The opinions expressed in UniTAS are not necessarily those of the University. Contact with the Media Office should be made through email, wherever possible, or by mail or telephone.

The Editor, Private Bag 40, Hobart 7001
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NOTICEBOARD
For a complete listing of What’s On, please visit: www.utas.edu.au/events/whats-on.html

5 December
University Department of Rural Health Seminar
Physical Activity, Fall Risk Factors, Balance Confidence and Quality of Life. Differences between Active and Sedentary Seniors
Venue: 12:10pm–1:30pm
Venue: Various TeleHealth video conferencing studios
Presented by Sharon Hetherington, Centre for Human Movement, School of Education.
Information: Cicilia Chiu, (03) 6394 4020

7 December
Conservatorium of Music Event
Australian International Summer Orchestras Institute Concert 2 (Masters Chamber Music Program)
Friday 7th December 2007 8pm Hobart Town Hall
Debussy – Sonata en Trio for Flute, Viola & Harp.
Ravel – Introduction & Allegro Moderato – Octet

8 December
Concert 3 (Whirl Winds Program)
6pm Hobart Town Hall
Mendelssohn – Overture for Wind Instruments
Strauss – Suite for Winds

9 December
Concert 4 (French Program)
6pm Federation Concert Hall
Debussy – La Mair
Berlioz – Symphonie Fantastique
Tickets available from the TSO Box Office PH: 1800 031 100
$25 Adults & $15 Concession Package Deal:
Pre-purchase all 4 concerts for $75 Adults & $45 Concession

19 February
University Department of Rural Health Training
Course, Trauma & Rural Health Training and Supervision Program

CLASSIFIEDS
Classifieds are free for UTAS staff!
Email your short advert to media.office@utas.edu.au

Accommodation wanted
Professional couple, 16 sq. ft, and house-trained dog, required to move to house-sit or rent from January 2008. Reliable, honest family with exceptional references. Happy to care for pets or gardens. Information: Deb, (02) 4417 6040 or 1800 030 044

Accommodation wanted
Friendly new lecturer looking for two-bedroom flat or house close by the University. House-sitting for six months also an option. Starting: First week in January 2008. Information: Inga Farin, 1nga888@gmail.com

Accommodation wanted
2-3 bedroom accommodation to rent in Hobart from late December 2007 to the end of February 2008 (resident in Edinburgh, UK, and willing to consider house swap). Information: Dr Heather Lovell, heather.lovell@csce.ox.ac.uk

Accommodation wanted
Rental accommodation required for 5th year medical students who will be located at the LGH during November 2007. Information: Richard Easther, (03) 6238 2059

Accommodation wanted
Academic family looking for 2-3 bedroom accommodation to rent in Hobart from late December 2007 to the end of February 2008. Information: Adrian Franklin, 0407 544 876

For sale
Three-burner Beefsteak BBQ on a trolley with oak wooden frame, new, in ‘as new’ condition: $800 ono. Information: 0407 345 171

For sale

$500. Information: Anthony Lovell, 0407 544 876

For sale
A three-burner Beefsteak BBQ on a trolley with oak wooden frame, new, in ‘as new’ condition: $800 ono. Information: 0407 345 171

House-sitter available
Needed for 2-3 year-old professional woman working and studying at the Sandy Bay campus will house-sit in and around Hobart (up to 20kms). Information: Danielle Stokes, 0439 692 005 dstokes@utas.edu.au

Satellite laser an Australian first

Tasmania's north-west coast is host to the first international Satellite Laser Ranging (SLR) system ever used in Australia, with UTAS scientists deeply involved in the exciting project.

The system, the only one of its kind in the world, will be housed at the Burnie TAFE for the next five months and will play a crucial role in helping scientists use satellites to measure phenomena such as climate change and sea level rise.

"Tasmania has really put itself on the global environmental map with the arrival of the SLR system," said UTAS spatial scientist Dr Christopher Watson, from the School of Geography and Environmental Studies, who is working with the project.

The green laser measures distances to satellites 1300 km away, accurate to about the width of an index finger.

"The laser plays a fundamental role in helping us to understand climate and sea-level changes, which assists in shaping and informing public policy and environmental planning around the globe," Dr Watson said.

