

May 2011

Chronicle

He Kupu Whakamahara



Helping hands
SVA's mission to Japan

Exciting challenges
ahead for AVC Māori

Should we stay or should we go?
The case for staying in Ilam

Welcome to the new look Chronicle

Chronicle has been part of the University of Canterbury community since its launch as a staff newsletter in January 1964. Over the years it has undergone a number of revamps.

Originally copied on a Gestetner, it was first professionally printed in November 1965. In 1970 the black and white photographic cover was replaced with news stories. Mastheads came and went, and editors experimented with paper size and column widths. Colour photos were first trialed in 1995 and full colour was introduced in 2005.

Following a review of the University's publications last year, it was decided to re-launch *Chronicle* in 2011 to make it a more engaging and relevant magazine for both staff and students. No longer just distributed to staff via the internal mail, the six-weekly magazine will also be available to students via drop boxes around campus. We have moved away from the formal look with a front page lead in favour of a colourful photographic cover. Changes continue inside with a colourful, fresh lay-out.

One of the biggest changes will be in content. Criticised over the years for being too much part of the establishment, the *Chronicle* welcomes genuine debate on current topics of interest at the University or in the wider education sector via guest columns and letters to the editor. Letters should be short and sweet (150 words or less) and publication will be at the editor's discretion. Letters and contributions for our new "Speaker's Corner" guest column can be sent to communications@canterbury.ac.nz. Another feature will be readers' polls, giving staff and students the opportunity to cast their vote on issues of the day.

The look of the *Chronicle* may have changed over the years but the aims remain the same – to inform, educate and promote a sense of pride across the University community.

Jeanette Colman, Editor

Chronicle

46

May 2011

Editor: Jeanette Colman
364 2987 Ext 43809

Staff Writers: Maria De Cort
Stacey Doornenbal
Jane Lucas

Sub-editor: Col Pearson

Photos: Duncan Shaw-Brown
Eve Welch

Artwork: Jane Blatchford

Printer: Toltech Print

Distribution: Canterbury Educational
Printing Services

E-mail: comms@canterbury.ac.nz

Address: Communications and
External Relations,
University of Canterbury,
Private Bag 4800,
Christchurch.



UC students on exchange at the University of Adelaide are busy juggling studies with a wide range of social activities.

Thanks to everyone else who's played a part making this issue happen.

More than 600 University of Canterbury graduates celebrated their achievements in a very special event held on campus.

20



12

Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Māori) Darryn Russell sees his new role as a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.



17

A collaborative team of University of Canterbury entomologists, virologists and plant biologists has discovered new viruses in dragonflies in the Kingdom of Tonga.



18

Chemistry academic Dr Jan Wikaira shares her personal journey as she masters new skills for an online learning environment.



Post-quake recovery *in full swing*

Three months on from the devastating 22 February earthquake, the University of Canterbury's recovery programme is in full swing.

The 6.3 earthquake, which struck on the second day of Semester One, prompted the immediate closure of the University while thorough checks were made of all University facilities. The University re-opened on March 14 in the first stage of a progressive re-start programme that saw the addition of evening and Saturday classes, and some classes being taught in tents.

The last of the tents have now been packed away and on Monday levels two and three of the Central Library in the James Hight building re-opened to students.

Vice-Chancellor Dr Rod Carr said that since the 22 February earthquake, the University had "overcome significant challenges".

"While none of our 240 separate structural spaces have fallen down or been condemned, we have been going through the lot of them to check they are safe for our staff and students. By the end of the month, more than 220 will have been certified for general occupation. There is remediation work to be done, which will cost tens of millions of dollars, but this reflects more the size and scale of the University than the extent of any damage.

"We have new courses and enhanced online learning options, and our student numbers have declined by little more than five per cent. Timetabling has been centralised, meaning work that has traditionally taken months is being done in less than a week. This is a testament to the resilience of the University and its people. Nearly 100 per cent of courses are being delivered on campus, our timetable is steady, and our staff are reporting enhanced inter-disciplinary interactions."

Construction is well underway on two learning village sites on the University oval and at Dovedale. A total of 104 units (each 144 sq metres) will be built for faculty offices, tutorial spaces and small lecture theatres for classes of up to 60 students. Some space will also be allocated to the Students' Association and their retailers. The first eight pods in the Oval Village came into use in early May with the balance due for completion by July.

Dr Carr said a recovery plan, which would bring together all aspects of the recovery of the University over the medium term, was being prepared as a draft for wider consultation within UC.

"It will consider all aspects of student recruitment, enrolment, retention, progression and completion as well as the need to restore and enhance the student experience.

"The plan will recognise the impact on staff, raise the issue of how best to support staff and consider retention and recruitment issues. The plan will also identify what impact the quake has had on teaching programme design and delivery both adverse effects and positive insights. It will seek to raise and address issues around research impacts and support," said Dr Carr.

"The plan will be a living document in many cases pointing to work underway or being initiated or conducted by other groups. It will be an inventory and a guide, a method of communicating and engaging with our staff, students and wider stakeholders."

Oval Village show home open



A show home at the Oval Village will give postgraduate students and staff an idea of what their temporary accommodation will be like.

