

Volume 39, No. 19

Thursday, November 25, 2004

Prestigious Royal Society honours for Canterbury staff

A quarter of the researchers elected for admission to the Royal Society of New Zealand's prestigious science academy in 2004 are University of Canterbury staff.

Professor Jim Cole (Geological Sciences), Professor Les Oxley (Economics) and Adjunct Professor Graeme Wake (Mathematics and Statistics) were among 12 new fellows recognised by the society for their impressive strength and excellence in science and technology.

The fellowship selection process is rigorous, involving discipline-specific selection panels and independent international review. From those nominated for fellowships only a small number are ultimately selected. There are now 322 Fellows of the Royal Society of New Zealand.

Professor Cole is director of Canterbury University's Natural Hazards Research Centre. He is known around the world for his work on the origin and evolution of the Taupo Volcanic Zone of New Zealand — arguably, one of the world's most significant natural volcanic laboratories — and potential effects of volcanic hazards from this zone.

"I heard about the award at an international volcanological conference at Pucon, Chile, at the foot of the active Villarica volcano, with 10 of my current and former postgraduate students and many collaborators from around the world," said Professor Cole. "This was very appropriate as I am part of a large team working on the Taupo Volcanic Zone, and my thanks go to everyone involved and their contributions to the research programme."

Professor Oxley is recognised internationally for his advancements of econometric modelling and testing. His work is at the forefront of research using modern econometric methods to advance understanding of historical events, such as the British Industrial Revolution, and current



Professor Les Oxley is one of three Canterbury academics to be made a Fellow of the Royal Society.

issues such as economic growth and the measurement of human capital.

"I was surprised and delighted by the award and heartened that economics and economic history attract recognition by the society," Professor Oxley said. "This rounds off a very successful year for the department and the College of Business and Economics."

Professor Wake has applied ingenious mathematics to develop models for the spontaneous combustion of wool, hay and lignite, the growth of pasture for optimum production, population dynamics and control of unwanted animals and plants, and for minimising the effects of epidemics and environmental damage by pests. He has also worked on the development of innovative models of tumour cell growth with applications to cancer therapy.

"I am especially pleased that my subject of applied and industrial mathematics has been recognised so well in this year's FRSNZ elections, as this is where mathematics impacts most strongly with other subjects and society at large," said Professor Wake. "The problem-solving power of mathematics is huge and not always used to the fullest extent. I have endeavoured, over the last 40 years, to promote the application of mathematics and will continue to do so."

"I have been fortunate in having wonderful collaborators right around the world and a score of exceptionally good doctorate students to whom I owe a tremendous debt," Professor Wake added.

Coinciding with the Royal Society's annual meeting was the country's annual Science Awards Dinner. Fourteen of the country's top scientists were honoured including Emeritus Professor Jos Arrillaga (Electrical and Computer Engineering) who won the Royal Society's R J Scott Medal in recognition of his excellence in engineering sciences and technologies, and Dr Ralph Bungard (Biological Sciences) who won the New Zealand Society of Plant Physiologists' Outstanding Physiologist Award.

Canterbury alumnus Professor David Penny, Research Director of the Allan Wilson Centre for Molecular Ecology and Evolution, based at Massey University, was awarded the Rutherford Medal for his work on theories relating to the origin of man and the dispersal of people through the Pacific thousands of years ago.

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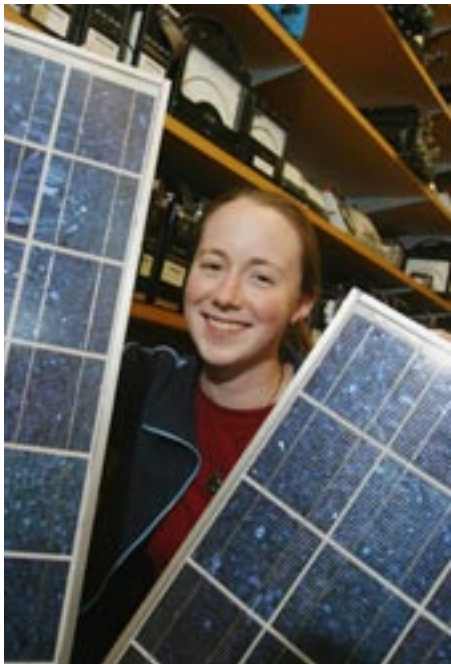
Three gain Enterprise Scholarships

Three enterprising engineering students from the University of Canterbury have received financial support for their postgraduate research.

