What a start to 2011!

And so it goes on, as I finalise this newsletter, I have once again spent the past week working from my kitchen table until our buildings were checked for safety. Please remember to check the University website regularly for all updates.

For obvious reasons, our first newsletter of the year is somewhat late! February 22nd will now be etched in our minds forever. Our thoughts are with everyone at this uncertain time and in particular with those people who have been affected by the loss of family members, friends and homes.

Welcome to all students who have joined us in 2011 and also to those who are thinking of joining us for Semester 2.

As you are probably aware, our Department spent almost three months in temporary accommodation and we thank the Communication Disorders Department and the College of Science for their hospitality during that time. One positive thing, at least for those of us who were regular users of the space, is that we were able to form a stronger working relationship with staff from all the College of Science Departments.

The next newsletter is scheduled for release in July. Please send any items to me by Friday 1 July 2011 at robyn.daly@canterbury.ac.nz.

Obituary

It was with great sadness that we learned of the death of a former Lecturer and PhD student, Susan Selway who was in the CTV building during the February 22nd earthquake.

Susan was a very highly respected Clinician in the Christchurch community, who will be sorely missed. She completed her Masters Degree in Psychology, here at Canterbury under the supervision of Professor Ken Strongman. She continued on to become a Clinical Psychologist, while at the same time working towards her PhD.

She taught Abnormal Psychology at Stage 1 and at the 300-level for a number of years.

We pass on our condolences on to Susan’s family at this difficult time.
Staffing News

Earl Alluisi Award

Congratulations to Assoc. Prof. Deak Helton who recently won an international award for early career achievement in psychology—an award rarely given to someone outside of North America.

Deak was awarded the Earl Alluisi Award for Early Career Achievement by the American Psychological Association. This award is given annually to an academic who has made exceptional contributions to the field of applied experimental and engineering psychology (aka Human Factors) during the first 10 years of his or her career and is based on research, publications and special new contributions to scientific methods or theory.

One of Deak’s primary research topics was the study of vigilance and looking at why people cannot maintain a constant level of attention or alertness over time during monitoring or detection work, such as looking for weapons in luggage or monitoring radars.

Deak will receive the award at the 2012 APS Convention in September. The award is named after Earl Alluisi, one of the early pioneers in Human Factors (he did work for NASA and on the Apollo missions, etc.).

Farewell to Professor Garth Fletcher

It was with sadness that we said goodbye to Professor Garth Fletcher in April. He commenced his term as Lecturer at Canterbury on 1 July 1985 in the Social Psychology area.

After 26 years with us, Garth has taken up an academic appointment at Victoria University of Wellington, School of Psychology. Garth made this decision to join his wife, Kim, who is now living and working in Wellington.

As a new “first” for the Department, we farewelled a Professor from the Department in a tent!

I am sure we will continue to have a working relationship with Garth in the future as he links in with researchers here in the Department.

Congratulations to Professor Brian Haig

Congratulations are due to Professor Brian Haig, who in December last year was made a Fellow of the Association of Psychological Science in recognition of his “sustained outstanding contributions to psychological science”.

Fellowship status is typically awarded for ones scientific contributions.

At the beginning of the year Brian was appointed as a Visiting Professor to the University of Bath. He will be associated with the Department of Education and will contribute to its research programme on Educational Policy, Globalization, and Organization.

Brian is also Acting Head of Department while Neville Blampied is on Erskine Leave.
Staffing News Continued...

Continuing General Staff Appointment

Jonathan Wiltshire was appointed to a continuing position as Programmer/Analyst in the Department just before we broke for our Christmas/New Year break and due to the Earthquake this is the first opportunity to include this announcement in our newsletter.

Jon had been on a fixed-term contract with us for 18 months and we are delighted to have this position confirmed as a continuing one.

He is located in Room 512, Psyc Staff Block, Ext. 3636. Email jonathan.wiltshire@canterbury.ac.nz.

Other Staffing News

Marie Kavanagh is retiring from the University, effective 11 August.

Marie has been with us for almost 25 years, so she is going to be sorely missed.

Dr Janet Carter started her Study leave on 6 June for six months. During her time away she will be attending the International Society for Interpersonal Psychotherapy (ISIPT) conference in Amsterdam to give an oral presentation entitled “The relative contribution of specific and non-specific psychotherapy factors to outcome in CBT and IPT for depression.” Dr Martin Dorahy has taken on the role of Acting Co-Director of the Clinical Psychology Programme during Janet’s absence.

