

IFS & Bits

In this Edition of 17 July 2001

Pages 1-6

- Messages from the Head of Institute•

Page 7 onwards

- 75th Anniversary Celebrations•
- Farewell Matt Perlmutter•
 - Bits and Bobs•
- Welcome Bénédicte Martin•
- Millennium List Students•
 - Answers to the Last Newsletters Puzzle•
 - Scholarships•
- News from East Timor•
- Professor Alan MacDiarmid Visit•
- Visiting Professorship for Roger Reeves•
 - This Month's Puzzle•
 - IFS Tramp•
- IFS Mid-Winter Feast•
 - Research Funding Opportunities•

Deadline for Next Issue

10 August 2001

Editor

Terri Palmer

Messages from the Head of Institute



Alan MacDiarmid Visit

Surely the highlight of the year for IFS staff will be the visit of Nobel Laureate Alan MacDiarmid on Tuesday, 3 July 2001. One cannot but be impressed by his willingness to meet with people and provide encouragement for everything they do. His stamina was equally noteworthy and his schedule of meetings and addresses around New Zealand over a ten day period was truly mind-boggling. In our case Alan firstly gave the College of Sciences Distinguished

Visitor Lecture – a stunning performance. We were then able to entertain him and Gayle at Wharerata and we were pleased that the Vice-Chancellor, Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Research and International) and the PVC were all able to join us. Afterwards Alan meet with some chemistry graduate students, opened the Nanomaterials Research Centre (see below), and then headed to the Science Centre to meet up with High School teachers and their students. Finally, he gave an address in the College of Education Auditorium to another packed audience. Overall, it was a memorable day. Unlike some famous people Alan had an extremely down-to-earth personality and this went down well with all he met. Thanks go to IRL and the Royal Society of New Zealand for their contributions in organising Alan's tour around New Zealand. Further, can I add my thanks to Andrew Brodie, David Officer and Terri Palmer for taking on many of the local arrangements here on campus.

Photos of Alan MacDiarmid's visit can be found further on in this issue of IFS and Bits.

The Nanomaterials Research Centre



Professor Alan MacDiarmid at the entrance to the Nanomaterials Research Centre.

The Nanomaterials Research Centre (Director, David Officer) has recently been created within the framework of the Institute of Fundamental Sciences. Negotiations with Professor Long and the Research Office together with myself, David Officer and Robert Anderson have helped to establish the new entity in record time. Its financial base has been constructed in a somewhat novel manner, and this is a clear indication of the very strong support of both IFS and the university for this new and important venture.

Nanotechnology is without question an area of activity that has the potential to revolutionise life in New Zealand over the next 50 years. We are well placed to play a leading role and I commend David Officer for getting the Centre off the ground.

An International Advisory Board is being created and Alan MacDiarmid has kindly agreed to serve on it. Tony Burrell is also closely associated with this venture, as will other prominent scientists outside Massey University. Further details will be given in due course.

I am sure staff will join me in wishing the Nanomaterials Research Centre every success.



Professor Alan MacDiarmid, Professor James McWha, Associate Professor David Officer and Professor Robert Anderson toasting the new Centre.

Fellow of the Royal Society of London

Much has already been said of Paul Callaghan's wonderful achievement in gaining Fellowship of the Royal Society of London. The celebration function we had at IFS gave us an opportunity of recognising Paul's many and varied contributions to the field of NMR, and NMR imaging in particular. Last week he attended the inauguration ceremony in London where all of the new Fellows presented a brief synopsis of their research. Hopefully, we can get Paul to tell us a little about these events in due course. Again may I record our delight at Paul's FRS. Clearly, awards of this nature do not come easily and it is a true tribute of Paul's international standing that he has been honoured in this way. We are all extremely proud of him and his impact on the world research scene.

When your Dad is mad and asks you, "Do I look stupid?", don't answer him.

Michael, age 14 (Kids Advice)

College of Sciences Base in Singapore

The College of Sciences has been approached by the Gleneagles group in Singapore, a subsidiary of Parkway Group Healthcare, to establish a Campus in Singapore to teach a variety of degree programmes. It is our belief that these will involve chemistry, mathematics and physics though this has yet to be confirmed. The financial backing of the Gleneagles group is enormous and figures of \$30 billion are being bandied about. Whatever the true figure is it has been made clear to us that finance should not prove any hindrance to this venture going ahead. A small group will be visiting Massey University shortly to do the groundwork and the College of Sciences has appointed Barry Stevenson as its project driver. If these preliminary negotiations are successful then full scale talks will be held with a view to establishing a Singapore presence in the near future. New staff will be appointed and based in that centre. It is envisaged that the students would spend at least one of their three years on the Palmerston North Campus, but there seems some virtue in two of the three years being spent here in New Zealand. This will form one of the many discussion points that will have to be talked through over the coming months. Staff on this Campus would be expected to monitor programme quality in Singapore and possibly contribute some lectures. There are many imponderables in the whole project at this stage but the potential for increasing the financial base of this Institute and the College of Sciences could be very significant indeed. This may allow us to expand in a way that we have not thought likely under the funding that the New Zealand government provides. I will keep staff apprised of future progress but some of the future talks will probably remain confidential until agreement has been reached.