The show home, KJ1 – the first building on the left as you enter the village – is now open during working hours for staff and students to visit. Set up with desks and office equipment, it will be open for viewing until Friday 3 June.

Earthquake casualties remembered

While there were no fatalities or serious injuries on campus following the 22 February earthquake, it was with great sadness that we inform you that there were a number of fatalities among the University community.

Lisa Patricia Willems, a law student, and Philip Graeme Reeve Coppeard, an MA student in Commerce, were among those who died. Susan Lyn Selway, a contract lecturer in Psychology, died in the CBD. Two University staff lost spouses: Dr Maysoon Abbas, wife of Associate Professor Maan Alkaisi (Electrical and Computer Engineering), and Dr Husanm Al-Ani, husband of senior researcher Wasam Ali (Health Sciences Centre). Graeme Tetley, our writer in residence, who was in Lyttelton at the time of the quake and became unwell, returned to Wellington where he later died. Mr Carey Bird, the claims preparer hired by the University, died in the PGC building collapse.

A number of UC alumni or former students also died or are missing. They include: Dr Dominic Joseph Bell; Heidi Julie Berg (BA 1997); Rhys Frank Brookbanks (was due to graduate in April 2011 with a Graduate Diploma in Journalism); Cristiano Carazo-Chandler (BA 1997; Graduate Diploma of Teaching and Learning 2000 Secondary, MA (Hons) 2001); Elsa Torres de Froot (Diploma of Teaching Secondary 1992); Paul Clarence Dunlop (BSc 1964); Adam Stephen Fisher; Jaime Robert McDowell Gilbert; Jen Jin Hii (BSc 1999, Graduate Diploma in Arts 2003); Siwen Huo (BCom 2008); Normand Lee (BCom 2008); Linda Rosemary Parker; Gillian Sayers (BA 1995); Emma Shaharudin (BBusmgmt 2003, NZ Diploma in Business 1999, Certificate in Accounting 1999); Christine Patricia (Trish) Stephenson (BA 1987); Te Taki (Wally) Tairakena (GradCertTESOL 2006, CAT 2003); Brian Warrington Taylor (Teachers College Diploma Secondary 1968, MEd 1987); Lesley Jane

Thomson (BCom 1993); Murray John Wood; and Stephen Robert Wright (BA 1987, BCom 1995).

We would like to express our deepest condolences to the families and friends of those who were lost in the earthquake.

The University is discussing a permanent memorial for those in the UC community who tragically lost their lives.

If we have neglected to name or acknowledge a member of the UC community lost in the earthquake above please accept our sincere apologies. We would appreciate you informing us of any such omission at communications@canterbury.ac.nz as we would like the opportunity to appropriately acknowledge all those who have been or are a part of the University community.

Student Volunteer Army's mission to Japan

The scale of the devastation and clean-up job facing Japan in the wake of the 11 March earthquake and tsunami leaves a normally eloquent young student leader lost for words.

"It is hard to describe what you see there. Lives, homes and villages have just been utterly destroyed," said Student Volunteer Army (SVA) founder Sam Johnson, who has recently returned from a trip to Japan to set up a Japanese version of the SVA.

Sam and colleague Jason Pemberton, who helped run the SVA's mobile dispatch unit, flew to Japan courtesy of Air New Zealand and spent a fortnight in the country with the goal of helping establish a self-sufficient volunteer project made up of university students from the region worst hit by the massive 9.0 earthquake and tsunami that hit Japan's north-east coast.

The SVA was invited to Japan by Global DIRT (Disaster Immediate Response Team). Global DIRT spent a couple of days in Christchurch with the SVA following the 22 February quake observing the volunteer workforce in action in the hard-hit eastern suburbs and looking at its management systems. Impressed by the organisation's model of en masse student volunteering, President Adam Marlatt Facebook messaged Sam suggesting some SVA representatives share some of the lessons they had learned as a result of the September and February earthquakes. The first three days of the mission were spent in Tokyo, meeting with other NGOs and student contacts at Waseda University, with which the University of Canterbury has enjoyed an exchange programme since 2001.



Two of the students Sam and Jason met, and who accompanied them for the rest of their trip acting as translators as well as pitching in with clean-up efforts, were Ashleigh Stewart, a UC student on exchange at Waseda, and Wakana Fujita, a Japanese student from Waseda who Sam said has taken up the mantle of developing and co-ordinating the new Japanese volunteer student workforce.

Sam said it was especially satisfying to know they were able to do their small part to assist Japan, given the country sent rescue crews to Christchurch in its time of need.

"We were conscious not to go over there as 'know-alls' as the Japanese are the experts in disaster relief and, conscious of that, we didn't speak to any officials but were solely focused on working with fellow students, encouraging them and empowering them with a pattern of communication to enable them to organise their student body through the likes of Facebook and Twitter."

From Tokyo they travelled north to the city of Ishinomaki in Miyagi Prefecture, and were based in a volunteer camp for a week. With their now-famous green Army T-shirts on they let their actions speak for them and got stuck in helping clean mud and debris out of homes, a soya sauce factory and even rescuing ancient Japanese artefacts from a calligraphy museum. Each day they volunteered with a different organisation to gain first-hand appreciation of how volunteering works in Japan.

Sam said the personal stories he was told by locals were heart-wrenchingly sad, but he and Jason were thanked and told how much the international support meant to villagers.