Nikki Newham, Puong Lau and George Boyle are among the 11 recipients of the latest round of Tertiary Education Commission (TEC) Enterprise Scholarships.

Under the scholarship scheme companies support the scholarship winners by matching TEC funding contributions dollar for dollar.

Nikki will begin her PhD in Electrical and Computer Engineering next year with the backing of the TEC and TransPower NZ. Her



Nikki Newham with solar panels which form part of her research into renewable power.

research proposal is to look at renewable power and energy conservation in extreme environments, namely Antarctica.

She has been working for three years since graduating and says without the scholarship she could never have considered doing a PhD because of the cost.

It was an added bonus to have the commercial interest in her project.

“To have people willing to support and interested in your research gives an incentive – you feel like you’re making a difference.”

Nikki’s proposal is two-part: “One is how to introduce renewable energy sources successfully into existing systems at Scott Base, such as wind turbines and solar panels. Incorporated into that is energy conservation and what you can do in a situation like that to reduce energy usage in the first place.”

She hopes that treating the Scott Base area as a “mini-electricity market” will provide new options for increasing energy conservation and renewable energy use through financial incentives in electricity market models.

Puong’s research for his Master in Fire Engineering degree focuses on the fire resistance of connections in laminated veneer lumber (LVL) structures. His research is supported by Carter Holt Harvey.

George, a Master of Engineering Management student, is looking at a best practice initiative in project management at Beca Carter Hollings and Ferner, the engineering consultancy that is supporting his scholarship.

George says he is aiming to establish an intranet-based tool that will help staff find and share information to help them with their respective jobs.

Luck of the draw



Elaine Flatley, Air New Zealand Corporate Account Manager, congratulates Linda Roberts (right) on her win.

Linda Roberts never thought she had much of a lucky streak but all that changed last week when she won a trip for two to Rarotonga courtesy of Air New Zealand.

The Acting Director of Student Administration was delighted when her name was drawn at the annual Signature Travel Expo held on campus last Thursday.

“When I was on the farm and had paddocks of sheep I won a leg of lamb and until last week that was it.”

Despite making “idle threats” to take the trip from 15-17 February during the busy enrolment period, she will wait until things get a bit quieter at work before heading off into the sun with partner Ross.

Signature Travel managing director Darryll Park said he was pleased with the success of the third travel expo.

“From suppliers of travel product, through to travellers and travel arrangers/organisers, this annual event continues to present all with unprecedented information, substantial prizes, and exceptional cuisine, making for an evening of exceeded expectations for all.”

Chronicle

Next Issue: 9 December, 2004

Deadline: 3 December, 2004

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*The Chronicle is typeset and
printed by Design & Print Services.*

Sir Tipene to give inaugural ‘Outside the Square’ lecture

The inaugural “Outside the Square” lecture is to be given by Sir Tipene O’Regan next Thursday.

The lecture series is a joint initiative of the University of Canterbury and the Christchurch City Council as part of a wider protocol of co-operation signed by both parties last year.

The title of the 2004 lecture is “The Weka, the Snare and Discourse in the New Zealand Village”, and it will be a consideration of New Zealand’s contemporary race relations discourse within the context of its historical roots and the new demographic realities.

Sir Tipene, a Ngāi Tahu kaumatua who has recently been appointed as Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Māori) at the University, led the iwi’s Waitangi Tribunal land and sea claims, and played a pivotal role in the Treaty of Waitangi fisheries settlements of 1989 and 1992. He currently sits on the boards of a

number of companies in the financial, tourism, agricultural and natural resources sectors.

The lecture will be delivered on Thursday 2 December, at 7:30pm in the James Hay Theatre, Christchurch Town Hall.

Tickets are required for entry. To reserve seats visit www.conference.canterbury.ac.nz or phone 364 2915, or e-mail: publiclecture@canterbury.ac.nz.

People

Gerard McCoy QC has been appointed adjunct professor in the School of Law.

Murray Close has been appointed a senior fellow in the Department of Geological Science.

Dr Louis Tremblay has been appointed a senior fellow in the School of Biological Sciences.

Moa research ruffling feathers

University of Canterbury scientists are shedding new light on the demise of New Zealand's most famous extinct bird species, the moa.

