Off Campus
2012 in review

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.

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 regularly, enabling us to stay in touch throughout the year with a very light carbon footprint. If you wish to receive 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.waikato.ac.nz/alumni

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FRONT COVER PICTURE: An artist’s impression of the University of Waikato’s new Law and Management building, scheduled for completion in 2015.
Reconnect with us!

The University of Waikato has alumni all around the world – and we want to keep in touch with as many as possible. Every year we produce and post out Off Campus magazine, host events in New Zealand and overseas, and send regular e-newsletters. Go online to view our list of worldwide Alumni Representatives and their contact details, check out our ‘lost alumni’ list and update your details: www.waikato.ac.nz/alumni

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From the Chancellor

I have watched with great interest this year the impact the University of Waikato is making on the world.

In particular, I think 2012 has been an excellent year for our alumni. The Vice-Chancellor and I visited New York earlier this year and spent time with Waikato alumni living there and working in exciting and challenging jobs. We know our qualifications are a springboard to interesting careers in New Zealand and overseas, but it’s always good to see Waikato graduates proving this on a daily basis around the globe.

Also on the world stage, Waikato alumni did exceptionally well at the London Olympics, with Nathan Cohen, Joseph Sullivan, Rebecca Scown and Juliet Haigh making it to the medals dais. And of course we had another impressive group honoured at the annual Distinguished Alumni Awards, something I consider to be one of the highlights of the university year.

This year we honoured Productivity Commission chair Murray Sherwin CNZM, and I was pleased to catch up with Murray when he spoke at an alumni event we held in Wellington. Murray, along with Welsh and Lions rugby coach Warren Gatland and Anglican Action’s Karen Morrison Hume are this year’s University of Waikato Distinguished Alumni.

The 2012 year was punctuated by two large world ranking achievements. In June the University of Waikato was named 58th in the world of universities under 50 years old – first in New Zealand and seventh in the southern hemisphere. This is an impressive achievement, and it was followed in September by the news that the University of Waikato rose 16 places to sit at 302 out of 17,000 universities in the world for the major Times Higher Education world rankings.

These successes make me proud to head the University of Waikato as Chancellor – they enhance our reputation further and give even greater value to a degree from this university. I look forward to meeting more Waikato alumni while on my travels or hosting university occasions to also hear about their success stories.

Rt Hon Jim Bolger, Chancellor

From the Vice-Chancellor

Welcome to the 2012 edition of Off Campus where we always enjoy delivering to you just some of the success stories of University of Waikato alumni.

Alongside these alumni stories, I am also proud to tell you about the accomplishments of many of our staff. We have had an exceptional year of awards for staff members, with prestigious teaching awards, local science awards and more.

On the research front, Waikato staff have won major research contracts culminating in six grants from the Marsden Fund and we have launched more research centres at the University which will allow us to provide inter-disciplinary solutions to some of the world’s problems.

As part of our drive to provide the best facilities we can for our students, we announced plans this year to build a multi-million dollar Law and Management building. You can see an artist’s impression of the planned new building in this issue of Off Campus. It is impressive and will create a corridor of iconic constructions on the Hamilton campus – from the Gallagher Academy of Performing Arts, to the multi award-winning Student Centre in the heart of the campus, to this new building to be situated on Hillcrest Rd.

The University has had a busy year again, engaging extensively with the local community. The Winter Lecture Series had packed houses every Wednesday in August, with subjects as diverse as a master class with Dame Malvina Major to sustainable cities. It was pleasing to see so many current and former students involved or in the audience.

We mark 50 years in 2014 and I hope many of you will take the opportunity to visit your university again and retain a strong connection with us. This is very important to us, and I was particularly pleased that so many alumni attended other anniversary celebrations this year – 25 years for Music and 10 years for Engineering.

Next year promises to be an exciting one at Waikato as we build up to the 50th anniversary in 2014. We will keep you engaged with how you can be involved in this significant event; I look forward to seeing many of you then.

Professor Roy Crawford, Vice-Chancellor

The 2013 recruitment theme for the University of Waikato is all about “journeys” and many of the messages will reflect the stellar paths taken by our alumni around the world.

The successes of our alumni add to the value and prestige of a University of Waikato qualification and this issue of Off Campus magazine features the stories of graduates making their mark in diverse fields of endeavour.

Many great universities of the world have been built on a solid foundation of philanthropy and it is gratifying that University of Waikato alumni and friends continue to value the University in its philanthropic mission.

A note of thanks to the Gallagher Family and Group, the late Dr Zena Daysh and Calder & Lawson Tours for enabling us to launch an Endowment Fund. The support of benefactors and alumni is vital in realising our potential as one of the finest University’s in Australasia.

Christine Brabender, Director of Development
It’s in the blood for Thesis in 3 winner

A chemical engineering student who’s looking for ways to use blood polymers to make bioplastics was a double winner at the University of Waikato’s Thesis in 3 competition.

Ten doctoral students each had three minutes and a single static powerpoint slide to talk about their research and why it was important, with their presentations judged by a panel of experts and a capacity audience at the Gallagher Academy of Performing Arts.

Ku Marsilla Ku Ishak won the people’s choice award and was judged the overall winner, taking away $5,000 for her win. It’s the first time in the competition’s four-year history that the one person has won both major prizes.

Her speech was titled Turning animal blood into bioplastics: A perfect marriage. “With 39.5 million sheep and cattle in New Zealand there is plenty of opportunity to use animal blood in bioplastic manufacture. The trouble is, animal bloodmeal needs to be blended with other polymers, and it’s a bit like finding a compatible partner to make that perfect marriage – sometimes it’s like oil and water, and it doesn’t work.”

Ku Marsilla is from Malaysia and said she spent a large part of Labour Weekend preparing for the Thesis in 3 event. “My family and friends probably know my speech off by heart too.”

The judges praised Ku Marsilla’s content and her engaging communication style. She’ll go on to represent Waikato at next year’s Australasian competition.

Other thesis topics included a study to identify how modern technology can support the survival of te reo Māori, microfinancing in developing countries, the history and use of medicinal plants in colonial New Zealand, water security and the impact of violent video games.

Economics student Alex Kravchenko was runner-up. He won $2,500 for his presentation called Nothing Trivial, which looked at New Zealand’s fresh water shortage. He says the “first come, first served” water allocation isn’t working and he’s developing an economic model to find better, cost-effective ways to allocate “our most valuable, but most undervalued resource”.

The Thesis in 3 competition is sponsored by Hamilton accountants Prior Blackburn Ltd, and the people’s choice award was sponsored by the Director of Development at the University of Waikato.

What value a PhD?

PhD alumni got together during Postgraduate Month in October to take part in a panel discussion about their doctoral study.

Two ‘young doctors’ Dean Armstrong and Shaw Mead talked about where postgraduate study has taken them and the value of having a higher qualification.

Oceanographer Shaw Mead was a self-described “surf-bum” who spent five years surfing all around the world but felt he “had more to offer”.

He combined his love of surfing with study when he completed his PhD in coastal oceanography in 2001. His research consisted of travelling the Pacific Rim analysing surf breaks, finding out what variables make an ideal break.

“I came to university straight out of high school,” said Dean Armstrong, who finished his PhD in Computer Science in 2007 and now runs his own wireless connectivity company, Viscient.

“Education was always something that my parents valued and they often spoke about the commodification of undergraduate degrees.”

The two scholars were joined on the panel by Faculty of Education Dean Professor Roger Moltzen, Professor Natalie Jackson from NIDEA (National Institute for Demographic and Economic Analysis) and current PhD student Naomi Simmonds.

“At age 32 my brain started to get really hungry,” said Professor Jackson, and at 36 she enrolled at the University of Waikato. Years later she found that demography was her calling after seeing a gap in data comparing Pakeha to Māori in population statistics.

Like Professor Jackson, current PhD student Naomi Simmonds says she “wanted to explore a lot more from my masters thesis” which led her to begin her PhD.

All the panellists said they felt a need to complete PhDs to satisfy their own curiosity and to add value to topics they were passionate about.
Three talented distinguished alumni celebrated

The 2012 University of Waikato Distinguished Alumni come from three very different walks of life – rugby coach, social justice champion and economist.

They are: Warren Gatland, who was home from Wales and recovering from a nasty fall off a balcony, Hamilton-based Karen Morrison-Hume who leads Anglican Action, and economist Murray Sherwin CNZM, from Wellington where he heads the Productivity Commission.

The annual awards celebrate Waikato alumni who, since graduation, have made an outstanding contribution to their profession, the community, arts or sports.

They were all presented with a limited edition cast-glass figure created by local glass artist Di Tocker exclusively for the awards.

About 200 people attended the black-tie dinner at the Gallagher Academy of Performing Arts. They were entertained by speeches from the three award recipients and were treated to a performance by soprano and alumna Julia Booth.
Warren Gatland

Mr Gatland completed his teacher training at Waikato in 1986, the same year he was first selected to play rugby for Waikato. While teaching full-time, he played a record 140 games as hooker for the province and led Waikato to wins over Wales, the British Lions, Argentina, Samoa and Australia. He was also in the 1993 winning team that lifted the Ranfurly Shield off Auckland.

Karen Morrison-Hume

Karen Morrison-Hume is the Director of Anglican Action, and has championed a range of social justice initiatives, including the creation of the Te Ara Hou social services village in Hamilton.

Born in South Auckland, Mrs Morrison-Hume left school at 15 and held a series of secretarial jobs before leaving the workforce to have a family. In 1992, she answered a newspaper advertisement for the University of Waikato’s “New Start” bridging programme for mature students. Five years later she graduated with a degree in Social Sciences and very soon took up the directorship at Anglican Social Services, now known as Anglican Action.

Under her leadership, Anglican Action has expanded its remit and provides a range of services, including accommodation for women and children at the Cross Rose Residential Centre, residential support for ex-prisoners in their return to society, affordable counselling and therapy, a youth mentoring service, whānau and community services.

Her many social justice initiatives stem from her commitment to “servant leadership” and her belief that all people may be transformed and encouraged when nurtured in an environment that envelopes fairness, equity, justice and kindness.

Mrs Morrison-Hume is part of a number of national and local groups including the New Zealand Council of Christian Social Services, the Hamilton Council of Christian Social Services and the Combined Housing Action Research Group.

Murray Sherwin

Murray Sherwin, CNZM, chairs the government’s Productivity Commission and before that led the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry for more than a decade and worked for 25 years at the Reserve Bank.

He graduated with a masters in Social Sciences in 1976 and headed straight to the Reserve Bank where he headed many key departments and dealt with major issues including the 1984 foreign exchange crisis and the subsequent removal of exchange controls and float of the New Zealand dollar.

Mr Sherwin was elected to the Executive Board of the World Bank in Washington DC where, on a two-year secondment from the Reserve Bank, he represented the interests of New Zealand, Australia, the Republic of Korea and a number of Pacific nations.

In 2001, Mr Sherwin was appointed Director General and Chief Executive of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. The job held plenty of variety and presented many challenges, including eliminating the painted apple moth from Auckland and the Waikato, dealing with the Waiheke Island foot and mouth disease scare, and developing the Dairy and Clean Stream Accord, the Emissions Trading Regime for Forestry and the Primary Growth Partnership.

It was for his services to the Ministry that Mr Sherwin was made a Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit in 2010.

Mr Sherwin also sits on the Review Panel of the Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Authority (CERA) and is a member of the Ministerial Advisory Committee on Official Statistics.
Waikato moves into new arena for graduation

Claudelands Arena in Hamilton was trialled as a graduation venue in October. Two ceremonies were held there celebrating the success of more than 500 students, and another 90 graduated at Te Kohinga Mārama Marae.

University of Waikato Vice-Chancellor Professor Roy Crawford says the University decided to trial Claudelands because it has a number of advantages for future ceremonies. Most importantly, it holds more people to enable more family and friends to attend graduation ceremonies.

The University will again use Claudelands Arena for ceremonies in 2013.

The weather held, and the traditional parade through Hamilton City continued, starting from Civic Square and this time going over the Claudelands Bridge to Claudelands Arena.

Among those gathered were artist, poet and playwright Campbell Smith and Dr Roger Hill, founder and managing director of Hamilton-based Hill Laboratories, who were awarded Honorary Doctorates.

The bigger graduation ceremonies were held in late April and early May with 150 graduating from Te Kohinga Mārama Marae and 1,000 at Founders Theatre.

In Tauranga 115 students graduated at the Holy Trinity Events Centre. They included the first graduates of the new Tauranga-based computer science degree. The Bachelor of Science, with a major in computer science, is offered in partnership with Bay of Plenty Polytechnic and can be completed entirely in Tauranga.

At marae ceremonies, several PhDs were celebrated, including Korohere Ngāpō who made Waikato University history by being the first student at Waikato to defend his PhD in te reo Māori.

The former school teacher has worked for six years in the Faculty of Education’s Te Kākano Rua programme. His thesis is titled ‘Te Whare Tāhuhu Kōrero o Hauraki – Revitalising ‘Traditional’ Māori language of Hauraki.’

Blocking out time to graduate

If you recognise this face – it’s because Sarah Adams, BCS graduate, was a contestant on television programme The Block. While her fellow contestants were stressing about the next challenge, Sarah was worrying about her university assignments and exams.

The University of Waikato Bachelor of Communications Studies student graduated in October, and says she found reality-television-refuge in her studies.

Sarah went into the competition with the mindset that she wasn’t going to put her studies on hold, despite the pressures of completing challenges and building a home to a reality-television deadline.

“I went into The Block during the final semester of my degree. I had great support from my lecturers who helped me out a lot – I think I did 16 assignments in two weeks before we started filming.”

“J just got it in my mind-set that I wasn’t going to take time off and was going to get it done. When I came back during filming for exams I’ve never been so relaxed.”

She’s now found a dream job with the Waikato Rugby Union working as a marketing co-ordinator.
**Stroke sufferers to benefit from PhD**

The high incidence of stroke among Māori prompted neuropsychologist Margaret Dudley to research rehabilitation in stroke sufferers for her PhD, and she graduated with her doctorate in April at Te Kohinga Mārama – the University marae.

"The incidence of stroke among Māori is higher than for any other population in New Zealand so I knew that any research into this subject area would be beneficial to Māori," says Margaret Dudley.

Her findings were encouraging in that they showed attention process training can be beneficial in the remediation of attention deficit in the early stages of stroke. "This adds to a pool of evidence for the efficacy of cognitive rehabilitation post-neurological trauma and will be useful for people such as clinical neuropsychologists, clinical psychologists and occupational therapists."

Margaret, of Te Rarawa, Te Aupouri and Ngāti Kahu heritage, first began researching cognitive rehabilitation as part of a Health Research Council-funded Stroke Attention Rehabilitation Trial (START) project and was subsequently awarded a Clinical Research Training Fellowship that provided her with a full-time wage for three years while she studied for her PhD. It also enabled her to travel to present her findings at a World Stroke Conference in South Korea.

Margaret was acknowledged in the 2012 Māori Academic Achievement Awards and says she would like to see more Māori achieving in academia, so it becomes the norm rather than the exception.

"So if I am to be a role model for Māori academic excellence to help set a new pattern then that’s fine with me. I encourage Māori to seek a career in health. Māori are over-represented on almost every health indicator and I believe it is up to us to help ourselves – we are best placed to do that."

She says she’d particularly encourage other Māori into the field of neuropsychology because there are many Māori who suffer neurological insult, but there are very few Māori neuropsychologists to assist them. "To my knowledge I am the only Māori neuropsychologist working in Auckland."
Rena grounding boosts demand for coastal research expertise

Since its opening in December 2011, the University of Waikato’s Coastal Marine Field Station has experienced an escalating demand for research expertise. Along with a marked increase in staff and student numbers the need for more space became paramount, and in October, the Station celebrated the opening of extended premises next door.