Back in Tokyo, towards the end of their trip, the team met with Associate Professor Christopher Pokarier from the School of International Liberal Studies (SILS) at Waseda University to seek support from the university for the new Japanese volunteer programme, named Student Volunteer Army – SILS. The organisers heading this new group will be able to utilise a communication strategies document the University of Canterbury SVA prepared in Japanese.



So where to from here for the Student Volunteer Army, an army whose successes to date include attracting 2100 official club members, enlisting 9000 volunteers who put in 75,000 volunteer hours over a month and shovelled 60,000 tonnes of silt after the September quake and a whopping 370,000 tonnes since 22 February?

Sam said a charitable foundation was being formed, dubbed the Volunteer Army Foundation, to further develop their model of en masse volunteering. The foundation will also use the generous support the SVA received to help with other projects, such as the Hope For Christchurch scholarship programme for children of those who died in the Christchurch earthquake, and researching the launch of a volunteer exchange scheme to Japan.

"Of course, the main focus of the Volunteer Army Foundation will be supporting the University of Canterbury Student Volunteer Army, a student club to promote students volunteering in our community."

Above: Sam Johnson visits a damaged house in Ishinomaki.

Below: (From left) Ashleigh Stewart, Wakana Fujita, Jason Pemberton and Sam Johnson at the Ishinomaki Volunteer Centre.





Despatches from the dreaming spires of Oxford

Twelve UC doctoral students and 31 honours students are currently on an eight-week exchange at the University of Oxford, an opportunity generously offered by the prestigious UK university in the wake of February's earthquake.

At 73 years of age anthropology honours student Reverend Patricia Allan is the self-proclaimed "grandmother of the group". She shares some of her first impressions with Chronicle.

Walking among the dreaming spires of Oxford, we think we're actually dreaming. This is the sentiment often expressed by the 43 of us Canterbury honours and doctoral students here. There is ongoing disbelief at our incredible fortune, along with the awesome responsibility of it all.

Oxford is full of history and proud of it, and draws bright young people from all over the world. The overall impression is one of privilege and peculiar rituals and protocols such as needing to wear a student gown for evening meals and church services within the major colleges, along with a distinctive college and pub culture. People are friendly and helpful and put on a distinctive sympathetic expression when they hear we are from Christchurch. When we gather together I notice the conversations often revert to the earthquake.

The UC students are dispersed throughout the town at many of the 44 colleges here and are encouraged to visit one another's colleges. Mine is Keble, which I visited 49 years ago to see the Holman Hunt painting of "The Light of the World". The college has generously provided a very adequate room with attached bathroom, and all meals.

Everyone has made us feel welcome. An early highlight was the orientation at Rhodes House where we were introduced to some of the protocols of Oxford. By chance the Governor General of Australia was there and came in to say hello. Last week a group of us went to London to meet Professor Ian Town, UC's Deputy Vice-Chancellor, at New Zealand House. Later we welcomed him to Oxford and reiterated our deep appreciation of Canterbury's generosity in sending us here.

"What is a semi-retired Anglican priest doing there?" you might well ask. I'm interested in the debates that surround the rebuilding of Christ Church Cathedral, along with what happens to the many earthquake displaced faith communities. Anthropology is an excellent discipline in which to be considering these matters and I am overwhelmingly grateful for the astonishing opportunity to do so.

Because Keble College does not have a resident anthropologist who would normally oversee my study, I am attached to the more general University of Oxford Anthropology Department with Professor Marcus Banks. He has organised for four tutorials with various anthropologists, a week apart.

For each of these I have to prepare a 1500-word essay from a supplied reading list and will discuss these in the tutorials. The written comments will then inform an expanded 3000-word essay. These four essays will be moderated from UC towards my BA Hons. Thus I am doing crash courses in visual anthropology, buildings and memory, collections and museums, and heritage and tourism. Much of it is still a delightful muddle.

The initial project is a photo essay, so I have been selecting various objects, particularly in Christ Church Cathedral to illustrate some of my thinking on “the pathway to knowledge”.

Besides this there are many opportunities to listen to lectures in a wide variety of subjects. Some I have found fascinating, others very difficult to understand; but all grist to the mill of being an Oxford student.

Opposite: Patricia Allan (right) with fellow UC student Ulrike Schwertheim outside Keble College Chapel.



UC get-togethers in Oxford and London

Canterbury postgraduate students on exchange to the University of Oxford for the Trinity Term were hosted at a reception at Rhodes House this week.

The Warden, Dr Don Markwell, staged the reception to welcome UC Deputy Vice-Chancellor Professor Ian Town and Registrar Jeff Field, and provide an opportunity for them to network with the students.

The 36 students present were deeply grateful to the University for arranging the exchange and very appreciative of the academic and pastoral support they were receiving from their Oxford colleges. On behalf of the students, postgraduate coordinator Bree Loverich presented the UC party with a copy of the “Oxford Sketchbook” signed by all of the students. The 43 honours, master’s and PhD students are being hosted at the 20 Oxford Colleges that responded to the call from Oxford Vice-Chancellor Professor Andy Hamilton for colleges to provide tangible support to their sister university following the earthquakes in Christchurch.