Farewells to Paul and Tony

The official farewells for Paul and Tony are now behind us and both went off particularly well. My thanks go to Geoff Malcolm, Tony Signal and Robert Anderson who contributed so much with regard to Paul's function and to Andrew Brodie, Simon Hall and Paul Callaghan for their insights into Tony's career and life at Massey University. We expect to retain a close contact with both members of staff as they move on to their new careers. Paul, of course, will be here regularly until his teaching programme is completed at the end of August and I am certainly very grateful to him that he willingly agreed to undertake these duties. Again, on behalf of the staff of IFS may I wish both Paul and Tony every success in their new ventures. We look forward to hearing of their future successes, which will undoubtedly be numerous.

Shona Yu



As you many of you will know Shona Yu became New Zealand's youngest graduate at the recent graduation here at Massey University. To achieve such success at the age of 14 is, of course, quite extraordinary and a real tribute to Shona's ability and hard work. Shona really hit the headlines with her interview on the Paul Holmes show and also with the article that appeared in the New Zealand Women's Weekly. Shona is contemplating a PhD and I am sure that she will achieve this next goal without too much difficulty. Hopefully, she will remain at Massey University but I know that Shona is also contemplating some possibilities overseas. Either way we all wish her every success in her future studies and in what is sure to be a sparkling career.

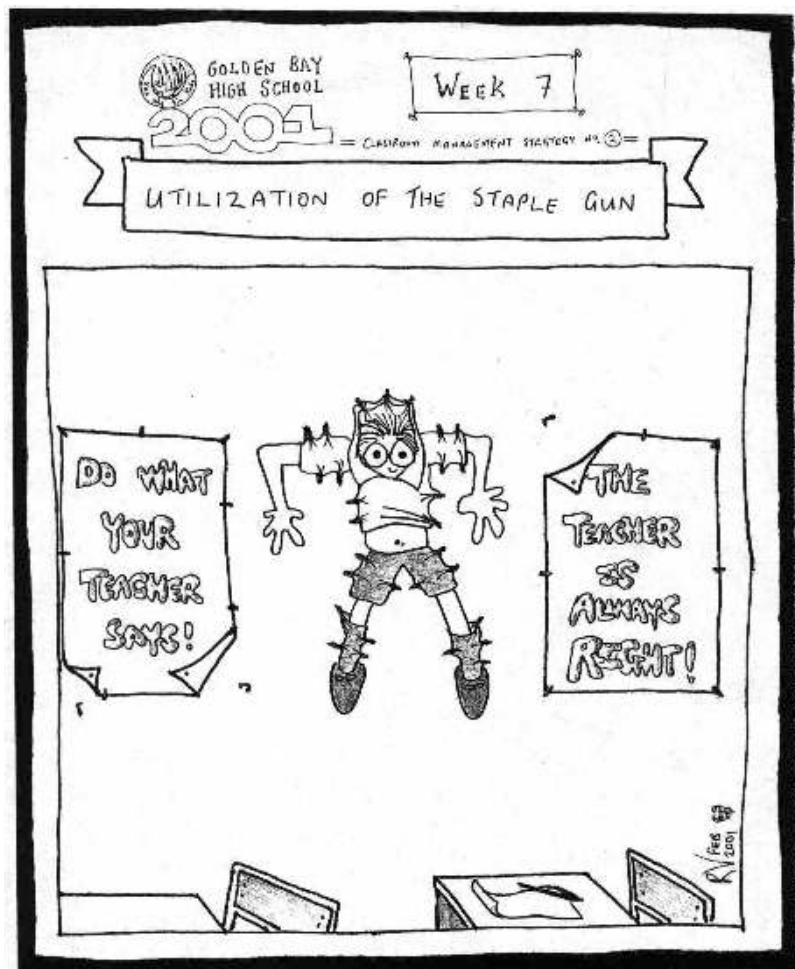
Visit to South Africa

I was fortunate enough to visit South Africa recently when I attended the International Council of Science (ICSU) Executive Board meeting in Cape Town. This was my first time in South Africa and not surprisingly it was filled with many interesting happenings. Excluding the Executive Board itself I was much taken with the beauty of Table Mountain and the back drop that it provides to Cape Town. It is truly an awe-inspiring piece of geology. I was surprised that Robben Island, on which Nelson Mandela was held prisoner for so many years, was effectively within Cape Town Harbour. It was certainly not over the horizon as I had somehow imagined it to be. The buildings on this island are easily seen from the shore. On a short trip to Signal Hill on Cape Town I looked down on a wide strip of parkland and was told that this was District 6. Apparently, the entire black African community which existed there in an shanty town was removed in 1978. The houses were pulled down and the area turned into a green belt. It was a shock to me that such a callous act was performed so recently, and it bought home to me the terrible injustices inherent in the former apartheid policy. Some of the inter-racial issues will clearly remain with South Africa for many years and I suspect that it will be several generations at least before more harmonious times will be a feature of the South African community. What little I saw of the country showed it to be very beautiful and in this regard was well worth visiting.

On a personal level I met up with two of my cousins that I had not seen since 1955. We had a great day together and we were able to pick up the threads far more easily than I might have imagined. Clearly, there is much more that I can say about my all too brief visit but space prevents me from rambling on too much.

