

Media Release:



Huge Finale to First LATE Series

Featuring: Dimmer, Professor Peter Gluckman, Dr Stephen Goldson and Grand Opening of Wonderland

Two of New Zealand's greatest minds and one of our most acclaimed musicians feature at Auckland Museum's LATE on Thursday, 2 July. The grand finale of the LATE 'Identity' series sees a panel discussion with Professor Peter Gluckman and Dr Stephen Goldson, alongside a performance by legendary Shayne Carter and his band Dimmer. It also celebrates the opening of the museum's new exhibition *Wonderland: The Mystery of the Orchid*.

Auckland Museum's *LATE 06: Species Identity Now and Future* investigates how species are continually adapting, and the ways this affects the world around us. The evening's panel discussion, moderated by Findlay Macdonald, features Professor Gluckman, Chief Science Advisor to the Prime Minister and recipient of our top science award, the Rutherford Medal. Also on the panel is Chief Scientist at AgResearch, Dr Goldson, who is widely recognised as a world leader in the areas of biosecurity and science advocacy. Dr Goldson was recently named one of New Zealand's most influential people.

Performing in the Atrium is Dimmer, whose front man Shayne Carter was last year inducted into New Zealand's Music Hall of Fame. Since emerging from the fertile Dunedin scene with his band Straightjacket Fits, Carter's music has helped define a uniquely Kiwi sound.

A distinctive songwriter and compelling performer, Shayne Carter brings Dimmer to the Museum promising a mix of classic songs and new material from the forthcoming album *Degrees of Existence*, due for release at the end of July.

LATE 06 also welcomes the opening of the museum's new, interactive exhibition *Wonderland: The Mystery of the Orchid*. Found in the world's most elusive locations, orchids have evolved into some of the most striking and devious flowers on the planet. Enter *Wonderland* and you'll discover the Museum Garden, a magical world of flower-related objects from the museum's rich collections. From there, open doorways into the fascinating science and spellbinding stories of this mysterious flower.

Throughout the evening the museum's galleries will be open, allowing the public to experience Sonic Museum. The Sonic project has seen Auckland Museum join forces with some of the biggest names in New Zealand music, including Nathan Haines, Don McGlashan and Tiki Taane, to produce a series of exclusive new music tracks inspired by a gallery of their choice in the Museum. These can be listened to by hiring headphones, or by downloading the tracks from www.sonicmuseum.co.nz

The first LATE series, called 'WHATAREYA', investigated ideas around identity and proved immensely successful. Launched in February, the format of smart talk and great music has quickly grown in popularity, with the Thursday evening events often selling out well in advance. Already the LATEs have featured performances from Neil and Liam Finn, Don McGlashan, Little Bushman, Nathan Haines and Lawrence Arabia, as well as providing a platform for up-and-coming new artists including Lisa Crawley and Dear Time's Waste.

The next series of LATEs, which will again take place on the first Thursday of the month, begin in September and investigate the theme of migration. Called 'WHEREYAFROM', topics include human, cultural, natural and global migration. Watch out for more details available soon at www.lateatthemuseum.co.nz

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LATE 06: Species Identity Now and Future

When: Thursday, 2 July

Where: Auckland Museum

Cost: \$15

Time: 6.30pm-11pm

Tickets: Available on the door, by phoning 09 306 7048 or online at www.lateatthemuseum.co.nz



Bios:

Dimmer

Shayne Carter has been in the studio for over a year working on the follow-up to Dimmer's acclaimed third album *There My Dear* and the result is one of the most potent recordings of his remarkable career, *Degrees of Existence*, due for release at the end of July. Preceded by the snarling melodic brilliance of the singles "Degrees of Existence" and "Cold Water", the latter currently searing across the airwaves, this Dimmer album promises to meet the exacting standards of one of the finest New Zealand groups of recent times.

