.”

The next breeding season, which began in September, will show whether any of the bellbirds have paired up and are attempting to nest in the city. Nesting bellbirds is the ultimate goal and if this happens, it will demonstrate that native birds can be successfully translocated into urban environments.

BELLBIRD INTRODUCTION: Waikato University research assistant Calum Ninnes.

PROFESSOR BRUCE CLARKSON: New Dean of Faculty of Science and Engineering.

A passionate advocate for ecological restoration of New Zealand’s indigenous wildlife is the new Dean of Science and Engineering at the University of Waikato.

Professor Bruce Clarkson is recognised as one of New Zealand’s foremost authorities on ecological restoration and leads a $300,000-a-year government-funded project looking at the best methods to restore indigenous biodiversity to cities.

Professor Clarkson is no stranger to the University, spending his student days at Waikato where he completed his PhD in botany before joining the then-Department of Science and Industrial Research. Twelve years later he was posted back to Hamilton with Landcare Research and in 1999 rejoined the University, this time as a lecturer.

The University, which this year played a leading role in the restoration of bellbirds to Hamilton Gardens, has built a solid reputation for the environmental sciences, thanks in large part to Professor Clarkson’s work.

His goals as Dean are to increase the University’s opportunities to make an even more significant contribution to New Zealand’s economy and environment by connecting with leading international research programmes.

“Science is increasingly a global activity in which teams from around the world focus on trying to find solutions to environmental problems, and I want our Faculty at Waikato to be recognised for its excellent research nationally and internationally,” he says.

Professor Clarkson was an invited distinguished speaker at the World Cities Summit in Singapore, held in July. He was also co-opted on to the international expert panel developing the City Biodiversity Index which measures countries’ progress in relation to the United Nations Environment Programme Convention on Biological Diversity to which New Zealand is a signatory.

Around the Faculties
Hawaiian scholars scoop top fellowships to study at Waikato

In a New Zealand first, two Native Hawaiian scholars have won top US awards to complete their PhD studies at the University of Waikato.

The prestigious Mellon-Hawai'i doctoral fellowships are supported by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and Kamehameha Schools and are each worth US$40,000 (NZ$56,000) for the 2010-11 academic year, which began in September.

It's the first time the fellowships have been awarded to students studying in New Zealand.

Fellowship winner Keao NeSmith is completing a PhD in applied linguistics, focusing on how the Hawaiian language is being conveyed to a new generation of Hawaiian speakers, while Noe Noe Wong-Wilson's doctoral research looks at strategies for success for Native Hawaiians entering community colleges.

Both researchers will be based in the School of Māori and Pacific Development.

"Today we often see a breakdown in communication between native speakers and second-language speakers of Hawaiian, including children taught by second-language speakers," says Keao, who is a Hawaiian language instructor at the University of Hawai’i at Mānoa.

"It's a strong indicator that the form of the language is changing among second-language speakers. In order to understand what's happening with Hawaiian, I'm interested in how it's being learned and looking at the acquisition of Hawaiian as a second or additional language, especially in relation to those who’ve learnt it from classrooms and have little or no interaction with native speakers."

Keao says he chose to do his PhD in New Zealand to further broaden his academic and professional experience and training to gain a more international view of academia and research methodologies.

The other recipient of a Mellon-Hawai'i doctoral fellowship, Noe Noe Wong-Wilson, plans to spend her fellowship year writing up her thesis, "Achieving the Dream: A Native Hawaiian Initiative for Success at Hawai'i Community College", under the academic supervision of Professor Ngahuia Te Awekotuku (CNZM).

Noe Noe is currently based in Hilo, Hawai'i, as Co-ordinator of the Paepae 'Ohua Student Success Program at Hawai'i Community College, so is perfectly positioned to carry out the research.

"Aotearoa is like a second home for me and my family," she says. "Our Hawaiian history, language and cultural practices are very similar to Māori in many ways and we Hawaiians feel very comfortable being a part of the New Zealand and Māori communities."

Around the Faculties

Parlez-vous magnetohydrodynamics?

A passion for trying to understand how things work has landed a University of Waikato doctoral graduate a plum job in research and development at Christchurch-based tech development company ARANZ.

Former Ngaruawahia High School student, Kirk Spragg completed an honours degree in applied mathematics at Waikato, followed by doctoral studies.

His research was on magnetohydrodynamics – the motion of liquid metals and how they interact with magnetic fields – involved lots of playing around with gallium, a metal which, like mercury, is liquid at room temperature.

He now works with ARANZ geological modelling team.

"My job is to research and prototype robust algorithms for software," he says. "I'm currently developing new features for Leapfrog, which is used in the mining and exploration industries to interpolate ore sample data and create a 3D model of what's down there."

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Keao says he chose to do his PhD in New Zealand to further broaden his academic and professional experience and training to gain a more international view of academia and research methodologies.