Professor Town thanked Dr Markwell for his generous welcoming of the Canterbury contingent and congratulated them on the positive impression they were making in Oxford as ambassadors for Canterbury.

Mr Field outlined the historic origins of the Canterbury–Oxford University links and recent initiatives at staff and student level to further strengthen the ties. He presented Dr Markwell and the students with UC coat of arms pins as a symbol of the modern and historic links between the two universities.

Last week the Canterbury students joined 80 alumni at a reception at New Zealand House in London.

Hosted by Professor Town, Mr Field and Alumni and Development Manager Graeme Steven, alumni and students networked for several hours, enjoying the fabulous views from the Penthouse above Trafalgar Square. Professor Town took the opportunity to outline to alumni UC’s recovery path following the earthquake and to brief all present on the \$10 million fundraising campaign to raise scholarships for 2012 and beyond.

Pictured above: The 36 Canterbury students in the garden of Rhodes House with (centre, back row) Registrar Jeff Field, Deputy Vice-Chancellor Professor Ian Town, Warden Dr Don Markwell and (front fifth from right) Associate Professor Ursula Cheer (Law), who is on a Visiting Canterbury Fellowship to Oxford.

Sister-city opens its heart to UC students

UC students on exchange at the University of Adelaide this semester are being looked after like family in our sister city.

Currently 168 first and second-year UC students are studying at the University of Adelaide after opting for the exchange programme offered in the wake of the 22 February earthquake.

Under the programme, students enrolled into existing academic programmes for one semester with the University of Adelaide not charging additional tuition fees. They have been housed in halls of residence or billeted by local residents.

The students have been busy juggling studies with a wide variety of social activities including attending the Adelaide Rugby Sevens where they met fellow Cantabrian and former Crusaders coach and current Wallabies coach Robbie Deans, watching the V8 Supercars Championship Clipsal 500, supporting local AFL team the Adelaide Crows, and enjoying a performance by the Adelaide Youth Orchestra.



Although far from home, the students observed New Zealand's Memorial Day on 18 March with a special service in St Peter's Cathedral and a UC student was invited to lay a memorial wreath at the Anzac Day Dawn Service.

Mike Mettrick, a second year BCom student, said he put his hand up for the exchange as a cost-free chance to see the world while studying.

"I'm loving all aspects of the trip, it's been a great experience."

He said there were only a few differences between studying in pre-quake Christchurch and Adelaide, "mostly around Adelaide University's love of group work/ assignments".

Mike said Adelaide had a vibrant atmosphere and the people were friendly.

"I describe Adelaide as Christchurch in shape with Auckland numbers of people, but it still has that small town courtesy and friendliness."

Professor James McWha, Vice-Chancellor and President of the University of Adelaide, said the South Australian community had warmly welcomed the students.

"The students have settled in very well to their academic programme and life in Adelaide, especially considering so many are just starting their first year of university.

"The exchange has certainly strengthened the already strong ties between our university communities. As many of the students prepare to return to Christchurch following their exams in June, I am sure they will take with them many fond memories and lasting friendships from their time here in Adelaide."

Pictured left: UC students join in the party atmosphere at the Adelaide Rugby Sevens with former Crusaders coach and current Wallabies coach Robbie Deans.

Shaky visit for plate tectonics expert

No matter how much you know about plate tectonics and earthquakes, they can still give you a bit of a shock.

For Visiting Erskine Fellow, Professor Thomas Gardner (Trinity University, San Antonio, US), a plate tectonics expert from Texas, the 22 February earthquake was a surprise. He now sleeps with a cellphone, torch and water alongside his bed as he doesn't want to be caught out again.

"It has been amazing being here at Canterbury. I study and research tectonic processes and plates, yet never thought I'd experience an earthquake on this scale," he said.

The earthquake altered Professor Gardner's initial plans of investigating the marine terraces near Kaikoura with Dr Mark Quigley (Geological Sciences). He was invited to UC to look at the terraces to collect stratigraphic observation data to investigate the deforming plate boundary, the Hope Fault, a "splay" of the main Alpine Fault that occurs in the region.

"There's great data to work with there. The terraces around Kaikoura developed from earthquakes that have occurred over the last several million years. They are a great example of how mountains are created," Professor Gardner said.

"Mark has been rather busy since the February earthquake, for obvious reasons, so we haven't been able to spend as much time together as first anticipated. I have spent a lot of time gathering data on my own, but in some very beautiful places."

Professor Gardner's main research interest is in geological aspects in the Quaternary period, 2.6 million years ago to the present.

He looks at the tectonic and climatic controls on long-term landscape evolution, as well as sedimentology and stratigraphy, which is the layering or deposits of sediments and sedimentary rocks over time.



Visiting Erskine Fellow
Professor Thomas Gardner

Between collecting data Professor Gardner has also been teaching students on field trips.

He said that it had been an unusual time. He has taken some time to travel throughout the South Island with his wife and, although he has enjoyed his time at UC, he was looking forward to getting home.

"There's a lot of anxiety involved with the aftershocks, so I'm looking forward to just being home.

"Before coming here I felt deprived by not experiencing an earthquake – I live in central America where earthquakes do occur, I study tectonics yet I have to travel to New Zealand before I experience one. My wife warned me about coming here."

