

### Special Points of Interest

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- New Cranfield Scholar Starts
- Magical Musical Evening



Spring (NZ)  
Autumn (UK) 2010

Issue 18

## SUPPORTING CURRENT THINKING ... and the MPs came back!

Over 100 guests, ranging from members of both British Houses of Parliament to students of politics, came to Margaret Wilson's inaugural lecture as the NZ-UK Link Foundation's first Visiting Professor at the House of Commons on 29 October. The evening was chaired by the well known journalist and political commentator Peter Kellner, whilst renowned political academic, historian and broadcaster, Vernon Bogdanor replied to the talk.

Margaret Wilson's subject 'Hung parliaments, coalition governments and proportional representation: what can the UK learn from the NZ experience under Mixed Member Proportional electoral system (MMP)' might not at first, sound obviously gripping! However, this was a most opportune moment given the coalition government's commitment to a referendum next year on changing the traditional first past the post voting system. Thus, she reported to the clearly well informed audience, on the NZ MMP system of proportional representation (PR) and its use over five general elections.

The two main objectives of the supporters of PR had been 'to ensure that parliament was more

representative of the people and to enable parliament to better check the powers of the executive'. Progress has undoubtedly been made on each, but inevitably not the 'revolution' that some had either hoped or feared. Other changes have included declines in the volume and pace of legislation; more consultation and negotiation with the executive and an evolution in the roles of both political advisors and civil servants in a coalition environment. Interestingly however, Margaret Wilson said that the adversarial nature of the Chamber had been maintained

What might the UK take on board? Certainly giving the electorate an interim and final choice of PR system over two elections had worked well, as had fixing a review date at the outset - even if the Rugby World Cup might now rather hijack it! Also, it seems likely that the democratic expectations of the electorate will continue to run ahead of the politicians' ability or desire to keep up.

How well did the audience react? Near the end of her talk the division bell rang and the MP's scurried off to vote. But they returned to hear her conclusions and to join in



*Professor Margaret Wilson, 2010 NZ-UK Link Foundation Visiting Professor.*

the searching question and answer session - praise indeed! So, with a little help from the Foundation, details of NZ's experience with PR has reached at least some of the key opinion leaders in the UK's own pre-referendum debate.

Professor Wilson's talk will be posted on the Foundation's website as will her second lecture on the role of the Supreme Court in NZ's constitutional arrangements which she gave at the Inner temple on 1 November.



The NZ-UK Link Foundation's Visiting Professorship programme aims to make a substantial contribution to the intellectual, educational, vocational and academic links between the two countries. It is managed in

collaboration with the School of Advanced Study at the University of London. Applications for the 2011 award are now open and will close on 28 February 2011. The successful candidate will receive a return airfare and accommodation

at Goodenough College, plus an honorarium of £10,000. Visit [www.nzuklinkfoundation.org](http://www.nzuklinkfoundation.org) for more information and application details.

## SUPPORTING YOUNG CHEFS ...

### Culinary Exchange in 2010

**W**ith recently announced wins in the UK and NZ and a young British chef reporting from his study experience this year, all is well in the Culinary Exchange kitchen it seems.

#### Young British Chef Wins 2010 Culinary Challenge

Young British chef **Ben Murphy**, a 19 year old commis-chef from The Berkeley a five-star hotel in London, won the 2010 NZ-UK Young Chef's Culinary Challenge at a cook-off against seven rivals at Westminster's Kingsway College in November.

Ben's superb three-course menu, featuring NZ venison and manuka honey, won him a three-week study trip to NZ observing in the top restaurants, visiting award-winning vineyards and suppliers, with the option of one further week to explore the country.

Following the cook-off, well-known Kiwi celebrity chef/owner of The Providores and Tapa Room

Restaurant London and award founder of the award, Peter Gordon presented the award at a function held in the Penthouse Suite of NZ House, London.

An overwhelming selection of high calibre entrants made it hard to narrow it down to just eight finalists, Peter said. "Of those chosen, all did themselves proud on the day by producing some truly outstanding dishes.

