

Mid Year

Yeah, mid year and the winter solstice is upon us. Semester 1 is all but as they say with just Finals and the chore of marking and awarding grades to do during the next couple of weeks. Semester 1 has been one of on-going issues and problem solving as well as picking up extra duties. For me a few days off will be most looked forward to.

Security

Looks like the undesirable elements in our society are targeting IFS with the loss of research apparatus from one of our research laboratories. A further incident has occurred in which an unauthorised male person was questioned in one of the research laboratories. Ensure that the laboratory doors are locked when no one is in attendance. I urge everyone to be on the look out for strangers wandering the corridors. If in doubt contact me ext **3502** or Security Section ext **5030 ASAP**.

Millennium List Students

The 2004 Millennium List Students have been announced and most attended a short introduction to IFS recently. The Milli Students will now share the Mathematics Graduate Computer Laboratory instead of having a separate space.

Year 12

Year 12 High School students have descended upon the Chemistry 100 level labs again. So, if you see any lost and bewildered high school students wandering around please point them towards the Chem 100 labs.

NMR

Stage 1 of the refurbishment to house the new 700MHz, 500MHz and re-located 400MHz magnets is due for completion about late June. Pre-testing of the air conditioning systems is essential before any installation work on the 700MHz can commence.

It is possible that the former Hort Research Wide Bore Horizontal Magnet, which has been gifted to Massey, will be re commissioned and form part of the NMR suite of magnets.

This is a unique situation for IFS, Massey and New Zealand with four super-conducting magnets in one dedicated suite.

Stage 2 of the project is designed to accommodate study space, Electronics and New NMR Technologies Research programmes.

Engineering Services

A recent visit to E-mex in Auckland has reaped rewards for the workshop with the purchase (special expo price of course) of a new Milling Machine. This will enhance the capabilities of Engineering Services and replaces an existing rather older Mill with limited capability.

Electronics Services

The Electronics Workshop will be a bit short staff during the next seven weeks due to Udo taking some well earned Long Service and Annual Leave.

If you need to check up on how your job is progressing then please contact Peter who will be covering for Udo during his absence.

Glassblowing Services

Oops seems I omitted to advise that Grant would be taking some annual leave in early June around QB stat holiday Monday. Will ensure that I give staff and grad students' ample warning in future.

Cryogenic Services

The expected increase in the use of Liquid Nitrogen with possibly four magnets and other user requirements may see the existing 1000l Vessel replaced with a much larger one.

Social

By the time this issue is published the Mid-Winter Dinner on 18 June at the Village Inn will have been, gone and eaten. A superb dinner among pleasant company. The Village Inn is a restaurant that I would be happy to visit again. Thanks to those staff members and partners who supported the event. It was a pity that only a few members of IFS bothered to come along for an evening out.

A departure from previous years is the inclusion of a **Mid Year Pot Luck Luncheon** in the Common Room on **Thursday 8 July at 12 noon**. Please put this date in your Diary and lets kick off Semester 2 with a jolly luncheon.

PBRF/PBTF

I found an old newspaper clipping which ranked British Universities using such criteria as quality of teaching and research, staff – student ratio and academic entry requirements. This is somewhat different to the measures used in NZ. The full table is included in this issue of IFS and Bits.

Purchasing

The University Administration has now moved on a step in its endeavour to become paperless wherever possible. The onus seems to have shifted to the Departments for them to print copies of documents off the network! Several members of IFS staff have now become “shoppers” or “purchasing agents” with the HoI having over riding authority as “over limit authoriser”.

The idea is to generate orders using the network based, mass-e-mail, which allocates an order number, MMxxxxx, (no more order books) then when the goods arrive, back into mass-e-mail to tick the received box which tells Payments Section that they can action payment when the company invoices the University. The personal touch is fast disappearing people.

Photocopiers

I forget how many times I have asked, advised, suggested and reminded staff and grad students that when the photocopier needs more paper then it wants a whole ream and nothing but a whole ream. For the technically minded amongst us the wrapping paper is designed to prevent moisture seeping into the copy paper. So, just grabbing enough for your needs and leaving the rest on the bench is not helpful for the paper or the next person who wants to use the bench.