A recently published research paper in the *Proceedings of the Royal Society of London*, by UC's Neil Gemmell and Bruce Robertson (Biological Sciences) and Michael Schwartz from the US Forestry Service in Montana suggests that the giant flightless bird was once common and may have already begun to decline before the arrival of humans.

Mitochondrial DNA sequence data from the bone samples of 58 *Dinornis*, the largest of the 10 moa species, was put into the public GenBank database last year and Dr Gemmell says he and his colleagues recognised an opportunity "to do something clever with it".

In a scientific first, the trio used new genetic analytic techniques to estimate the population size of an extinct species.

Their calculations estimate that as little as 1000 years ago, New Zealand's standing moa population was between three and 12 million.

This estimate is much larger than the previously accepted population estimate of around 159,000 for moa at the time of the arrival of humans.

While the latest findings in no way let humans off the hook for the moa's eventual demise, they do suggest that other factors may have led to the dramatic population decline in moa numbers prior to human contact which may have occurred because of disease or habitat loss due to volcanic eruptions.

Dr Gemmell says the research is "rarking



Dr Bruce Robertson (left) and Dr Neil Gemmell have used mitochondrial DNA data to calculate the Moa population 1000 years ago.

up" a lot of interest as the moa is part of our "cultural and biological mythology". He is also aware the new calculations are ruffling a few feathers in the scientific community.

However, he hopes that the research will stimulate an "informed debate" and lead to improved ways of estimating population size, and providing solutions for contemporary

conservation strategies.

"If our new estimates of moa numbers are correct then we need to think about the factors that might have influenced these populations prior to the arrival of humans, perhaps gaining greater insight into modern conservation problems from the lessons of the past."

Maria Hand

Polar pilot's portrait unveiled

It was over glasses of champagne and canapés that a portrait of Major General Chester McCarty, painted by School of Fine Arts student Tjalling de Vries, was unveiled to a group of distinguished guests.

The guests, including US Ambassador to New Zealand Charles Swindells, UC Vice-Chancellor Professor Roy Sharp, Christchurch Mayor Garry Moore and Banks Peninsula Mayor Bob Parker, had not seen the portrait prior to the unveiling, so it was a tense moment for Tjalling as it was presented to the public.

General McCarty piloted the first US Air Force plane to fly over the South Pole on 26 October 1956, airdropping the first load of buildings, supplies and equipment for the base at the South Pole for Operation Deep Freeze. A 10 metre totem pole stands at the Christchurch airport where General McCarty's task force was based during Operation Deep Freeze. General McCarty was also a friend of Ambassador Swindells' grandfather.



The painting's commission was initiated by the US Embassy when they contacted Simon Ogden (Fine Arts) to recommend an artist to paint a portrait of General McCarty to honour his memory and connection with New Zealand.

"It was an absolute delight for the School of Fine Arts to be involved and an incredibly wonderful opportunity for Tjalling. Everyone, including the US Ambassador, was impressed with Tjalling's painting, which he produced from a photograph sent to him," says Mr Ogden. "The portrait will eventually be hung at McMurdo Base and Tjalling may get the opportunity to visit Antarctica to see his portrait there."

Tjalling is currently in the final year of his BFA, majoring in printmaking. In 2000 he was the top student in New Zealand Bursary Photography. "He is hard working, organised and intelligent and is interested in cutting-edge issues in the art world. Experienced in photorealist works, he had created an autobiographical series that involved three large, impressive self portraits measuring 2 by 3 metres. These credentials made him an ideal candidate to pick for the commission," Mr Ogden says.



Poet takes CUP into new territory

To truly appreciate Apirana Taylor's poetry you have to see the man perform.

At the launch of his new poetry collection, *te ata kura*, last week at Madras Café Books, the acclaimed writer, musician and artist kept a crowd of about 100 mesmerised as he performed his poems aloud, played traditional Māori wind instruments and threw poetry darts around his audience for his finale.

Taylor's poems explore local landscapes, introducing contemporary and historical figures whose lives have touched his own. He also comments on international issues and his themes are universal ones like love, war, beauty and oppression.

As Hana O'Regan put it in her welcome: "Apirana opens up worlds" with his poems. He writes about everything from Parihaka to Kmart, brings history to life and presents even simple everyday things in a new light.

Most of the poems in the collection were written during his time as Ursula Bethell Writer in Residence at Canterbury University in 2002. *Te ata kura* is the first book of poetry published by Canterbury University Press.