"The quality of the entries is a fantastic indication of how highly respected the competition is amongst tutors and employers around the UK in regards to the advancement of their junior staff and students."



*Ben Murphy (second from right) with (left to right): David Mulcahy, vice-president Craft Guild of Chefs Peter Gordon The Providores & Tapa Room Restaurant; and Chris Myers, general manager, Air NZ. Ben's award-winning menu comprised langoustine tortellini, seared scallop, langoustine and saffron sauce; roast NZ venison loin, spiced pickled pear, beetroot purée, celeriac and kumara fondant terrine, chocolate infused jus; and manuka honey soufflé, lavender and yogurt ice-cream and pollen tuille.*

#### Young Kiwi Chef Has Just What Doctor Ordered

**Regnar Christensen** of Wellington's General Practitioner pub and restaurant proved he had the right remedy after rising above seven other competitors from around NZ to be named the HSI Cookery Modern Apprentice of the Year.

The Foundation-sponsored category of the national NZ competition was organised by the Hospitality Standards Institute of NZ (HSI) and saw eight cookery apprentices compete for their respective titles in a competition in Auckland on 13 June.

To take out the title, Regnar created a spectacular three-course menu based on a surprise box of ingredients provided on the day, to be

cooked within three hours. His passion for French cuisine was evident in his menu - his dream is to open a French bistro one day - and he was most proud of his entrée (see picture), he said. He followed that up with a main of oven-roasted lamb cutlets, parsnip purée, sautéed oyster mushrooms and a micro salad with balsamic jus. Dessert was a mille-feuille

As winner, Regnar receives airfares, a four-week placement in England, where he will gain kitchen experience in top international restaurants and £2,500 to cover expenses. "I'm really excited," he says, "I will get the chance to meet people, work hard and learn heaps."



*Regnar was most proud of his entrée, pan-fried snapper with a ratatouille, sautéed bok choy and spinach with a herb butter sauce.*

#### Luke gets taste of everything

Young English chef **Luke Fouracre**, winner of the 2009 NZ-UK Young Chef's Culinary Challenge in November last year, couldn't agree more. He has just returned from NZ where he spent



*Luke outside Blanket Bay in Glenorchy, which he said left him 'gobsmacked' as it came into view on his arrival at the luxury lodge.*

four weeks on work experience, in Auckland (Dine and Orbit restaurants), Hawke's Bay (Craggy Range and Terroir restaurant), Wellington (Martin Bosley's), and Glenorchy (Blanket Bay).

"Over the four weeks I spent in NZ, I got a taste of everything," he says. "I saw modern inner city style and Pacific Rim fusion as well as some real home-cooked style food."

He travelled to five key parts of the country for food, history, views and experiences. "This has opened my eyes to a world of food, flavours and people. It's made me realise that there are millions of combinations of textures, flavours, colours and presentation styles available to the modern chef. I got to meet some incredible people, do some

incredible things and, most of all, I got to eat, taste and smell the food of NZ," he enthuses, adding that he even got to try real hokey-pokey ice-cream!

It wasn't all kitchens for Luke, who also got an adrenalin rush falling 630 feet doing a base jump from the Auckland Sky Tower, visiting farms and food producers and sightseeing. He says he ran out of adjectives to describe the beauty of the countryside.

"I just want to say thank you to everyone on both sides of the world who made this a reality for me. All the hard work you did on making this trip for me will never be forgotten."

Luke's full report, which makes inspiring reading, is available on the website [www.nzuklinkfoundation.org](http://www.nzuklinkfoundation.org).

## ... FUTURE TEACHING LEADERS...

### Linking Minds Has Significant Impact

The Linking Minds Scholarship has had a significant impact on the teaching, educational beliefs and core philosophy of the 2010 party of four young teaching leaders who travelled to North Wales in September to experience its bi-lingual teaching system in September.

Tim Watson, assistant head of English at Wellington Girl's College, made the comments after a reception at Turnbull House in Wellington on 20 October and added that the scholarship has provided him with the opportunity to make contacts globally, as well as making links locally with other emerging leaders in education across NZ.