"I'm impressed with the value of the education I'm obtaining at Waikato, the professionalism of the training is truly world class," he says.

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On top of his PhD research, Dr Spragg also learned French – spending more than two years at the prestigious EPM-Madylam lab in Grenoble in the south of France. "I had to use French in the lab," he says. "It's surprising what you can learn when you really have to."
The University of Waikato was the first campus in the country to have its own web network that makes everything from campus maps to news and events available on mobile.

Launched to coincide with the start of summer school early this year, the new mobile web environment allows mobile phone users to view a map of buildings on campus, check the University’s news and events calendar, access timetables and staff contact details, view bus timetables for routes serving the campus, and even locate a vacant computer work station on campus.

“Using your phone, you can access the University’s online phonebook to find a staff member, click through to phone or email that person, and then view a campus map to see where their office is,” says Dr Steve Leichtweis. Dr Leichtweis, IT Manager in the Faculty of Education, was a driving force behind the project.

“What we’ve done is link in to an open source mobile framework made available by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in the United States. There are a handful of universities currently using the MIT system in the US, UK and Australia, but we were the first in New Zealand to adopt this framework.”

The Faculty of Education Computer Support Group started working on developing data modules and functionality for a Waikato version of the system last November and after just four weeks had approval to take it live.

Dr Leichtweis says the system works on any phone with a simple web browser and internet capability. Next steps in the project are to have more library information and information about the Tauranga campus.

Also this year, a one-day conference on the use of mobile phones as a teaching resource was hosted by the Faculty of Education to explore ways of harnessing mobile phones as a learning tool.

Dr Noeline Wright organised the m-Learning Day as part of wider research she is undertaking on aspects of e-learning.

“Mobiles are so new and their uses for learning are in their infancy. I originally organised (the conference) as an opportunity for my students (in the secondary graduate teacher education diploma) to learn about what’s possible and to adapt ideas for students they will teach but decided staff as well as school teachers might also want to learn some new ideas.”

The conference for students and staff looked at how subject content could be downloaded to a mobile as an alternative tool when computer access was limited or unavailable. Dr Noeline Wright organised the m-Learning Day as part of wider research she is undertaking on aspects of e-learning.

After an outstanding national and international law career, Justice David Baragwanath has been appointed Honorary Professor at the University of Waikato’s Te Piringa - Faculty of Law.

Justice Baragwanath has had a long association with the University and the Waikato region. He sat regularly in Hamilton as a judge after his appointment to the High Court in 1995 and was a member of the University’s Te Matahauariki Research Institute, which saw him involved in the writing of Te Matapunenga: a Compendium of References to the Concepts and Institutions of Māori Customary Law.

He has also been a regular speaker at University events and represented Tainui and other Māori iwi in Treaty litigation from the early 1980s to 1995.

Justice Baragwanath was appointed to the Court of Appeal in 2008 and now presides in New Zealand and Samoa as well as being a New Zealand member of the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague.

“It’s an honour to be made an Honorary Professor at Waikato,” he says. “My links to the Waikato go back a long way, not just professionally but to my grandfather’s time when he was an accountant in Te Kuiti, so being part of Waikato’s law school seems a natural fit.”

He believes strongly in a truly cohesive New Zealand jurisprudence.

“The abolition of appeals to the Privy Council requires us to take full charge of our legal affairs,” he says.

Te Piringa – Faculty of Law Dean Professor Brad Morse says the appointment of Justice Baragwanath as an Honorary Professor is a wonderful development that will significantly enrich the life of the law school.

“He’s already agreed to join the Editorial Advisory Board to the Waikato Law Review and he’ll deliver guest lectures as frequently as his busy schedule will permit. We’re honoured to have him as a colleague.”

Former High Court judge made Honorary Professor
University of Waikato music students Hannah Gilmour and Peter McKinnon earned a place at the New York Electroacoustic Music Festival this year.

Electroacoustic music results from the manipulation of recorded or generated sound. It allows composers to create sounds not usually heard from traditional musical instruments.

Hannah, a recipient of a $12,000 Waikato University Masters Research Scholarship, played her 5m 30sec composition, Chill Before Dawn, part of a bigger work called Ode to a Cricket, in full at the festival.

To create the sound she wanted for the piece, she pre-recorded the familiar summer sound of chirping crickets and then loaded it on to a computer where she was able to stretch the sounds out to create the effect she wanted.

After completing his Bachelor of Music (Hons), Peter began his Masters of Music in the middle of this year. His electroacoustic work for the New York festival was piano-based and called Pianosophagus.

"The idea came from a sketch I had about getting into the vocal box of the piano and exploring it and somehow linking that with the performer," he says.

"Originally I began by sampling a variety of different sounds from the piano that related to the idea of the work, and then began experimenting with ways to morph, extend and completely break up the samples. At the same time I worked on a live piano part to be performed along with it – the idea that it would sound quite natural as a performance."