The system was created by the French Observatoire de la Cote d'Azur and French scientist Dr Francis Pierron joined Australian researchers in setting up the Burnie site.

The SLR system project is part of the exciting project.

The laser is a diagnostic tool of choice when it comes to monitoring the world’s sea levels," Dr Watson said.

"The information from the satellites is vital in planning for the future, especially for somewhat like Australia where most of the population is clustered around the coast."
The School of Geography and Environmental Studies is celebrating the Australian Nutrition Foundation Chair of the Tasmanian Division of Agriculture. David has also made significant research contributions in biochemistry, been a member of numerous NH&MRC panels and was a tutor in biochemistry. His teaching in biochemistry has included Medical, Pharmacy, Bachelor of Science, Bachelor of Biotech, and Bachelor of Biomedical Science.

Peter Lane said Sally had made an almost 70 years of service to the University’s communications staff, freelance journalists and the University’s Central Science Laboratory, which centralises major research contributions from the University’s research laboratories.

After 34 years with the School of Agricultural Science and the Tasmanian Institute of Agricultural Research, SALLY JONES ended her full-time position with UTAS last month. Head of School Dr Peter Lane said Sally had made an “outstanding contribution” during her time as secretary and later executive assistant within the school, TIAR and the Australian Food Safety Centre of Excellence. Sally is well known for her eye-catching shoes, so it was fitting that staff presented her with a pair of artistic heels as a gift. Sally will continue to be involved with UTAS on a casual basis.

Clarifications from November UniTAS:

Incorrect contact details were printed for the Whitewater article involving the Outdoor Education Teaching Specialisation Unit. This unit is within the Centre for Human Movement, Faculty of Education, where Dr Janet Dyment is the contact: (03) 6324 3510.

Dr Catriona MacLeod, who was quoted on the Leadership Development for Women program, is from the Tasmanian Aquaculture and Fisheries Institute, and is not Dr Catriona McLeod from the School of Architecture and Design.

Associate Professor Roberta Julian, Tasmanian Institute of Law Enforcement Studies, received a $640,000 Australian Research Council grant to study the effectiveness of forensic science in the criminal justice system – not the entire criminal justice system.

New-look UniTAS in 2008

As flagged in the August edition of UniTAS, the newsletter will undergo reconstruction to bring it into line with the look and role of contemporary university newsletters. The plan is to return in March 2008 with a full-colour, A3-sized UniTAS that first appear in the first week of each month from March to December.

Media Officer Sharon Webb will be Editor of the new UniTAS, backed by a team of regular contributors drawn from the University’s communications staff, freelance journalists and the Media Office.

The same editorial policies will apply, in that reader contributions are welcome, but may be edited or held over for future editions. The Editor is also under no obligation to publish contributed copy. Guidelines and policies for UniTAS submissions will soon be available on the UTAS News and Events website.

Cherie Cooper has joined the Hobart Media Office. Cherie graduated from UTAS last December with a combined Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Fine Arts, with majors in Art and Design, Theory, English and Journalism. Cherie is due to graduate again this December with Honours in English.

Spectacular view of proteins

With users from across the Tasmanian science community it is expected that the Proteomics Mass Spectrometry Facility will cover a broad spectrum of applications. One area where it is already being utilised is in the analysis of jack jumper ant venom, toward developing a synthetic venom for the treatment of ant venom allergies.

Officer-in-charge of the proteomics facility, Edwin Lowe, said the purchase meant the University had gained a world-class facility to complement its existing Organic Mass Spectrometry capability.

“This facility has the capability to cope with the demands that Proteomics places on both the analysis and interpretation of results,” he said.

Having a Tasmanian facility rather than relying on interstate providers for analysis and interpretation of results is also seen as a key benefit.

While the new facility is primarily targeted at proteomics, other “omic” disciplines such as metabolomics and lipidomics will also benefit.

The same preference shall apply to editorial content. “What’s On” and “Classifieds” will continue to appear on the UTAS website and in the UTAS Newsletter. Submissions, preference shall be given to events which have an appeal to a wide audience. The same preference shall apply to editorial content.