We welcome some temporary staff to assist us with teaching over the next few months:

- **Prof. Kim Dolgin** will be teaching into PSYC106, PSYC 338 and Course Coordinator for PSYC343.
- **Dr Mari Sanchez** will be offering a Special Topic at the PG level in Semester two, PSYC471 Special Topic: Social Perception and Cognition.
- **Dr Patrick LaShell** will be teaching PSYC464 Multivariate Stats
- **Dr Jacki Henderson** will be Coordinating and teaching in PSYC 106 and also teaching in PSYC338.
Erskine Leave

Assoc. Prof. Neville Blampied is currently on Erskine Leave and attended the Assn of Behavior Analysis International Conference in Denver. He continued on to Denton to present a colloquium and has visited a Child Study Centre in Fort Worth. He has now moved on to California. He is due back in the department on 29 June. In his absence, Prof. Brian Haig is acting Head of Department.

Dr Martin Dorahy has just commenced his Erskine Leave. He started his trip in rural Virginia doing an immersion course in the Intensive Short Term Dynamic Psychotherapy. He spent a few days with a colleague from Rutgers University (Camden Campus, New Jersey) who teaches our equivalent of PSYC335, finding out what they do and how they do it. He is now on his way to the UK to meet with people in Ireland and Britain who teach either abnormal psychology or in clinical psychology programmes. He will be back in the Department in early July.

Assoc. Prof. Julia Ruckledge commenced her Erskine leave on 14 June. During this time she will be attending the ISRCAP conference. From there she to Ohio to give a grand round lecture to Ohio State University. Toronto is next on the tour where she will do talks to Hospital for Sick Children and York University and then to Calgary where she continues collaborations with Professor Kaplan. During her time away she also hopes to catch up with Prof. Rosemary Tannock, who had only just arrived in Christchurch as an Erskine Visitor to the Department the day before the February earthquake.

Julia returns from Erskine leave on 1 August.

Awards and Accolades

Congratulations to Jessica Boyce (PhD) who won the award for Best Oral Presentation by a student researcher at the Australasian Society for Behavioural Health and Medicine (ASBHM) conference held in Christchurch in February. Her paper was entitled “Can ideal body media activate restrained eating in female dieters?”

Sam Bora (PhD) has had a very successful few months. We congratulate him on being awarded a Perinatal Society of New Zealand Travelling Scholarship recently which enabled him to travel to the Paediatric Academic Societies (PAS) and Asian Society for Paediatric Research (ASPR) conferences held in Denver at the end of April. He presented his paper entitled “Neonatal cerebral tissue volumes association with attentional problems in children born very preterm” in a poster session.

As well as this he also received an Overseas Travel Grant by the (2nd Joint International Conference of the Hong Kong College of Psychiatrists and the Royal College of Psychiatrists, UK to attend the joint conference in Hong Kong in December. He was awarded Best Poster Award for his poster entitled “Behavioral sequelae of a regional cohort of children born very preterm at age 9 years”.

Sam being awarded his prize from Prof. Dinesh Bhugra, President of the Royal College of Psychiatrists.
Publications and Conference Presentations

Bora, S., Moor, S., Spencer, C., Pritchard, V. E., & Woodward, L. J. (2010, December). *Behavioural sequelae of a regional cohort of children born very preterm at age 9 years*. Poster session presented at the 2nd Joint International Conference of the Hong Kong College of Psychiatrists and the Royal College of Psychiatrists (UK), Hong Kong.


PhD Congratulations

A belated congratulations to Juliane Wilcke who successfully and ably defended her PhD thesis back in January. The thesis was titled “An evaluation of means of inquiry into the biological evolution of consciousness.” The examiners commended Juliane for the originality and creativity of her work, and recommended that her thesis be accepted after some minor revisions were made. The examiners were Dr Anthony Atkinson (Durham University) and Professor Tony Ward (Victoria University). Juliane’s primary supervisor was Professor Brian Haig. Her associate supervisor was Dr Kevin Moore (Lincoln University). The oral examination was chaired by Professor Garth Fletcher. As mentioned in our December Newsletter, Juliane began her Postdoctoral Fellowship in Geneva on 1 February, working with Patrik Vuilleumier in his laboratory for Behavioral Neurology and Imaging of Cognition. Congratulations also are due to Aaron Jarden, who successfully defended his PhD thesis at the end of May. The work entitled, “Relationships between personal values, and depressed mood and subjective wellbeing” was highly commended by his examiners, Dr Michael Allen (University of Sydney), Associate Professor Mark Wilson (Victoria University of Wellington), and Professor Simon Kemp. Aaron’s examiners recommended that he be awarded his doctoral with minor amendments to the thesis.

