

# Welcome to the LIMELIGHT

June 2016

The newsletter puts tertiary teaching and learning in the limelight and links you with all the latest news from the members of the Ako Aotearoa Academy of Tertiary Teaching Excellence.

## A note from the incoming President

Kia ora, members of the Ako Aotearoa Academy of Tertiary Teaching Excellence! Wondering what your fellow national teaching award winners have been up to? This newsletter showcases recent activities and achievements. There is news about publications; conferences; an intriguing art exhibition; academic visits; educational opportunities; an enrichment programme for gifted high school students; and important initiatives to redress significant health, education and social disparities for minorities. We hope that reading about these activities will facilitate collaboration, and prompt you to send us news of your own exploits.

Kia ora also to those of you outside the Academy! The Executive Committee has decided to expand circulation of this newsletter in order to reach a wider audience at tertiary institutions and government departments. The Executive Committee sees service – giving back to the wider community – as an important role for award winners. We hope that reading about Academy members will prompt you to think of ways in which award winners might be able to help you, and to contact us with your ideas.

Eric, we have really appreciated your service in the role of President over the past year. On behalf of the Academy, thanks very much for all your efforts.

*Selene Mize, President*

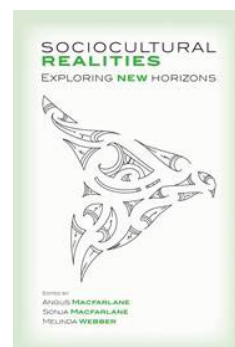


## New projects and initiatives

### Sociocultural realities: Exploring new horizons

A new book Sociocultural Realities: Exploring new horizons (Canterbury University Press) was launched at the University of Canterbury on 8 December 2015 with over one hundred guests in attendance. Edited by Academy member **Professor Angus Macfarlane** (Te Arawa), Sonja Macfarlane and Melinda Webber, it examines sociocultural approaches in the education sector, from early childhood to tertiary. By way of a range of personal experiences, and some innovative research that showcases sociocultural theory in practice, the book offers practical examples for educators to employ in today's diverse learning contexts. Sociocultural Realities: Exploring new horizons is a reference for teachers, special education advisors, psychologists, university lecturers and paraprofessionals. It is available to purchase from the Canterbury University Press website.

*(Want to know more? E:mail [angus.macfarlane@canterbury.ac.nz](mailto:angus.macfarlane@canterbury.ac.nz))*



## Design students collaborate for Second International Food Design Conference

Over 120 students from Otago Polytechnic's Food Design Institute and School of Design have united on a collaborative project to design and deliver the second International Food Design Conference to be held at Otago Polytechnic from 29 June to 1 July. Following on from the theme of "Food on the Edge", this year's theme will be how the Human Touch influences our food. The project will see the students from the disciplines of food, communication, product and interior design working in an interdisciplinary manner and applying their design thinking skills beyond the classroom. According to Academy member **Adrian Woodhouse**, academic leader for the Bachelor of Culinary Arts programme "This the second time that we have entrusted the students with the design of such a significant international event and it's a wonderful opportunity to showcase to the world the possibilities of interdisciplinary project based learning". This year the students will be working with international and national food designers such as the legendary New Zealand chef, restaurateur, cookbook author and TV presenter Al Brown; internationally recognised designer Marije Vogelzang from the Netherlands and chef Michael Elegbede of Nigeria. They will be joined by New Zealand and international guests including Giulio Sturla from Roots, Cuisine's 2015 Restaurant of the Year, My Kitchen Rules runner-up Aaron Freeman and Kane Bambury from Amisfield.