Graduation 2001

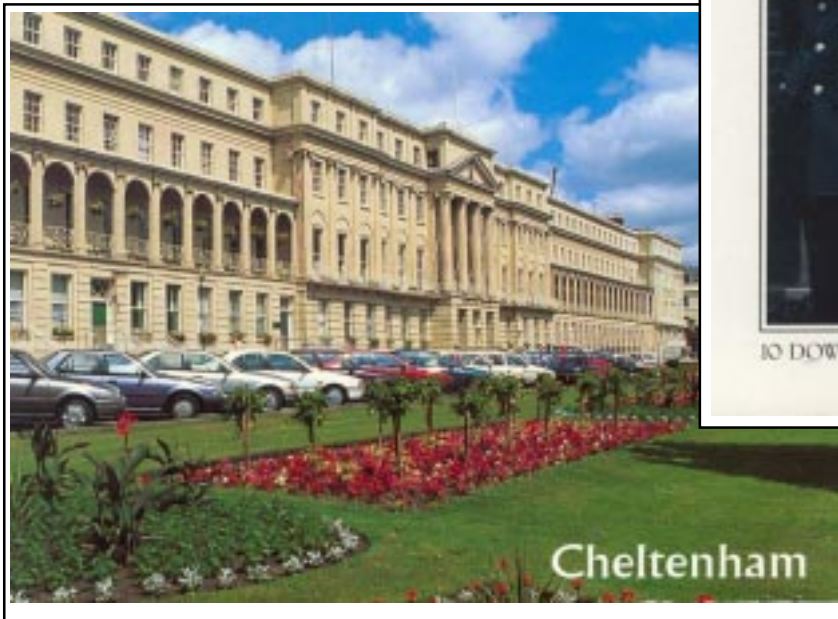
Graduation has come and gone and I would like to thank all staff who participated in the various ceremonies. I was conspicuous by my absence but have a “good” excuse in that I was teaching 100-level at the time and the ceremonies clashed almost perfectly. Graduation is a time for us all to look back on the work that we have put into our teaching, both face-to-face and in the extramural mode. I am continually impressed by the lengths to which staff go to provide an excellent learning environment for all our students, irrespective of ability. Graduation, thus represents a time when our efforts have reached fruition and we can sit back (for a few hours at least) and be well pleased that together we have achieved so much. My thanks go to you all, especially in light of the difficult times that we went through in 2000.



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Welcome Home to Dean

Dean has just returned from a ten week trip to the UK and Europe. From all accounts he and Anne had a wonderful time and great weather too. It is good to have him back with us again. Dean himself is also keen to get back to his work in the Institute and I have no doubt that we will be able to find plenty of things to keep him busy over the remainder of the year. Dean will be working Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursdays in Semester 2. Welcome back Dean!



Postcards from Dean and Anne's Travels

New Zealand Institute of Physics

Every two years the Executive of the New Zealand Institute of Physics (NZIP) moves to a new centre. At the recent conference in Wellington the reins of office were passed to Palmerston North. I am the new President, Trevor Castle has been elected Vice-President, Tony Signal is Secretary and Bob O'Driscoll is Treasurer. In two years time the NZIP Conference will be held at Massey University and this will be the last duty of the new council before Auckland takes over its term. As always, there are many issues that will arise that will impinge on other members of the Institute and I will seek your assistance and support over the coming period. It should be an interesting time for all concerned.

75th Anniversary Celebrations

Massey University is currently planning its 75th Anniversary Celebrations for 2002. A number of events will be held and these are listed elsewhere in this issue of IFS and Bits. It is likely that the College and the Institute will also be expected to contribute to the festivities though what form this will take is yet to be determined.

School Visits

The last few weeks have been busy as a result of numerous interactions with Schools and their students. These activities include the Siemens Science School, the visit by Ruapehu College, the Click on to Sciences Day and the Physics Winter School. All of these seem to have gone off very well and I am grateful to all staff who have contributed their time and organisational skills to make these events so successful. It is becoming increasingly difficult to find the time to take on these extra duties when staffing is so tight. Hence, I am particularly grateful to everyone who has put in the effort in the hope that in due course more students might come our way than would otherwise have been the case.

Whale Welfare

Geoff Barnes from IFS and Per Madie from IVABS continue to have a high profile on Whale Welfare. In fact, Geoff Barnes was one of a team that convened in London in June to work on a set of protocols to determine whether a whale is conscious, unconscious or dead. The meeting was organised by the Department of Veterinary Clinical Science at the University of Bristol and the RSPCA and involved experts in whale physiology and anatomy from all over the world. Whale welfare is an important issue and is one on which most people have quite strong opinions. Geoff's work in this area is an important area of research and one which the Institute is keen to maintain an involvement in.

IFS Book Collection

A cabinet in the foyer to my office is going to be used to display books authored and edited by IFS members of staff. If you have a spare copy of any such volumes and would be happy for us to show it please contact Terri as soon as possible. The cabinet provides us with another way of showing our scholarship to visitors to the Institute.

Social Events

The social life at IFS has been particularly active in recent times. The Mid-Winter Feast at the Bangkok Thai Restaurant proved exceptionally popular and thanks go to Patricia Shields in particular and to Bob P's Social Committee for their organisation. In addition Andrew Brodie lead a tramp up the Ranges for the hardy. From all accounts this too went off very well. By the time that this edition of IFS and Bits reaches your mail boxes we would have had another happy hour, which, I am sure, will have been well attended and successful too.

In August a group will be attending "42nd Street" at the Regent on Broadway, and I encourage those have not already done so to sign up - it should be a great evening. My thanks go to all those on the Social Committee for providing us with such successful and varied activities.