Travel

Orbit Travel have issued a reminder regarding holders of NZ Passports whose number starts with N379 that a replacement Passport can be obtained from Department of Internal Affairs free of charge.

More Bits and Bobs ...

Safety



A number of health and safety issues arise all the time. Andrew Trow and myself try to resolve them as quickly as possible but it can take anything from a matter of hours to 4 years!

Andy T will be attending the Tertiary Sector H&S Conference in Wellington, 6-8 July.

Section 33, Code of Practice for Exempt Laboratories was signed off by ERMA on 17 June 2004. I expect we will soon see the 'code' being applied.

Sharps and Broken Glass: these should be placed in the correct containers and glass bins to avoid injuries from broken glass being placed in the usual rubbish bins. I've stated that before.

HSNO

Code of Practice for Exempt Laboratories

The code of practice for section 33 exempt laboratories was approved by ERMA on the 17th June 2004. It is appropriate that the work of the members of the Steering Group is publicly acknowledged. These people worked very hard to ensure the CoP was workable and that it did not impose high compliance costs and went to considerable lengths to ensure regulatory requirements were minimised wherever possible. They spent hours proof reading drafts, considering countless amendments and a host of regulatory detail.

These people are: Greg Devane, ESR; Chris Harris, IRL; Allan Hawkes, Agresearch; Andrea MacMillan, University of Otago; Paul Perry, University of Canterbury; Doug Pringle, Massey University and David Jenkins, University of Auckland.

Thanks should also be extended to those staff members within Massey University who were involved in the Massey University working party. These were David Feek, Bob Parsons, Anne West, Russ Tillman, Ian Furkertt, Andrew Scuffham, Andy Trow, Mike Stevens, Geraldine Wood and Katherine Bary. Information on the implementation of this code will follow shortly.

The code of practice can be downloaded at or obtain a copy from Bob P.
<http://www.ermanz.govt.nz/resources/publications/pdfs/COP1-1.pdf>

More Bits and Bobs ...

Travel

Orbit Travel have issued a reminder regarding holders of NZ Passports whose number starts with N379 that a replacement Passport can be obtained from Department of Internal Affairs free of charge.

Breaking news indicates that NZ Passport holders will now have to renew their Passports every 5 years. More bureaucracy and I expect the cost for a 5 year passport will be the same as for a 10 year one!

Qantas Domestic NZ has changed their baggage policy to a weight system. Each person will be allowed 20 kg, any baggage over 20 kg will incur an excess baggage charge of \$5.00 per kilo – hold on, there's a catch here and that is a minimum excess charge of \$20.00 so if you are over the limit beware.

If transferring to an international flight then international flight baggage rules will apply.

All you Amex users out there be warned that as from 15 December 2004 you will not be able to transfer points to Air New Zealand Airpoints.

Publicity

No rest for the wicked they say as a number of IFS staff have been involved in the CoS “Click onto Science” and “Science Festival Week” at Te Manawa. Being involved requires a fair amount of effort from a number of staff both academic and general. All this comes at a time when preparation for Semester 2 is about to start. Well done to all those involved in promoting IFS to the wider community.

Power Savings

A message from IT Services.

“As a university, we are constantly striving to reduce the cost of electricity as well as

contribute to the conservation efforts around New Zealand in areas affected by the production of electricity.

Following the success of last year's campaign to save electricity across the University, it is timely to send a small reminder to remember to turn off your computers and monitors when they are not required.

Turning off your computer equipment, including monitors, when they're not in use can contribute to significant economic and environmental savings. There are some computers around the university that are required to run equipment 24 hours a day, but most of us can turn off our computers when we go home at the end of the day - making our own contribution to the conservation efforts”.

Further information on how you could initiate power management features on your computer can be found at <http://its-intra.massey.ac.nz/problemsol/powertips.htm>.

Gerrit Bahlman

Director - Information Technology & Organisational Development

Last Few Words for this Issue

“I stand by all the misstatements
that I've made.”
- George W. Bush

Yeah well I am a basic bloke too and I say it as I see it, if it affects IFS. This has upset some members of the university community in recent times but *c'est la vie*.