*(Want to know more? E:mail [ADRIANW@op.ac.nz](mailto:ADRIANW@op.ac.nz))*



## Better Start - E Tipu e Rea

Better Start – E Tipu e Rea is a project under the auspices of the nationwide National Science Challenges. The leadership team includes highly credentialed researchers from the universities of Auckland, Otago and Canterbury. Academy member **Professor Angus Macfarlane** (Te Arawa) and Professor Gail Gillon (Ngāi Tahu) explain that significant health, education and social disparities persist in New Zealand and, as in other societies, Indigenous and minority populations are the most affected. In addressing these disparities and ensuring equitable outcomes for all New Zealanders an important first step is to provide “a better start” to life. “E Tipu e Rea”, which translates as “Grow ye, o seed, and fulfil your potential”, was penned by Sir Apirana Ngata, a revered Māori leader (Member of Parliament 1905-1943). The importance of early childhood, in particular, is reinforced by the recent analysis of adult health outcomes from early intervention. The challenge is to use science to improve the potential of young New Zealanders to have a healthy and successful life with a focus on altering trajectories early in life and at adolescence, to bring together already developed expertise in New Zealand, and to explore, understand and use the new digital world we live in to create better outcomes.

The framework set for the Challenge requires developing a science plan around three broad themes: 1. Maternal health, pregnancy and early childhood; 2. Successful transition into adulthood; and 3. Education: Living in a Digital world

(Want to know more? E:mail [angus.macfarlane@canterbury.ac.nz](mailto:angus.macfarlane@canterbury.ac.nz))

## The Lost Object Ensemble

Academy member **Jane Venis**, Otago Polytechnic, has opened an exhibition of handmade musical instruments at the Forrester Gallery in Oamaru. The solo exhibition runs from 14 May to 3 July.

Jane is a multi-media installation artist and musician who uses humour to engage her audience in work that reflects on the absurdities of contemporary society. She has exhibited and presented nationally and internationally with a specific studio focus on how Chindogu ‘products’ can comment on consumerism through the endless production of pointless objects and systems. Her artist statement reads:

In *The Lost Object Ensemble* I am overturning the concept of using ‘found materials’ by creating playable instruments from objects that appear to have lost their way. As a frying pan becomes a banjo and a cello is made from a wok, they also present the possibility of their original function.

This body of work lies in the tension between instrument design and contemporary art practice. These objects not only critique popular culture but also reference the history of instrument making, whereby playable instruments were made from whatever materials were available.

A key work in the exhibition is *The Eggs Factor*, a satirical video filmed at the Food Design Institute kitchen late last year. This is a cooking show/infomercial hybrid in which I play two of the instruments that are exhibited in the gallery. One of these, the ‘Panjo’, is a banjo made from a copper bottom frying pan that I then deconstruct during the video to fry eggs. In the ‘infomercial’ I present the Panjo as designed for the niche market of wannabe reality TV stars who, with this absurd multi-purpose device, could not only enter talent quests but also cooking shows.

The instruments and video work in tandem to highlight some of the irrationalities present in contemporary popular culture, in particular, the current obsession with reality television cooking and talent quest programmes. The silliness of some of instruments also refers to Japanese chindogu whereby I create useless products to critique the over-abundance of infomercials for pointless consumer goods.

(Want to know more? E:mail [JANEV@op.ac.nz](mailto:JANEV@op.ac.nz))



## Snow and Science Writing in Vermont

Associate Professor **Lisa Emerson** (PM's award winner, 2009) was invited to spend three months at the University of Vermont late last year, to work with scientists and emerging scientists on improving the teaching of scientific writing within the University. The trip was funded by the University of Vermont's



Neuroscience, Behavior, and Health Initiative. Lisa was invited on the basis of her experience as a teacher of science writing at undergraduate and graduate level, and her research into scientists as writers (which was funded by a Fulbright Senior Scholar Award and will be published by Parlor Press in Spring 2016). The visit was a great success: Lisa and her family travelled to Vermont in late October, where they enjoyed the beauties of a Vermont fall and a New England winter, before returning in late January. The workshops on teaching science writing were very well attended by scientists from a range of disciplines – and the intention now is that the University will develop its own strategy for training scientists as writers. As well as this, Lisa and her collaborators at the University of Vermont are writing a handbook on writing for graduate science students – a book that any supervisor can hand to their students who are struggling to write in their discipline.