David A D Parry



75th Anniversary Celebrations

(Preliminary events schedule for 2002)

February

27 February - 1 March — Round-the-country relay ride to the University's Palmerston North campus. They could come through a town near you.

March

1 - 3 March — The official launch of the 75th Celebrations. We're working hard to make this a great weekend of events. (Palmerston North)

Friday 1 March — Celebration for staff and students at the Palmerston North campus. (Palmerston North)

2-3 March — Campus Open Day and Celebrity Sports match. Saturday & Sunday. There will be plenty happening - watch this space! (Palmerston North)

April

17 - 20 April — Graduation ceremonies for the Albany campus. (Albany)

17 April — Pacific Island Ceremony. (Albany)

18 - 19 April — Graduation Ceremonies, to be held at the Bruce Mason Centre, Takapuna. (Albany)

Saturday 20 April — Maori Graduation Ceremony. (Albany)

As part of the Graduation celebrations there will be a Graduation Ball and a Celebrity Debate. Dates, times and venues to be confirmed.

May

13 - 17 May — Graduation week in Palmerston North. (Palmerston North)

Graduation ceremonies at the Regent on Broadway with other events to be held at a variety of venues Palmerston North.

Massey in the City Lecture Series, sponsored by the Tindall Foundation

Thursday 23 May — Graduation ceremonies at Wellington. (Wellington)

July

5-7 July — Te Putahi a Toi Conference provisionally entitled Indigenous Art and Heritage, and the Politics of Identity. (Palmerston North)

5 July - 8 September — Genus: Pacifica Exhibition, Manawatu Art Gallery. (Palmerston North)

Friday 12 July — Scholars Ball. For Wellingtonians, time to hunt out the dancing shoes. (Wellington)

16 - 21 July — Art and Design Exhibition, Great Hall, Museum Building. Tuesday - Official Opening of the Exhibition. Wednesday to Friday 3-7pm, open for the Public to view. (Wellington)

This week of celebration will also include; special lectures, celebrity debate and more. More details soon!

27 July — Wharerata Centennial Celebrations. An evening of fine dining and great dancing. Palmerston North

August

Date to be confirmed — 75th Guest Lecture Series. (Albany)

September

Date to be confirmed — Campus Festival Day. Aucklanders, this is your chance to see the Albany campus and join in the festivities. (Albany)

October

3 - 6 October — Land, Food, People and Technology Festival. Full details will be released soon. This is the big one! (Palmerston North)

Date to be confirmed — Massey Food Awards presentation and dinner. The premier event to recognise excellence in the food industry. (Palmerston North)

This is an indication only of some of the events planned for Massey University's 75th Celebrations in 2002. Events may change and details are still being considered.

Farewell Matt Perlmutter

I was looking for a postdoc when I first met Matt Perlmutter, over conference snacks on a San Diego cliff top overlooking the sea. He said he was from LA. I asked how he liked it. He said "It sucks." I was thinking, "sale." Sure enough, a year later Matt touched down in Palmerston North. Now he's off again, to his next postdoc at the Center for Mathematical Analysis, Geometry and Dynamical Systems at the Instituto Superior Tecnico in Lisbon, Portugal. Matt brought a great wealth of deep mathematical knowledge from his PhD in geometric mechanics with him and used it to great effect in our joint work on geometric integrators. We have written papers on the nonlinear stability of symplectic integrators, on nonholonomic systems, on the phenomenon of energy drift in reversible systems, and on a new class of systems we call "Lie group foliate", - and all the while Matt waged a never ending battle to get in to work before 4 o'clock.

Matt really took to Palmerston North and although his head was later turned by the nearby delights of Cuba St, Wellington, Brunswick St, Melbourne, and the Coromandel beaches, he said he was really sad to be leaving. I don't think he was faking it. Highlights might include living on a sheep farm, partying with the PN Brazilians, blowing the graduate students away entirely in his seminars, running into actor Wally Shawn in Melbourne, his stylish arrival at a Kaikoura maths conference, regretting not swapping his high-tech shares for Coromandel real estate before it was too late and, his greatest triumph, finally decoding the "Southern Man" TV ad on the 40th attempt.

Keep your eyes peeled when you're walking past Cafe Express in the Square - he left on a return ticket.

Robert McLachlan



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Bits and Bobs

Security

A reminder that in the event that staff or graduate students are confronted with a person or persons who are acting in an abusive manner or acting suspiciously please ring the University Security Section extn 5030 immediately. They will respond straight away to any such calls for assistance.

A Security Audit has been conducted of the Institute by a small working group. The recommendations have been discussed with the University Security Section, Registry and University Safety Co-ordinator. Two of the recommendations have already been implemented while quotations regarding costs for others have been sought.

The Health and Safety of Noxious Organisms Act (HSNO) Regulations came into force on 1 July 2001 administered by Environmental Risk Management Authority (ERMA). These regulations will impact on the Institute and steps are being taken to ensure that the Institute complies with the Regulations.

Proximity Cards will be issued to all staff and graduate students sometime soon – I hope. Before the cards can be issued new sensors have to be installed on the doors to links B-C and C-D. The paper work has been done and some staff will still be required to retain their existing card to enable access to car parks. Eventually the whole campus will be converted to proximity card access to buildings and car parks.

Letter Head

All Institute letter head stationery and envelopes have been over printed with the University's 75th Anniversary Logo. We are required to use this stationery from about now through to January 2003. Of course the Institute has had to foot the bill to pay for the over printing.