Alongside her electroacoustic work, Hannah has composed more traditional forms of music including pieces for orchestras, chamber music ensembles and solo works for piano and voice. Two of her compositions have been worked by the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra and broadcast on Concert FM. Her electroacoustic works have been aired in Portugal, the United States and Australia.

"I'm always thinking music," she says. "It begins with a small idea and grows from there. You're learning all the time. You learn by listening to other works, by combining different sounds and experimenting."

Peter says his work took about half a year to complete – from concept to final creation.

"When it was performed at the Lilburn awards last year my performance teacher had a good laugh because the piece has touches of aggression and frustration and that's often how I feel when I'm practicing performance pieces," he says.
In Cambridge, Cambridge UK that is, “geek and proud” Dr Shamus Husheer spends all of his days and much of his nights at work. He’s the co-founder and CEO of Cambridge Temperature Concepts Ltd, which is changing the way women monitor their fertility.

He always knew he was going to be a scientist, right from the time he left Taradale High and worked in his Dad’s chemical factory in Napier. “I did my first degree through Waikato, because the Bachelor of Science (Tech) had a workplace requirement and when my father passed away, my brother and I had to work in the factory. The degree allowed me to work and study at the same time.”

From there Dr Husheer picked up a scholarship to do his Masters degree at Otago and found that he liked doing research. “It was fun. I was working on an instrument to measure the impact of global warming on oceans. It was the first time I’d built an instrument and I found I was good at it. Everyone has a unique skill, and mine’s building measuring tools. I have an idea, imagine its design and understand the processes and steps required to achieve the desired result.”

It was the quality of his measurements that earned him a scholarship to Cambridge for doctoral study. His field was nuclear and structural chemistry and he was developing instrumentation and techniques for particle accelerator experiments, studying the interactions of things like x-rays and muons – “bizarre sub-atomic particles” – with chemical structures. But then he had an idea for a device to accurately and precisely measure women’s fertility.

“I constantly have ideas, but I have a group of friends who help sieve them for me and decide whether they’re going to fly.” The sifters said yes. And so while he should have been completing his PhD, he gathered in other scientists and began working on DuoFertility, a gadget that reads a woman’s body clock up to 20,000 times a day, and downloads it into readable form. They developed the prototype in Dr Husheer’s bedroom with money they’d won in a Cambridge college business competition. “It was literally shoe box electronics, but it proved the idea would work. We then began testing and monitoring on women, and in 2007 we won the Cambridge University Entrepreneurs Business Creation competition and National Business Plan competition among all British universities.

“And then we attracted investors, who told me to hurry up and graduate for goodness sake and get on with the new scheme.”

Cambridge Temperature Concepts started with a PhD-qualified Dr Husheer (it took five years all up for him to finish his doctorate) and a fellow PhD in infertility. Today there are 11 staff, the product is selling throughout Europe and results are positive for individuals and the company. “Our fertility experts have photos of scans and babies plastered on their wall and the data analysis is showing that in some classes of infertility, our product is as effective as a cycle of IVF after just six months of use, whilst being totally non-invasive and one tenth the price.

“What we’ve invented is a small device, but for the couples involved the results are huge. The science, technology and maths behind it is pretty cool and the geek in me is very, very satisfied.”
A University of Waikato Māori and Theatre Studies graduate already working with the famous Théâtre du Soleil in Paris has been accepted to study at the L’École Internationale de Théâtre Jacques Lecoq school in the city.

Moko Smith, 23, who also studied French at University, went to France for a year to improve his language and landed a position with prestigious Théâtre du Soleil, where he worked for a year.

He then applied to Lecoq school of physical theatre to further develop his career as an actor and director and is the first Māori performer – and one of only 13 New Zealanders – to attend the school.

“It will also give me the chance to explore Māori material and begin an exploration of what could be a Māori theatre style.”

“I see a huge wealth of richness in our culture that could lend itself so well to theatre: the stylised movements of whaikōrero and haka, the metaphoric and multilayered language of whaikōrero, the mythology surrounding the gods, the use of taonga pūoro (Māori traditional instruments) and karetao (Māori puppets) all hold within themselves a lot of potential and I hope to use my training at Lecoq to explore this.”

Smith’s course will last two years and is the French equivalent of a Master’s degree in performing arts.

Living in France as a student can be challenging at times.

“The teachers assess your suitability for continuing the course and students can decide whether this form of physical theatre training is for them,” he says. “The training is based on an exploration and refinement of movement, and has a large focus on improvisation and devising as well.

“Last year I lived in a theatre for three months, in the washing machine room, so you never know what Paris can throw at you,” he says.

Waikato wins bid for Antarctic endowment fund

Antarctic research at the University of Waikato has received a major boost after winning this year’s Antarctic Endowment Fund award.