Inducted into New Zealand's Music Hall of Fame at last year's Tui Awards, with his other popular act, Straitjacket Fits, Shayne Carter is a man whose incredible music has helped shape the story of Kiwi song since he emerged in the fertile Dunedin scene of the late 1970s. A distinctive songwriter and compelling performer, Shayne Carter brings Dimmer to the Museum promising a mix of his classic and new material.

Joining him onstage will be James Duncan (Punches, SJD), Kelly Steven (Punches) and Gary Sullivan, the latter recently returned to the Dimmer fold having first occupied the band's drumstool almost a decade ago on the band's legendary first album, *I Believe You Are A Star*. The former Jean Paul Sartre Experience drummer brings his always tasteful and sinuous grooves to the ongoing Dimmer project, adding a fresh element to the sonic pop explorations of Carter and Duncan's brilliant guitar work.

Professor Peter Gluckman

Founding Director of the Liggins Institute, Professor Peter Gluckman is one of our best known scientists – he was honoured as New Zealander of the year by the New Zealand Herald – having recently been appointed by John Key as the first Prime Minister's Chief Science Advisor. His research focuses on what gives us a healthy start to life: understanding how a baby's environment between conception and birth determines its childhood development and life-long health – and the impact that this knowledge has for individuals and whole populations.

His studies have won him numerous awards and international recognition, including Fellowship of the Commonwealth's most prestigious scientific organisation, The Royal Society. He is the only New Zealander elected to the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies of Science in the United States, and the Academy of Medical Sciences of Great Britain.

In 2007 he was made a Distinguished Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit for services to medicine, having previously been made a Companion of the Order in 1997, and in 2001 received New

Zealand's top science award, the Rutherford Medal. A University of Auckland Distinguished Professor, he is Professor of Paediatric and Perinatal Biology and Director of the National Research Centre for Growth and Development. He was formerly Head of the Department of Paediatrics and Dean of the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences for nine years. He has been extensively involved in many aspects of science, health and educational policy development.

Professor Gluckman is an international advocate for science, promoting the translation of discoveries in biomedical research into improvements in long term health outcomes. His work with organisations such as the WHO has brought growing recognition of the importance of a healthy start to life. In 2004 he was The New Zealand Herald's New Zealander of the Year and in 2006 won the KEA/NZTE World Class New Zealander Award.

He is the author of over 500 scientific papers and reviews and editor of eight books, including two influential textbooks in his subject area. He is passionate about communicating a better understanding of science in the community and, with colleague Mark Hanson of The University of Southampton, has co-authored two books for non-scientific audiences: *The Fetal Matrix* (2004) which summarises his ideas on how events in early life lead to altered disease risk in later life and *Mismatch - why our world no longer fits our bodies* (2006).

Dr Stephen Goldson

Chief Scientist at AgResearch and Professorial Fellow at Lincoln University, Dr Stephen Goldson is widely recognised as a leader in his areas of expertise – pest management, biosecurity and science advocacy. The Listener magazine recently placed him on their Most Powerful list as New Zealand's fourth most influential person in Science and Technology, describing him as "a formidable advocate for science".

He has led programmes to explore mechanisms of biological suppression for three severe pasture pests in New Zealand – the clover root weevil, Argentine stem weevil and the lucerne weevil. In doing so, he identified the critical importance of subspecies in biological control. Stephen's fundamental research into insect behaviour and the ecological and genetic components of pest suppression have informed crop management generally.

He has authored more than 150 papers in scientific journals and conference proceedings. At the same time, Stephen has been highly influential in the development of sensor technologies to improve New Zealand's border biosecurity.

He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of New Zealand, and of the New Zealand Institute of Agricultural and Horticultural Science which awarded him the prestigious Jubilee Medal in 2007. That year he also won the Agriculture and Environment Category of the Bayer Innovators Awards. A Fellow of the Royal Entomological Society of London, Stephen was Advisor to New Zealand's Minister of Research, Science and Technology from 1996 to 1997 and President of the New Zealand Plant Protection Society from 2001 to 2003. He has served on numerous panels, providing science advice to government.