Exciting challenges ahead

Making the move from Dunedin to Christchurch was not a difficult choice for the University of Canterbury's new Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Māori) Darryn Russell (Ngāi Tahu), despite 7.1 and 6.3 magnitude earthquakes.

Mr Russell, a born and bred Dunedinite, said the move represented both a professional and personal opportunity too good to ignore and, while the earthquakes "provided a level of challenge environmentally", he was "incredibly excited" about the potential development opportunities his new position would allow him to sink his teeth into.

"While this has been a time of sadness and tragedy, it is also a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to do something new because it forces us, in terms of interdisciplinary engagement, to collaborate around developments and spatially advance 20 years of growth into the next three to five years. It is also an opportunity to reinvent and reinvest in the University as it contributes to the development of a new city. That is an extraordinary opportunity that completely excites me," he said.

Mr Russell, who was welcomed to the University with a powhiri on 8 April, has spent the first weeks in his new job orienting himself to his surroundings "getting a view of current activities, finding out where we've come from and building an idea of where we need to go from here".

He said one of his goals was to develop an institutional strategy to support the University in its contribution to Māori development and position the University as a leader in the indigenous knowledge economy.

Assistant Vice-Chancellor
(Māori) Darryn Russell



“One of the issues I’d like to look at is graduates being culturally confident and culturally competent enough to be able to add value to a bi-cultural New Zealand society. It should be a given that this should be happening but I’m not totally convinced that we or any other university in New Zealand is doing that in totality. But it has to be a focus and if we can position ourselves as the leading tertiary institution that produces culturally competent, confident graduates then we will be in a unique place.”

This would involve creating synergy between undergraduate and postgraduate curricula and encouraging interdisciplinary collaboration, said Mr Russell.

“The Māori world isn’t confined to one discipline and we now have an opportunity to have interdisciplinary engagement and creating knowledge that is mutually beneficial. To me that is pretty exciting and it’s not currently on the tertiary landscape so I think it could be a distinction that UC should seize.”

Mr Russell, who takes over the role of Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Māori) from Sir Tipene O’Regan, comes to UC from the University of Otago where he had been the Director of Māori Development since 2001. He has also worked for Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu and for a number of government agencies.

“I started out of school in the old Māori cadet scheme and it was during that time that I became interested in community and iwi development. That led me to have the privilege of working with Ngāi Tahu pre- and post-settlement, which was a great experience.”

Mr Russell said the opportunity to take a different institution in a new direction was “incredibly exciting to me and I’m very confident about being here”.

“To be part of reinvesting in the University as it contributes to the redevelopment of the city is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.”

NZ’s oceans governance to be scrutinised

The effectiveness of New Zealand’s oceans governance regime will come under close scrutiny in a project being undertaken by a University of Canterbury environmental law specialist.

Karen Scott, from the University’s School of Law, has been awarded \$50,000 by the New Zealand Law Foundation to evaluate the way New Zealand manages its ocean territory with the aim of developing legislative and policy reform proposals.

The project, titled “Reforming the legislative framework for ocean governance in New Zealand”, will examine New Zealand’s current approach to the management of its maritime zone in light of its international commitments as well as compare this approach to the regimes of other countries, particularly those of the United Kingdom, Canada and Australia.

Ms Scott said the aim of her project was to help improve New Zealand’s ocean governance to ensure it fully complied with its international obligations in terms of marine environmental protection.

“The premise is that New Zealand is not managing its oceans very well, particularly the area beyond its territorial sea,” Ms Scott said.

“While New Zealand does some things well, particularly in the area of fisheries management where it is recognised worldwide as leading the way, there is no overarching oceans management strategy. The current regime is sector-based, fragmented and there are significant gaps in the regulations. For example, the environmental effects of offshore mining activities are not explicitly recognised.”



Karen Scott

She said these gaps and fragmentation hindered New Zealand’s ability to effectively protect and manage its ocean territory.

“The direction now being taken at an international level is towards integrated and sustainable management approaches. If New Zealand does not move in that direction it might also struggle to meet its international law obligations.”

New Zealand’s territorial sea covers 175,000 square kilometres and its exclusive economic zone (EEZ), comprising about 3.9 million square kilometres, makes it the sixth largest EEZ in the world.

“New Zealand’s maritime zone is of huge importance to both our economy and our security and I hope my research will have an effect on policy in this area,” Ms Scott said.

Her two-year project will include discussions with relevant New Zealand government departments, and research institutions and oceans management organisations in Canada, the United Kingdom and Australia, three countries which are in the process of developing integrated approaches to managing their maritime territories.



Should we stay or should we go?

*Location, location, location.
UC Vice-Chancellor Dr Rod Carr puts the case for the University remaining in Ilam.*

More than 60 years ago a decision was made to relocate the University of Canterbury from its town site to a new site at Ilam. That decision was taken for a number of reasons, not least of which was the fact the University had outgrown its land and buildings, and post-war projections of growth and prosperity forecast not only increasing demand but an increasing willingness and ability to pay for higher education. It took more than 20 years to complete the relocation, which was fully implemented over 35 years ago. Today the 87ha University campus services more than 20,000 staff and students. Seventy-two per cent of the University's students live within 2.5km of the campus. Eight thousand rooms are clustered in 240 separate structural spaces with a depreciated book value of more than \$525 million and a replacement cost in the billions of dollars.