**"this experience will ensure that I am 'thinking' for a long time to come"**

"But the hard work begins now," he said. "My mind is swimming with so many wonderful ideas: the collaborative projects and student-centred work I observed in North Wales; the way in which student leadership is fully-integrated into school operations; the handling of transitions between primary and secondary schools; the way in which 'global thinking' is promoted in the classroom; and what it means to be a passionate educational leader.

"The scholarship has shown me the potential that exists - within myself, within my classroom and within my school. Very rarely in education do you get the time to step



Left to right: Ingrid Leary (British Council), Alistair McLean (Teachers Council), Alison Derbyshire (Botany Downs Secondary College), Tim Watson (Wellington Girl's College), Aimee Warrender (Early Childhood Education Centre, Rotorua), Zoe Bridewell (Henry Hill High, Napier), Di Davies (Ministry of Education) and Mark Horton (NZ-UK Link Foundation).

back and think: think about what there is at the moment and what could be. I know that this experience will ensure that I am 'thinking' for a long time to come. "

Specialist in boys' education, Alison Derbyshire, was particularly impressed with the global connectedness evident in many of the schools visited. She was also very interested in their programmes targeted at lifting boys' educational achievement. "One was an innovative project aimed at boys with low mathematical understanding, cleverly disguised as a snooker club!"

For Aimee Warrender from Rotorua's Early Childhood Education Centre, Linking Minds affirmed the importance of young leaders and their roles in education globally and in NZ.

"It has empowered me to seek more opportunities and to be proud

of being a leader in education in such an amazing country, with an education system that is leading the way in many areas," she said, adding that experiencing a bi-lingual education system allowed the group to appreciate the importance of dual language cultures within education at all levels.

Aimee said the opportunity had affected her personally and professionally in such a powerful way. "It has provided me with direction and inspired me to set higher goals as a young leader that, prior to this experience, were not visible to me."

Aimee echoed Tim comments in saying the positive Link experience had challenged her philosophy, engaged her in her role from a different perspective and allowed her to evolve professionally. They all look forward to putting further initiatives into place in 2011.

The **Linking Minds** programme is a biennial joint professional development initiative for young teachers co-funded by the NZ-UK Link Foundation, the NZ Ministry of

Education and the British Council. Support and assistance is also given by the NZTeachers' Council and British Airways. Selected teachers spend a fortnight hosted by a local

authority in the UK, to learn about latest trends, initiatives and to share current thinking and ideas from NZ. For more information: visit [www.nzuklinkfoundation.org](http://www.nzuklinkfoundation.org).

### Congratulations to David

Many congratulations to Wellington-based NZ Friends of the Link member David Alan Middleton and former head of NZ's Earthquake Commission (EQC) who received an Officer of the NZ Order of Merit (ONZM) for services to the Earthquake Commission in the 2010 Queen's Birthday Honours. Ironically, it was awarded during the week following the magnitude 7.1 earthquake in Canterbury, which devastated the city and surrounding region. As a result, many of his former colleagues were absent from his reception manning phones and

desks, running the systems that David's former team set up under his leadership.

The thoughts of us all were with Canterbury colleagues, friends and family after the earthquake. The NZ Society (UK) launched a Canterbury Earthquake Fund in the UK in September with a donation of £5,000 from its charities fund and a pledge to donate proceeds from two raffles to the fund, which was to be transferred to NZ charities. Further donations were invited via the Society's website [www.nzsociety.co.uk](http://www.nzsociety.co.uk).



David received his award from His Excellency, The Right Honourable Sir Anand Satyanand GNZM, QSO, Governor-General of NZ, who is also the Foundation's Vice-Patron.

## ... AND MBA SCHOLARS

### New Cranfield Scholar Starts

Arriving at Cranfield four and a half weeks ago was the culmination of several months' hard work, planning and decision making for 2010 Cranfield NZ Alumni Scholarship winner, Rhys Welbourne.

With three children to consider, the decision to come to Cranfield from Picton where the family lives, wasn't an easy one to make, the Port Marlborough engineer says, but the support from the NZ-UK Link Foundation and Cranfield NZ Alumni helped them to reach what Rhys believes was the right decision.