As well as accommodating staff and student researchers, the new building offers considerably more storage space for research and dive equipment. The former building will continue to be used for sample processing and as a base for students and volunteers taking part in research projects.

It was the grounding of CV Rena in October 2011 that added a new dimension to the research requirements and lifted activity levels significantly.

The University’s Chair in Coastal Science Professor Chris Battershill, who heads the Marine Station and oversees the Rena Recovery environmental monitoring programme, says while it may have been small by world standards the oil spill following the grounding of CV Rena has been a serious issue for New Zealand because of the impact on our pristine coastline.

The Rena Recovery team announced the results from the first round of monitoring in October. They showed PAHs (Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons) from Rena oil appear to have dissipated in most areas of the Bay of Plenty. Professor Battershill says thousands of samples are still to be collected and tested over the coming months to provide a full picture of any long-term effects from the Rena grounding.

“We want to be able to get a full picture of how the environment has been affected and pinpoint exactly what impacts are from the Rena grounding.”

These results are just the first pieces of the puzzle, he says.

Tauranga Hillary Scholar among the awards

Outstanding success at an international level and dedication to his sport earned a Tauranga-based University of Waikato student a prestigious New Zealand Universities Blues Award.

Surf lifesaver Andrew Newton (pictured), the only Hillary scholar based in Tauranga, was among 11 Waikato University students and 67 nationwide who received the national award across 30 sporting disciplines.

Andrew, 26, is half-way through his Bachelor of Teaching (primary) and says he was absolutely stoked to receive the Blues Award.

“Last year went really well for me, making the New Zealand team for the international surf challenge last February and winning the national board race in March, so it’s really great to be recognised for those achievements,” he said.

“I’m back into intensive training with renewed energy and my next major goal is making the New Zealand team for the 2013 international surf challenge being held in Japan.”

Andrew moved to Tauranga from Dunedin seven years ago, keen to base himself in the surf lifesaving heartland of New Zealand. A natural teacher who had always wanted to work with people, he enrolled in the Bachelor of Teaching programme last year. He now combines study and teaching practicums with his training regime, which currently involves up to 12 sessions a week, either in the pool or gym, or out in the kayak, on the surf-ski or running.

He credits being part of the University’s Sir Edmund Hillary Scholarship programme as a huge support to his weekly schedule.

“The support from trainers and mentors takes away the barriers to learning while competing and training at a high level. I still have to put in the hard yards like everyone else and maintain good grades, but if I need to be out of town competing then I’m supported to take those opportunities.”

Andrew also received a University of Waikato Blues Award in October.
Campus plans continue for central Tauranga

The University of Waikato and its tertiary partners in the Bay of Plenty continue to work alongside the community as plans progress for a proposed campus in the Tauranga CBD.

The Bay of Plenty Tertiary Education Partnership – the University, Bay of Plenty Polytechnic and Te Whare Wānanga o Awanuiārangi – plans to build on Tauranga City Council land, behind the existing Bongard Centre campus. The city council has granted a 33-year rental holiday for the site which is currently land used for carparking.

University of Waikato Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor Alister Jones, says the partnership is seeking $30 million in investment funding for the initial phase of the $55 million to $60 million project. Applications are being prepared for the Tauranga Energy Consumer Trust and Bay of Plenty Regional Council.

He says the project is dependent on support from the region. “This is being driven by the region, for the region.” The Bay of Plenty will benefit from enhanced tertiary offerings with increased research and expertise supporting regional industries, and the associated economic boost.

Professor Jones says Beca has created a concept building design but there are likely to be many variations as the plans progress. “Agreeing on the footprint now will give us that ability to expand in years to come. We are taking a modest and responsible approach and making sure this university-led campus is as future-proofed as possible.”

He says the University of Waikato is already aiming to have about 800 students in Tauranga by 2016, and wants to see that number climb to 2,500 domestic students by 2030-35, plus an increasing number of international students as well as regionally focused research projects.

“At the University and within the partnership we are committed to enhancing the wider Bay of Plenty region. We look forward to the ongoing support of the community so we can deliver on this,” Professor Jones says.

All hands on deck after Rena spill

The significant increase in research activity following the Rena incident has involved large numbers of students, both at undergraduate and postgraduate level, and Professor Chris Battershill (pictured) says it is an excellent learning opportunity for the students to be involved in highly relevant, hands-on research around the Bay of Plenty.

“It’s a really excellent example of applied science and how chemists, biologists, oceanographers, marine and coastal scientists and a host of others can be harnessed to address a problem.”

Two days after the ship’s grounding, Professor Battershill mounted a quick response survey of marine species to provide critical baseline data before oil began leaking from the ship.

Students on great pathways

The 2012 year also heralded the first intake of Bachelor of Science students in Tauranga, who have graduated from the Bay of Plenty Polytechnic two-year Diploma in Marine Science or Diploma in Environmental Management.

The students can now pathway through to the University to complete the final year of their BSc, majoring in Biological Sciences. Professor Battershill is also leading this programme.

Research as part of the Intercoast programme continued in Tauranga, with a number of doctoral students conducting coastal research projects around the wider Bay of Plenty region. Among other national and international collaborations, Professor Chris Battershill oversees the New Zealand operation of Intercoast, which was established by Waikato University and Bremen University in Germany to study the marine systems of the Bay of Plenty and better understand the significant changes taking place in our coastal environment. Similar research will be conducted around the North Sea in Germany.

COASTAL RESEARCH: Tauranga student Lisa Marquardt is part of the University’s Intercoast programme conducting research around the Bay of Plenty region.
University honours artist and scientist for their work

Dr Roger Hill

Dr Roger Hill, founder and managing director of Hamilton-based Hill Laboratories, is a leader in the development of New Zealand’s internationally respected analytical testing industry.

“The honour is in recognition of Dr Hill’s substantial contributions to the regional and national economy, and his services to science, to the University of Waikato, and to the wider community,” says Vice-Chancellor Professor Roy Crawford.

Mr Smith served a trade apprenticeship in signwriting before going to Canterbury University School of Fine Arts to study painting. In London, he attended the Wimbledon School of Arts and attended classes in wood engraving and it’s for his wood engravings he’s principally known, with work in many of New Zealand’s major collections.

He was Hamilton’s Art Gallery Director for a number of years, and when planning began for the new museum in Victoria St, Mr Smith was one of a group who pressed for the building to face the river to acknowledge that cultural link between the river and the city’s cultural identity.

Dr Ann McEwan, from the History Department at the University of Waikato, published a collection of Mr Smith’s engravings in a book called Lines of Light. The book contains 110 New Zealand scenes celebrating the Kiwi lifestyle, from farmers to gum-diggers, rugby, Māori culture and the arts.

Mr Smith is equally at home expressing himself in words. He has written 24 plays – many featuring prominent New Zealanders such as artist Frances Hodgkins, World War I safe-sex advocate Ettie Rout, and MP Mabel Howard. A book of his collected plays is currently with publisher Steele Roberts.

Dr Roger Hill

Dr Roger Hill trained as a chemist before setting up an agricultural and horticultural testing service in Hamilton East with his wife Anne. His company now has four divisions – agricultural, environmental, and food and bioanalytical, plus a satellite laboratory in Christchurch and a sales office in Japan.

His passion for adopting fundamental scientific discoveries for new analytical methods has created immeasurable benefits for New Zealand’s export industries and the environment. In addition, he has been a strong supporter of the University, offering work placements to students and employing many Waikato graduates.

Dr Hill’s focus on developing new analytical methods has resulted in speedier, more accurate and cheaper analytical testing, and has aided the establishment of a reputable analytical industry in New Zealand.

His close ties with the University of Waikato over the past 30 years have led to a string of sponsored projects at MSc and PhD level, and Dr Hill has also directly sponsored University activities targeting secondary school students, including the annual Rotary Science Summer School, the Analytical Chemistry Competition and ChemQuest.

Dr Hill has long-standing links with the Department of Computer Science, where his drive, enthusiasm and backing has been a key factor in the success of a collaboration to develop leading-edge software for data mining applications.

He is a Fellow of the New Zealand Institute of Chemistry, and a member of the Royal Society of Chemistry and the New Zealand Institute of Agricultural Science.
Malaysian family produces long line of Waikato graduates

There’s a dynasty in the making at the University of Waikato.

Altogether 13 members of the Phee family, from Penang in Malaysia, have graduated from Waikato, three are still studying, and there are still more to come, according to Boon Eow Phee, who now heads the family’s printing and packaging business back in Penang.

“I didn’t realise I’d become the Pied Piper,” jokes Boon Eow, who was the first in the Phee family to come to New Zealand for university studies in the 1970s. He has fond memories of his time there.

“New Zealand was the Land of the Long White Cloud with milk and honey. Milk was 4 cents a bottle, ice cream 2 cents; unemployment was almost zero, and we could leave our doors wide open and nothing would be stolen.”

Boon Eow graduated with a science degree from Waikato in 1979, and after completing an MBA was invited to lecture in marketing there.

He finally returned to Penang in 1992, but Waikato University remains the tertiary institution of choice for the Phee family.

Two generations of Phees have now made their way to Hamilton for university studies under the eagle eye of Boon Eow’s sister, Chiew Bee Phee.

Based in Hamilton for the past 20 or so years, she has housed, fed, encouraged (and sometimes disciplined) a string of nieces and nephews, as well as friends of the family.

“My job is to keep the children in line,” says “Queen Bee” as she’s affectionately known to her extended family. “If they’re good, we make sure they’re really good; if they’re average, we make sure they pass.”

The system certainly works; several Phees have moved on to do higher degrees in the UK, others have secured good jobs in New Zealand, Malaysia and further afield.

They include straight A student Mei Chern Lim, who graduated with a social sciences degree and has completed a masters at the prestigious London School of Economics, and her older cousin Xin Ying Phee, who earned a science degree and a Graduate Diploma in management systems from Waikato, and now works for the Ministry of Health in Wellington.

Other members of the Phee clan have gone on to careers in government, finance, law and marketing, as well as the family’s printing and packaging business back in Penang.

In Hamilton itself, you’ll find Phees in the University’s Computer Science Department and at Innovation Park.

Boon Eow Phee remains a big fan of New Zealand, and of Waikato. He works closely with the New Zealand High Commissioner in Malaysia, David Pine, to assist Kiwis visiting Penang for pleasure or business.

“I am eternally grateful to New Zealand and consider myself a Kiwi,” he says. “New Zealand has given me a lot and for that reason we as the Phee family try to contribute back to New Zealand in whatever way we can. We’ve sponsored the Hillcrest High School Scat Choir’s visit to Penang on three occasions, and during their most recent visit helped raise funds for the Christchurch earthquake victims.”

German arrives with backpack, leaves with PhD

German Hannah Merdian came to New Zealand to complete the internships required for her psychology degree, but left with a PhD in forensic psychology.

When she arrived at Waikato in 2006, she planned to finish the honours year of her psychology degree, but then decided to stay and do her doctorate.

Six years later, she is now lecturing forensic psychology at the University of Lincoln in the UK, teaching topics such as ‘Mental Health and Offending Behaviour’, ‘Approaches to Treatment’, research methodologies and supervising masters students.

“When I packed my backpack and went onto this plane to New Zealand, I would have never believed that I would leave six years later with a PhD under my belt.”


“I originally travelled out to New Zealand to complete my internships that my German university required me to do. So I worked for three months in the Mental Health Unit for Older Adults in North Shore Hospital and for eight weeks at the Te Piriti Sex Offender Special Treatment Unit — it was this internship that sparked my interest in forensic psychology.

“I think I am in my absolute dream job — I love my research, love working with practitioners, and love teaching. I miss working with the offenders though, so I hope I can integrate some client work in the future.”
Engineering celebrates a decade

Waikato’s Bachelor of Engineering is 10 years old. Getting the qualification up and running was no mean feat but now all five engineering programmes have full accreditation to IPENZ, the Institution of Professional Engineers New Zealand.

The first students were housed in an airy building with a leaky roof at Ruakura, and the Department — as it originally was — had to contend with opposition from other established university engineering departments. But foundation Professor Janis Swan was determined to forge ahead.

“I knew if we kept the end goal in mind and made sure we met the quality standards, then we’d achieve what we wanted,” she says.

Working with fellow chemical engineers Conan Fee and Michael Walmsley, Professor Swan put in place a new technology degree, which later became the Bachelor of Engineering.

“I think one of our best achievements was getting approval to build the Large Scale Lab,” she says. It was completed in 2000 at a cost of $1.6 million.

“Engineers need big buildings; we work with vats, not test tubes and carry out large scale experiments so we need a lot of space.

“We’re also team workers. We’re trained to always consider the client’s needs and be thinking about end-use of a product or process. We build for the purpose.

“The good thing about that is we’ve developed good relationships with industry over the years, helping businesses to solve complex problems in an optimal way. These relationships give our students opportunities to prepare themselves for careers outside the University.”

Staff, students, alumni gather to mark 25 years of Music

The Music Programme at the University of Waikato is 25 years old and, to celebrate the milestone, current and former staff and students put on two public concerts that were well attended and well-reviewed.

During the anniversary celebrations it was also announced that Music will be branded as Conservatorium of Music, University of Waikato.

“From humble beginnings, our Music Programme now ranks number one in New Zealand,” says Convenor of Music Associate Professor Martin Lodge. “I think this reflects the superb artistic and research work from students, who are guided by exceptionally dedicated staff.”

Founding academic staff included senior lecturer and co-ordinator of music Guyon Wells, and Associate Professor Ian Whalley, who today leads the digital technology programme.

“About 10 years ago the University invested strategically in several key appointments in Music,” says Dr Lodge. “Every member of staff was and still is a practitioner — a professional composer, a professional performer or a published musicologist. And it wasn’t long before we added postgraduate, masters and doctoral qualifications to our programme.

“Our focus has always been on quality — that’s what we’re good at. All this happened through a vision, and a willingness to work very hard for a sustained period of time.”
The many and varied lives of Edmund Wee

Singapore-based Edmund Wee’s career has taken him from criminology to journalism to owning his own design agency. He’s been named one of Singapore’s 10 most influential people in the arts, and his edgy award-winning design work has revolutionised the humble annual report. His latest venture is book publishing.

And it all started at the University of Waikato.

“Fresh off the boat” is how Edmund likes to describe himself arriving in New Zealand in 1971 as a scholarship student under the Colombo Plan for developing countries within the British Commonwealth.

“I came from a simple, poor family and I’d never been overseas before,” he says. "The first suit I ever wore was for the flight to New Zealand. I never wore it again.”

Edmund had been assigned to begin his studies in psychology at New Zealand’s newest university. It was the 1970s, and the fledgling University of Waikato was fast becoming a centre for radical new ideas. It was a huge culture shock for the new arrival.

“I was very strait-laced, and there were these students with bare feet, long hair and wearing only a singlet. It was very, very informal and casual. The whole culture showed me there was another world.”

Edmund found the teaching style was quite unlike anything he’d ever experienced before.

“When I went to my first lecture with Professor James Ritchie he went on all fours on the desk to demonstrate how our very posture affected our perception of the world (‘imagine being a dog’). He was the most inspiring person I’d ever come across in my life at that point, and confirmed for me that I’d picked the right subject to study.”

Edmund threw away his suit and grew his hair long, and when the opportunity came, he joined a community which took in young people in need of a home.

Set up by a group including Charles Waldegrave, who is now an Anglican priest, psychologist and social policy campaigner, the community became known as the Anglesea St Commune.

“I met a range of people from the outer fringes of society,” says Edmund, who ended up staying at the commune for three years. “There were Hell’s Angels, drug addicts, delinquents on probation – it was a real education.”

James K Baxter, poet, visionary and founder of the famous Jerusalem Commune near Wanganui, was a regular visitor to the commune, and Edmund also met the Māori activist Tame Iti.

Edmund, known as Siggy at the commune, managed to extend his scholarship at Waikato University for a fourth year to begin his masters in sociology and psychology, but finally returned home where he completed his thesis on criminology.