Major new work on New Zealand's freshwaters

It is with a sigh of relief for Jon Harding (Biological Sciences) that his first book, *Freshwaters of New Zealand*, is published and for sale on the shelves.

For a first book it was a major undertaking as it included more than 80 contributors, 46 chapters, contained scientific material never covered in a New Zealand book before and was achieved over a timeframe of only 18 months.

"It was a book that was incredibly enjoyable to devise and produce, there was no other book of its type in the market so we started with a clean slate," says Dr Harding who edited the volume together with Paul Mosley, Charles Pearson and Brian Sorrell, all of NIWA.

The editors identified that a book covering the current state of knowledge and research on New Zealand freshwaters should be produced and, with increasing attention and media publicity on our rivers and lakes, Dr Harding believes it was important to get it published.

"The book includes potentially controversial material such as Project Aqua and other hydroelectric projects, coal mining on the West Coast, Fish and Game's concern with water quality with increased dairy farming and irrigation, as well as, conservation, lake restoration, the water cycle and recent developments in freshwater ecology and hydrology. It's a book which attempts to merge both physical and biological perspectives on freshwater."

Dr Harding stresses that although the book covers some controversial topics, scientific information and current research are presented rather than political viewpoints.

It was a major undertaking for the editors and Dr Harding is unsure if he will tackle a book containing the work of 80 contributors again. The logistics of organising copy, diagrams, and tables was enormous. In one chapter all the equations were incorrect. "It was such a constant project that when it was finished



Dr Jon Harding.

there was an overwhelming 'what shall I do now' feeling."

Although organising 80 contributors was difficult, Dr Harding says that it was very rewarding for him. "Often academics in similar research fields, but different faculties, do not get to meet and discuss their research, so to bring people together for such a project was enjoyable."

With 1000 copies printed and more than 300 presold it is already a success. "We were insistent that it was going to be an affordable book with an extensive glossary and a lot of pictorial elements, such as diagrams, photos and tables. Most chapters include summary diagrams to link concepts for the reader and these we believe will increase its appeal."

It is intended that the book will become a resource and textbook for students, managers and scientists from a wide range of disciplines, who require an introduction to the freshwater field.

Jane Lucas

Christmas cards now available

Three new University of Canterbury Christmas cards are available for purchase through Design and Print Services on campus. The cards are a collaboration between Design and Print, and Photographic Services.

"We thought of the fern as the most representative image of New Zealand, while the books – stacked to resemble a Christmas tree – represent learning," said senior photographer Duncan Shaw-Brown.

Ordering instructions are available on the staff Intranet. If you wish to

overprint a signature or personalised message on your cards, please contact Design and Print Services directly on printery@jit.canterbury.ac.nz or ext 6908 to organise.



Excellence awards for UC doctoral graduates

Two University of Canterbury doctoral graduates were honoured at the Te Amorangi National Māori Academic Excellence Awards in Hamilton earlier this month.

Dr Hazel Phillips and Dr Roger Maaka were among 30 PhD graduates from all New Zealand universities whose achievements were celebrated.

The awards are in their third year and were created to acknowledge the rising profile of Māori academic achievement within the tertiary sector and the contributions Māori academics are making in a diverse range of disciplines.

Dr Phillips said it was fascinating to be present at the award ceremony and hear about the research carried out by Māori in such a broad range of fields.

“It holds in good stead where Māori research is going. The whole gamut of Māori academic interest and research was represented.”

Dr Phillips (Ngāti Mutunga) received her PhD in Education last year for her thesis *Te reo karanga o nga tauira Māori: Māori students: their voices, their stories at the University of Canterbury 1996-1998*.

She followed the progress of 11 Māori students during their time at Canterbury University, exploring the complex and contradictory relationship between the group of indigenous students and the University as a mainstream institution.



Dr Hazel Phillips.

“One of the things I did in my research was not to focus on the problems but to look at the successes. The students that took part in my research told victory narratives about their time at Canterbury.”

In a similar way, Dr Phillips saw the awards as a night of telling “victory narratives”.

“The people who won awards are able to tell

stories that are inspiring. For too long Māori education has been more about failure than success — but there is success out there if you look. The first success story was Apirana Ngata's. Not only was he the first ever Māori graduate in 1894, he also graduated from this University, then known as Canterbury College.

“But that is not the say that Ngata's experiences, the experiences of the other Te Amorangi awardees, or the experiences of the students in my study were easy, without struggle, sacrifice or pain. Rather our stories are stories of resilience in which being Māori is the point of difference at the same time that it is what enables success.”