(Want to know more? E:mail [L.Emerson@massey.ac.nz](mailto:L.Emerson@massey.ac.nz))

## Teaching Fellowship at the University of Windsor, Ontario, Canada

The University of Windsor in Ontario, Canada has invited Academy member **James Paterson**, Bay of Plenty Polytechnic, to join their Centre of Teaching Excellence for a six week teaching fellowship this June and July. The Visiting Fellow role is to both learn and share good teaching practice with Canadian teaching colleagues. While in Ontario, James is attending the 2016 STHLE conference.

“I’m really excited with this opportunity to learn and bring back new teaching ideas to New Zealand and to share my experiences with my teaching colleagues in the BOP and the Academy. It’s also an awesome opportunity to build stronger ties with Canada’s 3M Council of National Teaching Fellows and the Academy. I’m sure the Academy as a whole can learn a lot from our Canadian counterparts, on not only teaching innovation, but also on how they run and organize the 3M Council of National Teaching Fellows as a collective group. I’m able to take my family with me, as the University of Windsor has organised a two bedroom apartment on campus for us. Needless to say, my 11 year old twins, Ella and Charlie are not too worried about missing a few weeks of school, and my wife Wendy has already indicated to me that she plans to be a strong supporter of Windsor’s retail and hospitality industries”.

(Want to know more? E:mail [james.Paterson@boppoly.ac.nz](mailto:james.Paterson@boppoly.ac.nz))





## New Zealand Science Scholars

New Zealand's best and brightest high school science students now have an exciting new opportunity to grow and excel through the Science Scholars Programme at the University of Auckland. This ambitious new initiative is providing top science students with an enriched, three-year curriculum delivered by leading teachers and researchers, including Academy member **Cather Simpson**.

Science Scholars has competitive entry, and we allow only 50 students from high school to enter each year, and up to another 50 from within the university. Students apply with a statement about themselves, a recommendation letter from a science teacher and a short, prompted essay. Academic excellence is key, but we are also looking for that special something. The essay helps us with that. This year, the prompts from which the students could choose included:

- Discuss the appropriate balance of basic (fundamental) science research and applied research that we should be doing in New Zealand.
- Do we have a moral obligation to save all species from extinction?

Science Scholars participate in specialised lectures and seminars. We focus on big ideas, science at the cutting edge, and on the underpinnings of the practice of science as a human endeavour – everything from the origin of the universe to the impact of gender bias! Collaborative and active learning, constructive competition, and an emphasis upon thoughtful expression build cross-disciplinary relationships and encourage risk-taking in learning. We want to spark students' creativity and help them develop the skills they will need to thrive in a science-based career.

Also central to our programme is a strong ethos of active engagement. The students write short stories, give oral presentations, blog about what they are learning, and perform research. This ethos applies to us, the academics, as well. We are challenged to think of new ways to teach, to facilitate learning. Stepping out of the traditional lecture-read-test approach has been thrilling, and has made us realize how much of a comfort zone that format has become for students and academics alike.

The programme is in its second year, and it looks to be everything we had hoped for! Next semester the first cohort of students will begin their individual research projects, and everyone is excited to see what they come up with.

*(Want to know more? E-mail [c.simpson@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:c.simpson@auckland.ac.nz))*



LT to RT: Andrea Soffe (bottom), Charlotte-Rose Rennie-Younger (top), Catherine Webb, Peter Wills, Stephanie Townend, Maggie Xu, Anthony Nicholson, Andy Wong, Mu-Ming Pan, Jessica Patterson

## Academy submission to the Productivity Commission Report

The Productivity Commission's report on New Models of Tertiary Education included a number of questions about teaching and learning, and drew prominently from citations for recent Tertiary Teaching Excellence Awards in a table on page 18.

Rua Murray and Eric Pawson (University of Canterbury) drew up a response that sought to address some of the Commission's key questions. Rather than focus on challenging the statement in the Commission's terms of reference, that 'that there is currently "considerable inertia" in the New Zealand system, and an unwillingness to try new things', the submission sought to engage more constructively.