After his Waikato experience, re-entry to Singaporean society was, Edmund says, very difficult. His long hair meant he was socially shunned, and he describes that first year back home as “mental torture”. He was also facing Singapore’s compulsory three-year military service – or a jail term.

Ultimately he did go into the army, where after initial training he was posted to HQ as a military psychologist. He then had a stint as a government psychologist researching secret society members in prison, and then decided to make a complete career change, joining the main Singaporean newspaper *The Straits Times* as a journalist.

Working at the newspaper sparked an interest in design, and Edmund ended up as design editor, travelling widely to see how newspaper design around the world was changing.

“It was at the time of the launch of USA Today, which we called a ‘McDonald’s newspaper’ because it had very short stories. But there was a lot of emphasis on design, and I remember finding a story I had written for *The Straits Times* hidden away in some obscure corner of the newspaper and thinking there wasn’t much point in writing if the newspaper was badly designed.”

Edmund’s next career move was to leave the newspaper industry and start his own design agency, Epigram, focusing on the usually unappreciated annual report. In Epigram’s hands, the annual report became a comic book, or a board game, or an airport novel or even an X-box game – scooping a string of design awards along the way.

He’s modest about his success. “Coming up with creative ideas is not so difficult. The most difficult part is persuading the client. But you want to do something creative and challenging, otherwise life would be so boring!”

In keeping with this philosophy, Edmund last year decided to move into book publishing, bringing out 15 books in 2011, including cookbooks, modern Singaporean fiction, and a popular children’s series. “We’re hoping to publish 40 books this year, or at least 30,” he says.

A voracious reader, he says he’d be a novelist himself if he could. “I have a lot of plots, but I have to be realistic – I just don’t have the language.”
Six Marsden Fund grants awarded

An examination of what triggers toxin production in blue-green algae, the role of the hormone oxytocin in sharing food with others, an analysis of whakatauki (proverbs), and conservation of biodiversity in Aotearoa are among six research projects led by University of Waikato researchers to receive support from the Marsden Fund, New Zealand’s funding for ideas-driven research.

The Marsden Fund announced in October that it will distribute $54.6 million to fund 86 new research projects nationwide, each for a three-year period. More than a third of the proposals funded are Marsden Fast-Starts, which are designed to help outstanding young researchers establish themselves within New Zealand.

“Marsden Fund grants are highly competitive; less than 10% of all applications are successful, so I’m delighted with Waikato’s success,” said Vice-Chancellor Professor Roy Crawford. “These Waikato projects reflect the breadth of exciting research being conducted by our researchers that has clear relevance to New Zealand’s social, cultural and environmental well-being.”

The Marsden Fund-supported projects at Waikato are:

» "A new solution to a perennial problem: Resolving a paradox in pursuit of ecology’s Holy Grail", Dr Daniel Laughlin, Department of Biological Sciences, total funding: $345,000, Fast-Start grant.

» “Toxic in crowds: the triggers of toxin production in planktonic cyanobacteria”, Professor David Hamilton, Department of Biological Sciences, total funding: $920,000.

» "What makes us share food with others? The role of neurohormone oxytocin in social aspects of eating behaviour", Dr Pawel Olszewski, Department of Biological Sciences, total funding: $760,000.

» "Photodissociation of nitrous oxide in the atmosphere", Dr Joseph Lane, Department of Chemistry, total funding: $345,000, Fast-Start grant.

» "Activism, technology and organising: Transformations in collective action in Aotearoa New Zealand", Associate Professor Shiv Ganesh, Department of Management Communication, total funding: $890,000.

» “He rongoi te reo rauriki, i te reo reiuru: Whakatauki and conservation of biodiversity in Aotearoa”, Dr Hemi Whaanga, School of Māori & Pacific Development, total funding: $345,000, Fast-Start grant.

The Marsden Fund is administered by the Royal Society of New Zealand on behalf of the Marsden Fund Council, and funded by the New Zealand Government. It supports projects in the sciences, technology, engineering and maths, social sciences and the humanities.

Understanding the ‘love hormone’

University of Waikato biological scientist Dr Pawel Olszewski is looking at the bio-psychological link between ‘love-hormone’ oxytocin and the sharing of food.

"As a society we share resources even when they are extremely scarce," says Dr Olszewski (pictured).

"Remarkably, almost on a daily basis – in the family or in other social groups – mammals are willing to share one of the most crucial resources: food.”

Most animals share food, but to date there has been little research exploring the role of oxytocin on what is seen as entirely social behaviour.

Dr Olszewski has received a three-year, $760,000 Marsden Fund research grant and will undertake a series of experiments involving the application of oxytocin and its influence on the willingness to share food.

“We speculate that the hormone oxytocin, a hunger suppressant that also increases social interactions and feelings of altruism and love, is responsible. It’s one of the ways of explaining the phenomenon," says Dr Olszewski.

In one of the experiments he will use intranasal oxytocin spray on human subjects and gauge its effect on their willingness to share.

"Once we decide to share, at the same time oxytocin kicks in and we no longer feel hunger which allows us to share our resources – this elevates your status in a social group and secures your children’s well-being.

“We hope to find out if there is some mechanism that regulates this willingness to share food. It is not a decision that drops upon us; it is to a large extent driven by our biology.”
High-quality research in latest funding round

The University of Waikato’s WAND Network Research Group has been awarded almost $1.5 million in government funding over four years to develop models and tools to monitor the performance of internet networks across New Zealand.

It’s one of two University of Waikato-led projects to win funding in the 2012 Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment research funding round.

The network infrastructure monitoring project is being led by Dr Richard Nelson, and will involve the first-ever comprehensive measurement of the performance and topology of the network infrastructure across the whole country.

“We’re aiming to build a distributed platform to monitor the links between all the different networks, which will allow network operators to detect problems in service without having to wait for users to alert them,” says Dr Nelson.

The second project involves finding ways to keep older people in our communities more independent, productive and digitally ‘connected’.

The two-year $687,000 investigation will be led by Professor Peggy Koopman-Boyden from the National Institute of Demographic and Economic Analysis (NiDEA) at Waikato.

“Almost half the labour force is already 40 or older and by mid-century the labour force will not be replacing itself, she says.

“Skills shortages are already emerging so we need to be thinking about improving and maximising the potential of older workers.”

Chemistry – good for your health

A new drink for the health conscious Asian markets has been developed with the help of University of Waikato postgraduate student Maria Revell.

She’s been working with New Zealand Yacon Limited to develop the prebiotic drink that’s a mix of blackcurrant juice and syrup made from yacon – a tuber that has proven digestive health properties. Maria spent a year analysing the particular sugar that gives the tuber its prebiotic properties. Her work was funded by a $20,000 TechNZ government scholarship to boost research and development capability in business.

New Zealand Yacon Director Robert Welch says they’ll be targeting Korean and Japanese markets in the first instance because yacon is popular there already. “Yacon is the one product where if you have a gut problem you feel the benefit.”

Dr Welch says they’re now packaging and marketing serving-sized portions of the new health drink, and will initially target Korean and Japanese markets where yacon is popular.
Te Reo Māori linguist presented with an honorary fellowship

Dr Ray Harlow was presented with a University of Waikato Honorary Fellowship this year for his work in linguistics.

He helped establish it as a subject area during his 20-year career at Waikato and was a key contributor to the linguistic study of te reo Māori.

He said it was a great honour to receive an honorary fellowship. “It’s been a really great privilege to have been able to spend my entire working life mucking around with languages.”

Dr Harlow began his academic career as a classicist before turning to linguistics. He developed a specialism in Polynesian languages, and was instrumental in establishing the University of Waikato as a centre of study in te reo Māori.

He was a founding member of the Māori Language Commission, and is the author of a number of Māori language reference works.

Dr Harlow also worked closely with Māori colleagues at the University of Waikato to set up Te Kōhanga Reo O Ngā Kuaka, adjacent to the University, which celebrates its 25th anniversary next year.

Pro-Chancellor Dr Brian Linehan bestowed Dr Harlow’s award, noting that he had enhanced the mana of the University through his outstanding service in the field of linguistics.

Standing up for women

Dame Jocelyn Fish, CBE, was awarded a University of Waikato Medal in 2012. The medal acknowledges service of international and national credibility, outstanding leadership and community endeavour in a person who also has strong University connections.

Dame Jocelyn fitted the criteria comfortably. She is a long-time campaigner for women’s rights, Piako’s first woman county councillor and a JP. She is a former president and life member of the National Council of Women.

She was awarded a Suffrage Centennial Medal after she campaigned tirelessly and successfully for 1993 to be recognised as Women’s Suffrage Centennial Year.

At the University of Waikato, Dame Jocelyn played a pivotal role in the development of the Population Studies Centre (now known as the National Institute for Demographic and Economic Analysis) and led one of the largest social sciences surveys done in New Zealand outside government – New Zealand Women: Family, Employment and Education.

She is a past president of the Waikato Branch of the New Zealand Federation of Graduate Women and up until last year, she sat on the University of Waikato Honours Committee.

Top honour for our Dame

University of Waikato ambassador Dame Malvina Major (pictured) was awarded one of the top honours in the Queen’s Birthday Honours list, becoming an Additional Member of the Order of New Zealand. Only 22 people hold the title at any one time.

The international opera star moved back to the Waikato from Canterbury in 2012 to take up a teaching and ambassadorial role at the University.

Festschrift for Ian Pool

Emeritus Professor Ian Pool was honoured with a ‘festschrift’ issue of the New Zealand Population Review, and he celebrated with friends, family and colleagues.

The Population Association of New Zealand published the special issue as a tribute to Emeritus Professor Pool, featuring essays and articles by colleagues. Festschriften serve as an acknowledgement of a significant contributor to a particular field, in this case, Emeritus Professor Pool’s contribution to population and social sciences research in New Zealand and internationally.
Excellent teachers win national awards

Tauranga-based Faculty of Education senior tutor Chris Brough and Sophie Nock from the School of Māori & Pacific Development were two of 12 academics from around the country recognised at this year’s national Tertiary Teaching Excellence Awards.

The awards, worth $20,000 each, recognise sustained excellence in tertiary teaching.

Despite not enjoying school as a child, Ms Brough made the ‘metamorphic transformation’ from a hospital telephonist to educator and soon discovered she thrived on the challenges teaching presented. She said her own experiences have shaped her vision and influenced the way she teaches.

Last year Ms Brough completed her Master of Education degree (with First Class Honours), which subsequently earned her the 2011 Rae Munro Award from the New Zealand Associate for Research in Education (NZARE) for excellence in a masters-level thesis.

Ms Brough recently won the Education category in the Next Magazine Woman of the Year.

Ms Nock is a senior lecturer who teaches te reo papers and received her award for sustained excellence in tertiary teaching in a kaupapa Māori context. This is just the third year this award has been given and the third time University of Waikato SMPD lecturers have won it. Te Kāhautu Maxwell won it in the first year and Sandy Morrison won it in 2011.

Ms Nock says she is immensely humbled and proud. “It’s pretty amazing that we have had three of these awards in a row, but it all ties in with the University’s distinctiveness around Māori.”

University of Waikato Vice-Chancellor Professor Roy Crawford says Waikato is always strongly represented in the national teaching awards. “This University has excellent lecturers and it is pleasing to see that verified at such a high level,” he says. “It provides a strong message to future students about the quality of teaching and learning they will receive at Waikato — whether you choose to come to the Hamilton or Tauranga campus.”

Four win Kudos Awards

Professor Cam Nelson from Earth Sciences received the University of Waikato Lifetime Achievement Award at the 2012 Kudos Awards for his outstanding contribution to science, and three other Waikato staff were also honoured.

Professor David Hamilton who has worked for more than 20 years on aspects of water quality won the Environmental Science Award.

Dr Mike Duke of the University’s Engineering School won the Hill Laboratories Science Entrepreneur Award for his work incorporating solar technology into long-run metal roofing.

Waikato University environmental sustainability co-ordinator Rachael Goddard won the Wintec Secondary Science Teacher/Educator Communicator Award.

The University of Waikato is a gold partner of the Kudos Awards and sponsors the Lifetime Achievement Award. The Kudos Hamilton Science Excellence Awards celebrate scientific excellence and achievement in the Waikato region.

Pair admitted to Hall of Fame

Two academics from the Faculty of Education, Professor Brian Findsen and Dr Timote Vaioleti, have been admitted into the International Adult and Continuing Education Hall of Fame, based at the University of Oklahoma in the USA.

Professor Findsen has worked in adult and community education for more than 30 years. His research focuses on older adult learning — he recently supervised a PhD student in his 80s.

“With people living longer, and an ageing workforce, it’s likely the demand for learning from this age group will increase,” he says.

Dr Vaioleti is the first Pacific person to be admitted into the Hall of Fame. Alongside his research, he has served on numerous public and private panels on Pacific development and currently serves on the Asia Pacific Basin and Adult Education (ASPBAP) eight member Executive Council based in Mumbai.

“To me, education is holistic — literacy and numeracy include reading and analysis of contexts and relationships, and it’s also circular,” says Dr Vaioleti. “Learning and teaching never stops — it is life-long.”
**Software written by a University of Waikato computer science student has found its way to Google and NASA and is being used at the Johnson Space Center.**

Computer science doctoral student Paul Hunkin's software ClusterGL was created for the University’s display wall in 2008 and joins multiple computers together to make one huge display screen.

After catching the eye of Google, the program is now being used around the world. “I was talking to Google about another project I was working on and happened to mention ClusterGL. They have these curved display walls and thought ‘this will be brilliant for what we want’.”

Google offered Paul a Summer of Code internship where they paid him to further develop the software for their own curved display walls.

“ClusterGL was designed to work on a flat wall like the one we have at the University. Google’s involvement was to make ClusterGL better and work on a curved geometry.” Google funded development of ClusterGL again this year under the same programme, so they’ve funded it in 2011 and 2012 now.

After releasing the software to the public, NASA saw the program and is now using it in the Johnson Space Center.

“And according to the guy at NASA, CGL is going to be used to help build ‘astronaut training software and on-board system software aiding in the design of next-gen space hardware’ as part of the Space Life Sciences Department at NASA. I’ve had emails from actual astronauts, which is pretty cool.”

Currently Paul’s overseas in the Seychelles for a few months, where he’s been alternating between the beach and contract programming work.

“I’ve recently been offered US$25,000 of internet start-up seed funding from a venture capital fund based out of Nairobi – see www.savannah.vc/ for the details. It’s quite exciting, as this is the first programme of its kind in Africa, though similar programmes have been run in places like Silicon Valley for many years. Basically it’s a three-month programme where they provide initial seed funding and mentorship to build the company, and after that there’s a ‘demo day’ to attract more investment.”

While planning his Nairobi trip, Paul received an email from the University of Berlin. “They’re going to be using ClusterGL to display stuff on the outside of their new computer science building. Basically they turn the side of the building into a giant screen, using projectors to shine out the windows and some kind of LED display to fill the gaps between them. It sounds very clever.”

**Writing at Waikato takes alumna to interesting places**

Not many people can say a typical work week involves attending product and television show launches, film premieres, fashion shows, music awards ceremonies and meeting international celebrities.

But that’s what screen and media and english alumna Michelle Coursey (pictured) does as Editor of *Girlfriend* – New Zealand’s popular youth magazine.

After graduating from Waikato, Michelle cut her teeth on some of New Zealand’s biggest media titles, with writing stints at the *Herald on Sunday, New Zealand Women’s Health* and *New Zealand Women’s Weekly. When Girlfriend* advertised for an editor, she jumped at the chance to apply.

“When I saw the role of editor come up for such an iconic and fabulous title, I suddenly realised that my devotion to pop music, love for boy bands and passion for writing could all merge together and actually make me a living!”