"The School of Management boasts students from 38 countries and the calibre is certainly very

high with all students having strong professional backgrounds from accounting to engineering - we even have a Russian physicist in the cohort," he says.

Cranfield consistently ranks among the top Master of Business Administration (MBA) schools in the world and this year the Economist ranked it first in the UK (above Oxford, Cambridge and the London Business School).

"The 'Cranfield experience' is a term that has been repeated frequently over the last few weeks and I, personally, think that it is the best way of describing life here," says Rhys. "The course is a crucible,

putting people together from diverse backgrounds and adding the pressure of deadlines, lecture preparations, business competitions, new learning and the simple fact of having to rely on each other. Any successes are therefore all the more rewarding while failures are treated as learning experiences. The difference between Cranfield and other institutions is the focus on the individual growing through contact with teams; the MBA is a journey, developing us into better managers and leaders."

On a personal level, the Welbourne family seems to have taken well to life in England, the oldest two children have started school in the village and Rhys' son is playing football for the local under-seven's team.

"We are enjoying our time in the country and are planning to take every opportunity we have to show the children the history and culture of Europe," Rhys says, taking the opportunity to thank all at the NZ-UK Link Foundation for the opportunity.

At the time of Rhys' award, chair of the Foundation's NZ management committee Mark Horton said that: "The Link Foundation is delighted to partner yet again with Cranfield in providing such a valuable opportunity for a promising young New Zealander. This is the fourth year that we have sent a scholar to Cranfield."



Rhys Welbourne (second from left) with three of the four other Kiwis on the Cranfield course this year (left to right) London-based civil engineer Tessa Irving, Rachel Anderson from Auckland's media world and Scott Coles, a London-based accountant. Absent is Jane Pender who worked for the head office of BP.

### Molloy reflects

Looking back on his successful year, the 2009 Scholar John Molloy says that he has taken two main things away from the MBA. "Firstly, a deeper confidence in my ability to have a go at any project that comes my way and secondly a greater awareness of myself."

John has recently been accepted as product director for Auckland-based Zephyr Technology where he was working prior to his Cranfield MBA. He is excited about the role, because it is not only a step-up in responsibility, but also it is based

near Washington DC in the US. "I am pleased to be going back to this company, as I feel I have unfinished business there," he says, adding that it will be great place for him to "hit the ground running and add value to a NZ technology-based company."

#### Three out of four for Kiwis

For the third in four years the top student on the prestigious Cranfield School of Management MBA programme has been a New Zealander. Ngaire Dunn (pictured), an Auckland and former director

of consultancy Nourish, is only the third woman in 30 years to win the £5,000 Ford prize and the first this century. Although, she had been too late to apply for the Link supported scholarship she was still awarded a bursary by the School, based on her obvious potential. Previously, Link-supported winners were Adrian Wood and Scott Riddle. There are now almost 150 Cranfield alumni who are NZ citizens or residents.



Applications have now opened for the 2011/2012 Cranfield NZ Alumni Scholarship. The course starts in late September 2011 and lasts for one year. The scholarship is worth approximately \$80,000 and covers full tuition fees, a

return airfare provided by NZ-UK Link Foundation and a \$10,000 contribution towards living expenses. Applications close 2 May 2011.

For further information, FAQ and a copy of the application form refer to

[www.cranfieldMBA.info/scholarship](http://www.cranfieldMBA.info/scholarship). Or contact David Ryan, Cranfield alumni representative in NZ on 021 543 449 or at [ryangomex@xtra.co.nz](mailto:ryangomex@xtra.co.nz).

## FRIENDS OF THE NZ-UK LINK FOUNDATION

### Magical, Musical Evening in Historic Crypt

It was exactly as billed - 'A Fabulous Evening of Magical Music, Gourmet Food and Fine Wine' in the medieval crypt of St Etheldreda church in the heart of London - and it raised almost £5,000 for two NZ causes, The NZ-UK Young Chefs Culinary Challenge and The Dame Malvina Major Music Foundation.