Safety

A reminder that any work related accident or incident – no matter how small – or OOS problems **must** be reported using the Accident/ Incident Form available from Andrew Trow, Fiona Davies or myself. This is a legal requirement especially if an ACC claim is lodged. ACC **will not** accept the claim if it is not supported by a University Accident Report.

Science Tower A

Fume Cupboards have been checked but at this stage I have not received any report from the manufacturers. Other remedial work is still to be finished. My expressed hope that there would be no water seepage from one level to a lower one has not been borne out. This was due to the floor penetrations not being sealed especially by the electrical contractor.

The Chemical Store is fully operational at long last and I ask that staff and graduate students make their requests on the appropriate green request form. The correct procedure is to either leave the request form in Penny's mailbox or go to the Chemical Store Reception. ERMA regulations require that access to the store be by authorised staff only.

Fire Alarms

A reminder that the fire alarms are now a high pitched shrill instead of the older style of large bells ringing. A letter, reproduced on page 15, from Graham Stewart and Associates Ltd explains why Science Tower A is now a stand alone fire zone. This has implications for our evacuation plan which is currently being reviewed.

Pool Table

The missing key has been found. Sorry folks but it will now cost 20 cents per game.

Social

The Institute Social Committee has been very active since the last newsletter was published. A tramp led by Andrew Brodie into the Ruahines was enjoyed by those who braved the extreme weather, a Mid-Winter Feast organised by Patricia Shields at the Bangkok Thai was also enjoyed by a fair few IFS'ers with a couple of happily surprised diners finding a bottle of wine in their Christmas cracker. A big thank you to Andrew and Patricia for organising these activities.

The May happy hour was used to christen the pool table with a mini tournament, 8 players took part with the eventual winner Hugh Shields out potting Trevor the shark Kitson in the final. Good to see staff and grad students also taking part Kurt, Shona, James, Paul, Barbara and Adrian in the tourny. Now that the first tournament has been played I am better placed to seed players in up coming events.

Upcoming social events are the July Happy Hour on the 19th and 42nd Street in August. See the Social Committee Notice Board in the Common Room for details.

Bob P

Welcome to Bénédicte Martin

Welcome to Bénédicte Martin who is working in Carol Taylor's lab for three months. Bénédicte comes to us from France where she is a student at the Ecole Nationale Supérieure de Chimie de Montpellier (ENSCM). She is at Massey for "practical training" between years four and five of her degree, which will lead to a Diplome d'Ingénieur Chimiste. Last summer she had a placement at HauptPharma at Wolfratshausen (Bavaria) in Germany, working in the quality control laboratory of a pharmaceutical company. Here at Massey she is investigating the chemistry of a new glucofuranose compound which was synthesized recently by workers at IRL in Wellington. This glucofuranose derivative is being produced on large scale at NZP and Bénédicte is exploring some of the potential uses of this sugar.

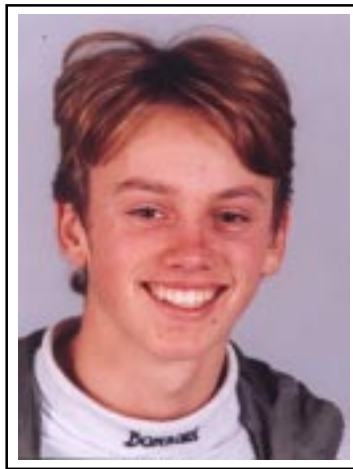
Carol



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Millennium List Students 2001

100 Level Students



Gareth Bell



Gareth Hodges



Ashlin Redpath



Rosemary Van Essen

Absent or did not wish to appear in Institute Newsletter: Robert Anderson; Cargill Henderson; Rachael McVitty; Sojourner and Katrina Haigh.

Don't sneeze in front of Mum when you're eating crackers.
Mitchell, age 12 (Kids Advice)

200 Level Students



Jared Cahan



Rock Cahan



Nicola Carey



Bronwyn Wildbore

Answers to the Last Newsletters Puzzle

1 *Who married Eugene's daughter?*

Eugene's daughter is married to Bernard's son.

2 The fewest plus and minus signs is four —

$$98-76+54+3+21 = 100$$

Scholarships

Massey University Chemistry Scholarship

Jointly awarded to: Nicholas HOLM
Aaron HUGGARD

Massey University Physics Scholarship

Stuart BADBURY

NZ Forest Research Institute Physics Scholarship

Jointly awarded to: Jared CAHAN
Rochester CAHAN

Massey University Magnetic Resonance Scholarship

Adrian KITSON

300 Level Students



Graham Appleby



Sam Brodie



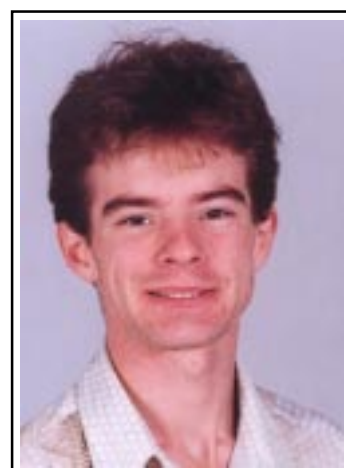
Adrian Chaplin



Adrian Kitson



Amy Keedwell



Ross Knudsen



James Matheson



Celia Webby

Absent or did not wish to appear in Institute Newsletter:

Ben Parkinson

Prayer for the Day

So Far today God
I've done all right
I haven't gossiped
I haven't lost my temper
Haven't been grumpy or selfish
I'm really glad of that
But in a few minutes
I'm going to get out of bed
and then I'm going to need
a lot of help.