Michelle credits the research and writing skills she honed at the University of Waikato for securing her a career she enjoys so much.

“My study at Waikato helped me learn a lot about research, looking at an issue from a variety of angles, and how to write in a hurry – skills that have proved useful in every job I’ve had since then,” she says. “It also taught me how to ask the right questions, whether that’s of a person in an interview or of a giant technical report that needs to be examined.”

“A lot of the screen and media teaching team were inspirations to me, including Bevin Yeatman and Ann Hardy. In the English Department, I loved doing my honours dissertation with the talented and ever-interesting Sarah Shieff – her modern Jewish literature paper ignited a serious interest in the world of writing for me – and Mark Houlahan’s energy and love of English was always a pleasure to listen to.”

Michelle also tutored screen and media classes and was involved with the University’s student publication, Nexus.

In her job, she swings from attending events to interviewing celebrities to writing and editing articles in the space of a few hours. “There are a lot of things to do and no day is ever the same.

“It’s a real privilege to get to listen to people’s stories and then tell these stories, no matter what publication you work for. My passion is writing and connecting with people.”

Always looking for new challenges, Michelle will shortly be leaving *Girlfriend* to be deputy editor of *New Idea* magazine.

“The role will require me to return to some news-chasing and more long-form writing, which I can’t wait to sink my teeth into. It’s going to be a fantastic new chapter in my career, I hope.”
Education the pathway for family of role models

The Rohorua family has had connections with the University of Waikato for more than a decade – and they’ve certainly left their mark on the University and on the local Pacific community.

Fred, who’s originally from the Solomon Islands, and Halahingano, from Tonga, originally came to Hamilton in 2001 in search of a safer place to raise their four sons.

“We’d been at the University of the South Pacific in Suva, Fiji, but with the coups there it wasn’t a safe place to raise a family, so we decided to move,” says Hala. “We had no job to come to, but we were certain New Zealand would be a better environment for our kids.”

While Fred embarked on his PhD in the School of Māori & Pacific Development at the University of Waikato, Hala – with a masters degree in Business Administration from USP – found work teaching economics at the then Foundation Studies Centre.

The children were settled into local schools, and almost immediately Hala found herself running a homework club in her garage for Pacific students.

“We always checked up on our boys’ homework,” she says. “We don’t have land or wealth here in New Zealand, our investment is in our children’s brains. Then my brother’s two boys started to come along on Saturdays for me to check their school work – and I was shocked at their spelling. Next thing, others wanted to send their kids along.”

The Saturday morning homework club grew from six kids to more than 100 – and to keep the kids focused and on task, Hala bakes muffins. “Most of them come because they love my cooking,” she jokes.

Hala says many Pacific parents work long hours in factories or on farms, and their children don’t always get the academic support from home that they need to succeed.

“At high school, it isn’t cool to be smart, it makes them different from the other Pacific kids. But education is the key to breaking the poverty cycle. People ask me: Where do you get the energy? But when I see a Pacific person graduating from university who’s been through the homework club, that’s priceless.”

All her own boys have gone on to study at the University of Waikato – and still help out with the homework club.

The oldest, Luke, graduated with a social sciences degree in 2011, while twins Josh and William both graduated in April 2012. Josh has a business analysis degree in finance and economics, and will begin officer training with the New Zealand Army next year; William achieved a first class honours degree in mechanical engineering, and now has a scholarship to complete his masters. Youngest son, David, is partway through a law degree.

The Rohorua family was supported in their studies by Tertiary Achievement in Pacific Ako (TAPA) awards, established by the University of Waikato to encourage Pacific Island students to pursue tertiary studies.

Hala herself has gone on to juggle work with study, completing her PhD in 2009. She still teaches, and is a key researcher on the Pacific Island-New Zealand Migration Study (PINZMS), working with Professor John Gibson analysing the impacts of migration on Pacific families, a subject close to her heart.

Husband Fred became the first Pacific person to graduate with a doctorate from SMPD in 2007, and is now Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Education back in the Solomon Islands.

“It’s a sacrifice for the family to be apart, but we see it as a privilege to be able to render humble service to our people and place of origin,” says Hala.

This Christmas will be a special one for the Rohorua family – the last before the boys go their separate ways. “They’re now in their mid-20s and all living at home, but next year they will all move on,” says Hala. “Maybe we have been overprotective, but we wanted to give them our support and we wanted them to stick to our values.”

One of the most influential of these has been their Christian faith and belief. Since migrating from Fiji, the Rohorua family has made St Peter’s Anglican Cathedral Church in Hamilton their local parish and spiritual home.

And every graduation ceremony for a Rohorua at the University of Waikato Marae – which is five graduations so far – has always been followed with a thanksgiving service at St Peter’s.

“For the family, the church service is an opportunity to give thanks for our academic success,” explains Hala. “It’s also a tangible way of saying thank you to our fellow parishioners for their prayers, community support and acceptance of our family since making our home here in Hamilton.”

The Rohorua family do not see themselves as unique. But they believe their experience demonstrates that a pathway through education is entirely possible for other Pacific families through a humble faith, determined focus, and strong family and community values and aspirations.

PROUD MOMENT: Members of the Rohorua family celebrating twins Josh and William’s graduation from the University of Waikato in April 2012.
New project will create string of iconic buildings

The University of Waikato will mark its 50th anniversary with the construction of a flagship new building for its law and management faculties.

Plans are underway for a multi-million dollar building to house Te Piringa - Faculty of Law, Waikato Management School’s Centre for Corporate & Executive Education and student services.

Tendering is expected to take place during 2013 and it’s anticipated that construction will be completed in early 2015 – the year after the University turns 50.

The new building will feature a striking rectilinear five-storey office tower with vertical sunshade vanes referencing the tukutuku reed panels in a traditional meeting house. The tower will be linked at ground level to the existing management building on Hillcrest Road.

Head of Facilities Management John Cameron says the high-profile site will complete a string of three iconic campus facilities.

“CUTTING EDGE: The proposed Law and Management building will boast sustainable design features such as natural ventilation and glazed walls to maximise natural light and energy.”

New partnership to boost sporting excellence

The University of Waikato is partnering with the Home of Cycling Charitable Trust to develop a range of research and consultancy services around community and high-performance sport in the Waikato.

As the Tertiary Education Partner, the University will have tertiary naming rights for the National Cycling Centre of Excellence (Avantidrome) complex, and access to high-quality facilities for staff and students.

The Avantidrome will be located near St Peter’s School just north of Cambridge and will consist of a velodrome and associated space for athletes and administrators.

Under the partnership, the University of Waikato plans to further develop teaching and research in sport science, management and related areas, and will be the preferred institution in the region to deliver professional development and postgraduate opportunities for BikeNZ and High Performance Sport New Zealand.

“The University’s $1 million investment in the partnership will be spread over five years, and will provide access to facilities worth $28.5 million, and enhanced research opportunities.

“Our investment with the Home of Cycling Charitable Trust will enhance the University of Waikato’s position as the key provider in the region in the area of high performance sport and excellence,” says Vice-Chancellor Professor Roy Crawford.

The new building will provide teaching rooms, offices, dedicated spaces for postgraduate students, shared student services, shared computer labs, a reception area and a ceremonial space for meetings with University visitors.

It will also include a fully functional moot courtroom, and a sunken courtyard.

“We’re committed to delivering a world-class education and research portfolio,” says Vice-Chancellor Professor Roy Crawford. “And to do that, we need top-quality facilities. The new building will nurture collaboration and allow for the growth and development of our faculties of law and management, as well as enhancing our superb campus.”

Professor Crawford says the new facilities will allow the Centre for Corporate & Executive Education to extend its programmes serving businesses in the region, and will also create space for new law research centres – the Māori and Indigenous Governance Centre and the Centre for Environmental Resources and Energy Law as well as Waikato Management School’s Institute for Business Research.

“It’s anticipated that construction will be completed in early 2015 – the year after the University turns 50.”

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The first of the University Halls of Residence upgrades is complete. College Hall’s D Block (CHD) has been refurbished from top to bottom at a cost of about $3.7 million and the students have moved in. The roof has been replaced and the building earthquake-proofed to a higher standard. Some rooms have disappeared to make way for new and bigger common rooms on each floor and the bathrooms have been upgraded beyond recognition. “It’s really smart,” says Buildings Maintenance Manager Trevor Harris.

“People will actually find them a pleasure to use, and individual rooms have been completely refitted; gutted for re-flooring, repainting, new and bigger beds, new joinery and more power and data points.

“Technology has come a long way since the halls were built about 50 years ago and we needed to accommodate the needs of today’s students,” says Mr Harris. “So far the feedback has been good.”

Rod Arnold, manager of College Hall says what’s especially good is the amount of light that now streams into what used to be a rather dark building.

“It was quite depressing in winter, but now it’s a lot brighter. The colours are bold and the lounges are a lot more user-friendly. The internet should be a lot more reliable now too, and there won’t be any more leaks in the roof.”

Mr Arnold says they’ll survey the students to gather feedback about the new-look D block.

“The architects are keen for us to get feedback – then if there are any issues, they can be addressed before we start work on C Block.”

The work on CHC Block will start shortly and, money permitting, upgrades to other halls on campus will be carried out progressively over the next few years with as little disruption to students as possible.

Says Mr Harris: “There are around 1,000 beds on campus and we’ve made a commercial decision not to lose any more than 100 beds at any given time.”

The University of Waikato already has existing applied research strengths in athlete development and performance, sports coaching and coach development educational programmes. It is anticipated access to high performance facilities at the Avantidrome will enable Sport and Leisure Studies within the Faculty of Education to substantially grow its externally funded research income and enhance its programmes.

“There are significant benefits in this investment for enhancing the Waikato student experience, increasing access to research opportunities, and growing our regional and national sporting links,” says Professor Crawford.

“The Avantidrome will be an extension of the excellent facilities available on our campus – and there are many synergies to be gained from sharing.”

Work has already begun on the Avantidrome, and with completion anticipated at the end of 2013, students and researchers from the University of Waikato can expect to be taking up the opportunities provided by this world-class facility in 2014.
Heavy metal and plenty of it

The University of Waikato basked in Olympic glory as many of its current and former students starred in London 2012.

Double sculls gold medallists Nathan Cohen and Joseph Sullivan, mainlanders by birth, both studied at Waikato; Nathan graduated in absentia with a Bachelor of Management Studies in October this year and Joseph is on his way towards a Bachelor of Sport and Leisure Studies (BSpLS).

In London they timed their run to perfection, thrilling the nation as they mowed the field down over the last 500m to deliver New Zealand’s first gold medal of the Games.

Rowing’s bronze medallist Juliette Haigh completed a Graduate Diploma in Public Relations at Waikato in 2011 and her partner in the coxless pair Rebecca Scown has also studied at Waikato.

Fi Paterson and Anna Reymer competed in the women’s double sculls. Fi completed a Bachelor of Social Sciences while Anna’s been working towards a BSpLS.

Emma Twigg, who did a Bachelor of Communication Studies, competed in the final of the women’s singles sculls.

Other Waikato students past and present who rowed at Eton Dorney were Julia Edward, Sarah Gray, John Storey and Jade Uru.

Former Hillary Scholar and BSpLS alumna Cathryn Finlayson scored the one and only goal in the Black Sticks victory against Australia and 31-year-old Blair Hopping in the men’s Black Sticks completed sports and teaching qualifications at Waikato. Hugo Inglis also began his law degree at Waikato.

Cyclist Rushlee Buchanan, now riding out of the US, studied science at Waikato and competed in the women’s team pursuit, while former national rower Jaime Nielsen, who did a Bachelor of Science at the University of Waikato, rode the team sprint.

Waikato University also had Olympians in the women’s football: Sarah McLaughlin (BSpLS) and Holly Patterson (engineering).

Olympic medals: Academic provides an alternative perspective

Iran, Hungary and New Zealand were the most improved nations in the London 2012 Olympic medal tally, according to University of Waikato number cruncher Associate Professor David Coy.

He’s analysed medal hauls for the past four Olympics on the basis of each participating country’s GDP, population size and Olympic squad size.

His calculations are based on five points for a gold medal, three points for silver and one point for a bronze.

The nations that improved most compared with the 2008 Beijing Olympics were Hungary which increased its medal count from 10 to 17, medal points from 33 to 57, and overall ranking from 33rd to 10th, and New Zealand (nine to 13 medals, 23 to 41 points, and 27th to 15th position).

The standout achiever was Iran, says Dr Coy. “Iran improved from 47th in Beijing to eighth on this basis, and its medal points tally from six to 38. In fact, Iran’s points tally of 38 is close to New Zealand’s 41, yet Iran achieved this outcome with only 53 competing athletes compared with New Zealand’s 184!”

Australia on the other hand fell from fifth to eighth place, and its points total dropped by 28% from 132 to 95.

Calculating medal points based on per capita GDP and population size together, the medals table revealed the same countries in the top five in London as in Beijing – Ethiopia, China, Kenya, Russia and Ukraine.

2012 Uni Blues

At this year’s Wallace Corporation University of Waikato Blues Awards netballer Laura Langman and world U23 rowing champion Hayden Cohen took the top sports awards. Music’s Adam Maha won the Pou Ahurea award for Māori person of the year and cellist Santiago Cañón Valencia was creative and performing arts person of the year.
Women’s rugby on the up

After a six-year absence, Waikato Women’s rugby is back in the first division and University club players make up most of the provincial team.

“It’s testimony to a combination of young talent coming through the University club, and having a strong support and coaching base,” says club manager Crystal Kaua (pictured).

“We’ve been working hard to build the bridge between school and club rugby in the Waikato.”

Varsity players have been coached this season by Waikato Chiefs players Liam Messam and Jackson Willison and Crystal says they’re grateful for the support they’ve had from the Waikato Union.

She’s hopeful that by the 2013 season, there’ll be enough teams in the region to hold a Waikato pre-season competition.

“Some time ago Waikato was one of the strongest provinces in women’s rugby and we’re pleased that it’s showing signs of rejuvenation.”

Crystal, a former New Zealand rep, says women’s rugby is growing because of new opportunities to play in big competitions like the Olympic Sevens and the fact the NZRU has a strategic plan for the women’s game.

Alumna named Hong Kong’s top international player

University of Waikato and Varsity Women’s Rugby Club alumna Samantha Scott is the Hong Kong Rugby Football Union’s International Women’s Player of the Year.

“The award helps compensate for all the bruises, sore muscles, black eyes and haematomas you get playing rugby,” she says.

Samantha grew up in Hong Kong then completed degrees in management and sport and leisure at Waikato honing her rugby skills at the same time.

During her OE she spent four years playing for the London Wasps before returning to Hong Kong where she now plays semi-professional rugby, supported by the Hong Kong Union.

“During the day I work as a primary school teacher, and have fitness and rugby training before and after work, four days a week. On Saturdays I play in the women’s premier league, which is made up of players from all around the world, and on Sundays we have sessions in the pool.”

During her time playing in Hong Kong, Samantha has played in the Asian Games and toured with her team during the Asian Four Nations tournament.

Waikato University Women win their Great Race

Waikato University women rowed to victory in the 2012 Gallagher Great Race, while the men had to settle for second.

The women’s eight beat Sydney and Queensland university crews over the 3.85 kilometre course to win the Bryan Gould Cup, while the men had to hand over the silverware to Sydney University who beat Waikato and Queensland to secure the Harry Mahon Trophy.

Secondary school crews from around the country also took to the waters in the Head of the Waikato challenge, a pre-event to the Gallagher Great Race.

Auckland Grammar beat Hamilton Boy’s High School and Macleans College, while Waikato Diocesan beat Craighead Diocesan from Timaru and Hamilton’s Hillcrest High in the girls race.

A WIN FOR THE WOMEN: Waikato University’s women’s team win the Bryan Gould Cup in the Gallagher Great Race.