Antarctica New Zealand has provided $50,000 in seed funding to the University’s International Centre for Terrestrial Antarctic Research (ICTAR) to establish the Fund.

ICTAR is a new centre at Waikato, partnering with Gateway Antarctica at the University of Canterbury which was the recipient of last year’s Antarctic Endowment Fund award. An additional $50,000 in matched funding will come from the University of Waikato.

The endowment will actively support the continued growth and development of research expertise in Antarctica to meet New Zealand interests in the Ross Dependency and obligations to the Antarctic Treaty.

The Fund will help support final-year undergraduate, graduate and postgraduate students, and will also be used for exploratory projects, costs associated with travel to Antarctica, visits to obtain skills from overseas collaborators and attendance at national and international meetings.

ICTAR Director Professor Craig Cary says the establishment of the Antarctic Research Endowment Fund represents a major opportunity for Waikato.

“The Fund will not only support scholarships for Antarctic Research, it will help us encourage and develop the next generation of well-qualified and enthusiastic Antarctic researchers,” he says.

“This investment confirms the strong ties we have with Antarctica New Zealand and the support they give to our programme.”

Antarctica New Zealand Chief Executive Lou Sanson said the University of Waikato’s application had seen solid competition from other universities.

“The Waikato proposal was well-aligned with the draft Antarctic Science Strategy document and will utilise proven existing mechanisms to invest the funds.”

ICTAR Director Professor Craig Cary.
Greg Davis used to think he wasn’t brainy enough to study law, but as a young Waikato BA graduate working in the Department of Māori Affairs in Hamilton he got a taste for matters legal and decided to return to university to study at a brand new Waikato Law School. That was 20 years ago, and earlier this year, Greg Davis was sworn in as a district court judge, the first Māori alumni of the Waikato’s Faculty of Law to be so.

Judge Greg Davis is Ngāpuhi, Ngāti Kaungunu, Ngāti Tai and Ngāti Raukawa and shortly he’ll be moving back to his Northland home to sit on the bench in Whangarei and Kaikohe. He will also work to establish a Matariki court to cater for Māori offenders and help develop programmes for rehabilitation.

Waikato Law School (now Te Piringa - Faculty of Law) appealed to Judge Davis because it taught law in context and during its establishment its founders had formed a strong relationship with Tainui. As an inaugural student, it wasn’t long before Judge Davis was standing out in the crowd. A fluent Māori speaker, he and a mate opened a sizeable can of worms when they answered an exam question in Māori. “It was one question in one exam and we believed we were adding to the bicultural nature of the Law School. Little did we know what a problem it would cause.”

The matter was subsequently resolved and a policy passed that allowed for exam papers to be submitted in Māori. “The process taught me a lot about law and power,” says Judge Davis. “But I had total respect for the Assistant Vice-Chancellor at the time, Jeremy Callaghan. He was thoroughly professional dealing with what was a tricky situation for the University.”

Once he graduated, Judge Davis spent some time in Foreign Affairs, including a stint in Vanuatu and then time with Rudd, Watts and Stone, Henderson Reeves, and Palmer Macauley law practices. Judge Davis’s wife, Tania Tetitaha, has a Masters in Indigenous Law from Waikato and together in 2004 they opened their own practice, Tumanako Law, in Kerikeri. Much of their work has centred on Māori Land Court and Waitangi Tribunal jurisdictions. Judge Davis was lead counsel for several claimants in the Te Paparahi o Te Raki Waitangi Tribunal inquiry and lead adviser to Ngāpuhi in settling its Treaty claims with the Crown before his elevation to the bench.

Since being sworn in, Judge Davis has been sitting at Auckland’s District Court but is looking forward to going home. He’ll be the first district court judge who was born and lives in the region to sit at Kaikohe District Court. “I think it will help having local knowledge. We’ve got big issues to tackle, like the rate of Māori imprisonment, and I’m looking forward to working with the community to address important matters that affect us all. It’s got to be a collective effort, the community has to be prepared to take ownership, and if we do it well, then it could have wider application.”

There were about 20 judges from the district and Māori land courts, as well as Northland and Māori MPs, when Judge Davis was sworn in at Ngāti Manu Marae at Karetu. Many of his whānau attended too, including his MP brother Kelvin, Patrick who’s a Kawakawa police sergeant and sister Sonya, a teacher and another Waikato graduate.
Demography expert comes full circle

For new Centre of Population Studies Director Professor Natalie Jackson, coming back to the University of Waikato felt like coming home.

Professor Jackson is Te Puke born and bred and did her first degree and Masters at the University before joining the exodus to Australia, where she earned her PhD at Australian National University.

Fifteen years later, she is happy to be back at Waikato.

“I’ve got family here, plus it was an excellent new opportunity,” she says.