Thesis Congratulations

Congratulations to the following students:

Hannah Blakeley who was awarded her MSc with Merit in December for her thesis entitled “Psychological distress and relationship satisfaction in cancer patients and the impact of partners”.

Matthew Vincent who recently was awarded his MA for his thesis entitled “The CYRAS-RYS: A validation study of a risk-assessment instrument for young offenders”.

Grace Crandle who was awarded her MSc with Second Class Honours, Division II for her thesis entitled “Problematic pre-school sleeping and feeding: Is there a relationship?”

Carwyn Scoones was awarded his MA with Distinction in December for his thesis entitled “Reintegration planning for sexual offenders: Relationships with static and dynamic risk, treatment outcome and recidivism”.

Bradley Woods who was awarded his MSc with First Class Honours, for his thesis entitled “What’s still wrong with psychology, anyway? Twenty slow years, three old issues and one new methodology for improving psychological research.”

UoC Doctoral Scholarships

Congratulations to Jacinta Cording and Kirsten Ritchie who were awarded UoC Doctoral Scholarships in the December 2010 round. Well done.

The May UoC Scholarship applications have closed and good luck to all those who have applied.
MSc APSY Congratulations

A belated congratulations to the following APSY students:

Caroline Blackmore was recently awarded his MSc in Applied Psychology with Second Class Honours, Division II for her dissertation entitled “Job insecurity and its antecedents.”

Ryan Condon was recently awarded his MSc in Applied Psychology with Second Class Honours, Division I for his dissertation entitled “The relationship between self-awareness and leadership: Extending measurement and conceptualisation.”

Alexander Dwan was recently awarded her MSc in Applied Psychology with Second Class Honours, Division I for her dissertation entitled “The effects of age, sex and education level on air traffic control training outcomes.”

Nicole Hopkins was recently awarded her MSc in Applied Psychology with Second Class Honours, Division I for her dissertation entitled “Ethical differences in ethical decision making.”

Joanne Macdonald was recently awarded her MSc in Applied Psychology with First Class Honours, for her dissertation entitled “Implicit and explicit attitudes towards older workers and their relationship with behaviour.”

Ulrike Ossowski was recently awarded her MSc in Applied Psychology with First Class Honours, for her dissertation entitled “Performance in emotionally stressful tasks: An investigation into potential sex differences.”

Jessica Richardson was recently awarded her MSc in Applied Psychology with First Class Honours, for her dissertation entitled “Term-time employment and tertiary students’ academic success.”

Andrew Sawers was recently awarded his MSc in Applied Psychology with First Class Honours, for his dissertation entitled “The effects of perceived supervisor support, organisational justice, and change management strategies in the context of organisational restructuring.”

Linda Schouten was recently awarded her MSc in Applied Psychology with Second Class Honours, Division I for her dissertation entitled “The impact of caregiver employment experiences and support on adolescents’ work ethics.”

Hugh Stevenson was recently awarded his MSc in Applied Psychology with First Class Honours, for his dissertation entitled “The effect of task and target characteristics on the vigilance decrement.”

Liana Styles was recently awarded her MSc in Applied Psychology with First Class Honours for her dissertation entitled “An investigation into the effect of providing employees with a pedometer on overall exercise levels, barriers to physical activity, stress, and satisfaction with work and life.”

Danielle Wallis was recently awarded her MSc in Applied Psychology with First Class Honours for her dissertation entitled “A comparison of safety expectations between new recruits and employers.”
Leave & Conferences

This is a very busy section in this newsletter as we have missed a few months and also because we have a lot of staff heading away on conference leave over the next few months.

Jessica Boyce, is attending the European Association for Social Psychology Conference in Stockholm to present a paper entitled “Ideal body media can serve as counteractive control for female dieters.”

Assoc. Prof. Chris Burt will be attending the 9th Industrial and Organisational Psychology Conference from 23rd to 26th of June in Brisbane where he will present a paper entitled “New recruit safety expectations.”

Dr Zhe Chen, who is currently on Study Leave, attended the European Conference on Cognitive Science in Bulgaria in May. She presented a paper entitled “Self-assessment produce anchoring effects in promotion decisions.” During her study leave she also spent some time in China undertaking research collaborations.