BATTLE ON THE WAIKATO: The men’s team placed second to Sydney University in the 2012 Gallagher Great Race.
Working for Rio+20 – Doing his best to make a difference

Waikato economics graduate James Tee recently wrapped up a stint at the United Nations where he worked for the Rio+20 Conference – the forum where more than 100 world leaders, along with thousands of participants from governments, the private sector, NGOs and other groups, all came together in Rio de Janeiro to shape how we can reduce poverty, advance social equity and ensure environmental protection on an increasingly crowded planet.

After completing a PhD at Canterbury University in 2001, James had a successful international career with Vodafone. During that time, he also completed an MBA through Henley Management College in the UK.

"While I was working for Vodafone, I had the opportunity to represent the company at the World Business Council for Sustainable Development as part of the Council’s Young Managers Team programme. That was my first ever exposure to sustainable development."

Later, back in New Zealand, James worked for the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and became a member of New Zealand’s international climate change negotiations team for the United Nations COP15 climate change conference in Copenhagen. He also enrolled part-time at Waikato to study a Master of Philosophy in economics.

In 2010, he joined the United Nations Development Programme in New York as a climate policy specialist, and a year later he was on special assignment for the Rio+20 Conference.

"At the UN Secretariat for Rio+20, I helped with negotiations between UN member countries on the outcome document that was adopted at the conference. I provided technical advice to diplomats and negotiators, and also led efforts to collect more than 700 voluntary commitments at Rio+20."

The University of Waikato is part of these voluntary commitments.

"These voluntary commitments are absolutely crucial," says James, "because they are tangible actions with specific completion dates. Collectively, these commitments will nudge the world one step closer towards a sustainable pathway."

When Rio+20 ended, so did James’ time at the UN. He resigned to pick up study again. In September, he began his second PhD – this time in Neuroeconomics – at New York University.

Technology and the Law – Waikato grad now specialist in the UK

When you’re lugging books across campus in the rain, swotting in a damp and draughty flat, it’s hard to picture yourself in smart clobber as a partner in a major UK law firm. Samitha (Sam) De Silva studied law and management (information systems) at Waikato and the combination has taken him across the world to the UK where he’s a partner and head of IT and Outsourcing at Manches LLP in Oxford.

“My father has five degrees and a number of professional qualifications, my mother went to university as a mature student, and so it was instilled in me from a very young age that education was very important.

“When I finished my degrees I started work as a tax consultant at KPMG. I’d enjoyed tax at university, not so much in practice, but I found myself doing a lot of work on e-commerce tax issues and Y2K tax treatment advice and that spurred my interested in being a pure IT lawyer.”

He worked on e-commerce and IT and outsourcing projects around the world before ending up with Manches. The practice has offices in London, Oxford and Reading with about 55 partners, 200 lawyers and around 350 staff in total.

Sam specialises in technology and outsourcing projects, system development and supply, licensing and support and services agreements; he advises clients on their IT and outsourcing in the public and private sectors. “I’m client relationship partner for some big brand-name clients such as Fujifilm, Kenwood Electronics, DX Group and Domestic & General Insurance, and I do work for a lot of specialist leading IT companies. I also regularly advise on e-commerce legal issues and data protection.”

Now Dr De Silva – he did a Doctorate in Business Administration at California Coast University – Sam lives near Oxford with his wife Julieta, a Waikato social sciences and international management graduate, and their young daughter.
Career diplomat on the ball in Afghanistan

John Mataira is currently our man in Afghanistan, where he’s acting Civilian Director of the New Zealand Provincial Reconstruction Team (NZPRT) in Bamyan Province.

The career diplomat lives and works within sight of the famous seventh century Bamyan Buddhas – destroyed by the Taleban in 2001 six months before the bombing of the World Trade Centre in New York.

Also within sight of the NZPRT fortified compound are the ruins of GolGhola, the “city of screams”, where Genghis Khan razed the original city of Bamyan to the ground and destroyed every living thing to avenge the death of his grandson in the 13th century.

Today, Bamyan is one of the war-torn country’s more peaceful provinces, but security remains an issue for both peacekeepers and civilians working in the region.

You have to be staunch for a posting like this. John, who graduated from the University of Waikato with a degree in political science and Japanese, says it’s one of the more interesting assignments he’s been given.

“Working for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade is definitely not all beer and skittles – some assignments involve real hardship and risk, but it’s fascinating and utterly rewarding nevertheless,” he says.

“It’s immensely satisfying to work for New Zealand’s interests overseas across the spectrum of MFAT work – trade negotiations, trade access and promotion, security, aid, bilateral, multilateral, environmental and public diplomacy, and consular work.”

In Bamyan, John’s role is to ensure development goes hand-in-hand with maintaining security. His daily routine involves meetings with local officials and New Zealand’s development partners to discuss security or development issues, and he also visits projects in the field or accompanies VIP visitors.

He lives with the rest of the PRT – a large, multilateral contingent of New Zealand, US, Malaysian and EU military and civilian personnel – in Kiwibase, a wired, fortified “dry” compound in Bamyan Town.

It’s a far cry from his previous posting as Consul-General in Los Angeles. There, in true Tinseltown fashion he rubbed shoulders with movie stars and directors, including Taika Waititi, director of the hugely successful New Zealand feature film Boy, and New Zealand actors Cliff Curtis, Rena Owen and Martin Henderson.

John’s foreign service career began after he completed a law degree at Auckland University on top of his Waikato BA. He was one of seven candidates accepted out of 300 applicants in 1987, and one of only three Māori in that year’s intake.

He says having some Japanese at that time was a huge bonus. “In the late 1980s, Japan was the next superpower, and Japanese opened the door to MFAT. The funny thing is, I only switched to Japanese partway through my Waikato degree – but it proved to be the defining moment of my career.”

Since then, he’s had two postings to Japan, two in the US, and a range of assignments in the Pacific Islands, including security and development experience in Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands, where he was involved in conflict resolution and Bougainville peace-brokering efforts.

In the mid-1990s, John took a year off from MFAT to work as a Japanese ‘salaryman’ in a big corporation in Tokyo, using his language skills and legal training to sell highly specialised printing machines into Europe. He was initially recruited as a rugby player, drawing on his schoolday’s sporting prowess, when he captained the First XV at St Paul’s Collegiate in Hamilton and represented Waikato in U18 and Secondary Schools’ rugby.

John also used his rugby knowledge and connections to help promote the 2011 Rugby World Cup in the US. “I became involved in coaching and supporting rugby in poor inner city areas of South Central Los Angeles, where rugby is transforming the lives of many African-American kids,” he says.

In April 2012, girls’ and boys’ teams from the ICEF charter school movement toured New Zealand, and a documentary, Red, White, Black and Blue, has just been released.

John is now wondering how rugby might go down in Bamyan.

“The local traditional sport, called bushkashi, is like wheelchair rugby or murder ball, but with horses instead of wheelchairs, and a goat carcass instead of a ball.”
FOCUS ON ALUMNI

Former Hillary Scholar now an alumnus with a mission

In November 2011 Jordan Taylor, former Hillary Scholar, accepted a job with international accounting firm Ernst and Young, but after a trip to Cambodia with Habitat for Humanity he decided to dedicate himself to being a missionary.

“I was applying for a Rhodes Scholarship to do my Masters in Oxford in 2012, and got through to the final stage of the application process. I didn’t make it through the final hoop however, but when that door shut, and ruined for me what I perceived to be a safe, practical career, it inspired me to seek an area where I could truly make a difference.”

Jordan is now based in Kona, Hawai’i, with the biggest Youth With A Mission school in the world, where earlier in 2012 he completed a Disciple Training programme. As part of an outreach option the school offers, he spent three months in India working with street orphans and slum families.

“I did six months at Disciple Training School which involved three months of training and teaching and then three months of outreach in India.”

INDIA OUTREACH: Jordan Taylor spent three months in India working with slum families.

After the outreach months, the school invited Jordan to return and help teach new disciples. Early next year he will lead his own team to another country for a 10-week outreach.

“I don’t know where we’re going yet, but I know the work we’ll be doing will be varied. We will be alleviating the burden on current missionaries and providing much-needed hands on deck. We may be involved in teaching English, teaching practical skills like first-aid and water filter construction, and sharing what we believe in, to instil hope in the people, praying and just being there for the people and communities.

“I’ve been told to ‘expect the unexpected’ and that the most crucial thing to having a successful team is unity.”

Jordan’s not the only one in the family to volunteer his services abroad. He’s currently following the footsteps of his mum, who attended and taught at a similar school in 1973, and his dad led a team to Nepal in October for Habitat for Humanity.

Promoting New Zealand business

When Charlotte Simcock (pictured) was at university she thought how cool it would be to market New Zealand overseas. Now she’s doing it. She’s senior communications and marketing manager for New Zealand Trade and Enterprise, based at the New Zealand Consulate General in New York, working with New Zealand businesses wanting to expand into the Americas and overseas companies looking to invest in New Zealand.

“I’m basically pitching New Zealand’s business creativity and innovation into the Americas’ market. I love the fact that what I’m doing keeps me connected to New Zealand.”

Charlotte went to Fairfield College and graduated from Waikato with a Masters in Management Studies in international management and languages – a five-year programme – which allowed her to spend a semester at the University of the South Pacific in Tahiti as part of the French government’s Rainbow Warrior reparation programme.

“But once I’d finished my degree and graduated, I was off on my OE.”

Her first job was as an investment banking analyst in London, and after that she backpacked anywhere and everywhere. “I was in Bolivia at a time when tourism was really taking off. Some Kiwis had set up a bike company on the world’s most dangerous road, gringos were flocking into Bolivia and the local tourism industry was trying to adjust to a new market opportunity. I ended up as a sort of adviser for a hotel chain in La Paz and Coroico which was both a fantastic and crazy experience.” From there she travelled through the Middle East and Southeast Asia.

With an American journalist partner, now her husband, they eventually settled in New York where, after a job with a non-profit micro enterprise agency, Charlotte was appointed Vice-Consul for trade and economic development at the British Consulate. “I managed a team developing strategies for breaking into the US market. I was partially working in the PR space – which I loved – as well as with more direct business development strategies for British companies.”

Then life went into overdrive when she and some former colleagues set up their own international public relations and marketing agency specialising in economic development, inward investment, trade and macro tourism. “I loved it but there is no work-life balance when you are in a start-up, it was normal to work 80 hours a week and forget about weekends. Literally the day after our first child was born I was back working! I realised that I didn’t want to maintain that sort of crazy schedule, so when the job came up at NZTE – somewhere I’d always been interested in working – I applied.”

Even though number two child is on the way, Charlotte plans to keep working. She’s passionate about what she does. “It’s compelling stuff – what’s not to love? I get to tell these amazing stories about New Zealand innovation on the international stage. I really believe that if you feel passionately about something and it resonates with you, you are much more deeply committed to the cause!”
International Affairs all in a day’s work

Simon Nicholson reckons he’s got the best job in the world – he’s a career academic, based in Washington DC at American University in the School of International Service.

He teaches and researches topical issues, primarily the global politics of food and agriculture, global climate and energy concerns and the opportunities and challenges associated with emerging technologies. “I’ve recently written about genetically modified foods, large scale-technological responses to climate change, climate change and human rights, and the US food aid system.”

American University is one of the most highly regarded schools of international affairs in the US and Simon says Waikato set him up well for success at such a prestigious institution.

“I came over the Mamakus from Rotorua to Waikato and did a BMS/LLB. My focus at the management school was economics and in law I focused mostly on alternative dispute resolution and environmental law.”

He stayed on to complete his Masters in Law, was Director of Clinical Legal Education in the Law Faculty and tutored a range of subjects.

“From there I accepted a Fulbright award for graduate study in the US, did my PhD in international relations at American University and stayed on.”

And with a wife and a couple of toddlers, he may be staying put for a while.

“The university system here is markedly different. There are hundreds of institutions of higher education all competing fiercely with one another for students, research funding and status. On top of that is the cost difference. I work in a private institution where undergraduate students can pay upwards of US$40,000 a year. It makes me appreciate just how fortunate I was to study in New Zealand.”

Simon says the beauty of being based in the nation’s capital is having ready access to high-powered people. “And perfect if you’re a student of politics. I have speakers come to my classes from the World Bank, the White House Council on Environmental Quality, USAID, and plenty of other organisations. We had Burmese dissident leader Aung San Suu Kyi on campus last week, and President Barack Obama was the inaugural speaker when we opened a new building.”

Simon’s a man with a social conscience and alongside his teaching and research, serves as a non-resident senior fellow for a think-tank in Colombia and consults to the US Agency for International Development.

He says Washington DC is a remarkable city and an easy place to live. He’s been there 10 years now and is well immersed in the cultural and intellectual life of the city. “My job also gives me the support and freedom to work on issues that I care a great deal about.” He spent a semester on the University of Virginia’s Semester at Sea – a travelling campus, where undergraduates, lifelong learners, faculty, and lecturers live and learn together while circumnavigating the globe. When Simon sailed, Archbishop Desmond Tutu was on the faculty. “He was inspiring, brilliant, and humble. I would have a few words with him many afternoons during our voyage together, as he checked cricket scores on his laptop.”

Simon helps run an undergraduate Global Scholars programme at AU, has developed study abroad programmes in the Galapagos Islands and Costa Rica and established a graduate exchange partnership with Victoria University in Wellington.

But he hasn’t forgotten the University of Waikato where he says many good people had a major influence on his life. “Al Gillespie, Peter Spiller and Stephen Hooper in Law and across the road at WMS, Anna Strutt, John Tressler and Steven Lim were my principal mentors in economics. I’m fortunate to call them teachers, colleagues and friends. At Waikato I was taught that taking on the world’s pressing challenges requires committed action backed by solid thought. And I’ve carried those lessons with me.”

MAKING A DIFFERENCE: Simon Nicholson teaches and researches global food, agriculture, climate and energy issues.
Top scholarship for biomed student

Waikato University computer science student Katie de Lange has been awarded a Woolf Fisher Scholarship, worth about $100,000 a year for up to four years, to study for a PhD at Cambridge University in the UK.

Katie, a Sir Edmund Hillary sailing scholar, is one of three recipients nationwide and only the second Waikato student to win a Woolf Fisher Scholarship, which rewards brilliant young New Zealand graduates who possess leadership skills, boldness of vision and exceptional zeal, keenness and capacity for work – qualities admired by the late Sir Woolf Fisher, co-founder of Fisher and Paykel.

Katie’s field of interest is biomedical informatics, and she’s excited that Cambridge is home to the Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute, one of the leading world centres for analysing and understanding genomes. She is also the recipient of a three-month Google scholarship at the company’s Sydney office, which she will take up before she heads for Cambridge to start her doctoral studies in October next year.

The Woolf Fisher Scholarships were established in 2003 by the Woolf Fisher Trust and are now also supported by the Cambridge Commonwealth Trust.

Four Fulbrights for Waikato

Four University of Waikato students and staff are recipients of prestigious Fulbright Awards.

Kenny Bell plans to spend the next four years at Berkeley, working on his PhD and as a research assistant studying agricultural and resource economics.

PhD student Tanya O’Neill was awarded a Fulbright Travel Award to travel to Oregon in the US to present her research on the effects of human activity on Antarctica. Tanya has been researching the effects of human activity on the Antarctic soil environment for the past four years, and has based a lot of her research on her three trips to the continent.

Masters student Lora Vaioleti headed to California this year, thanks to a Fulbright Scholarship, to continue her research on perceptions of climate change in the Pacific region.

Post-Doctoral Research Fellow Dr Te Raukura Roa from SMPD is a Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence at the University of Hawai’i in Mānoa, Honolulu. The award assists US higher education institutions to expand programmes of academic exchange and in Hawai’i Dr Roa is teaching Māori language proficiency courses and a course on performing arts and traditional song poetry.

Fieldays Scholarships

Two University of Waikato science and engineering students Mark Benseman and Max Arrowsmith were awarded inaugural National Agricultural Fieldays Scholarships in 2012.