In the candlelit setting of the stone-walled 12th century crypt where Henry V111 partook of a three-day wedding feast, the evening began with canapés by Peter Gordon and magnums of 'H' bubbly from Trinity Hill. It then continued with a four-course dinner by Bleeding Heart Restaurant, featuring smoked loin of NZ lamb, roasted fillet of NZ Venison, South Island parmesan cheese and Trinity-poached plums with a Comvita Manuka Honey Sauce all washed down with matching wines from Trinity Hill.

Master of ceremonies Peter McCombie, the London-based NZ Master of Wine, introduced Peter Gordon who outlined the aims of the UK-NZ Young Chef's Culinary Challenge exchange programme. He also introduced this year's UK winner, Luke Fouracre (see page two).



*Dame Malvina Major pictured at the event with chef Peter Gordon (left) and former All Black captain Sean Fitzpatrick.*

But the highlight of the evening was the music: Dame Malvina and her four protégés were fresh from a tour of Italy which added an extra dimension to the Italian arias they performed. The guests were stunned by the depth of talent shown by the young Kiwi singers, Hadleigh Adams (baritone), Anna Argyle (soprano), Andrew Grenon (tenor) and Polly Ott (soprano), accompanied by their pianist Kirsten Simpson.

So mellowed were the guests by the music that Peter McCombie's auction of restaurant vouchers, wine

and wine tastings raised more than £2,000 - including £100 for a kilogram pot of Comvita Manuka Honey and £100 for a menu signed by Dame Malvina. The successful bid was from Annette Stockwell, whose mother once made Dame Malvina's operatic gowns.

The evening was sponsored by NZ Beef + Lamb (the new name for Meat & Wool NZ), NZ Venison, Hildon Water, Air NZ, Trinity Hill, Rippon Cheese, Comvita Manuka Honey, Providores Restaurant, Bleeding Heart Restaurants and Chefs Connection.

## Sir Ian Charms

Sir Ian McKellen CH KBE, charmed, captivated and enchanted his Friends of the NZ-UK Link Foundation audience at a lunch in Wellington, in early July.

Describing his first impressions of arriving at the Lord of the Rings film set as being part of "the most expensive home movie ever made" - with Peter Jackson drafting in his wife to write the script - helped by her best friend - and another friend to make the costumes - drew peals of laughter. He is, of course, very proud to have been part of that cast, with firm friends made, a love of NZ obviously evident and Gandalf being amongst the favourite roles he has played. He now recommends that friends send their children and grandchildren to NZ to attain "a truly non-European world view".

His career, which started at school and continued at St Catherine's College Cambridge before he took to the boards professionally, has spanned more than five decades. He first became an actor to "escape" from the realities of a rigid British society's

attitude to homosexuality, he said. A love of Shakespearean roles has been a recurring theme and it was when Sir Ian took to the floor to reprise his role as Sir Thomas More, in a play co-written by Shakespeare, that Friends saw his true stage presence in action. With no props or costume change, having set the scene he simply slipped into the role and emerged to truly command the room. What a treat to see a legend in action!

HSBC generously donated theatre tickets for 'Waiting for Godot', in which Sir Ian was playing in Wellington, to be raffled at the event. These were won by Don Breaden and Howard Duff. The event, attended by 96 people, was held at the Wellesley Boutique Hotel and featured a delicious buffet lunch and wine. The Foundation raised \$4,700 that will go to support the NZ Discretionary Awards.



*Sir Ian drew the raffle, ably assisted by NZ Management Committee member Brian Busby, before visiting each table to chat with the guests.*

**The NZ Friends of the NZ-UK Link's annual meeting will be held at 5.30pm on Thursday 14 April at the British High Commissioner's residence, Homewood, Karori, Wellington. Invitation only (which will be sent nearer the date of the meeting).**

## Our People Committee Members In NZ

**W**e are sad to report that Liliias Bell and Judith Hopkins have resigned from the NZ Management Committee because of personal and work reasons. We would like to thank them for their outstanding support and efforts during their time on the Committee.