Dr Phillips is now helping foster further growth in Māori education by helping establish a Māori Research Institute at the Christchurch Polytechnic Institute of Technology (CPIT).

Dr Maaka (Ngāti Kahungunu, Ngāi Tahu) is currently Head of Native Studies at the University of Saskatchewan in Canada. He was unable to be at the ceremony but two of his daughters were present to receive the award on his behalf.

During his time at UC Dr Maaka tutored, lectured and later became head of department for Māori Studies at the same time as pursuing his PhD. His subject of research for his Doctorate in Political Science was *Perceptions, Conceptions and Realities: A Study of the Tribe in Māori Society in the Twentieth Century*.

Astronomers' sights set on December 1

The official opening of a new multi-million dollar telescope facility at the Mt John University Observatory will take place on Wednesday 1 December.

The \$7 million telescope, which has been paid for by the Japanese government, has been installed in a purpose-built dome and will be used for the Microlensing Observations in Astrophysics (MOA) Project.

The project is an international collaboration involving Nagoya University in Japan and the University of Canterbury, as well as Auckland, Victoria and Massey universities.

It was developed to try and determine the origin of dark matter, one of astronomy's greatest puzzles.

Last year the project contributed to the discovery of an extrasolar planet using a telescope which has been in use at the Mt John University Observatory since 1975.

The new, significantly stronger telescope will improve the likelihood of detecting faint light in space and will be used solely for the MOA Project.

The building to house the telescope has been

funded by local Tekapo company, Earth and Sky Ltd. The University and Earth and Sky Ltd have entered into an agreement allowing for a tourist venture on Mt John in exchange for funding the cost of the new building.

More than 150 guests including astronomers, academics and politicians are attending the opening.

“The response has been fantastic. Dignitaries from around the world are coming — people are even travelling from Russia to make the launch,” says UC Development Manager Shelagh Murray.

Among the official guests will be eminent astrophysicist Sir Ian Axford, who pioneered solar-terrestrial sciences and was New Zealand Scientist of the Year in 1995. The President of Nagoya University, Professor Shinichi Hirano, and Japan's New Zealand Ambassador, His Excellency Mr Masaki Saito, will also be attending.

Festivities on opening day will begin at midday with a luncheon at the Godley Resort Hotel, Tekapo, before the official opening ceremony from 2pm at the observatory. There will be further speeches and an afternoon tea from

3.30pm in the Community Hall at Tekapo.

“The support for the project from around the world has been wonderful. It will be a great occasion for everyone to meet and see such an impressive facility,” Ms Murray says.

New Staff



Dr Venkateswarly Pulakanam has returned to the University to lecture in operations management. Dr Pulakanam was a lecturer in management science at Canterbury from

1991 to 2001. Since leaving Canterbury he has worked in a senior management position at Macpac Wilderness Equipment Ltd and more recently as a manufacturing consultant for a number of Christchurch companies. He holds a PhD in statistics from the Indian Institute of Technology in Bombay.

Book examines right-wing terrorism in Japan

A personal quest to better understand the novels of Yukio Mishima has resulted in a controversial book which places Japanese terrorism under the spotlight.

Dr Chigusa Kimura-Steven (Languages and Culture) has published *Mishima Yukio to Teroru no Rinri* (Terrorism in the Art and Life of Mishima Yukio). The book is more than a literary criticism but also a study of the resurgence of ultra-nationalism and right-wing terrorism in postwar Japan.

Yukio Mishima, short-listed for the Nobel Prize in 1966 and 1967, produced more than 40 novels, including the tetralogy *The Sea of Fertility* (1965-70). He is also renowned as a playwright and some of his Kabuki and Noh drama scripts are still being performed not only in Japan, but also in Europe and the USA.

Mishima was deeply attracted to the patriotism of imperial Japan and the samurai spirit of Japan's past. In 1968 he founded the Shield Society, a private army of 100 youths. In November 1970, together with four members of the Shield Society, Mishima raided the headquarters of the Self Defense Force, capturing the general who was the commander-in-chief. When his attempt to incite a coup d'état failed, Mishima committed suicide by *harikari*, the traditional samurai way of dying by disembowelment with one's sword.