The $11,000 scholarships are aimed at graduate students undertaking research at the University of Waikato with a specific focus on the agricultural sector.

Mark Benseman has come up with an idea to help calculate the amount of dry matter in any given paddock and hopes to have a prototype ready for Fieldays next year.

Max Arrowsmith wants to find out if precision agriculture methods can be applied to steep hill country land areas to maximise fertiliser use.

His work will take place at Blue Duck Station, 43km south west of Taumarunui, and will involve creating a model to predict the distribution of fertiliser across farmland with difficult terrain.
Paying it forward one charity at a time

Bachelor of Management Studies graduate Dan Necklen is passionate about marketing. Since graduating with First Class Honours in 2006 he's put his marketing nous to good use – he's had a hand in several successful start-up companies and even established a charitable organisation. Not bad for a guy who started off picking apples in Napier.

Originally from Tauranga, Dan completed a Diploma of Business at the Bay of Plenty Polytechnic in 2003, which he then cross-credited to a BMS, majoring in marketing, at the University of Waikato. After he graduated he was part of the management team that led Hamilton restaurant Iguana to the Westpac Business of the Year Award in 2008.

“Completing the BMS at Waikato helped prove to myself that I can set my mind to something and achieve it – and it shows others I can stick to it,” says Dan.

After a stint as a business analyst, Dan recently branched out on his own with The Likeable Marketing Co, a Tauranga-based marketing consultancy helping small businesses become, as he says, “more awesome” through the use of social media marketing.

“I eat, sleep, work, live and breathe marketing, and have done so for the last eight years,” he says.

And it's not just small businesses that are benefiting from Dan's marketing know-how.

In June 2010 Dan's son Max was diagnosed with leukaemia at the age of two. Dan jumped into action, and along with several mates raised a massive $18,000 for the Child Cancer Foundation.

Dan says he and wife Alicia couldn't quite believe it when Max was diagnosed. “It seemed surreal,” he says. But they remained optimistic.

“I’ve always believed that you can find the positive side of any situation. Fundraising for Child Cancer was the positive side for us and it kept us in the right frame of mind when Max started his treatment.”

With fundraising success behind him, Dan was inspired to keep up the good work and now heads the team behind 4good, a charitable organisation where subscribers donate $4 to a different New Zealand charity each month.

“I wanted to pay forward the amazing support that Max received during his initial treatment, so in January 2011 the 4good charitable trust was formed.

“As a group, we were sick of those traditional fundraising methods where people gave based on guilt,” he says. “We wanted people to feel good about giving, and we didn’t want the dollar amount or having to choose a charity get in the way.”

4good has 283 (and growing) subscribers, and Dan has plans to raise $4,000 a month by 4good's second birthday in 2013.

Dan remains passionate about Tauranga’s thriving business community, and hopes to further develop and grow the success of The Likeable Marketing Co.

“But the number one goal at present is to get to the end of Max's treatment for leukaemia in August next year. And after that, we’d like to take a trip to the US to celebrate!”
Initial findings released in nationwide university study

In a world first, 14,000 final-year university students from all New Zealand universities, including 1,100 from Waikato, have been asked about their university experiences and future expectations.

The survey was part of the Graduate Longitudinal Study New Zealand (GLSNZ), a project commissioned by Universities New Zealand, run by Otago University and funded by the Tertiary Education Commission and the Ministries of Education and Women’s Affairs.

The same respondents will be approached in two, five and 10 years’ time to determine how their university education influenced their lives.

This survey has been designed to better understand how students fare during their university experience and in the years following graduation, in terms of lifestyle, employment, career development, health and well-being.

Results are starting to be analysed and show that in the near future (the next two years), three quarters of the graduates expected to pursue their career, with a number of this group also working in jobs to ensure income.

Almost half (45.1%) anticipated undertaking further study during this period and while the majority (82.6%) plan to work in New Zealand, a significant proportion (37.2%) also plan to work overseas (which suggests many of them plan to spend some time both in New Zealand and off shore during the next two years).

Waikato student entrepreneurs at global competition

A team of Waikato students represented New Zealand at the Enactus World Cup in Washington DC, competing against 38 student teams from around the world – and they got the chance to meet New Zealand’s ambassador to the US.

Enactus is the new name for Students In Free Enterprise (SIFE), a global umbrella for tertiary students to work as a club to use their learning to enhance their local community through economic, social and environmental initiatives.

The students had to present their projects, take part in a series of challenges and showcase New Zealand at a cultural exhibition. Their projects included an environmental initiative to encourage Waikato farmers to plant native trees around waterways, one called Easy Rider that focused on transport for the disabled and elderly, and a third that involved working with at risk youth in education.

The US team won the competition, followed by Egypt who’d previously won in 2010.

During the trip the students had a chance to meet Hon Mike Moore ONZM for afternoon tea at the New Zealand Embassy in Washington. The current New Zealand ambassador to the US was a former New Zealand Prime Minister and Director-General of the World Trade Organisation in 1999-2002.

Mr Moore gave an insight into the New Zealand-USA relationship, and also answered many entrepreneur-related questions asked by the students.

Language excellence celebrated

University of Waikato Professor of Reo and Tikana, Pou Temara, was acknowledged at the national Te Waka Toi Awards that celebrate excellence in Māori arts when he received the Te Tohu Aroha mo Ngoi Kumeroa Pewhairangi award for his extensive knowledge of whakākōrero (oratory), whakapapa (genealogy) and karakia (prayers and incantations).

Professor Temara was appointed to the Waitangi Tribunal in 2008 and chairs the Repatriation Advisory Panel to Te Papa. He is one of three directors of Te Panekiretanga o te Reo (the Institute of Excellence in Māori Language).

The supreme award at the awards went to Dr Timoti Kāretu QSO (Ngāti Kahungunu, Ngāi Tūhoe) who has an honorary doctorate from the University of Waikato.

Initial findings released in nationwide university study

In a world first, 14,000 final-year university students from all New Zealand universities, including 1,100 from Waikato, have been asked about their university experiences and future expectations.

The survey was part of the Graduate Longitudinal Study New Zealand (GLSNZ), a project commissioned by Universities New Zealand, run by Otago University and funded by the Tertiary Education Commission and the Ministries of Education and Women’s Affairs.

The same respondents will be approached in two, five and 10 years’ time to determine how their university education influenced their lives.

This survey has been designed to better understand how students fare during their university experience and in the years following graduation, in terms of lifestyle, employment, career development, health and well-being.

Results are starting to be analysed and show that in the near future (the next two years), three quarters of the graduates expected to pursue their career, with a number of this group also working in jobs to ensure income.

Almost half (45.1%) anticipated undertaking further study during this period and while the majority (82.6%) plan to work in New Zealand, a significant proportion (37.2%) also plan to work overseas (which suggests many of them plan to spend some time both in New Zealand and off shore during the next two years).

Waikato student entrepreneurs at global competition

A team of Waikato students represented New Zealand at the Enactus World Cup in Washington DC, competing against 38 student teams from around the world – and they got the chance to meet New Zealand’s ambassador to the US.

Enactus is the new name for Students In Free Enterprise (SIFE), a global umbrella for tertiary students to work as a club to use their learning to enhance their local community through economic, social and environmental initiatives.

The students had to present their projects, take part in a series of challenges and showcase New Zealand at a cultural exhibition. Their projects included an environmental initiative to encourage Waikato farmers to plant native trees around waterways, one called Easy Rider that focused on transport for the disabled and elderly, and a third that involved working with at risk youth in education.

The US team won the competition, followed by Egypt who’d previously won in 2010.

During the trip the students had a chance to meet Hon Mike Moore ONZM for afternoon tea at the New Zealand Embassy in Washington. The current New Zealand ambassador to the US was a former New Zealand Prime Minister and Director-General of the World Trade Organisation in 1999-2002.

Mr Moore gave an insight into the New Zealand-USA relationship, and also answered many entrepreneur-related questions asked by the students.

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Waikato paddlers salute the Queen on the Thames

Three University of Waikato students, past and present, were in the 14-man crew that paddled the waka taua Te Hono ki Aotearoa up the Thames for the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee celebrations this year.

Namaka Barclay-Kerr, his younger brother Turanga, and Rutene Gabel are all seasoned paddlers, in and out of waka since they were at primary school.

“I started out as a bailer,” says Namaka, “and paddled my first single waka when I was five.” Now 23, Namaka, his 18-year-old brother and his father were in the waka Tahere Tikiti that accompanied the Māori Queen down the Waikato River to her final resting place on Taupiri Mountain and they’ve paddled at many major events – coronations and Waitangi celebrations.

“I’m used to paddling big waka – with up to 50 men – and that’s hard work,” says Namaka. “As steerer, you have to be able to read the water and know well in advance what you’re going to do, especially when you have to turn, but the waka we had on the Thames was much smaller and easier to manoeuvre.”

The issue on the Thames was dealing with the 999 other boats that were on the water at the same time. For Namaka, it was overwhelming.

“I’d never been part of something like this – the closest was paddling the waka in Auckland at the Rugby World Cup, but this was something else again.”

They had to be at the river by 7am and didn’t start paddling until 11am. They finally got off the water around three o’clock. Namaka says there was a plan for all the crews to follow, but no one did. “And it was freezing. Once we’d gone under Tower Bridge we pulled over and put on some warm clothes we’d stashed in waterproof bags in the bottom of the waka.

“But what a fantastic experience. We got a bit of a nod and a wave from the Queen. All the crews were supposed to salute her at the same time, but everyone just did their own thing and she acknowledged our salute and moved to the side of her boat for a better look. She’s shorter than you think.”

The waka taua very nearly didn’t make it onto the water at all. Organisers had issues around its safety and Namaka says it was only when New Zealand Prime Minister John Key stepped in that the crew got the go-ahead to take part.

They prepared by having three intense training wānanga in Hamilton which included on- and off-river work, plus haka and waiata practices. They trained in a waka taua named Whakāngi which was carved from the same 800-year-old tree as the waka they used on the Thames.

Te Hono ki Aotearoa is on permanent loan to the Volkenkunde Museum in Leiden in the Netherlands. It was built as a waka for Europe and is used to promote Māori arts, culture and New Zealand at events throughout Europe.

Busy at the keyboard

Author Michael Morrissey launched his autobiography Taming the Tiger and had a book of poetry and a novel published during his time as University of Waikato’s 2012 Writer in Residence.

Memory Gene Pool is his 11th volume of poetry and Michael says it’s his best yet, covering topics such as time, the moon and the sea, family and also his dealing with bipolar disorder.

His new novel Tropic of Skorpeo is a “sci-fi fantasy in satiric-thriller mode” and according to its publisher Steam Press, it will “blow your socks off – sexy, shocking, and hilarious, this is the story that Lewis Carroll would have written if he’d been into science fiction and consumed more than his fair share of LSD”.

Michael also has a novel under consideration by a publisher. It’s about his Catholic childhood set against the background of the last polio epidemic (before the vaccination arrived) and he’s working on two short novels.

“Definitely a productive year,” he says. “I’m grateful to have been awarded the residency, it’s allowed me to focus totally on my writing, and that’s a real luxury.”
Sustainability research at the University of Waikato has been given a boost with the establishment of a new endowment fund.

A bequest made by the late Zena Daysh has seen the University receive $500,000 to support research related to sustainability and establish the Dr Zena Daysh Doctoral Fellowship in Sustainability.

Zena Daysh was awarded an Honorary Doctorate in 2009 from the University of Waikato in recognition of her international contribution to human ecology and sustainable communities. Human ecology is the study of the relationship between groups of people and their environment.

Although New Zealand born, she lived in London for more than 50 years and founded the Commonwealth Human Ecology Council, which aimed to influence Commonwealth governments to create policies that would support sustainable communities and a sustainable world.

As well as a CNZM from New Zealand, she was awarded the inaugural New Zealand Inspired Lifetime Achievement Award and received a United Nations Habitat Scroll of Honour Award.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Roy Crawford says the University is pleased to be able to offer a scholarship of this kind.

"Sustainability is integral to our teaching and learning and Zena was a pioneer of sustainability. "She promoted university programmes all over the world that motivated individuals and groups to take a holistic and environmentally sustainable approach to development."

The Dr Zena Daysh Doctoral Fellowship in Sustainability is available to postgraduate students across a wide range of subject areas.

Bequest gives sustainability research a boost

SUSTAINABLE BEQUEST: Chancellor Jim Bolger, Mr John Bonham (Executor of Dr Zena Daysh estate and holding a picture of a young Zena Daysh), Vice-Chancellor Professor Roy Crawford.

Supporting the University’s Journey of Excellence

Distinguished alumnus and Welsh Rugby Coach Warren Gatland will headline the University of Waikato appeal to alumni and friends. Look for your appeal brochure arriving in the post or via email in the next few weeks.

Warren Gatland embodies the Waikato spirit of excellence, leadership and international connectedness. The Gatland family has a long association with the University, and we are grateful for their generosity in allowing us to showcase Warren’s success.

Gifts from our alumni and friends are directed to strategic priorities that support the University’s goal to rank among the best in Australasia. You can support scholarships in the faculty of your choice, or the University’s areas of excellence in its five research institutes. The University of Waikato’s Endowment Fund and the new Law and Management Building will also feature in the appeal. You can choose to add your support to our endowment fund, which was created in 2011 by a generous $2.5 million donation from the Gallagher Group and family.

The new Law and Management building will be part of the celebrations of the University’s 50th anniversary in 2014. This project reflects our commitment to delivering a world-class education and research portfolio in a top-notch facility.

By making a gift to the University of Waikato you are contributing to a charitable foundation. New Zealand taxpayers are entitled to a generous tax rebate of 33.33% on charitable donations – and this includes gifts to the University of Waikato Foundation. Overseas donors may also be able to claim tax in their country. Please visit our website www.waikato.ac.nz for more information.

We hope our alumni and friends will feel inspired to support the University of Waikato in its journey of excellence.

For more information contact Sharon Roux, Fundraising Manager: sroux@waikato.ac.nz or +647 838 4693.
New to Foundation

Former New Zealand hockey player Jon Tanner is passionate about sport and education. His decision to join the University of Waikato Foundation as a trustee has a lot to do with his belief that universities are in the business of turning out all-round successful individuals.

The first recipients are Alex Hitchmough, Joshua Blue and Caitlin Easter and the scholarship covers travel, accommodation and a daily allowance for up to three weeks.

“First, I’m big on community development and would ultimately like to work for the United Nations, so this seemed like a good opportunity to get some experience in a new and very different location from what I’m used to. Second, I’ve gained so much from being a Hillary Scholar, I thought this would be a chance to give something back.”

Josh Blue and Caitlin Easter say they are grateful for such a unique opportunity and keen to see the full extent of Sir Ed’s influence on the Khumbu region.

General Manager Operations at Compass New Zealand Rod de Vries says they chose to make the Step Higher Award to support the University and add to what is already an outstanding programme for hardworking and talented scholars. Hillary Scholars have their course fees paid, receive training and mentoring in their chosen sport or performing art, and have leadership training throughout their time at university.

Tackling an Everest Marathon

Former Hillary Scholar and Graphic Design graduate Chris Dunn is an outdoors kind of man, a qualified snowboard instructor and international-level wakeboarder, and now he’s training to run 42km from Everest base camp at 5364 metres down to Namche Bazaar at 3446 metres.

“It’s mostly downhill, but there are a some pretty steep climbs as well, and the terrain is rough with possible snow and ice cover to deal with too.” The race is known as the Hillary Tenzing Everest Marathon and is world’s highest trail-running event. “I got a lot out of being a Hillary Scholar and it seems right to go and get a bit of a taste of what Sir Ed endured on the mountain.” Chris is currently looking for sponsorship for the race in May. He can be contacted at chris@chrisdunn.com.au
Waikato mathematics graduate finds his place in the sun

An outstanding Waikato mathematics graduate is spending the next two years in one of the most exuberant cities in the world.