Readers' Poll

Do you think the University should relocate to the CBD?

Cast your vote at www.comsdev.canterbury.ac.nz/poll.shtml

It was only last year that the proposition of relocating even a small part of the University – the School of Music – to be closer to the passing audiences and heritage buildings of the old University site in the central city lead some to argue that any splitting of the campus would detract from the integrated campus and learning community at Ilam.

Since the earthquakes, the question has been raised by some as to whether the University should up sticks and head east to infuse the struggling area within the four avenues with vitality. Relocating the University is not the answer.

Firstly, the University has not run out of space where it is. UC has more land and built infrastructure per student than the average New Zealand university. Our facilities are not as fully utilised as they should be.

Secondly, the University buildings did not fall down or even suffer significant structural damage in the earthquakes. Yes, there is remediation work to be undertaken over coming years, but more than 220 of our 240 separate structural spaces will have been certified for general occupation by the end of May.

Thirdly, a detailed assessment of the state of our buildings pre-earthquakes showed the vast majority of the space to be of above average quality. Buildings such as Commerce and Law were built in the 1990s and the \$10 million NZi3 building, \$32 million biological sciences building and multimillion dollar primary data centre are all less than three years old. Yes, there are some older spaces ready for refurbishment in Science and Engineering, but this will represent a fraction of the cost of rebuilding substantial buildings.

Fourthly, it makes no economic sense to abandon special-purpose infrastructure that is not damaged at a time when the economic demands to replace damaged infrastructure are so great. Besides, shifting the economic activity generated by the University and its students to another part of town does nothing to increase the total economic activity in the city. Our focus should be on attracting 5000 more students to study in Christchurch, not on shifting the current activity 10km to the east.

“ *Talk of relocating the University has the potential to be an enormous distraction.* ”

Finally, the University must focus on recruiting and retaining students, supporting staff and their research efforts and reassuring potential collaborators and stakeholders that the University is fully operational. Talk of relocating the University has the potential to be an enormous distraction.

So what might attract the University to locate some activities within the four avenues?

The University would welcome the opportunity to support the creation of a world-leading research and teaching medical complex to support the million people who live in the South Island. A postgraduate medical school, the training of allied medical professionals and development of advanced applied medical technologies should be focused in what is known as the Central Business District but may in future be known as the Centre of Advanced Applied Medicine.

It may also make sense to locate sports and recreation facilities in proximity to the existing stadium and health sciences, which are not unrelated to sports science, may also be considered.

In its draft campus master plan, the University identified its desire to provide facilities for music on its Ilam campus and to enhance the sports and recreational infrastructure to support health, lifestyles and wellbeing for its community. As these plans are progressed they should not be seen as in conflict with the needs of other communities that constitute the greater city of Christchurch. The University does not seek and cannot afford to replace the Town Hall, Convention Centre, QEII Stadium or Arts Centre but will develop arts, cultural, entertainment, recreation and retail activities of appropriate scale to support its vibrant community and wider neighbourhood.

We will do this mindful of, and in association with, the wider city and the emerging vision of the area which formerly housed many businesses but may, in the future, be home to medical, recreational and sporting facilities the city and region could become renowned for, and where relevant research and teaching is co-located and employees and students choose to live. That vision does not require the University to relocate but merely to be convinced, as it reaches out, that there is a real opportunity to be grasped.

This little piggie goes to market

Boutique stalls, vintage clothing, jewellery, a plethora of food and beverage outlets and cute farm animals are just a few of the attractions at the weekly University of Canterbury Student Association's Winter Wonderland Market.

The market is being held each Wednesday in the UCSA car park until 8 June.

The next Winter Wonderland Market will be held Wednesday 25 May from 10am to 2pm.

A full list of stores and clubs taking part in next week's market can be found on the Winter Wonderland Facebook event page.



Making the boardroom green



Professor Chris van Staden

Companies keen to improve their environmental performance should take a look at the characteristics of their board of directors.

New research by University of Canterbury academic Professor Chris van Staden (Accounting and Information Systems), working with Dr Charl de Villiers and Associate Professor Vic Naiker from the University of Auckland, has found that corporate boards play an important role in promoting strong environmental performance.

The research findings are due to be published in the *Journal of Management* in a paper titled "The effect of board characteristics on firm environmental performance".

Using information from two commercial databases, Professor van Staden said the researchers found that the governance structure of a company is linked to the impact it has on the environment. For example, companies that had greater board independence and a lower concentration of directors appointed after the CEO performed better environmentally.

"Directors appointed by the CEO are more likely to be influenced by him or her, compromising the independence of the board."

The research also found that companies that have larger boards, CEOs of other companies sitting on the board and directors with legal expertise had better environmental performance.

"A bigger board will give a better performance because, collectively, it will have more knowledge and richness of expertise and diversity. A larger board will also be more independent, particularly if it's not involved in the management of the company or if members are not financially involved in the company," he said.

"Lawyers have an understanding of the risks involved if a company's activities contravene regulations. Not everyone understands these regulations so having a lawyer or someone with legal expertise on board is an advantage."

Professor van Staden said the natural environment had become an important avenue for companies to gain competitive advantage.