Anonymous

News from East Timor

3 June 2001

I've been here in Timor for about two weeks now and its hot, humid and just lately it has rained really heavily. We've seen our first snakes, lizards, hornets and I just about picked up a scorpion without seeing it. It was about the size of a 50 cent piece and was a dark brown colour. Well, it was until a Fijian guy I was working with stomped on it.

We live down by the coast at a place called SUAI in a camp that is a cross between China Beach and Mash as regards both the people in it and the style of tents. Being engineers we have made vast improvements to our area and actually have hot and cold water on tap, which is better than some of the other camp sites. We endeavor to improve their lot as and when we can. The villages are run down but are slowly improving as the people begin to feel more secure in their own villages and start to put down roots again. Pigs, dogs, chickens, water buffalo, and an interesting kind of cow that almost looks and sounds like a deer are the main animals around, apart from the wriggly ones already mentioned. Well there's a queue a mile long waiting to use this machine so I'll sign off now.

Cheerio for now.

Steve D in ET



27 June 2001

Just come back to Suai from a place called Forhorem. We've been there about 18 days and it was chilly compared to Suai. We constructed two houses, a toilet block, a shower block/laundry facility and a kitchen dining area as well as the protection bunkers and storage areas for ammo and fuel. During the building project we also restored two houses which, at the end of all this, the locals will take over. The area itself is beautiful and lush, though in the rain we've been having we have other words for it. The scenery is awesome but my camera won't do it justice. We've been down into the village to the local market that is held on a Sunday after church (locals are predominantly Catholic) and purchased a few items. The bartering was fun and I believe we got fleeced something chronic, but at the end of the day if you're happy with the product you have purchased then you shouldn't grumble. The coffee is finely ground but is not instant so it has to be put through a plunger. It tastes OK though a little weaker than I had expected. The weather up here was wet most of the time and the mud sticks to your gear like the proverbial. The roads are taking a hammering with the heavy transport loads and we are doing our best to keep them open in all weathers. Our Section's next job is to head back into the hills

and put in some culverts in critical areas of the roads to try and prevent washouts. This in turn helps the plant team to maintain the roads.

Cheerio for now. Take care and keep those homefires burning (ha ha ha).

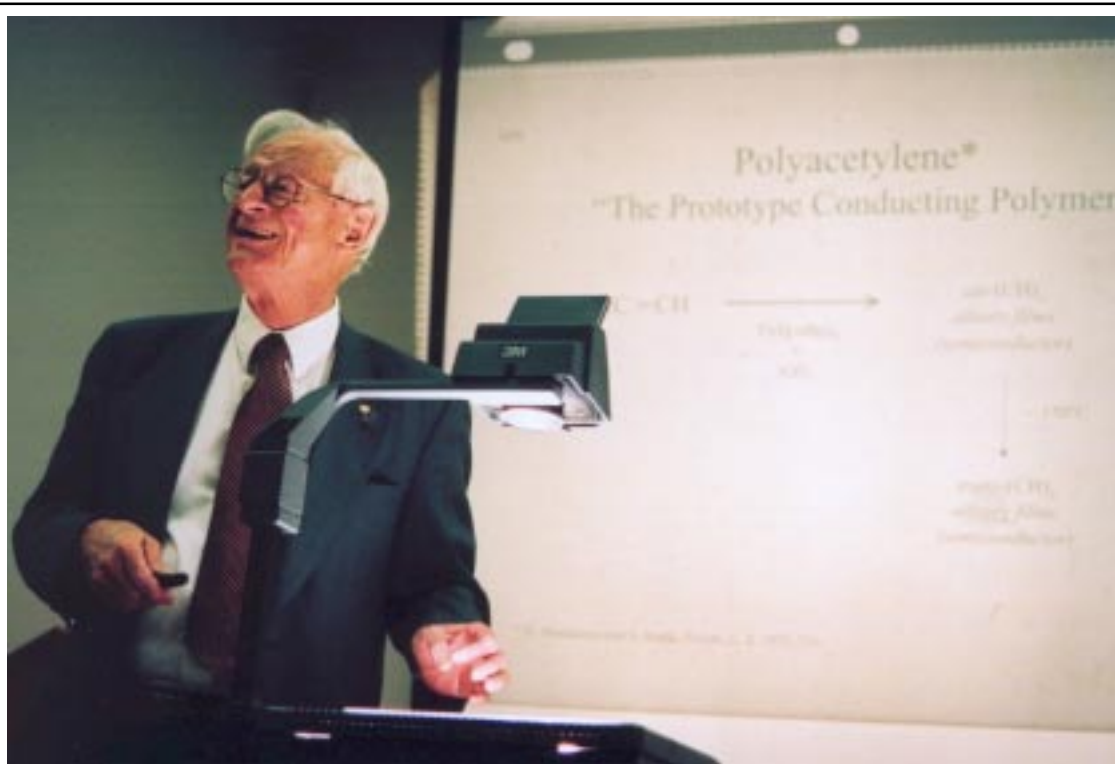
Steve in ET

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Professor Alan MacDiarmid Visit



