

# Cure for AIDS in your backyard

by John Aspden

Lemon juice could be used to prevent AIDS, says an Anglo-Australian reproductive biologist.

Dr Roger Short, professorial fellow at the University of Melbourne, says not only has lemon juice been proven to kill HIV, the citric acid contained in the juice may also be used as a clandestine spermicide.

"Even a 1:4 dilution of lemon juice causes 100 per cent immotility in sperm in under three seconds," he said in Auckland last month.

Although the technique may seem revolutionary, Short is

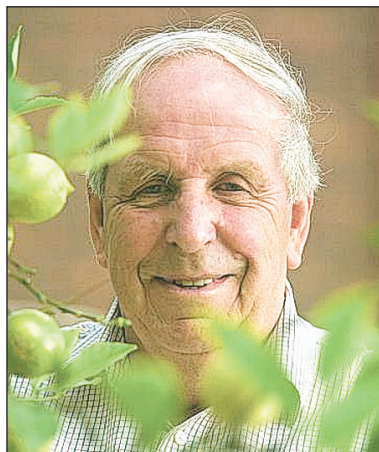


PHOTO: JOHN ASPDEN

Roger Short

quick to note that he is not the first to discover the lemon's ability to prevent the transmission

of sexually transmitted diseases. Speaking at the Maidment theatre in Auckland last month, Short also noted that 18th century ladies' man Casanova believed a slice of lemon was the ideal cervical cap.

Roman soldiers are recorded to have used lemon juice to prevent the contraction of venereal diseases during their ancient occupation of Constantinople, he says.

"We've forgotten that lemon juice is the most effective spermicide we have," says Short, enthusiastic about the difference the simple citrus fruit may make.

As a result of lemon research, Short launched the "Mary

Magdalene project" which aims to fund his HIV prevention trials for commercial sex workers in Jos, Nigeria, where 80 per cent of prostitutes are routinely douching with lemon juice after sex.

Research determining lemon juice's effect on pH levels when applied intravaginally will begin in Thailand later this year but Short believes even if the cure is only partially effective, it may be a vital tool in combating HIV worldwide.

The World Health Organisation estimates that there is a new HIV infection every 6.5 seconds.

But the problem is worst in Africa where more than 25 mil-

lion people live with the disease.

Current HIV drugs are often priced beyond the reach of Africans suffering from the disease.

Short believes the incidence of infection could be reduced without the use of expensive drugs.

"In almost every country where HIV is a problem, there's a lemon tree with a lemon on it, and if only we could think how to use the lemon we could swat HIV."

New Zealand AIDS Foundation representative Steve Attwood says: "We would welcome anything that might prevent AIDS, however to date, nothing has proven as effective as a properly used condom."

## CONTENTS



**Bill of Strife - P14**  
Behind the scenes of picture-perfect Fiji

**Ousted - P16**  
Disappointment on election night for John Tamihere



**Jim Beam to Jesus - P18**  
The life of society's moral guardian Garth George

**Rising Star - P23**  
David Smith: All Black in waiting



News	P1-7
Opinions	P8-10
Features	P12-19
Reviews	P20-21
Sports	P22-23
Art Focus	P24

### Editorial Team

Editor	Nicholas Moody
Chief sub-editor	Lucy Grigg
Chief reporter	Emma Page
Chief photographer	Suenje Paasch-Colberg
Picture editors	Paul Halton, Britton Broun
Politics editor	Duncan Greive
Features editors	Sarah Kaci, Catherine Westwood
Reviews editor	Tammy Buckley
What's On editor	Zoe Walker
Sports editor	Michelle Whiteford
Sub-editors	John Aspden, Fiona Peat
Distribution	Fiona Peat
Illustrations/Caricatures	Sarah Restall, Rufus McEwan, Tim Laing

Course advisers: David Robie, Allan Lee. Thanks to Susan Boyd-Bell, Don Milne and Allison Oosterman, and also David Sinfield from the AUT School of Art and Design for his assistance. ISSN 1176 4740

Written and edited by student journalists on the Graduate Diploma in Journalism and Bachelor of Communication Studies courses at Auckland University of Technology. Views expressed are those of the editorial team and not of the university.

PUBLISHED BY:  
School of Communication Studies  
Auckland University of Technology  
Private Bag 92006  
Auckland 1020



Fax: (64-9) 921 9987 Email: wahanui@aut.ac.nz Website: www.journalism.aut.ac.nz

# Which politician came for dinner?

by Rosie Cotter

Did you want to cut through all the media spin in last week's election? One solution may be to get the politicians to come to you instead.

That's exactly what medical student Raymond Casey did when he couldn't decide who to vote for.

Combining his love of sweet-treats and socialising, Casey, 28, invited the Mt Albert electorate candidates from each political party to a potluck dessert evening.

Casey says he was unsure who to vote for and wanted to talk to the candidates in person.

Representatives from United Future, Progressive and Act attended but National, Labour and the Greens did not.

"They've lost my vote," says Casey, of the candidates that failed to attend.

Casey says those at the party were happy to talk to the candidates in an open manner.

Chris Bloomfield, a 34-year-old medical student, says the night was a great idea.

Labour's treatment of the foreshore and seabed concerned Bloomfield. He hoped to find a new party to support.



PHOTO: ROSIE COTTER

**CAKE AND CONVERSATION:** Raymond Casey organised a potluck dessert as a chance to meet the Mt Albert electorate contenders.

He was keen to hear the Progressive Party's policies, but wasn't sold on them on the night.

Bloomfield was set on voting for a centre-left government and although the Green Party didn't attend, he voted for them anyway.

"I'm a leftie, always have been, always will be," he says.

"I was impressed with Act's candidate [David Seymour]. He was articulate, he listened and he was honest," he says.

However, Casey decided to give his party vote to United Future. He likes its mix of car-

ing for people but not getting too involved in the economy.

Turning up for a piece of cake may have also benefited Act's David Seymour who won Casey's electorate vote on Saturday.

Richard Barter, the Mt Roskill candidate for United Future, represented his party at the potluck evening.

Casey says at least four students of the 20 who attended had decided on their votes after the night was over.

Casey says he would be keen to do it again - but maybe with wine and cheese in 2008.

## PIMA showcases Pacific media talent

"Our voices, our faces, our words, our dreams" is the theme for this year's Pacific Islands Media Association conference to be held at Auckland University of Technology next month.

The annual PIMA conference brings together Pacific Islanders who work in the media industry.

The Pacific Media Awards aim to encourage excellence.

Chairman John Utanga says overseas speakers have attended in the past, but this year the

focus of the conference is on the "great work people are doing here".

A discussion panel of producers Stan Wolfgramm (*Pacific Beat*), Rachel Jean (*The Market*), and Stephen Stalin (*Tagata Pasifika*) will speak at the conference on themes in creative writing and broadcast television.

Alongside them will be other Pacific writers, directors and producers, including contributors to the award-winning series

*bro'Town*, and TV2's new series, *The Market*.

"We'll look at what it is about the broadcast landscape that is making Pacific stories popular and how we can keep it going," says Utanga.

The conference will be held on Friday, October 7 and Saturday, October 8. For further information, see the PIMA website: www.pima.org.nz

- Kate Fisher