Dr Roeline Kuijer left at the weekend to attend the European Association for Social Psychology Conference being held in Stockholm in July.

Rachel Lean (Masters student) will be attending the Australian Human Development Association 17th Biannual Conference to be held in Dunedin early in July to present a poster entitled “Preschool mental health outcomes of children prenatally exposed to methadone: The role of our of home care”.

Dr Andy Martens will also be attending the European Association of Social Psychology Conference in Stockholm in July to present a paper.

Dr Anthony McLean recently attended the Association for Behavior Analysis International and the Society for the Quantitative Analysis of Behavior conferences in Denver Colorado from 25 May to 2 June.

Argene Montgomery-Honger (Masters student) will be attending the Australian Human Development Association 17th Biannual Conference to be held in Dunedin early in July to present a poster entitled “Mothers of very preterm infants in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit: Factors associated with maternal stress”.

Gabriela Motoi will be attending the Australian Human Development Association 17th Biannual Conference to be held in Dunedin early in July to present a poster entitled “Sleeping through the night: A community survey of parents opinions”.

Dr Katharina Naswall will be travelling to Brisbane this week to attend the Industrial and Organisational Psychology Conference where she will present a paper entitled “Job insecurity and mental health complaints over time: A growth curve modelling approach.”

Dr Joana Pimentel left early in June to attend a conference in Barcelona following which she will be catching up with research collaborators.
Postgraduate Profile—Brad Woods

This month’s postgraduate profile is on **Brad Woods**, who recently completed his master’s thesis in the very short, some would say obscene, time of 3 months! A self-described academic mongrel, Brad originally studied finance and economics before getting interested in psychology and philosophy: “In one sense I really should’ve started university with philosophy, for it provided the framework within which all the other accumulated knowledge makes the most sense and becomes a coherent system. It was only since studying philosophy at Canterbury in 2009 that I’ve felt my thinking coherent enough to make some kind of contribution at a higher level”.

The specifics of that contribution coalesced when Brad enrolled in Brian Haig’s postgraduate methods class and began to understand how important the philosophical and conceptual underpinnings of methodology were to psychological research: “I realised I couldn’t pursue my original idea concerning emotions and economic decision making and retain any sense of academic integrity given the methods I was going to employ. So I switched to something I believe more fundamental and important to the disciplines of economics and psychology.”

The result is Brad’s theoretical thesis entitled, “What’s still wrong with psychology, anyway? Twenty slow years, three old issues, and one new methodology for improving psychological research”. Evaluating developments in the areas of null hypothesis significance testing, the issue of quantification in psychological measurement, and the granularity of research methods (the so-called idiographic-nomothetic distinction), Brad concluded that precious little has changed since David Lykken’s classic 1991 criticism of psychology’s research tradition.

Though this might seem a depressing conclusion, Brad does provide some grounds for optimism, however, suggesting that Observation Oriented Modeling is well suited to addressing the problems the rest of his thesis delineates. Observation Oriented Modeling is a novel statistical methodology, created by James Grice at Oklahoma State University, that emphasises the primacy of real, repeatable, observable, non-aggregated events to create integrated models that accurately and consistently explain scientific phenomena. Using binary transformations of ordered data elements, termed deep structures, sets of observations can be mapped onto one another to infer causal linkages. Observation Oriented Modeling represents an alternative methodology for analysing data and evaluating hypotheses.

In response to the question of how Brad managed to complete his thesis so quickly, Brad offers several suggestions, with the first being to find a rhythm. “I find that 45 minutes on and 15 minutes off is the golden ratio, whereby I can keep going pretty much most of the day without the concentration being diluted”. Secondly, Brad maintains that attending all the thesis writing workshops run by the learning centre during postgraduate week as beneficial: “I saved myself probably two months work by attending those before starting to write”. Thirdly, Brad recommends begging, borrowing, or stealing as much brain power you can, and getting as many people as possible to look over and critique your work: “I’m a real generalist, so it was immensely helpful to have someone like Neville, who has an exceptional eye for detail, act as an editor. My work was improved enormously by doing so and I can’t thank my commentators enough, particularly Brian, for their accumulated wisdom and guidance”.