Jethro van Ekeren gained his doctorate earlier this year at the prestigious Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in Boston in the United States, and has now begun post-doctoral work at the Instituto Nacional de Matematicas Pura e Aplicada in Rio de Janeiro in Brazil.

"I'm having to get my head around Portuguese – luckily I did a bit of Spanish at high school, which helps," says the former Hamilton Boys' High School student, who'll be researching the complex algebras that lie at the interface of mathematics and theoretical physics.

At MIT, he completed his PhD under the supervision of Professor Victor Kac, who discovered one of the algebras Jethro is now working on.

He's also a keen amateur astronomer, although he didn't get much opportunity to stargaze during his four years at MIT.

"In Boston you have to drive for hours to get away from the light," he says.

Jethro grew up in Auckland, Whangarei and Hamilton, and says he's always been interested in maths. "When I was about 11, Mum started maths classes at the polytechnic in Whangarei and taught me some of the stuff she was learning – quadratics, graphing, that sort of thing. Then I started to get maths books out of the library."

The turning point came when he had the opportunity to take part in the International Maths Olympiad. He was one of six senior high school students to represent New Zealand at the 2004 Maths Olympiad, held in Greece, winning a bronze medal for his efforts.

At the University of Waikato, he excelled with A+ grades in every paper he took for his honours degree. He also completed a summer research project in Sydney. "That project was useful preparation for MIT," he says. "It was a first taste of what doing maths research is like – definitely valuable and a lot of fun."

The experience helped win him a Fulbright – Ministry of Science and Innovation Graduate Award for his doctoral studies at MIT.

Jethro acknowledges the help he's received from his honours year adviser Professor Ernie Kalnins and Dr Ian Hawthorne from Waikato University's Maths Department. "Ian was the best maths teacher I've had since my high school teacher at Hamilton Boys' High," he says.

MATHS WHIZZ: Jethro van Ekeren gained his doctorate earlier this year from MIT.

FOCUS ON ALUMNI

Re-engineering Christchurch

Engineering geologist Kit Lawrence (pictured) moved to Christchurch before finishing his degree, after getting a job offer from out of the blue.

Support service giant AECOM was looking for graduates to help to rebuild Christchurch after the earthquakes, and Kit's CV crossed the right desk at the right time.

"My supervisor Karsten Zegwaard must have sent my CV far and wide. I got a call from a guy in Auckland who had seen my CV. He passed it on to AECOM and a person from there called me up. I did a phone interview and a couple of weeks later I was living down in Christchurch."

Kit is part of a growing geotechnical team, providing geotechnical assessment for industrial and commercial sites around Christchurch.

"What we are doing is examining commercial and industrial properties, doing the preliminary reports for foundation repairs. For new buildings we're testing for ground strength, liquefaction potential, and against standardised earthquake events and things like that.

"Everything in Christchurch has a crack in it – it's quite amazing – within 20 metres you can have a huge land variability. Every property needs something, and we've got a substantial work load ahead of us.

"I'm really stoked I could go down there and help. Just when you think you've seen all the devastated areas you're amazed again by the enormity of it."

Kit returned to university in B Semester and finished his BSc and heads back to Christchurch in February to continue working at AECOM.
Zen Under Fire

Author Marianne Elliott says Afghanistan, its people and the conflict there are widely misunderstood, and it’s for this reason she wrote about her experiences there in Zen Under Fire. “And also because humanitarian work is often romanticised and I wanted to tell an honest story about the challenges of the work and the toll it can take.”

The book came out earlier this year and quickly jumped onto the non-fiction best seller list. She says she’s always had an interest in social justice and human rights and the law. She studied law at Waikato and her honours supervisor Paul Hunt was the UN Special Rapporteur on the right to health.

“He not only taught me about human rights and the international legal system, he also recommended me for my first human rights job.” That was in the Gaza Strip where Marianne was an international legal adviser for a Palestinian human rights organisation. She saw things most of us never will. She saw children shot. She attended autopsies where the victims had allegedly been tortured. She was also involved in a case in which a mob had broken into a police station and lynched two Israeli soldiers. “To see that kind of thing is very hard to process.”

In Afghanistan she was a human rights officer for the UN, monitoring human rights issues in the Western Region of Afghanistan. “And that included the police, courts, prisons, violence against women and children’s rights.”

Some days she would be visiting prison to check on detainees; she’d meet local women’s advocates and plan joint events to promote women’s rights; some days she was investigating allegations of police violence. “And there was always report writing and filing lots of administrative forms – it was the UN after all.”

There was not a lot of on-the-ground-support from her employer but Marianne says she coped well initially. “My career had trained me to deal with whatever was thrown my way and no matter how chaotic things felt, or how confused and incompetent I felt, I knew how to get on with the job and make it look like I knew what I was doing. But as time went by, I didn’t manage so well. My work and health suffered, and while I didn’t recognise it at the time, I was suffering from trauma and depression.”

It helped to write down how she was feeling and she used yoga and meditation to help her process her emotions and get through a difficult time.

Nearly four years on, Marianne says her feelings about Afghanistan and its people remain complex. “But in all my travels I can’t think of a more resilient population, and long-term, I’m confident that the people will forge a better future for themselves and their country. I’m not alone when I say that the long-term solution will not be a military solution.”

Her life is quieter these days. Based in Wellington, she has done some consulting work for an Afghan women’s organisation, is doing some freelance writing and is working with a US publisher on an American version of Zen Under Fire which will come out in June 2013 and the German edition is due out in September. She also teaches yoga and meditation for stress management to humanitarian workers.
Guiding the fortunes of Māori land in Taranaki

She’s Māori, she has two management degrees from the University of Waikato – and she’s the hand on the tiller for the largest corporate dairy farmer in the Taranaki region, Paraninihi ki Waitotara Incorporation (PKW).

Chartered accountant Hinerangi Raumati became PKW’s first female chairperson last year, just five years after being elected the organisation’s first woman director.

She’s responsible for guiding the financial fortunes of 20,000 hectares of Taranaki Māori land – much of which was confiscated by the government in 1892. Most of the land is farmed under perpetual leases, but 2,500 hectares are actively managed by PKW, making the organisation Fonterra’s largest milk supplier in the region.

PKW’s game plan is to gradually buy back the leases, but Mrs Raumati says it’s likely to be a slow process given the organisation’s limited resources. “We wait until these properties come up for sale and then we make a decision. Over the last 10 years we’ve purchased 50 leases, so only another 295 to go.”

She says PKW will also look to move up the value chain in the longer term. “Māori are more and more active in the dairy sector; take for example the new Miraka milk processing plant near Taupo, which is a joint venture between Māori trusts and a Vietnamese company. So once we get scale we’ll be looking at how we can better connect with the customer.”

Mrs Raumati says her University of Waikato qualifications were an excellent preparation for a business career.

“At the time, management studies at Waikato was just growing its reputation,” she says. “It was the degree of difference, being the only four-year business degree on offer, and I remember it was quite tough to get into.”

She majored in accounting, specialising in management and communications, and then went on to masters level study after spending a year as a graduate assistant for the Māori Resource Management Programme then being offered at Waikato Management School. The programme was created as an opportunity for students to examine Māori orientations and world views as the focal point.

After graduating, Mrs Raumati spent seven years at accounting firm Beattie Rickman (now part of PricewaterhouseCoopers) in Hamilton, before joining Tainui Group Holdings, the business arm of the Waikato-based Tainui tribe, as chief financial officer.

In 1998, when she was only 31, she was shoulder-tapped to join the Trust Waikato board. “It was my first governance role, and really it was that experience that led to other governance appointments,” she says. “In my view, to be good at governance you have to be good at management. Fortunately for me, I’ve been able to develop both skills.”

Since then, she’s held directorships in Te Ohu Ki Moana, a Māori fisheries organisation, and the Nga Miro Health Trust. She’s also currently executive director of operations for Te Wānanga o Aotearoa, responsible for the tertiary institution’s HR, IT, finance and property portfolio, and a member of the Public Trust board.

These roles see her travelling regularly between Te Awamutu, Taranaki, Wellington and Auckland, where she lives with her secondary school teacher husband and stepson. “Luckily I have a very supportive husband,” she says. “I manage my workload by making sure I keep the weekends for family.”

Mrs Raumati is only an hour away from where she grew up at Turangawaewae Marae in Ngaruawahia, and says it’s vital for Māori to stay connected to their community.

“I tell young people aspiring to senior business roles to focus on being the best they can be. It’s important to be really good at your job. And for Māori, it’s also important to be culturally competent in language and tikanga, something that I am working on.”

University work placement leads to full-time job

Stefan Smith (pictured) is a carbon capture chemist in Wales. He got the job after completing a 12-month work placement as part of his BSc(Tech) at Waikato.

He works at the Aberthaw Power Station, RWE npower, where he’s researching carbon capture technology, a technique that can prevent the release of large quantities of CO₂ into the atmosphere from major emission sources such as power stations.

“Carbon capture and sequestration (CCS) is the technology used to prevent the release of large quantities of CO₂ into the atmosphere from fossil fuel use in power generation and other industries. The process involves capturing CO₂, transporting it and ultimately, pumping it into underground geologic formations to securely store it away from the atmosphere,” says Stefan.

RWE npower, in partnership with Canadian gas absorption company Cansolv Technologies, has invested in a carbon capture and release pilot plant, which will be operated for a two-year trial. The plant will research carbon dioxide capture and release processes using a proprietary amine solvent, with the focus on its application to coal-fired power stations and improving the technology’s process and environmental performance.

“Recently I’ve been developing and validating analytical methods and preparing the current laboratory for the upcoming carbon capture plant (CCP). Once the plant is in operation, I’ll be responsible for analysing samples, supervising other analytical chemists assigned to the project and advising the plant’s operators on CCP chemistry.”
The business of selling art and spotting fakes

Harold Yeo knows how to spot a forgery – it’s part of his job. He’s the Assistant Vice-President Specialist at Sotheby’s New York, specialising in Chinese ceramics and works of art.

The courses he took at Waikato, out of interest rather than for a specific career, are what led him into the art world. He graduated with a Bachelor of Social Sciences with a supporting subject in Asian Studies. “I took courses in Modern China and the West, Cross Cultural Studies, Asian Civilisation, and Government of Modern China. It may sound clichéd but I’d advise any student to choose the courses that interest them.”

At Sotheby’s he’s handling valuable works of art every day. “We have two auctions a year. Early in the cycle we are busy sourcing art works. Someone may send in a photo of something they have and if it looks good, it means hopping on a plane and going to see it in person. It’s important to see and handle real pieces.”

The more objects you see, the more you develop a feel for them, Harold says. “Sometimes when I pick up a vase, I can tell if it is too light or too heavy, and therefore not of the period it appears to be from. Fakes are a big problem in Chinese antiques and modern fakes are getting better and better, that’s why the provenance of pieces is becoming more and more important.”

His work also involves cataloguing artwork, doing condition reports, and setting up previews and working the actual auction itself. “Front of house might be glamorous, but behind the scenes there’s a lot of hard grunt work.”

When he graduated from Waikato in 1989, Harold planned to head for Hong Kong and find a job, but after the Tiananmen Square massacre in China, he decided instead to go to the US, where he attended Ohio State University and graduated with a Master of Arts in Journalism.

He headed to San Francisco and after a while got a job at Bonham’s auction house, where fortuitously they had an opening for someone who was interested in Chinese art and could speak Chinese. He extended his knowledge to Vietnamese works after the auction house landed the Hoi An Hoard – a shipwreck cargo of more than 250,000 pieces of 15th century Vietnamese ceramics.

After 10 years in the Asian department, working his way up and learning so much about art and the auction business in the process, he was transferred to Hong Kong and it was while he was there he got a job offer from Christie’s New York, made the move, and subsequently joined Sotheby’s.

Some days, he says, are extremely satisfying. Just before a recent auction, Sotheby’s had a request come in from a church in Victoria, British Columbia. The St Matthias Anglican Church was struggling financially and badly in need of funds. They had a pair of chairs that had been sitting in the nave, often used by servers and other people taking part in the liturgy. A parishioner who had knowledge of Chinese art suggested that they contact some auction houses to find out if the chairs were authentic 17th century Chinese chairs.

“When we received the photos, we could tell that the chairs were something good, and I flew out to Vancouver, took a taxi to Tsawwassen, then a ferry to Swartz Bay, where I was met by the rector of the church who drove me to see the chairs.”

The chairs sold for US$758,500 and the church no longer has the same money worries.

Life at the auction house is a world away from Hamilton in the late ’80s, where the Tom Armstrong Band were regulars at Roxoff Nite Club, the one movie theatre showed triple features and Dallas screened on TV. “I grew up in London and Singapore so found Hamilton pretty quiet, there wasn’t a lot to do. We spent a lot of time in our dorm rooms talking long into the night and I made some really good friends.”
A high profile at Fieldays

The University was again a key strategic partner at Fieldays 2012. This year’s theme was changing the Face of Farming, and stands covered a number of relevant research projects that staff and students are working on.

The premier stand highlighted turning chicken feathers into packaging or insulation products; identifying microbes in the guts of cows that would make them less gassy; a low-tech, low-cost electrode method of improving water quality; a case study of farmers adapting to climate change; and using floating wetlands to filter nitrogen in farm runoff.

The recruitment and innovation stand featured BEV, the Battery Electric Vehicle designed by engineering students, and the new automatic drafting gate that student Dushyant Parmar worked with LIC to improve.

Waikato University also ran a series of seminars featuring staff and outsiders involved in the business of farming. Issues discussed included population trends and the impact on farming and farming communities, foreign ownership of New Zealand farms, land use, and operating in regulatory environments.

Lecture series warms up winter

Five Wednesdays in August meant five lectures in the annual University of Waikato Winter Lecture Series.

They began with Dame Malvina Major giving a master class, lining up singing students at various stages in their University and singing careers, and showing a capacity audience how to use their voices to best effect.

The second and third lectures focused on Hamilton city. Mayor Julie Hardaker and CEO of Tainui Group Holdings, Mike Pohio, presented their vision and plans for the city’s future and a week later Professor of Environmental Planning Bob Evans talked about how to achieve a sustainable city.

He recommended a change in mind-set, going up instead of sprawling out and creating an inner city for people not cars, while the University’s Sustainability Co-ordinator Rachael Goddard showed the audience how to be more environmentally friendly close to home.

Wales and Lions rugby coach Warren Gatland, a Waikato alumnus, did a Q and A with rugby commentator Nigel Yalden, talking about his days as a player and life as player and coach at an international level.

In the final lecture attention turned to food with Waikato professors Jacqueline Rowarth and Darrin Hodgetts providing meaty courses on agribusiness and food security, while local chef and restaurateur David Kerr talked about trends in the industry and the wonders of sous-vide – the latest way to cook food.

University at Equidays

The University also supports Equidays which takes place at Mystery Creek and is designed to appeal to people involved in the equine industry and the general public who appreciate horses, are new to equine, or want to learn more about the industry. Like the equine industry, the University of Waikato is a major economic contributor to the Waikato region.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Roy Crawford says not only is the University making a mark in the agribusiness sector, it conducts a large amount of research that is highly relevant to the equine industry.

“I know that much of the research we showcased at this year’s Fieldays – while aimed at the agricultural sector – has a direct impact on the equine industry. Our work around how climate change affects farms and how to remove impurities from bore water will be of great interest to those involved in the industry here.”

Many Waikato graduates are employed in the equine industry, and the University’s Sir Edmund Hillary Scholarship Programme has scholars specialising in eventing and dressage.