Performance Based Research Funding (PBRF)

Peer Esteem

- Fellowships of the Royal Society of New Zealand, NZIC, NZIP, NZMS, etc
- Personal Chair
- DSc
- Medals and awards
- Research grants achieved
- Editorships and Advisory Panels for Journals
- Invited or Plenary Lectureships
- Directorships of Research Centres
- Council Membership, NZIC, NZIP, NZMS, International Science Bodies etc
- Referee for International Journals
- Reviewer of research proposals, Marsden, FRST, NERF, NIH, etc
- Conference organisation
- Citation data
- NZVCC Committees
- Teaching Awards
- External examiner for Masterate and PhD Theses
- Session Chair at Conferences
- Research collaborations
- Research visitors
- Examiner for external bodies
- Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics Olympiad organisation
- Guest Chair at overseas universities

Contribution to the Research Environment

- Licensing Agreements and Patents
- Director, Research Centre
- Scholarships Committee
- President, Secretary, Treasurer, Council Member of the NZIP, NZIC, NZMS, etc
- Research grants
- Conference and Workshop organisation
- Editorship of books or special issues
- Author of book
- Refereeing for International Journals
- Membership of Institute and University Research Committees
- Supervision of Postdoctoral Fellows
- Supervision of Postgraduate Students
- Research collaborations (Nationally and Internationally)
- Business plans for research equipment
- Examiner of Theses
- Consortia Membership



Congratulations to **Patrick Rynhart** on his recent engagement to Georgie.

Steve Pascal and **Komala Ponniah** on the arrival of their so, Joshua Nathan in Malaysia.

Rebecca Hole recipient of the 2004 Massey University Chemistry Scholarship.

Jennifer Bonnett recipient of the 2004 Massey University Mathematics Scholarship.

Here's a little Puzzle

The system of equations $2x + 3y = 96$ and $x + 2y = 42$ gives the courses of two freighters headed in a southeasterly direction in the Indian Ocean where x represents latitude and y represents longitude. Will the freighters meet? If so, where? (State your answer in an ordered pair representing latitude and longitude). Email your answer with an explanation to BestChoice@massey.ac.nz please.



Wholly Cow

Flossy the fibreglass fresian cow , who is owned by IVABS , has arrived to spend a little time with us in the workshop. In the next week or two she will have a set of wheels fitted , so to make her various engagements around campus a little more comfortable. Feel free to call in and say hello to our fresian friend.

Barry, Steve and Noel



IFS Events

PROGRAMME 2004 Dates for diaries:

7 July	Click on to Sciences Day
8 July	IFS Pot Luck Luncheon
8-9 July	TeManawa - Science Week
16 July	Inaugural Professorial Lecture – Professor Robert McKibbin
28 July	Careers in Chemistry Function, Marsden LT
August	Year 13 Visits
4 August	Graduate Introductory Talks
12 August	IFS Postgraduate Information Evening
20 August	Chemistry Teachers' Meeting
2 September	Social Happy Hours
3 September	Physics Teachers Meeting
8 October	RD Batt Memorial Lecture
13 October	Mathematics/Statistics Teachers Meeting
14 October	Social Happy Hours
November	Massey/Victoria Chemistry Seminar Day
November	Wanganui River Steamer Trip
2 December	Christmas Breakfast
21 December	Pot Luck Luncheon
January/February 2005	Family Day: BBQ

Other events such as group bookings to stage shows on an as required and if sufficient interest expressed basis.

**THANK
YOU**

On behalf of my mathematics colleagues I would like to thank Robin Rutherford and Mary Nettle for their contribution to the paper 119.010. Work well done!

Kee Teo

Weapons of Math Instruction:

At New York's Kennedy Airport, an individual later discovered to be a school teacher was arrested trying to board a flight while in possession of a ruler, a protractor, a set square, a slide rule and a calculator.