While UniTAS is distributed to staff, it is also issued to a mailing list which includes alumni, business operators, politicians, the media, community leaders and friends of the University both in Tasmania and offshore.

The new UniTAS will have a set deadline of the 15th of each month – or the Monday after the 15th if this date falls on a weekend – but earlier submissions are always welcome.

Please contact the Media Office on (03) 6226 2124 or Sharon Webb on (03) 6324 3218 if you have any queries regarding the new publications. We look forward to launching the new UniTAS in 2008.

Dr Joan Peacock, Deputy Director of the Central Science Laboratory, in front of the new proteomics facility.

Fuhah School and Blackmans Bay Primary School.

They performed “Minato Gunbu” (“Group dance at the harbour”), a folk dance from Yainai City, Japan.

The school students were taught “Minato Gunbu” by their Japanese assistant teachers, who were recruited in Japan through the Japanese Assistant Training Scheme (JATS), which is organised every year by the UTAS School of Asian Languages and Studies.

Tasmania’s ability to study proteomics has taken a major step forward with the commissioning of a Proteomics Mass Spectrometry Facility at UTAS.

Proteomics is the study of the relationship between an organism’s genome, and the proteins expressed by the organism, otherwise known as the proteome. The Human Genome Project has identified 25,000 genes in the human genome, however, there have been more than 500,000 human proteins identified so far, with more to come.

To make matters more complicated, an organism’s proteome is affected by environment, tissue type, health, and even the time of day. The study of proteomics gives us a window into the inner workings of an organism.

The new Proteomics Mass Spectrometry Facility is housed in the University’s Central Science Laboratory, which centralises major items of equipment used by more than one University department. It also provides local industry and Federal and State governments with access to equipment and scientific services which would not otherwise be available in Tasmania.

Dancing in the streets

The Hobart–Yainai Sister City Committee dance troupe after their Pageant success.

Peter Lane and Sally Cooper presented her with a pair of artistic heels as a gift. Sally will continue to be involved with UTAS on a casual basis. The Hobart–Yainai Sister City Committee dance troupe after their Pageant success.
Focus on Tasmanian architecture

An important history of Tasmanian architecture by Launceston psychiatrist Dr Eric Ratcliff is likely to be the first publication from the newly formed Community, Place and Heritage Research Unit.

Due for publication in 2008, the book will be a history of building and architecture in Tasmania during the extended 19th century, from 1803 to 1914.

In a recent public lecture at the School of Architecture, Dr Ratcliff said the lack of reference material in the area was a major motivation for writing the book.

“There has been, and remains, an urgent need to record the motivations, methods and details that produced our earlier built heritage, for the guidance of owners, builders, designers and viewers now and into an uncertain future,” he said.

There are many books and papers on the subject but little scholarly work examining it closely.

“Tasmania’s strengths architecturally is that all the international architectural styles and transitions can be seen right here,” Dr Ratcliff said.

“This island was settled by Europeans during a period of rapid transition in building styles, and the colony matured through a period of rapid stylistic evolution and the spread of new technologies. The latest ideas about architecture arrived from the British Isles as fast as sail and steam could carry them.

“Tasmanian architecture, considered from a new degree of isolation, is a useful collection of specimens for examining the transitions that ended two centuries of Georgian, the 19th century ‘battle of the styles’, the coming of the Empire styles we call Victorian and the developments from these up to the first Great War,” he said.

“The head of the University’s School of Architecture and Design, Professor Roger Fay, said the book’s imminent completion was timely.

“This publication, the result of many years of thorough and careful work, will make a significant contribution not only to our understanding of Tasmanian architectural history but also to that of Australia.”

December is a good time for reflection. Graduation ceremonies give us the chance to stop for a moment and think about the achievements of our graduands and the contributions of our staff in guiding the students through their courses. A university education is about learning, formally and informally, and developing both an understanding of chosen fields and the generic skills essential to making the most of a professional and personal life in the 21st century.