CITY OF THE FUTURE: From left, Pro Vice-Chancellor Moari Professor Linda Smith, Tainui Group Holdings CEO Mike Pohio, Hamilton Mayor Julie Hardaker and Professor of Environmental Planning Bob Evans at August’s Winter Lecture Series.
In April Chancellor Jim Bolger and Vice-Chancellor Professor Roy Crawford hosted Waikato alumni for dinner in New York with Distinguished Alumnus Dr Craig Nevill-Manning of Google and his wife Kirsten, of Facebook.

The dinner coincided with a trip made by a University of Waikato delegation to celebrate the collaboration between the Faculty of Education and Columbia Teacher’s College. It was a great opportunity for New York-based alumni to meet the Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor and catch up on University news and highlights.

Universities New Zealand, the association representing New Zealand’s eight universities, welcomed alumni based in Taiwan to a combined alumni reception in Taipei. Professor Crawford was able to meet up with several Waikato alumni at the 200-strong event.

Back in New Zealand, more than 200 alumni turned out to hear from 2012 Distinguished Alumni Murray Sherwin and Warren Gatland in Wellington and Hamilton.

Murray Sherwin, a leading economist and Chair of the New Zealand Productivity Commission, spoke to alumni in Wellington about the future of New Zealand’s economy and the role education will play in its development.

In Hamilton at the Gallagher Academy of Performing Arts, Wales Rugby coach Warren Gatland was interviewed on stage by rugby commentator Nigel Yalden as part of August’s Winter Lecture Series. Warren spoke about the highs and lows of playing and coaching rugby at an international level.

The Tauranga event featured the University’s Senior Fellow in Music, Dame Malvina Major, running a singing master class with voice students.

Kingitanga Day more popular each year

Iwi from Tauranga Moana and Te Arawa shared their views on the Rena disaster during the 2012 Kingitanga Day celebrations that also included seminars, panel discussions, presentations from guest speakers and leading academics, and haka, poi and language lessons.

Kingitanga Day is held to recognise the University’s unique and distinctive connection with Waikato-Tainui and the Kingitanga.

Iwi representing Ngāti Ranginui, Ngāi Te Rangi, Ngati Pūkenga, and Maketi-Te Arawa joined the University’s Chair in Coastal Science Professor Chris Battershill and Lee Taingahue from Rena Recovery for the panel discussion held at the Hamilton campus.

Ms Taingahue said the grounding of Rena was a disaster for tangata whenua but had prompted iwi to work together as a united group and Kingitanga Day was the first time leaders had come together on an issue concerning the Tauranga Moana region.

Alumni reconnect with Waikato around the world
Twins in space…and on ice

University of Waikato twins Zac and Josh Lyon sent a weather balloon to the edge of space earlier this year, all for a bit of fun, and now they’re planning to cross from the Antarctic coast to the South Pole and back again – after they’ve learnt to ski.

Back in April the third-year earth sciences students launched their balloon on the Waikato University field, with two cameras on board capturing amazing pictures of the North Island as the balloon ascended.

The balloon reached 31,882 metres before bursting and falling back to earth, coming to rest on a farm at the foot of the Kaimai Ranges.

“We were inspired by a father and son team from the USA who had done the same with an iPhone,” said Zac.

Another New Zealand team had previously sent a balloon to 15,000 metres, but the Lyon twins planned on doing better, and on a shoe-string budget.

The twins imported the balloon, parachute and pressure sensor from America, and built a polystyrene chilly bin to house the two digital cameras. Rather ingeniously they used possum-fur socks and heat packs to protect the cameras and ensure they kept running in the -34 degree temperature.

“Josh and I live by the idea that we’re two ordinary guys doing things that are not so ordinary.” And if they achieve their Antarctic crossing, they’ll be the first, and youngest, New Zealanders to undertake the 2,260km journey.

The trip will involve up to 14 hours’ skiing a day, hauling a 100kg self-sufficient kit to the South Pole, where they will turn around and kite-ski back.

Their preparation includes learning to ski, then a trip to Norway, to prepare for the harsh conditions they’ll face in Antarctica, followed by a 35-day journey across the Greenland ice-cap. They each also need to add about 25kg of weight onto their slender frames.

The venture will cost about $400,000 and the boys are fundraising through a new website funding platform, ThrillPledge.
Students create app to print photos from phones

A group of senior students from the University of Waikato’s Computer Science Department has developed a phone-based photo printing app for the United States’ biggest pharmacy chain, Walgreens, thanks to support from MEA Mobile, one of New Zealand’s top mobile application developers.

The four Waikato students took on the job of developing the app for their COMP314 software engineering project – a three-month exercise for third-year students to design and implement a medium-sized software project.

MEA Mobile provided technical guidance and market support for the students to give them real world experience in the globally booming business of mobile app development.

A New Zealand-based company, MEA Mobile has already developed a range of successful apps for the mobile photography market, and through its US offices was able to facilitate the special arrangement with Walgreens.

Called Printicular, the free Android app lets users send their phone, tablet or Facebook photos to be printed at the nearest Walgreens store. Walgreens is one of the largest chain drugstores in the US with over 8,000 outlets throughout the country all of which provide a photo printing service.

Mark Feaver, Jeremy Roundill, Yoni Villamor and Simon Campbell had eight weeks to build the app, using Walgreens Application Programming Interface (API) or code library which was made available to them through MEA Mobile.

“It was a great opportunity for us to work with MEA Mobile,” says Mark Feaver, who juggles his university studies with work as a web developer and programmer. “It was a huge learning curve, but when I’ve gone for job interviews most employers are very impressed with the project.”

MEA Mobile director, Rod Macfarlane, says he’s enjoyed working with the Waikato student team.

“We are really keen to encourage more young people to learn the skills and gain the knowledge we need in this business,” he says.

“Mark, Jeremy, Yoni and Simon were great to work with. We pushed them hard and they responded really well as a team. There are some great features in the app they developed.”

Education links with New York

Two former Prime Ministers were on hand in New York to celebrate a collaboration between the University of Waikato’s Faculty of Education and Columbia Teachers College.

Waikato’s delegation was led by Chancellor Jim Bolger, with Vice-Chancellor Professor Roy Crawford. Mr Bolger spoke on the importance of New Zealand and US relations and as head of the United Nations Development Programme, former Prime Minister Helen Clark delivered the Teachers College Tisch Lecture – Education and International Development.

Several Waikato alumni attended a dinner party hosted by Distinguished Alumnus Dr Craig Nevill-Manning and his wife, Kirsten.

The delegation was also hosted in New York by Max Gimblett, one of New Zealand’s most successful living artists, well known for his paintings, sculpture, drawings and artists books. Max led the delegation through his exhibition, The Holy Grail, at the Gary Snyder Gallery and spoke about his recent paintings and the inspiration for his work.

Feaver says Waikato’s software engineering project paper pushes students to figure things out for themselves. “When you’re a second year student, you’re used to being fed the specs, but with this paper you deal directly with the client. It’s the paper I’ve worked on the most – and the one I’ve got the most out of.”

Student team member Jeremy Roundill says it’s a good way to get some real-world work experience while at university. “COMP314 is definitely a good paper to take. What’s important is not so much the end result of the project, but rather the experience of working in a team and doing a project over a long period of time.”

Course lecturer Dr David Streader says the software engineering project gives students an opportunity to learn how to work as a team, and plan and deliver a project within budget and on time.

“It’s a win-win for clients and students alike,” he says. “The client can check out the talent graduating from the University, and for some students, it’s the first time they’ve had to develop their ‘soft’ skills – which are so sought-after in the IT sector.”
Chinese language study a ticket to adventure

In just two years, University of Waikato student Sarah Thomson has gone from knowing nothing about China to being selected to represent New Zealand at a Chinese language speech competition.

Sarah was one of 120 international contestants in the finals of the Chinese Bridge Speech Competition, held in Beijing earlier this year. She had to deliver a five-minute speech in Chinese, and then sing a Chinese song.

She and the other contestants also took part in a televised performance with one of China’s most famous TV hosts, Canadian-born Dashan (Mark Rowswell) who speaks fluent Chinese.

“It was good fun,” says Sarah. “I got through to the top 30 in the competition, and we had the chance to do some sightseeing around the Forbidden City as well.”

The former Fairfield College student originally began studying English and Psychology at the University of Waikato in 2009.

“I then heard about the AIESEC exchange programme, and chose to go to China even though I knew nothing about it except for noodles and pandas,” she says.

AIESEC is an international student volunteer programme operating in 110 countries worldwide.

“I spent several months teaching English in Beijing, first in a kindergarten and then in a high school, and started to learn some Chinese,” says Sarah. “And when I came back to Waikato, I swapped to a Chinese degree.”

Waikato’s small class sizes and access to a native speaker teacher were a big plus, and she says students are always encouraged to apply for scholarships and enter competitions.

In 2011, she won a scholarship to spend six months on an intensive Chinese language course in Beijing, and this year she’s embarked on a conjoint law degree which she’s juggling with the final year of her Chinese degree.

“It’s nice to work as a bridge between China and New Zealand, plus I think it’s a good thing to have in my tool box,” she says.

Sarah is now planning to start up a youth branch of the New Zealand-China Friendship Association in Hamilton.

“China is such an important country for New Zealand, and we need more people who understand the language and culture. So I want to get my fellow students to go into the high schools to encourage more students to take up Chinese.”

Management School students create connections

The Waikato Management School Students’ Association (WMSSA) go from strength to strength in 2012.

WMSSA was established in 2010 by a group of like-minded students who felt there was a lack of student-directed action in connecting current management students with the business community. Their aim is to create those connections between students and the wider business world in order to provide graduates with a kick-start to their career.

Through a number of events held during the year, management students have the opportunity to hone their networking skills with members of the local business community and gain an insight into the working life of a business professional.

In September this year, WMSSA hosted its largest networking event yet with more than 30 local businesses offering graduate career advice to more than 80 student participants. Businesses included Mainfreight, Calder & Lawson, PwC, ASB and Davanti Consulting.

WMSSA is a well-oiled machine. Led by President Ryan West, a second-year BMS student, and an executive team of eight other enthusiastic management students, WMSSA also host regular ‘Meet the
Waikato student wins Kāupapa Māori Moots

Third year law and arts student Haimona Te Nahu won the national finals of the Kāupapa Māori Moots held during the World Indigenous Lawyers’ Conference.

The moot competitions give Māori law students an opportunity to research and present legal argument relevant to contemporary Māori legal jurisprudence in a situation that approximates a court hearing.

Inspired by recent events in Te Whānau a Apanui and Taranaki, the topic this year involved students arguing for and against an application for judicial review of a decision by the Minister of Energy to grant an offshore petroleum exploration permit to a multinational energy company.

Haimona was the only student in the competition to deliver his entire argument, including responses to the robust questioning process, in te reo Māori. He took home the Gina Rudland Cup for most outstanding mooter and the Manukura award for the best team. His fellow team member was Tama Toki, a student at Auckland University and son of Waikato University Senior Law Lecturer, Valmaine Toki.

Students participated from Auckland, Canterbury, Victoria and Waikato all appearing before a judging panel comprising Judges Craig Coxhead and Denise Clark, and Professor Robert Williams Jnr from America.

The national moot competition was sponsored this year by law firm Russell McVeagh and organised by Linda Te Aho from Waikato University, who is the academic representative on the executive committee of Te Hunga Roia – The Māori Law Society.

Waikato study for Hawaiian scholar

Hawaiian is one of the world’s most endangered languages and with only around 500 speakers, Keao NeSmith hopes to work with those struggling to revitalise the language by developing a professional teaching programme. He came to Waikato to complete his doctorate in applied linguistics at the School of Māori & Pacific development.

His research focused on how the Hawaiian language is being conveyed to a new generation of Hawaiian speakers.

Keao was a recipient of a top US Mellon-Hawai‘i Fellowship which allowed him to travel to New Zealand and also provided for one of his supervisors, Dr Winifred Crombie, to travel to Hawai‘i to see the kinds of research projects being undertaken there.

He says he chose New Zealand to study to further broaden his academic and professional experience and training and to gain a more international view of academic and research methodologies.

“It was a good decision. My supervisors were top – absolutely professional, dedicated and meticulous. I was well-supported in a fun environment with staff dedicated to cultural advancement.

“And as a result of my PhD research I’ve dramatically revamped my teaching approach, using communicative language teaching and integrating Hawaiian culture norms into the basis of my teaching. My students have noticed how effective the communicative approach can be.”

When Keao graduated in April, about a dozen family members joined him at Te Kohinga Mārama Marae to share in his success.

REVITALISING LANGUAGE: Alumnus Keao NeSmith’s research focused on the Hawaiian language.

TOP MOOTER: Law and arts student Haimona Te Nahu delivered his winning argument in te reo Māori.
Honours for Alumni

The University of Waikato is proud to congratulate several alumni awarded in the 2012 New Year and Queen's Birthday Honours.

New Year Honours

CNZM – Companions of the Order of New Zealand
» Ms Robyn Rangihuaia Bargh CNZM; DipT, 1971 (services to Māori language and publishing)
» Dr James Wharehuia Milroy QSO, CNZM; Tuhoe kaumatua and former Professor of Māori, UoW (services to Māori language)

ONZM – Officers of the Order of New Zealand
» Dr Ron Laurence McDowall ONZM; PhD, 2005 (services to science)
» Rear Admiral Anthony Jonathon Parr MVO, ONZM; BScSc, 1977 (services to the State)

MNZM – Members of the Order of New Zealand
» Ms Piatarahi Ngaku Beatrice Callaghan MNZM; BScSc, 1985 (services to Māori)
» Mr William Leggett Noble MNZM; BEd, 1978 (services to education)
» Ms Hinerangi Ada Raumati MNZM; BMS, 1991 (services to business and Māori)

QSM – The Queen’s Service Medal
» Mrs Tuihana Pook QSM; HDipT, 1993 (services to Māori education and the community)
» Mrs Moengaroa Rosalima Solomon QSM, JP; BScSc, 1997 (services to Māori and the community)

Queen’s Birthday Honours

Member of the Order of New Zealand
» Dame Malvina Major ONZ, GNZM, DBE; Honorary Doctorate 2004 (services to New Zealand)

Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit
» Wayne Ross Smith CNZM; BScSc, 1978, BScSc(Hons), 1979 (services to rugby)

Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit
» Dr Ronald George Gibson ONZM; PGDipMgtSt, 2002 (services to veterinary science)

The Queen’s Service Medal
» Brian Mansel Diver QSM; MEDLeadership, 2004 (services to youth sport)
» Ariana Simpson QSM; BScSc, 2003 (services to Māori and the community)

Waikato Graduate Women support scholarships in 2012

Every year the New Zealand Federation of Graduate Women presents Merit Awards for doctoral study to Waikato PhD students. The 2012 recipients are Joanna Bishop, Clarisse Niemand and Carrie Swanson.

Joanna’s PhD focuses on the introduction and historical use of medicinal plants in New Zealand; Clarisse will look at the impact of microalgal mats on the ecosystem and biodiversity of intertidal estuaries, and Carrie is investigating how year 7 and 8 students engage with science through an imagined context.

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

For more information, contact Ann Mackay ra.mackay@xtra.co.nz
As part of their research into improving water quality, Associate Professor Alan Langdon and postdoctoral researcher Dr Hilary Nath used electrochemistry to remove iron and manganese found in farm bore water in the peaty soils of the Waikato. As a result the two Waikato University chemists developed an innovative treatment method and along the way hit on a low-cost, simple solution to sanitise water supplies in developing countries.

WHAT’S YOUR JOURNEY?

Alan and Hilary's is just one of our remarkable stories.

At Waikato University excellence in teaching is driven by our world-changing research and supported by some of the most advanced facilities and equipment in the world. 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.

Waikato postgraduate students reap the rewards of learning at a university located at the centre of New Zealand’s agriculture, research and science heartland. They benefit from exposure to our world-class academics, industry partnerships, commercialisation of research, and mentoring.

Whatever your journey, there’s no better place to start than the University of Waikato.