United States Attorney General John Ashcroft believes the man is a member of the notorious al-gebra movement. He is being charged with carrying weapons of math destruction, "Al-gebra is a very fearsome cult." Ashcroft said. "They desire average solutions by means and extremes, and sometimes go off on a tangent in a search of absolute value. They consist of shadowy figures, with names like 'x' and 'y', and, although they are frequently referred to as 'unknowns', we know they belong to a common denominator and are part of the axis of medieval with co-ordinates in every country. As the great Greek philanderer Isosceles used to say, "there are three sides to every triangle".

Asked to comment on the arrest, President George W. Bush said: "If God had wanted us to have better weapons of math instruction, He would have given us more fingers and toes"

Proverbs for You to Consider

If you're too open minded, your brains will fall out.

I have found that going bra-less at my age pulls all the wrinkles out of my face.

Artificial intelligence is no match for natural stupidity.

If you look like your passport picture, you probably need the trip.

A clear conscience is usually the sign of a bad memory.

Always yield to temptation because it may not pass your way again.

A closed mouth gathers no foot.

Bills travel through the mail at twice the speed of cheques.

If you must choose between two evils, pick the one you've never tried before.

A conscience is what hurts when all your other parts feel so good.

My idea of housework is to sweep the floor with a glance.

Eat well, stay fit, die anyway.

Not one shred of evidence supports the notion that life is serious.

Men are from earth. Women are from earth. Deal with it.

It is easier to get forgiveness than permission.

No husband has ever been shot while doing the dishes.

Research Funding Opportunities

Unless otherwise specified guidelines for contract applications under this programme are available from Miralie Thomas Vincent on extn 5945 or e-mail your request to M.E.Thomas@massey.ac.nz.

ROYAL SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND (RSNZ)

Academy Council Medals and Awards 2004

Nominations for the following medals and awards are currently invited by the Academy Council of the Royal Society of New Zealand:

T K Sidey Medal

Scientific research in electromagnetic radiation

Cooper Medal

Best account of research work carried out in New Zealand in physics or engineering

Thomson Medal

Outstanding contribution in fields of organisation, administration or application of science and technology

Hamilton Memorial Prize

Beginners in scientific or technological research in New Zealand

Hatherton Award

Best scientific paper by a PhD student at any New Zealand university in physical sciences, earth sciences, and mathematical and information sciences

Electronic copies of the information and application forms are available by e-mailing:
awards@rsnz.govt.nz

Copies are also available on the Society's web site at: http://www.rsnz.org/awards/academy_awards/forms.php

The closing date for applications and nominations is **MONDAY, 2 AUGUST 2004**.

Research Funding Opportunities Continued...

NEW ZEALAND ASSOCIATION OF SCIENTISTS (NZAS)

Nominations are invited for the following medals and awards which are given to encourage scientists to communicate their work to the wider community, hence to promote an awareness and appreciation of the methods and achievements of science.

1. **Marsden Medal**

This medal is awarded for a lifetime of outstanding service to science in New Zealand in recognition of service rendered to the cause or profession of science in the widest connotation of the phrase.

2. **Shorland Medal**

This medal is awarded in recognition of a person's major and continued contribution to basic or applied research that has added significantly to scientific understanding or resulted in significant benefits to society.

3. **Research Medal**

This medal is awarded for outstanding fundamental or applied research in the physical, natural or social sciences published during the year of the award or in the preceding three calendar years. Nominees must be under the age of 40 on 1 January of the year in which they are nominated except, where a scientist has had an interrupted career, the age limit may be extended to a maximum of 45.

4. **Science Communicator Awards**

One or more awards will be made to practising scientists for excellence in communicating any area of science or technology to the general public through print, broadcast, public lectures or other media.

Detailed information on all medals and awards is available from the following web site address:
<http://nzas.rsnz.org/awardgui.html>

All nominations should be forwarded directly to NZAS by **FRIDAY, 30 JULY 2004**.

On-line subscriptions to regular Government funding newsletters can be made as follows:

ROYAL SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND

RSNZ Alert (weekly)

Visit: <http://www.rsnz.org/directory/elist.php>

MINISTRY OF RESEARCH, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

MoRST Update (monthly)

Register at: <http://www.morst.govt.nz/Default.asp?CHANNEL=Channels&PAGE=Registration&radUserType=1>