It concluded with the following recommendation: 'that the most significant contribution to improving teaching effectiveness is to require institutions to have operative graduate profiles (at institutional, programme and course level) against which effective peer-to-peer development of teaching practice can take place, and that this needs to be reported on at each level in order to 'close the loop'.

The authors made it clear that the submission was a personal view from two individual Academy members, and did not purport to speak for the Academy as a whole. Nonetheless, the submission is listed on the Commission website as being from the Academy. It can be read here: <http://www.productivity.govt.nz/view/submissions/2683>

## Canterbury Spotlight on Tertiary Education

The Southern Hub and Christchurch-based Academy members have been busy organising another in the series of occasional Spotlight events, again to coincide with the University of Canterbury's Annual Teaching Week.

This first Spotlight since 2013 was held on Friday 10 June and had a full slate of presenters from Ara Institute of Canterbury, Lincoln, Canterbury and Otago Universities and Otago Polytechnic for the event. The day was organised around three themes: student success, active learning

and the secondary-tertiary transition. The organisers were by Rua Murray and Eric Pawson, with programme help from Selena Chan and Suzanne Pitama. The mihi and opening address was given by Suzanne, who was the 2015 Prime Minister's Award winner.

*Want to know more? E-mail [C.H.Leech@massey.ac.nz](mailto:C.H.Leech@massey.ac.nz)*

## UPDATES FROM THE AKO AOTEAROA REGIONAL HUBS

### SOUTHERN HUB

Rua Murray, the Academy Member on the Southern Hub Advisory Group, reported at the November 2015 meeting that the University of Canterbury DVC (Academic) has established a group of Academy members as a sounding board on a range of teaching and learning matters. The Academy, Ako Aotearoa Southern Hub and the University of Canterbury are co-sponsoring a 'Spotlight on Tertiary Teaching and Learning' on June 10. This is described above.

Bridget O'Regan, the Southern Hub Regional Manager for the past seven and a half years, and a champion of both the Tertiary Teaching Excellence Awards and the mission of The Academy, has retired. Bridget now has a part-time role for the Southern Hub managing the Regional Hub Project Fund and Hei Toko Project Fund activities.

Best wishes to all for a very successful year.

**Neil Andersen, Regional Manager, Southern Hub**

*Want to know more? E-mail [neil.andersen@canterbury.ac.nz](mailto:neil.andersen@canterbury.ac.nz)*



## CENTRAL HUB

The 2016 TTEA panel met in late May to appraise this year's portfolios. As always, fine distinctions had to be explored and agreed among the panel in order to identify the most worthy nominees. The awards dinner



at the Banquet Hall in Parliament is scheduled for Wednesday 17 August. Ako Aotearoa staff really enjoy supporting the celebrations and making connections with yet another group of superb educators. For me it is the highlight of my working year.

I will be involving Academy members again later this year in events in the four main centres of the central region. The format of "Three Points of View" seminars will need tweaking to provide a fresh experience while not losing the focus on aspects of excellent teaching. The sequence will change too: we will start the activity and have refreshments to follow to allow informal discussions with Academy members. With the help of Kelly Pender I will be in touch with recipients from recent years to help with these seminars. If you would like to contribute please let me know.

I hope all Academy members enjoyed the warm autumn and have already had a very successful half year of teaching.

**Ian Rowe, Regional Manager, Central Hub**

*Want to know more? E-mail: [i.rowe@ucol.ac.nz](mailto:i.rowe@ucol.ac.nz)*

## NORTHERN HUB

It's always great to see Academy members at northern hub events and I have caught up with a number recently, including John Davies and Eleanor Hawe. New to the Academy last year, Eleanor Hawe has also become one of our newest hub project leaders, with a project evaluating the use of exemplars. Other Academy members who have projects with the northern hub are Christine Rubie-Davie (developing interventions to bring about the best possible outcomes for gifted and talented learners) and Diane Johnson and Sophie Nock, whose resource Bridging to Tertiary Study was originally designed to support first year Māori students, but has the potential to be adapted for ESOL students too.



The members of the Academy in the north are always very generous with their time in assisting with critiquing portfolios to be submitted to the TTEA panel. We are now looking forward to the "reveal" and the celebration of this year's recipients at the Beehive.