Her job is to drive the re-launch of the Centre as the National Institute of Demographic and Economic Analysis (NIDEA) over the next two years, part of the University’s strategic investment in research capacity building.

Professor Jackson’s expertise is in regional demography, and in Australia she had the ear of national and regional policy makers.

“One of my main contributions in Australia was getting people to understand that population ageing happens in different ways,” she says.

“In Tasmania, where I was based, they have been losing young people, and when this happens you get an ‘apple core’ shape in the demographic. This has huge economic implications because it’s the young people who buy the houses and take out first mortgages, they’re the ones who have the children and they’re the ones who buy the whiteware.”

Elsewhere, she says, you might get an influx of older retirees to the coast (sun belt) and a concentration of younger people with children in another area (nappy valley).

“You need to understand the underlying structure and drivers of your population to make strategic and well-informed policy,” she says.

New Zealand is facing similar issues of population ageing and a dwindling workforce.

“It’s huge because New Zealand is parked right next to Australia, which is like a vacuum sucking in Kiwi migrants.”

Professor Jackson says age structure of populations is becoming more important than projected population size and growth rates.

She gave a talk on the subject at Fieldays this year where she said the ageing of New Zealand farmers puts a big question mark over the future of dairying.

“As the older generation moves into retirement, who is going to buy the farms and work on them? Farmers are the supply end of the equation, but we need to ask the same questions about projected demand.”

She says New Zealand agricultural exporters also need to be thinking ahead to take full advantage of demographic changes in key markets, and to make sure they don’t get caught out when growth in demand for certain products slows or stops.

Game developers get in the swim

Two University of Waikato computer science students tied for first place in the “People’s Choice” award at this year’s hectic “Gamejam” event where a five-minute computer game is designed in 48 hours.

Hosted by the University’s Computer Science Department for the second year running and involving competitors from 39 countries in 139 different locations, the theme for this year’s event was ‘deception’ and participants in New Zealand’s time zone had to include snakes, cakes or lakes in their design.

Outstanding graphics delivered with programming panache are a key requirement of the competition.

“The excellent artwork and programming were a particular highlight for me,” says Computer Science senior lecturer Bill Rogers.

Computer science Masters student Dacre Denny and PhD student Sam Sarjant’s game involved a water snake swimming along a channel looking for fish to eat. The snake had to choose which fish were good to eat and even though the fish were identical, some were pufferfish which attacked the snake and gradually drained its strength. Players had a cake-o-meter and Death-o-meter to gauge the snake’s strength.

“As the snake eats more fish it gets bigger and stronger, but it also becomes more of a target,” says Sam. “The player must try to shake the pufferfish off before succumbing or a message appears saying ‘Natural selection selected you’ and the game is over.”

The other winning game was Glow, a deep-sea scenario involving an angler fish called Fishie, which must lure larger predators to their doom by feeding them to an even larger predator serpent. It was created by Waikato computer science students Tom Maxwell-Mans and Gabe Young, Bachelor of Computer Graphic Design graduates Hemi Ormsby, Leslie Wan and Joel Christensen, and high school student Chris Barton.

Both games are available online at: http://www.globalgamejam.org/2010/swimming-snake and http://www.globalgamejam.org/2010/glow. On the same site are all the other games created at GameJams around the world.

Mr Rogers says Gamejam is a great opportunity for would-be game developers to showcase their talent.

“The game industry is one where what you’ve done is more important than your qualifications,” he says. “Employers want evidence people have shown some energy and seen a project through. So if you do well at the Gamejam, you’ll end up with something on a global game developers’ site – and you’ll be noticed.”
Waikato University cellist, 15-year-old Santiago Cañon Valencia, was placed top equal at a major international cello competition in Beijing in October.

Two Waikato University cellists were selected for the major competition – 20-year-old Edward King and Santiago, who is from Colombia. They were the only two from southern hemisphere music schools to be selected among the 44 cellists that competed at the 2010 Beijing International Music Competition.

Both the students are Sir Edmund Hillary Scholars and part of Waikato University’s soloists’ programme where, to be eligible, students must have won or gained a placing in a major New Zealand or international competition and need to have played a concerto with a professional orchestra.

Santiago has performed extensively since he was 12, and Auckland Edward King won first prize at the New Zealand National Concerto Competition in Christchurch earlier this year. He has recently returned from touring the UK as part of the Leonari Trio after winning the Pettman/Royal Overseas Chamber Music Competition.

Santiago, who is in his first year of a Bachelor of Music, was placed second equal in the finals of the Beijing competition with Russian Alexander Ramm who studies at Moscow’s Tchaikovsky Music Conservatory. No first prize was awarded.

Waikato University music lecturer and pianist Katherine Austin accompanied both students during the early rounds. She says Edward was rated top by many of the contemporary judges in the initial rounds.