"Consumers are becoming more and more aware of environmental issues and want products that are environmentally friendly and have not been produced in a way that pollutes. This means the market opportunities for companies that take the environmental impact of their activities into consideration can be substantial and the risks of not doing so can be huge."



UC PhD student Simona Kraberger

New viruses in dragonflies

A collaborative team of University of Canterbury entomologists, virologists and plant biologists has discovered new viruses in dragonflies in the Kingdom of Tonga.

The UC-led research team, led by Dr Arvind Varsani (Biological Sciences), will have its research paper on a new virus species it discovered, Dragonfly cyclovirus (DfCyV), published in the June issue of *The Journal of General Virology*.

“To our knowledge this is the first report of a circular single-stranded DNA – ssDNA – virus identified in dragonflies, and the data may help elucidate evolutionary links among novel circoviruses and cycloviruses recently identified in animals and environmental samples,” Dr Varsani said.

“The discovery of DfCyV establishes a precedent for circular ssDNA viruses in invertebrates.”

Dr Varsani’s Marsden Fund supported project involves genetic diversity and recombination analysis of plant-infecting geminiviruses in the Pacific.

“We were struggling to find classical geminivirus symptoms in various plants and thought that we should look at top-end predators with the help of Dr Milen Marinov, a Bulgarian dragonfly expert based at University of Canterbury. Vectors for plant viruses are predominantly insects. Since dragonflies eat only insects that move we collected a large sample of dragonflies, screened these for ssDNA viruses and interestingly discovered an entirely new group of viruses in them.”

Dr Varsani said the discovery, made using the simple top-down approach to sample viruses from the environment, gave him confidence in the effective use of top-end predators to sample viromes in various ecosystems in the future.

“It changes the entire picture of how you work concentrating at the top. The top-down approach is ideal for crude sampling of a virome in this case. However, it does not provide sufficient resolution for virus-host specificity and interactions. Nonetheless, this can be investigated independently to address specific research questions that might be applied or just purely of academic interest.”

Papers are in production based on three other new viruses discovered in the dragonfly samples collected in Tonga.

The research project has been expanded to have a more global focus with additional international collaborators coming on board. These include entomologists and ssDNA viral evolutionary biologists in South Africa (Dr Darren Martin, University of Cape Town), France (Dr Phillipe Roumagnac, CIRAD), La Reunion (Dr Pierre Lefevre and Dr Pascal Rouse, CIRAD), and a North American team comprising Dr Mya Breibart, Dr Karyna Rosario (University of South Florida, USA) and Dr Jessica Ware (Rutgers University, USA) all exploring the “depth of virus diversity in dragonflies”, Dr Varsani said.

“We will explore the diversity and evolution through recombination of these single-stranded viruses. Our long-term goals include using virus ‘signatures’ to date and plot global movement and trafficking of host species.”





Dr Jan Wikaira, Chemistry

Tackling the technological divide

Chemistry academic Dr Jan Wikaira shares her personal journey as she masters new skills for an online learning environment.

So here it is, 11.30 at night and I am weeping into the keyboard of my laptop. I'm usually a pretty staunch person so what has reduced me to this state? It's that PowerPoint. All I did was use the usual key stroke to superscript something and now it won't go back. No matter what I do it won't change. So I'll have to type everything in Word and then copy and paste.

Of course I've used PowerPoint before – to make a few slides for a conference presentation or to illustrate a point or show a small video in a lecture, but to teach with? No way! I consider it a presentation medium and it certainly doesn't suit me for first year. I usually teach in a very interactive way, out amongst the students, scampering around the room, asking questions, getting them to come to their own realisations. My idea of teaching – “a leading to learning”. My OHPs are hand-printed in brilliant colours and are supplemented by “talk and chalk” and, yes, a bit of the dreaded PP.

But this job needs to be done and I tackle it with dread – four lectures a week for seven weeks and voice-overs. The lectures are written so it shouldn't take me too long – yeah right. I'm no typist but I have mastered superscripting and such with key strokes and I can even do quite complicated equations the same way.

I work in Word and copy and paste but now everything is bullet pointed and every line is capitalised. Manually I get rid of all that but also all the formatting has gone. I redo it. Now the equations won't copy. I get nothing at all. Aha, from the dregs of my memory comes “paste special” and I try it. Hooray, an equation appears but it is in a long box and I can't put anything by it. I try to resize and it goes all peculiar. This is too hard. I don't have any of the pictures I've used so hours are spent searching the Internet for more.

Phew, one done and it has only taken me five days.

Now to the voice-over. I turn on the recorder and look at the first slide. I stutter and stammer and get tongue-tied. Three goes later I am right into the swing of it and 10 slides in. Ting goes the knife on the wine glass (great tip Steve) and I say totally the wrong thing followed by “... bugger I didn't mean to say that. Oh bugger now that's on the tape”. Start again!

Six done and I can't get better than 12 hours per lecture. Gregor Ronald [Electronic Learning Media] sends me to see Susan Tull and suddenly all sorts of tricks and devices are at my fingertips. I'm cracking it. I'm now down to six to nine hours for each one.