Dr Kimura-Steven heard the news of Mishima's death while studying at the University of British Columbia. The conference on representation of political violence in literature and visual arts held at Canterbury in August 2000 rekindled her interest in Mishima and the Shield Society. She received funding from the International Research Center for Japanese Studies and the Japan Foundation which enabled her to carry out her research in Japan.

Soon after she began her research, Dr Kimura-Steven realised that an in-depth study of Japanese political and educational systems from the 19th century to 1970 was necessary.

She argues that Mishima is best understood in the context of rising fears of colonisation by the west in the 19th century. These fears resulted in attempts to return to Japan's imperial past and the restoration of the Emperor to demigod status. When Japan was defeated in 1945, the US-led Allied Forces made Japan adopt a new constitution, aiming to destroy the cult of emperor worship and to demilitarize the country. Dr Kimura-Steven found that Mishima's true intention was to change this new constitution by a military-style coup and, for this reason, kept the private army.

Through her research, Dr Kimura-Steven also discovered fears of ultra right-wing terrorism among Japanese people today. Her original intention was to study Mishima and fellow novelist Oe Kenzaburo (1994 Nobel Prize



Dr Chigusa Kimura-Steven.

laureate), looking at their ethical stance against terrorism. However, the editor at one of Japan's major publishers warned her that her book could make Oe a target of the ultra-right. Although Oe was supportive of her intention to include his criticism of right-wing terrorism, she removed two chapters on Oe so that he would not become the target of death threats.

The most contentious part of Dr Kimura-Steven's book is the assertion that the cult of emperor worship among ultra-nationalists, including Mishima, is comparable to the religious fanaticism among some terrorists today in other parts of the world. She was initially hesitant to include this section because of the warning she received from the first publisher. However, her new publisher urged her to include it, saying that Japan needed this type of study.

After Dr Kimura-Steven returned to Christchurch, her work was hampered by the theft of her laptop computer and backup disk which contained a polished version of the manuscript. Fortunately the disk containing the original draft remained, although much work was needed to return the manuscript to its former state.

Dr Kimura-Steven said that despite the many obstacles she faced, the discovery of courageous people like Oe, who were prepared to risk their lives to criticise right-wing terrorism, encouraged her to complete the book.

"Initially I was politically very naïve, but writing this book made me aware of the dangers of ultra-nationalism."

Mural painting expert to head School of Fine Arts

Professor Desmond Rochfort has been appointed chair of the School of Fine Arts and will take up the position on 1 February 2005.

Professor Rochfort is acknowledged as one of the leading international scholars on the history of Mexican mural paintings. His research over the past 25 years has resulted in numerous books and articles on the mural movement. His most recent book, *Mexican Muralists: Orozco, Rivera, Siqueiros*, is now in its fifth printing and is widely used as a textbook for Latin American cultural studies courses in universities in the United States. In Mexico it is currently the best selling book on the history of the country's mural painting movement.

Professor Rochfort trained initially as a painter at the Byam School of Art in London, and went on to gain a Graduate Diploma in Fine Art from the Royal Academy of Art and a PhD from the Royal College of Art in London. During the 1970s and 1980s he practised as a mural painter, and became one of Britain's leading public mural artists.

During his time in Britain, Professor Rochfort taught at the Chelsea School of Art in London where he became the director of the school's graduate programme in Public Art and Design. In 1990 he moved to Canada to take up the position of professor and chair of the Department of Art and Design at the University of Alberta. From 1999 to 2003 he was president of the Alberta College of Art and Design in Calgary.

Pro-Vice-Chancellor (College of Arts), Professor Ken Strongman said the chair had been vacant since the retirement of its last holder, Emeritus Professor John Simpson, in 1990.

"Desmond's appointment is very important because he will also immediately become Head of School. Moreover, he has had a successful career in both studio and Art History. This is a very rare combination and we are fortunate to have appointed him," said Professor Strongman.

New Staff



Dr Ping Gao has been appointed lecturer in composition in the School of Music. Dr Gao has a Doctor of Musical Arts in composition from the Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music. He

has also studied piano in Indianapolis and Oberlin (Ohio), as well as in his native China. Dr Gao has taught composition in China and the United States and in 2002 gave a master-class in Auckland, and composition lectures at Canterbury, Victoria, Waikato and Auckland universities.

UC graduate wins award for transport monitoring work

For University of Canterbury graduate Andrew Wilson winning the Ministry of Transport Award for the best student research paper for 2004 is a way to make transport authorities "sit up and take notice".