James Tennant who teaches both Edward and Santiago says, “If you look at the musicians who went to the Beijing competition, you have to say having two Waikato cellists featuring is a remarkable achievement.

“These two young men come from completely different backgrounds but are alike in their drive and ambition. They want to be international soloists and will do whatever it takes to get there.”

Edward, an honours student, says he practised about five hours a day in the lead-up to the contest. “I had already met a few of the other cellists who went to Beijing and technically they are superb, very skilful, but I think what makes us a little different is that we’re taught to have more freedom when we play, we can take a more individual approach to our playing.”

Santiago says he likes competitions. “Yes they are stressful, but they are also fun. You want to do your best to succeed so you push yourself to the limit. The work you have to do before it isn’t always fun, but it’s all worth it.”

Waikato cellist placed top equal in international music competition

Around the Faculties

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Around the Faculties

Reluctant academic takes top Antarctic honour

Tim Naish confesses he wasn’t particularly academic at school, but says the education he received at the University of Waikato set him on the path to success.

The veteran of eight trips “down to the ice”, he’s now Professor and Director of the Antarctic Research Centre at Victoria University, a Principal Scientist at GNS Science and recipient of the prestigious New Zealand Antarctic Medal in the 2010 New Year’s Honours list.

It all started with his plan to become a mining engineer. “I started off doing engineering at Waikato, but I got totally captured by earth sciences. I’m sure they thought I didn’t show much promise, but Professor Cam Nelson was a wonderful lecturer, and I would rate the education I got at Waikato as one of the best general earth sciences courses almost anywhere in the world.”

Professor Naish says the practical skills he gained in geological mapping and describing the rocks were unparalleled. “These were really, really valuable skills,” he says. His passion for his subject fired, he then completed a Masters with first class honours, and embarked on his PhD after a stint working as a geologist with DSIR in Wellington.

“It was a big responsibility, but very important work if we are to prepare for the consequences of climate change,” he says. “We published eight papers out of the thesis research.”

A post-doctoral research fellowship at James Cook University across the ditch followed, and then Professor Naish returned to New Zealand to take up a post at GNS Science in Wellington. There he began to apply his knowledge of sedimentary rocks to a quite different region – Antarctica.

“I led the international ANDRILL Project looking at how the Antarctic ice sheet behaved in the past when it was warmer. We were drilling through the Ross Ice Shelf into 900 metres of water and then we recovered a series of 1km-long rock cores from below the sea floor.

“The rocks show the history of the ice sheet, which has been very unstable in the past, leading sea levels to rise and fall. This evidence can help us understand what we might expect as we heat up the earth.”

Professor Naish’s knowledge of paleoclimate records has led to him being selected this year as a lead author for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). He is one of just a handful of New Zealanders to be invited to contribute at this level.

“It’s a big responsibility, but very important work if we are to prepare for the consequences of global warming,” he says.

MEDAL MAN: Waikato alumnus Professor Tim Naish won the prestigious New Zealand Antarctic Medal.

Student demand sees new paper offered

Waikato Management School’s Department of Management Communication is now offering a new paper on event management.

The hands-on paper, which started in B Semester, draws together the best practice in event management from a practical business and operational perspective.

“Many students have said that event management is an area they would really like to get involved in and offering this paper is based on this demand,” says course convenor Dr Michele Schoenberger-Orgad. “It’s already proving to be popular too. This year we had more than 125 students enrolled.”

The practical-based paper is intended to challenge students to think outside the square and equip them with the skills necessary to plan and carry out an effective event. “Graduates often go into jobs and have to learn on the hop how to do things so this is a good way to give students an overall understanding of events,” says Dr Schoenberger-Orgad.

As part of the paper students learn how to pitch an event idea, create funding proposals, budget, and understand a lot about event planning and the legal compliances involved.

To launch the new events paper, students worked with the Waikato/Bay of Plenty Cancer Society and raised $26,000 for their $4.25 million appeal to build a new accommodation facility in Hamilton for people receiving treatment for cancer. The facility will house 600 people every year and provide free meals and accommodation, and will also be the hub for the Cancer Society’s support services.

Students worked in groups of up to six to research, plan, and implement a fundraising event based on the theories and concepts they learnt during the paper, Dr Schoenberger-Orgad says.

Among the student-organised events were a charity fashion show and auction in Hamilton; a disco at Ohaupo School; a scavenger hunt at Sky City; a talent show at the Cambridge Town Hall; a mini-golf tournament in Callum Brae; and, a drive-in movie at the Hamilton Gardens.