However, we are delighted to add that the Committee has three new members, two of them former Cranfield MBA students - Richard Eats and Chris Jones - and the third is new British High Commissioner, Her Excellency Vicki Treadell (see below) who joins in an ex-officio capacity.

**Richard Eats** was reading his copy of the Link when he noticed the call from chairman Mark Horton for volunteers, he says. He retired from the UK to NZ late in 2008. "My wife

is a Wellingtonian and after 30 years of going backward and forward, we decided to shift our base here. I spent my career working for the distribution divisions of international investment management companies and so have substantial experience in financial services marketing."

Richard has an MBA from Cranfield School of Management and has attended alumni events in Wellington - as well as other NZ-UK Link events. "I therefore have a strong personal interest in fostering links between the UK and NZ and in helping my old business school."

A graduate of Oxford University (St Edmund Hall), British human resources professional **Chris Jones** currently works for Sternhold Consulting in Wellington and he and his family live

in the city. He previously worked for Meridian in Wellington and prior to that held HR positions in London and Brentford and for two shipbrokers.

An accomplished linguist - Chris speaks French, Greek and German, some Spanish and Italian - he includes piano, classical guitar and rowing amongst his interests. A former head coach for Oxford University's lightweight rowing club, he can now be seen out on the harbor coaching Wellington Rowing Club's senior squad who are the 2010 National Club Champions.



## Welcome to New British High Commissioner, Vicki Treadell

The NZ -UK Link Foundation welcomes the new British High Commissioner to NZ, Samoa and Governor of Pitcairn, Her Excellency Vicki Treadell.

HE Vicki Treadell has a wide range of diplomatic experience, coming to NZ from a four year posting as the deputy high commissioner in Mumbai, covering Western India. Her other overseas postings have been to Kuala Lumpur and Islamabad.

While at the Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO) in London she worked on various policy issues for Western Europe and Latin America, as well as in the office of the FCO's

Permanent Under Secretary of State. Vicki was awarded Membership of the Royal Victorian Order (MVO) in 1989 and was made a Companion of the Order of St Michael and St George (CMG) in 2010.

She has a strong business and commercial background stemming from her first appointment, on joining the FCO's economic relations department in 1979. Later, she was seconded to UK Trade & Investment (UKTI) and has been UKTI director for the north-west of England, deputy director for British Trade International's corporate resources group and was head of the professionalism in trade unit at the

Joint Export Promotion Directorate set up jointly by the FCO and DTI.

Born in Malaysia and raised there until eight, she speaks Bahasa and Cantonese. The family then re-located and settled in the UK. Vicki believes she embodies the best of British multiculturalism as she hails from a half Dutch-half French father and a Singapore Chinese mother. "Britain has given me every opportunity and I am proud to be promoting the best of Britain."

She has travelled extensively both on business and for pleasure. Her interests include reading, art and photography.



## In the UK

Following a severe stroke in December 2009, and five months in hospital, **Francis King** is standing down as UK Executive Officer of the NZ-UK Link Foundation. The Trustees are very grateful to Francis for the contribution which he has made to the Foundation in this role since 2003. We wish him well and hope to see him and Catherine at future Link Foundation events.

Francis writes that he has enjoyed his time with the Link Foundation since 1990 when he was a Trustee in Wellington of the Waitangi Foundation as it was known then, and more latterly as the UK Executive Officer in Oxford, UK. He is very grateful for the friendships he and Catherine have enjoyed with those who, like them, wish to encourage the continuation of closer links, across all walks of life,

between NZ and UK. "Please do keep in touch - frogs@talktalk.net" he says. "Our paths are always likely to re-cross - either in UK or NZ."

His colleagues in NZ, the NZ Link Executive Officers past and present Helen Middleton and Tony Fryer in particular, have enjoyed working with Francis over the years and wish Francis and his family all the best for the future.



Patron: HRH The Princess Royal  
Vice-Patron: HE The Governor-General  
President: Dame Kiri Te Kanawa

The NZ-UK Link Foundation (formerly the Waitangi Foundation) is a registered charity in the United Kingdom (Number 802457) and is registered in New Zealand as a charitable entity (Registration Number CC 36164).

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