It seems this inclusive approach paid off with both reviewers (Professors James Grice and Paul Barrett) commending the finished product, assigning it an A+ grade, and asking permission to use it in their own methods classes as well as display it on their respective websites. Brad hopes that with similar help from his friends, a work of similar quality can be produced with his PhD on scientific realism and psychology, which he begins this coming semester. He can be contacted at brad.woods@pg.canterbury.ac.nz.
Teaching Assistant Positions—S2 2011

Teaching Assistant positions for Semester 2 are available on our department website. Go to the vacancies page of our department website.

The closing date for applications was Monday 20 June 2011, however due to not having access to our building, we have extended this to Thursday 23 June. We can accept these at the Department Administration area or please email to robyn.daly@canterbury.ac.nz.

Clinical Psychology News

It has been a very disrupted start to the year for all of our students and naturally for the Clinical Programme as well. We haven’t got any indepth report from this area as yet due to staff being severely affected by the earthquakes.

We are able to confirm the successful applicants who have been accepted into 1st Year Clinical for 2011. Congratulations and good luck to the following:

- Alana Bishop
- Charis Coullie
- Katie Douglas
- Nick Mann
- Leila Marie
- Kirsten Ritchie
- Louise Jenkins
- Jaimee Kleinbichler

- Courtney Lowther

There was one further student offered a place but after the February earthquake he chose to relocate elsewhere.

As they say, the hard work starts now!

More from the Clinical team in the next newsletter.

Teaching Assistant Positions—S2 2011

For your information the person specification for these roles is as follows:

- Academic expertise
- Relevant experience
- Ability to get on with a variety of people.
- Results of Tutorial Evaluations (where available) are taken into consideration.
- Administrative efficiency

(this may be an advantage, but applicants with no previous experience are encouraged to apply).
Fundraising Expedition

Argene Montgomery-Honger (MSc) has a brilliant new venture in the pipeline. A group of Kiwis from around the world are climbing Mt Kilimanjaro, the world’s tallest walkable mountain, in August to raise money for the Red Cross Christchurch Earthquake Appeal. Argene intends to raise at least $5,895 (the height of Kilimanjaro in metres) for the Red Cross to help Christchurch get back on its feet.

The expedition will be filmed and crafted into a documentary looking to be screened both in New Zealand and the United Kingdom. All those embarking on the climb have a personal connection with Christchurch and are all committed to making a difference. To support the expedition go to www.kilimanjaronz.com, join them on Facebook (search Kilimanjaro NZ) or to donate go to www.redcross.org.nz/donate. Please let Argene know much you donate by emailing argene58@gmail.com, so it can be added to the expedition team’s tally.

We wish Argene all the very best for this venture.

Mindfulness Group 13 July to 31 August

The Psychology Centre is running another Mindfulness Group. Mindfulness is the process of bringing our attention to the present, on a moment-to-moment basis, in a non-judgemental way. In this way we shift from the automatic pilot of busy life or ‘doing’, to living more fully and ‘being’.

Mindfulness can be practiced in a variety of ways. It can be something we do moment-to-moment during our everyday life, it can involve brief exercises that we draw on at particularly stressful times, or it can involve the regular and systematic practice of mindfulness mediation. This 8 week course will introduce you to a range of mindfulness practices and has an educational focus.

Cost:
$150.00 which includes CDs and reading material.

Time:
Wednesday 5.30 to 7.00pm

Where:
Psychology Centre, Level 2, Geography Building.

If you are interested, please contact Janet Cumberpatch on ext 44627 or email janet.cumberpatch@canc nervous.ac.nz.
In the News

Juliane Hardie (nee Wilcke) continued on the Canterbury University Tramping Club tradition of taking her thesis up a mountain called Thesis Peak back in February. She was joined by three other former PhD students at UC for this climb starting from Lake Coleridge.

It was a busy time for Juliane during December through until her departure in February to take up her Postdoc in Geneva. Also here is a photo of her wedding on 18 December at Mt Cheeseman Skifield Lodge. The photo is taken at Castle Hill Rocks—beautiful as you can see.

Mike Edwards (PhD) was involved in the National Christchurch Memorial Services in North Hagley Park on Friday 18th March. It was a memorial service to remember those who lost their lives, and to reflect on the devastating impact of the February 22nd earthquake on our city and its people. This photo is of Mike alongside Hayley Westenra who travelled back from the UK to perform at this memorial in her home city.

Silvana de Freitas Costa had her father visiting from Brazil over the summer. Silvana and her family used his stay here to show him around and also to travel to Australia. He really enjoyed New Zealand (apart from the shakes) but decided that Surfers Paradise wasn’t the place for him. He was also on hand to help out with liquefaction in and around Silvana’s home in Avonside.