Money raised by Waikato University students went directly to support the Waikato/Bay of Plenty Cancer Society in their appeal.
In 2009, the Alumni Association consolidated our mission ABCs – Advocacy, Brainstorming, and Communication. This year the Association’s Committee focused on Advocacy and I have taken the opportunity to attend several key events to represent and advocate on behalf of our membership. Some of these include:

- a peer review for the Waikato Management School EQUIS accreditation in May
- a stakeholder breakfast at Fieldays in June, where on behalf of all alumni I was able to informally welcome the Argentinian ambassador to the Waikato
- a New Zealand Universities Academic Audit that carried out a whole-of-institution academic audit in August
- a second peer review for the Management School, this time for AACSB accreditation in September
- serving on the University of Waikato Foundation Board of Trustees in my role as President

Several committee members have supported or are working with the University on other University initiatives that raise the profile and reputation of the institution and its alumni. These include the Distinguished Alumni Awards Dinner, Fieldays, a public lecture by alumnus Dr Craig Nevill-Manning of Google, a WMS Executive Education networking event, and the Faculty of Education 50th anniversary celebrations.

Many of our Alumni Association members have also been making efforts to reconnect, and I thank all those who helped out with the alumni tent at graduation. It was a great opportunity to renew acquaintances and offer advice to the new graduates.

There is a definite perceived need for more social networking among alumni, and kudos to those of you who have established profiles for Waikato alumni on Facebook, LinkedIn and other sites. If you haven’t already connected online, I encourage you to do so.

I have also enjoyed meeting with the WSU President Deni Tokunai (re-elected for 2011) to discuss ways the Alumni Association might support the undergraduate experience, including mentoring and serving as positive role models during Orientation Week.

Don’t forget there are many ways that you can support your alma mater that do not necessarily include finances. The Committee is working hard to consider options and there is much on the horizon for next year. I’d like to encourage you to get in touch and get involved.

David Williams, President
University of Waikato Alumni Association Inc.

### 2010 Alumni Association Masters Scholar

Congratulations to Melanie Haeata, winner of the 2010 Alumni Association Masters Scholarship.

Melanie enrolled at the University of Waikato in 2005, completing her Bachelor of Social Sciences with Honours in 2009. She is now working towards her Masters with a thesis that examines anxiety and depression in antenatal couples. Melanie is a native Hamiltonian and the single parent of her eight-year-old daughter. The Alumni Association is delighted to announce that Melanie has also been awarded a Freemasons scholarship, which was presented to her by the Duke of Gloucester in Wellington.

Every second year the University of Waikato Alumni Association awards a Masters Scholarship worth $5,500. It is always a difficult decision with so many deserving individuals in need of financial support to complete their studies and this year was no exception.

However, there is no doubt that the 2010 recipient could not be more qualified to receive the award and the University of Waikato is honoured to count Melanie Haeata as a student.

As well as being a single parent and undertaking an Honours degree, Melanie has found time to work with autistic preschool children and volunteer as an English language tutor at the Hamilton Migrant Resource Centre.

If that wasn’t enough to fill her time, Melanie has become the national student representative for the Institute of Clinical Psychology, the secretary of the Waikato branch of the New Zealand Psychological Society and is a representative on the Waikato Clinical Psychology Educational Trust.

As part of her training, Melanie has undertaken a clinical placement at the Psychology Centre in Hamilton and the Association wishes her well in her goal to practice as a clinical psychologist.

It is clear that she will be an outstanding asset to the Waikato psychology community.
In November, Chancellor Rt Hon Jim Bolger travelled with the Vice-Chancellor Professor Roy Crawford to meet alumni and friends in Beijing.

The event was hosted at the Official Residence by His Excellency Carl Worker, New Zealand’s Ambassador to China.

It was an opportunity to share the Waikato vision and recent success stories with Waikato graduates and expat Kiwis. The visit was also an opportunity to strengthen ties with key universities and research partners in the region including Renmin University and Beijing International Studies University, which works with the Tourism Department at the Waikato Management School.

This year Renmin University hosted the Waikato MBA study tour arranging lectures and visits for Waikato’s 25 MBA students.

Renmin University, also known as the people’s university, is regarded as one of the leading universities in China, particularly in the humanities and social sciences.

The University of Waikato is proud of its links to Renmin University and its staff of 1,485 which includes 424 professors and 595 associate professors.

The University of Waikato also has an active research programme in China with collaboration through the Chinese Academy of Sciences in the areas of water resource management (Professor Bruce Clarkson), pastoral management and water and food security (Dr Wei Yi) and poverty mapping (Dr John Gibson).

The event was also an opportunity to introduce alumni to our new international recruiter, Zhu Lin, who is based in Beijing and was formerly with the New Zealand Embassy.
The University of Waikato Foundation hosted a breakfast featuring Chancellor and Foundation Trustee Rt Hon Jim Bolger ONZ at the WEL Academy of Performing Arts. Forty local business leaders attended, including then Hamilton City Mayor Bob Simcock and NZ Home Loans Founder and CEO John Erkkila – both Waikato alumni – along with Foundation Trustees and University Deans.