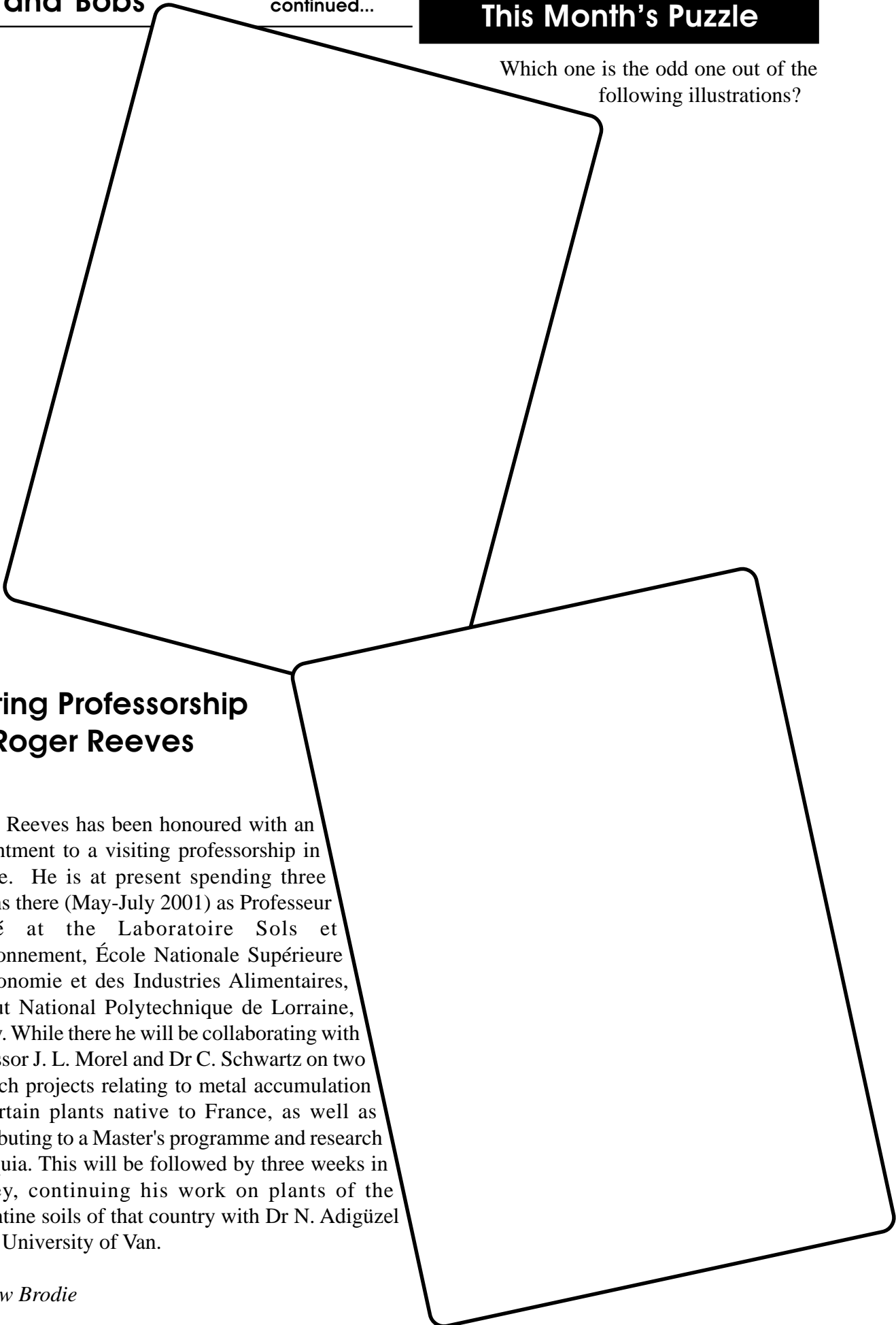
Professor Alan MacDiarmid seated in the audience in Ag/Hort Lecture Theatre 1 before giving the College of Sciences Distinguished Lecture.



Professor Alan MacDiarmid giving the College of Sciences Distinguished Lecture.

If you want a kitten, start out by asking for a horse.
Naomi, age 15 (Kids Advice)

Which one is the odd one out of the following illustrations?



Visiting Professorship for Roger Reeves

Roger Reeves has been honoured with an appointment to a visiting professorship in France. He is at present spending three months there (May-July 2001) as Professeur Invité at the Laboratoire Sols et Environnement, École Nationale Supérieure d'Agronomie et des Industries Alimentaires, Institut National Polytechnique de Lorraine, Nancy. While there he will be collaborating with Professor J. L. Morel and Dr C. Schwartz on two research projects relating to metal accumulation by certain plants native to France, as well as contributing to a Master's programme and research colloquia. This will be followed by three weeks in Turkey, continuing his work on plants of the serpentine soils of that country with Dr N. Adigüzel of the University of Van.

Andrew Brodie

IFS Tramp

THE TIMES HIGHER
EDUCATION
3 NOVEMBER 2000



Andrew Brodie, Penny Abercrombie and Geoff Jameson chat over lunch.



Penny Abercrombie, Carolyn Brodie, Andy Trow, Geoff Jameson and Andrew Brodie holding on for their lives.