I am sure he will have a lot of memories of his visit here, and we trust that the earthquakes will not spoil the fun memories of spending time here.

Congratulations to Brandon Gleaves who has once again been selected for the U16 New Zealand Basketball team to travel to Australia at the beginning of July to attend the Australian U16 National Championships (NZ gets entered as a state!!). The results of this tournament and even live stats will be online at http://www.basketball.net.au/index.php?id=761.

Brandon has also been included in the list for the “Emerging Junior Tall Blacks” as a non-travelling reserve. A great achievement at 15 years old!

Prof. Lucy Johnston recently headed to Saudi Arabia and Kuwait as part of her role as PG Dean to recruit potential international students. As you can see, the customs of these countries had to be adopted!

We also congratulate her father; Professor Ronald (Ron) Johnston, Professor of Geography, University of Bristol, who was awarded an OBE in the Queen’s Birthday Honours List in the UK for his service to Scholarship. An honour for the family and I am sure there will be a trip home for the meeting with the Queen.

Congratulations also to Signe Udall Wiingaard and her partner Ben Kennedy (Lecturer in Geology) who, very soon after the February 22nd earthquake welcomed Noah into their family.

After her business trip it was time for some R&R on a girls trip to Samoa which seems to have been the answer. The photograph below left is definitely more what we are used to in our part of the world!
Psyc Recipe

Hi all, this recipe is from “Food in a Minute”, very easy to do. I tried it last weekend

Seafood Gumbo—[Serves 6]

Ingredients:

• 1 onion chopped
• 2 stalks celery, sliced
• 1 green pepper, deseeded and chopped
• 1 chorizo or spicy sausage, sliced
• ½ tsp dried thyme
• 1 bay leaf
• 420g can Watties Condensed Tomato Soup
• 400g can Watties Mexicam Style Tomatoes
• 500mls (2 cups) vegetable stock
• 250g firm white fish, cut into pieces (Hoki, Lemon fish)
• 250g raw prawn meat
• ¼ cup chopped parsley

Method:

1. Heat a dash of oil in a large saucepan and add the onion, celery and green pepper and cook over a moderate heat, stirring frequently until the vegetables are soft but not browned.
2. Add chorizo, thyme, bay leaf and continue cooking for a further 2 minutes.
3. Add condensed tomato soup, Mexican style tomatoes and vegetable stock. Bring to the boil. Reduce heat and simmer gently for 20 minutes.
4. Add the prepared seafood and continue simmering until the seafood is just cooked, about 3-6 minutes. Stir through the chopped parsley and serve in bowls accompanied with crusty bread.
Photo Gallery

While we were displaced we had some pretty unique photo opportunities that we can share with you all.

Indoor/outdoor flow of our temp office

Cosy!!

Sorting the "communication disorder!"... "If I stand here long enough it will work."

Anyone heard the "Village People"..... Can feel a chorus of "YMCA" coming on!!
Photo Gallery (continued)

Tent teaching up and running. Deak and Juan in full swing using the “new” facilities!

John Barton and Glenn Lewis spent a lot of time assisting all over the campus to ensure the technology was available for this. Thanks heaps guys!
Photo Gallery (continued)

A first for the Department, we farewell a Professor in Big Top Too!!! All the best to Garth Fletcher.
Family affair

by Lee Scardon

A former Westport woman and three family members now have 13 degrees between them after making last month’s University of Canterbury graduation a family affair.

Jocelyn Howard, a senior lecturer at the University of Canterbury’s College of Education, received a Post-graduate Certificate in Tertiary Teaching; her eldest son, Piers Wall, received a Bachelor of Commerce (Honours) in management science and her eldest daughter, Gabrielle Wall, received a doctorate in educational psychology. Gabrielle’s husband, David Smith, who comes from Karamea and was educated at Bluer High School, received a Graduate Diploma in Management.

“IT’s very unusual to have so many people from one family graduating together, so it made it quite a special occasion,” Ms Howard said.

Their studies are not over yet. Mr Smith was planning to begin a masters degree this year and Piers Wall, who celebrated his 21st birthday during graduation week, aimed to continue with papers in military studies, she said.

She told the Norwest News upskilling for their careers, a general interest in learning and the sense of achievement had kept them studying.

“There’s a degree of masochism as well, maybe,” she added.

Ms Howard is the eldest daughter of Graham and Margaret Howard of Westport.