Mr Wilson, who completed his Masters in Geography in 2003 under the supervision of Dr Simon Kingham, was presented with his award by Ministry of Transport chief executive Dr Robin Dunlop at the Logistics and Transport New Zealand annual awards dinner held recently in Auckland.

Mr Wilson, who has been working as a transport planning consultant at Gabites Porter since graduation, said the award was a great honour.

"It will give added credibility to any work I do in the future."

His thesis, titled *Monitoring Frameworks for Transport Policy in New Zealand: An Evaluation*, addressed a lack of cohesion in transport policy monitoring in New Zealand.

Using international best practice and his experience as a transport analyst with Wellington Regional Council, Mr Wilson developed and then tested a monitoring checklist for use in New Zealand.

He discovered in his research that many



Dr Simon Kingham (left) congratulates Andrew Wilson on winning the MOT award.

New Zealand transport authorities did only a minimum level of monitoring.

"While we are certainly heading in the right direction we could move in that direction a bit faster," he said.

"The UK is leading the way and is probably five years ahead of where we are at."

His thesis emphasised two key steps that must be taken when monitoring.

"There is process monitoring — do they implement the policy? And there is outcome monitoring — whether the policy has had the desired effect."

Many agencies and authorities focused on implementation but gave little attention to monitoring the outcomes, Mr Wilson said.

"Monitoring is a way of raising the warning flag really. As you monitor you discover if you are headed down the wrong road and can change the policy mix accordingly."

Mr Wilson believed the time was right for introducing his proposed Transport Policy Monitoring Checklist.

"Transport is moving up the political agenda, thanks to Auckland. The next step, if we are wanting to improve transport and the impact transport systems have on economic development and the environment, is to improve our monitoring up a couple of notches."

In the next few months he intends reporting back to the people in local and central government who provided feedback on his research and to see what interest there is in adopting his checklist.

Maria Hand

Ironman ties knot after event



Ronan Phelan competes in Hawaii.

When IT system analyst Ronan Phelan raced in the Ironman New Zealand Triathlon in Taupo in March there was extra incentive to qualify for last month's Hawaii Ironman.

"I told my partner that if I got to go to Hawaii we'd get married as well," Mr Phelan said.

So, three days after a gruelling 11 hours, seven minutes and 36 seconds competing in the 26th Ironman Triathlon World Championship, Mr Phelan tied the knot with his partner, Lisa, in a beach wedding held at "the Place of Refuge" in Honaunau Bay on the South Kona Coast.

An ironman race involves competitors swimming 3.8km, cycling 180km and running a full marathon (42km) — not part of your average groom's wedding week routine.

The Dublin-born athlete said he had "just about" recovered from his race by the wedding day.

"Five minutes after the race I started to look a bit pale and my partner took me to the medical tent where I spent two hours having IVs to replace the fluids I'd lost as the conditions were so severe."

The 16 October event was Ronan's 10th ironman triathlon and second Hawaii Ironman and the first time he had needed an intravenous fluid drip after a race.

"The heat and humidity made it very difficult. Coming from winter here to the end of their summer made acclimatisation really hard when I only got there a week before.

"And it is a gruelling course for me — it is a flat course and my body is light so I find it hard to push into the wind which is always there in Hawaii like a hairdryer blowing in your face."

Mr Phelan came 543rd overall in a field of 1800 and in his age group (30-34) finished in 132nd place.

It was 25 minutes faster than his first Hawaii Ironman in 2002, but his best ironman performance was in his qualifier in March where he came in just under 10 hours.

He first got into ironman racing when a friend wanted a training partner for The Longest Day Triathlon.

"I got hooked. I ended up going around the world to do ironman events — Germany, Switzerland, Australia, Canada, and New Zealand. It is great for travelling and seeing the world."

Maintaining ironman fitness means Mr Phelan trains six days a week for two to three hours weekdays and 10-plus hours at the weekend. In his build-up to the Hawaii Ironman he also took part in triathlon training sessions at QEII with sports medicine practitioner and coach Dr John Hellemans and sought help with his training from Stephen Rickerby at the UC Sport Science Centre.

"Having a fulltime job can make it hard to fit in (training) so I have to get up at the crack of dawn. You can see me up Rapaki in the dark with a head torch on at 6am in the morning during winter."

Historian's latest book traces Lyttelton's history

Putting together an illustrated history on Canterbury's main port was a project tinged with nostalgia for Associate Professor Geoffrey Rice (History).