Sherlock Holmes and Dr Watson went on a camping trip. After a good meal and a bottle of wine they lay down in their tent for the night and went to sleep. Some hours later, Holmes awoke and nudged his faithful friend awake. "Watson, look up at the sky and tell me what you see." Watson replied, "I see millions and millions of stars." "What does that tell you?" Holmes questioned. Watson pondered for a minute. "Astronomically, it tells me that there are millions of galaxies and potentially billions of planets. Astrologically, I observe Saturn is in Leo. Logically, I deduce that the time is approximately a quarter past three. Theologically, I can see that God is all-powerful and that we are small and insignificant. Meteorologically, I suspect that we will have a beautiful day tomorrow." "Is that all?", Holmes asked. "Yes." Watson replied. "Why, am I missing something?". Holmes was quiet for a moment, then spoke "Watson, you dickhead. Someone has stolen the tent!!"

Courtesy of the IMBS Newsletter

THE TIMES HIGHER
EDUCATION
10 NOVEMBER 2000

IFS Mid-Winter Feast



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.

C Alma Baker Trust

2001-02 Fellowships

The above fellowships are offered to both NZ- and UK-based scientists to facilitate the travel between New Zealand and the United Kingdom of senior researchers or scholars in the fields of agriculture, agriculture-related technologies or the study of rural society. The selection of fellows is based on either expressions of interest from individuals or nominations from colleagues, appropriate institutions or professional societies in either country. The Trust envisages making a single grant (Pds Stg 5,000 or \$NZ15,000) for travel to cover fares and expenses for the duration of the fellowship (up to one month).

*Nominations/expressions of interest must be forwarded to Prof B K Macdonald, Secretary, C Alma Baker Trust, c/o College of Humanities and Social Sciences, Turitea Campus, by **MONDAY, 30 JULY 2001.***

Matsumae International Foundation, Japan

2002 Fellowships

A total of 20 fellowships for three- to 12-month tenures in Japan are now available for young research workers during the period April 2002 through March 2003. Fields of study such as natural science, engineering and medicine will be given first priority. Applicants must hold a doctorate degree or have a minimum of two years' research experience after receipt of a master's degree. An upper age limit of 40 years will apply.

Applications should be forwarded directly to the Matsumae International Foundation, Japan (with a marked file copy to Research Services) by **TUESDAY, 31 JULY 2001.**

New Zealand Association of Scientists (NZAS)

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.

Shorland Medal

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

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 that, where a scientist has had an interrupted career, the age limit may be extended to a maximum of 45.

FRST Communicator Awards

Three prizes of \$1,200 are offered for communicating to the general public in any area of science through print, broadcast, public lectures, exhibitions, or through the organisation, management and promotion of events and activities that communicate and publicise science, during the last two years. Two prizes will be awarded to practising scientists, with the third prize awarded to a freelance writer, public relations practitioner or other professional science writer (news media excluded).

Detailed information on all medals and awards is available from the following website address: <http://www.rsnz.govt.nz/clan/nzas/awardgui.html>

All nominations should be forwarded directly to the NZAS by **TUESDAY, 31 JULY 2001.**

When your Mum is mad at your Dad, don't let her brush your hair.
Taylia, age 11 (Kids Advice)

Research Funding Opportunities continued...

Department of Internal Affairs

Lottery Grants Board

Lottery Health Research

Applications are currently invited for grant funding of good quality basic and applied research relating especially to common human health problems considered to be of major significance to the New Zealand community. Importance is also placed on research into prevention and management of common problems and disorders which lead to deterioration of normal health. Research projects may request support for new or replacement equipment, salaries and working expenses. Up to two PhD scholarships, with a value of \$23,000 per annum, are also awarded each November for a three-year term. Copies of revised application forms and guidelines for either projects or scholarships may be obtained from Miralie Thomas Vincent on extn 5945 or e-mail your request to M.E.Thomas@massey.ac.nz. (Please note that these updated documents are NOT available on the Lottery Health web site).

Members of the Palmerston North Research Committee are available to meet with those candidates who would like to discuss their submissions (recommended for first-time applicants). Please provide **FOUR (4)** copies of the application to Mrs Rae Dewe, PNRC Secretary, Research Services, by **WEDNESDAY, 1 AUGUST 2001**. Interviews will take place at Turitea Campus on **TUESDAY, 7 AUGUST 2001**. Applicants from Albany and Wellington campuses should also contact Mrs Dewe (extn 5383) regarding interviews. Those who do not wish to avail themselves of the above process should forward **TEN (10)** copies of the application form to Research Services by **TUESDAY, 28 AUGUST 2001** for University authorisation and dispatch.

Royal Society of New Zealand

Academy Council Medals and Awards 2001

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

- Hector Medal – Chemical sciences
- Te Rangi Hiroa Medal – Historical approaches to societal transformation and change
- R J Scott Medal – Chemical, civil, environmental, forestry and resource engineering
- T K Sidey Medal – Outstanding scientific research concerning electromagnetic radiation
- 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
- Charles Fleming Award – Environmental achievement

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.govt.nz/awards/academy_awards/forms.php

*The closing date for applications and nominations is **FRIDAY, 3 AUGUST 2001**.*

Health Research Council

Closing Dates

Information about the Investment Strategy, visits and closing dates is available on the HRC website from July at www.hrc.govt.nz.

*The closing date for all HRC awards is 5 pm, **MONDAY, 3 SEPTEMBER 2001**. The closing date for the contestable funding round for project, programme and strategic development contract proposals is 5 pm, **THURSDAY, 1 NOVEMBER 2001**.*

Don't squat with your spurs on.
Noronha, age 13 (Kids Advice)