However, that's just the time to produce them. Getting these on to Learn is another story. From my place the connection to the uni is flaky when it rains, or is windy or the moon is blue or whatever. More frustrating hours have been spent getting these pearls to the site.

The face-to-face sessions are a joy, real people to talk to and I can see if they are getting it. However, there's one more problem. I can't roam round the room because the videographer can't keep track of me so I have to stay anchored to the spot. I keep forgetting and he's tearing his hair out.

Sixteen down, eight to go. I would not have survived without that expert help and the generosity of colleagues who have made all of their slides freely available. Of course, they have shared lectures in the past but nothing on this grand scale. Will I use these again? I'm not sure, but at least next time I get crook, instead of crawling in, I can say “I'm not coming today but it's all online!”

Psychologist wins top US award

A University of Canterbury academic has received international recognition from the world's largest organisation for psychologists.

Associate Professor William "Deak" Helton (Psychology) has been awarded the Earl Alluisi Award for Early Career Achievement by the American Psychological Association (APA) in recognition of his work in the field of human factors psychology.

The annual award is presented to an academic in the first 10 years of his or her post-PhD career who has made a significant contribution to applied experimental and engineering psychology.

Professor Helton, who will receive his award at the 2012 APA Convention, said he felt "especially honoured as the award has rarely been made to someone outside of North America".

"Having senior colleagues in the field note my contributions to the science of human factors and applied psychology is definitely rewarding."

One of Professor Helton's primary research concerns is the study of vigilance, looking at why people cannot maintain a constant level of attention or alertness over time during monitoring or detection work, such as looking for weapons in luggage or monitoring radars.

Known as the vigilance decrement, Professor Helton said a popular theory in neuroscience circles is that the inability to maintain vigilance is due to these tasks being repetitive, monotonous and boring.

Another theory was that vigilance decrement is tied to how objectively hard the detection task is, not its monotonous nature, he said.

"We are beginning to link this performance decline with objective physiological changes in the brain. I was one of the first people to use real-time brain monitoring to examine human mental fatigue and vigilance in visual detection tasks."



Associate Professor Deak Helton with Fin.

Professor Helton said testing the two theories "is extremely critical".

"It can mean the difference between an air-traffic controller detecting a vehicle parked on the runway or not, which in turn means the difference between you, as a passenger, living or not. I have also done innovative work looking at how emotion impacts human performance, and emotion is often a neglected topic in the field."

Professor Helton is also one of the first researchers to study working dogs from an ergonomic science perspective. His work in this area resulted in the first scientific book on working dogs, *Canine Ergonomics: The Science of Working Dogs* (2009).

"The idea that ergonomic science could enhance working dogs' abilities, which are already exceptional in many regards, just like ergonomic science can enhance human abilities at work, was novel. This generated a great deal of interest in the working dog community and agencies deploying working dogs," he said.

"If my work helps people find and eliminate improvised explosive devices, landmines and unexploded ordinance, that is really all the reward I need."

UC student among NZ International Students of the Year

University of Canterbury education doctoral student Bree Loverich has been named one of New Zealand's International Students of the Year by Education New Zealand.

The organisation ran an inaugural competition to find New Zealand's top international students from all educational sectors and Bree was named the winner of the university sector category. She was nominated for the award by the University of Canterbury Students' Association.

Nominees were judged on their academic achievements, their participation in institutional and community activities, and how they had thrown themselves into Kiwi culture and experiences.

Bree, from the United States, has been in New Zealand for five years. She was granted direct entry to the PhD programme at UC without having to complete a master's degree.

A University of Canterbury Doctoral Scholarship recipient, Bree is researching curriculum and assessment in New Zealand's secondary education policies. She is also President of the Postgraduate Students' Association and is currently one of 43 students on exchange to Oxford University.

The six winners from each sector will receive a trip within New Zealand with Flying Kiwi Adventure Tours and a winner's certificate.



Bree Loverich

A memorable marquee moment

More than 600 University of Canterbury graduates celebrated their achievements in a very special event held on campus on Wednesday 20 April.



Two graduate celebrations were held in the “Super Top” tent on Ilam Fields to recognise the achievements of 2011 graduates who had been due to attend graduation ceremonies in the central city, cancelled as a result of the 22 February earthquake.

The Christchurch celebrations followed the day after a celebration was held in Auckland at the Maidment Theatre for 30 University of Canterbury graduates.

UC Chancellor Rex Williams told the packed marquee that it was a “very special ceremony occasioned by the side-effects of the forces of nature and circumstances beyond our control” but that it was also special to be “back on our own campus” to celebrate.

Graduates at the morning ceremony were addressed by UC arts and law student, and founder of the Student Volunteer Army, Sam Johnson, and the afternoon’s graduates were addressed by UCSA President and law and commerce graduate Kohan McNab.

Reflecting on what he had learned from his UC years, particularly over recent months, Kohan said he hoped he would hold onto the memory of how inspired he felt to be a part of the UC community.

“From my fellow Canterbury graduates I will remember the perseverance and commitment required to focus on exams whilst in the midst of a natural disaster. I will remember what was required, not only to carry on, but to succeed and enjoy life in the face of adversity. I hope I will remember that even in a time of extreme trial and great personal loss, large numbers of people will still turn out to help others. And I hope I will remember how this action can resonate across the community, the country and the world.”