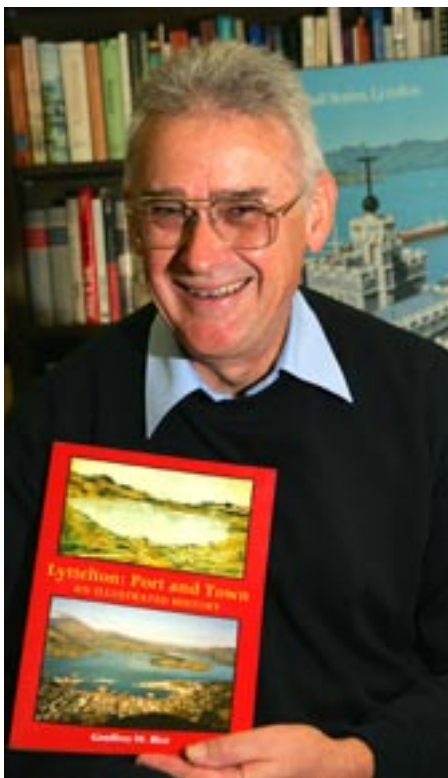
The author of *Lyttelton: Port and Town*, a new book released this month by Canterbury University Press, says Lyttelton has always been one of his favourite places.

Professor Rice has a long association with the port which began as a child when he would board the inter-island ferry each Christmas with his family to visit his grandparents in the North Island. Later in his student days he worked as a "seagull" — the scornful term wharfies used for students who worked as casual labourers — on the wharves and in the woolstore during his summer vacations.

"Lyttelton in those days was a dreadfully smoky place but also a busy, lively and interesting place. I'm afflicted with nostalgia when I go back nowadays, knowing how much it has changed over the past 50 years."

The book has been "the best part of three years in the making" and follows the same format as Professor Rice's successful publication *Christchurch Changing* (1999), which has had two reprints.

Professor Rice says the illustrated history is "not the big definitive history" but is more of a preliminary sketch, outlining in narrative



Professor Geoffrey Rice has fond memories of holidays in the port town.

form the key events and explaining patterns of change over 150 years. Many previously unpublished images from the Lyttelton Museum and the archives of the former

Lyttelton Harbour Board enhance the text.

Professor Rice's book traces the story of Lyttelton from its days as the "Pilgrim port" of the 1850s, when a single jetty received thousands of Canterbury Association settlers, to the bustling Victorian seaport during times of thriving wool and wheat exports, complete with graving dock and timeball station. The narrative progresses on to look at the 1867 railway tunnel, the Antarctic explorations that set off from the port in the early 1900s, the troopships that set off for the Boer and both World Wars, and the overnight inter-island ferry service between Lyttelton and Wellington which operated until the 1970s. The final chapter covers the dramatic changes of the 1980s and the often tense relationship between port and town in the 1990s.

While the port of today no longer resembles the port of Professor Rice's childhood, the town remains a colourful medley of seafarers, fisherman, port workers and newcomers. The author says he still feels the "thrill of anticipation" as he approaches the Lyttelton end of the road tunnel and sees ships and blue water, wondering what new sights will greet him.

- *Lyttelton: Port and Town*; Price \$34.95; ISBN 1-877257-24-9; 172pp, 285 x 210mm; colour and b/w photos, paperback.

Garden party fun at "Frensham"

The Alumni Association enjoyed dazzling spring weather for its fifth annual Garden Party, this year held at the beautiful "Frensham" garden on 21 November.

The 65 guests attending were greeted with a glass of champagne and the smooth strains of jazz duo Pas de Deux, who performed throughout the afternoon.

Lovingly cared for by owners Margaret and Ron Long, "Frensham" is a large country garden with a variety of features, including a delightful potager, gravel garden, rockery and woodland area, and a number of herbaceous borders.

The garden is located on Old Tai Tapu Road and is open to visitors by appointment (see www.margaretlong.co.nz for more information).

The Alumni Association warmly thanks Mr and Mrs Long for their kind hospitality.



Top left: Guests relax in the grounds of "Frensham".

Top right: Diana Moir (left) and Maggie Leask admire the gardens from a shady spot.

Bottom: (left to right) UC Registrar Alan Hayward, Janet & Helge Holm, Alumni Manager Chanel Hughes and Roger & Ruth Hopkins enjoy the hospitality at the annual garden party.