**Ruth Petersen, Regional Manager, Northern Hub**

*Want to know more?*

*E-mail: [ruth.peterson@aut.ac.nz](mailto:ruth.peterson@aut.ac.nz)*

# ACADEMY NEWS

## The 2016 Ako Academy Symposium

This year's Symposium will take place on 24 & 25 November 2016 and will return to the Brentwood Hotel in Wellington. **Adrian Woodhouse**, in consultation with the Executive, will be responsible for developing the programme for the two-day symposium. This year we hope to attract an increased number of attendees to build on the success of the growing attendance of the last two successive years. Registration is **open** and details on the programme will be released in the coming months.

The executive hopes to encourage rich discussion to facilitate a deeper understanding of a variety of teaching and learning practices that may inform members' current and future projects. The symposium is a wonderful opportunity to network with your colleagues and peers. We look forward to seeing you there.

Looking forward to 2017, it has been decided that the symposium will be held in Dunedin at St Margaret's College.

## The Tertiary Teaching Excellence Awards 2016

The annual Tertiary Teaching Excellence Awards ceremony has been announced for Wednesday 17 August 2016. The awards aim to recognise and encourage excellence in tertiary education, at a national level. They provide an opportunity for teachers to further their careers and share good practice in teaching. Up to 12 Sustained Excellence Awards of \$20,000 each are given annually. One recipient also receives the Prime Minister's Supreme Award. Further recognition includes: publication of an annual booklet celebrating excellence in teaching – the teaching profiles submitted by the awardees are included; and membership of the Academy of Tertiary Teaching Excellence.

The Academy Executive will meet with the TTEA judging panel and the award recipients for an afternoon tea prior to the awards ceremony that will be held the eve of 17 August at Parliament, Wellington. Each recipient will be 'buddied up' with an Executive member to see them through their big night in Parliament.



## New Look for the Academy

The new look and feel of the Academy is evident in the new website (<http://akoacademy.ac.nz>). The site continues to develop and grow as a valuable hub for members and an information source for visitors.

## Academy Executive

Associate Professor Selene Mize, University of Otago, has been elected as the new President of the Executive Committee, as Professor Eric Pawson, University of Canterbury, has completed his Presidency. Tony Zaharic, University of Otago, has been elected to act as Vice-President.

Following a December election, the current Executive has seven members, comprising: Selene Mize; Tony Zaharic; Eric Pawson; Khylee Quince, University of Auckland; Adrian Woodhouse, Otago Polytechnic; James Paterson, Bay of Plenty Polytechnic; and Kelly Pender, Bay of Plenty Polytechnic. Each is listed below along with their portfolio designations. Feel free to contact them at any time with any matters related to their portfolio or the Academy in general.

Selene Mize: President, award engagement; and Southern hub ([selene.mize@otago.ac.nz](mailto:selene.mize@otago.ac.nz))

Tony Zaharic: Vice President: succession planning, strategic planning and archivist, including database of members ([tony.zaharic@otago.ac.nz](mailto:tony.zaharic@otago.ac.nz))

Khylee Quince: Coordinator of Policy Process / Coordinating Constitution ([k.quince@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:k.quince@auckland.ac.nz))

Eric Pawson: Limelight; and International ([eric.pawson@canterbury.ac.nz](mailto:eric.pawson@canterbury.ac.nz))

James Paterson: Marketing, including website, Facebook; and Northern Hub ([james.paterson@boppoly.ac.nz](mailto:james.paterson@boppoly.ac.nz))

Kelly Pender: Engagement with Māori Caucus; and Central hub ([kelly.pender@boppoly.ac.nz](mailto:kelly.pender@boppoly.ac.nz))

Tony Zaharic: Succession planning, strategic planning and archivist, including database of members ([tony.zaharic@otago.ac.nz](mailto:tony.zaharic@otago.ac.nz))

Adrian Woodhouse: Symposium 2016 ([ADRIANW@op.ac.nz](mailto:ADRIANW@op.ac.nz))