Foundation Chairman Alastair Calder recognised the generous support that the University receives from the business community with special thanks to Orbit Corporate Travel, the Gallagher Group, the Waikato Times, PricewaterhouseCoopers and Beca, among others.

Vice-Chancellor and Foundation Trustee Professor Roy Crawford said Waikato’s relative youth compared with other New Zealand universities enables us to be nimble, flexible and adaptable. Our research excellence, the distinctiveness of our educational experience, and the success of our alumni around the world demonstrate that we are well on the way to achieving our goal to be one of the top universities in Australasia: “Not only are we enhancing our reputation for those that have gone before, we are creating a world-class environment for future generations of students”.

Mr Bolger reminded guests that the University was founded by local business leaders to serve the Waikato; a feat achieved in more ways than they could have imagined 50 years ago. The University of Waikato is now a powerhouse of knowledge creation and a vital economic driver, generating nearly $750 million for the region and nearly $1 billion nationally. He urged the business leaders of today to also support and nurture the University.

Alumni events

Breakfast with local business leaders

The University of Waikato Foundation hosted a breakfast featuring Chancellor and Foundation Trustee Rt Hon Jim Bolger ONZ at the WEL Academy of Performing Arts. Forty local business leaders attended, including then Hamilton City Mayor Bob Simcock and NZ Home Loans Founder and CEO John Erkkila – both Waikato alumni – along with Foundation Trustees and University Deans.

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Wellington evening with Theresa Gattung

Waikato Distinguished Alumna Theresa Gattung provided an engaging and enjoyable presentation at the Wellington Chamber of Commerce in May. The event was hosted by Vice-Chancellor Professor Roy Crawford and 64 guests attended, including Lt. Gen Jerry Mateparae, Distinguished Waikato Alumnus and Chief of the NZ Defence Force; Emeritus Professor Tamati Reedy, former Pro-VC Māori and Founding Dean of Māori and Pacific Development; and Anthony Scott, CEO of Science NZ.

Ms Gattung spoke of her University experience and her roles at Telecom and at Wool Partners International, and autographed copies of her book, Bird on a Wire: The Inside Story from a Straight Talking CEO.

The event was a great success, with the 28th floor view from the Majestic Centre providing a stunning backdrop for the evening.

WAIKATO ALUMNA: Theresa Gattung.
Alumni groups

University of Waikato Alumni Representatives

Alumni representatives keep you in touch with other University of Waikato alumni in your area, providing social or business networking opportunities and helpful contacts as you travel the world. Tap into a network that can work for you.

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New Alumni Association Life Members

Anne Bevan • Janet Mason
Evelyn Bourton • John Menneer
Peter Braun • Chris McFarlane
Margaret Brunton • Grant Neagle
Catherine Davis • Tracy Olorenshaw
Catherine Edmonds • Scott Osborne
Kola Fatokun • Joy Park
Tracey Filmer-Clark • Kemble Pudney
Barbara Harold • Adrian Pyne
Graeme Higgs • Janice Reid
Stephanie Hills • Graham Rodgers
Ora Hingston • Carolyn Swanson
Florian Kache • Renee Telfer
Tiny Koesmawati • Rowan The
Sei Kosugi • Carmen Torrence
Melisa Kristie • Russell Young
Madeleine Lambert • Kun Zhou

PhD studies funded

Two PhD students in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences have been awarded study grants from the local branch of the New Zealand Federation of Graduate Women.

Debra Powell’s thesis will explore discourses around child homicides in 1870-1925, demonstrating how child murder was imagined largely as a women’s crime.

Cherie Todd will be investigating sexed and gendered subjectivities in cyberspace, focusing on love and romance in on-line games.

As well as funding scholarships and community grants, Waikato Graduate Women has a monthly programme of events and offers its members opportunities to engage in advocacy at local, national and international levels.

For more information, contact Cathy Buntting at buntting@waikato.ac.nz.

Varstonians reconnect with Waikato

Every year on the last Saturday in June, the University of Waikato Varstonians – sports men and women – gather to celebrate their Waikato connection and have a great day. If you played rugby, netball, hockey, football or rowed during your student days, the Varstonians would love to hear from you. Email uwsport@uleisure.co.nz.
At the University of Waikato, we are punching above our weight. Our postgraduate and higher degree students benefit from academic challenge, professional support, and research opportunities that equip them to take on the world – as academics, researchers and business leaders.

In the last national grading, Waikato was ranked No.1 in the country in 10 subjects, including Accounting and Finance, Chemistry, Communications, Computer Science, Ecology, Education, Management, Biology, Music and Mathematics. Our graduates are sought after around the globe.

Waikato offers world class academics, industry partnerships, commercialisation of research, mentoring and international connectedness – plus it’s a great place to live.

Choose the University of Waikato – the university representing the best of New Zealand.
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E kore e taea te aukati i a koe