EDGE2, our strategic plan for 2008-2010, is almost ready for launch after much consultation, debate and refinement. EDGE2 brings Excellence and Distinctiveness to the fore, without losing sight of the essential elements of growth and engagement. It is exciting and challenging to consider how UTAS can emphasise what it differs about us, and why we encourage our students, and academic and professional staff to achieve the very best in their endeavours. At UTAS we will continue to work hard to achieve our goal of lifting university participation in Tasmania, and to balance this social responsibility agenda with a quality agenda. Certainly, we will be working hard to find the additional resources necessary to invest in EDGE2 to ensure that we create the environment of high performance that we all desire.

“With luck and lobbying, we may even find more financial support for university education coming from Canberra, although it was disappointing to see how little attention both major parties paid to higher education during the recent campaign.”

Calling all Conservatorium alumni

T he Tasmanian Conservatorium of Music is establishing an Alumni Branch, and is keen to make contact with as many past students as possible.

Prominent businesswoman and President of the new Conservatorium of Music Alumni Diane Tompson, who is also a Conservatorium graduate, said that many of the Conservatorium’s original student records were lost in the 1970s due to a fire, so the Conservatorium faced an extra challenge in tracking down its students. As possible.

The agreement and the initial major projects are due to be finalised before the end of February 2008.

Finallly I would like to say thank you to all members of the UTAS community for their hard work in 2007. I very much value all the contributions that you have made to UTAS during the year. I wish you and your family a happy and safe Christmas break and look forward to seeing you all in 2008.

The Companion to Tasmanian History

Edited by Alison Alexander (University of Tasmania, 2005)

This encyclopedia of 750 entries on all aspects of Tasmania’s history is available to UTAS staff and students for the special pre-Christmas price of $30 or on CD for $80.

Available from the School of History and Classics, Hobart campus, or by ph one order on (03) 6226 2936.

“I am pleased that the framework for our partnership is being revitalised with the partnership management group, comprising senior staff from the University and Government, to concentrate on a few major priorities and projects where, by working together, we can really make progress for Tasmania. Negotiations on the details of the agreement and the initial major projects are due to be finalised before the end of February 2008.

“Obviously making contact with as many past graduates as possible is vital to the success of the Conservatorium of Music Alumni Branch,” Ms Tompson said.

“ Enemies is a celebration of those vulnerable and often very beautiful wild places. It is also a call to action to ensure that these areas are given the national park status they deserve.

We are confident the Conservatorium of Music Alumni Branch, under the wing of the University of Tasmania Alumni, will help make Tasmanian music graduates the most sought after in Australia,” Ms Tompson said.

Conservatorium graduates interested in joining the Alumni branch are urged to email their details to Diana.Carter@utas.edu.au or contact the Conservatorium on (03) 6226 7314 for more details.

Finally I would like to say thank you to all members of the UTAS community for their hard work in 2007. I very much value all the contributions that you have made to UTAS during the year.

I wish you and your family a happy and safe Christmas break and look forward to seeing you all in 2008.

Universities continue to be dynamic, challenging and exciting places to work and study. With the change in Federal Government we can expect new policies and ideas to impact on us. With luck and lobbying, we may even find more financial support for university education coming from Canberra, although it was disappointing to see how little attention both major parties paid to higher education during the recent campaign.

Finally I would like to say thank you to all members of the UTAS community for their hard work in 2007. I very much value all the contributions that you have made to UTAS during the year.

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Comin in from the cold

CHERIE COOPER CATCHES UP WITH NEW UTAS PRO-VICE CHANCELLOR (RESEARCH) PROFESSOR JOHANNA LAYBOURN-PARRY:

A polar scientist, Professor Laybourn-Parry has a distinct passion for knowledge and discovery, having been heavily involved in research throughout her impressive career.

Professor Laybourn-Parry gained her first degree, in Zoology and Geology, from the University of Reading in the UK, where she later obtained a Doctor of Science. She gained her Masters degree in Animal Parasitology from the University of Wales and her PhD in Ecological Energetics from Stirling University in Scotland.

While Professor Laybourn-Parry enjoyed teaching, it was the excitement of research that fuelled her career decisions. After working as a senior lecturer at Lancaster University, Professor Laybourn-Parry travelled to Australia and took up a Chair at La Trobe University, where she became Head of Zoology.

An illness in the family saw her return to the UK, where she secured a Chair in Environmental Biology with Nottingham University. During this time, Professor Laybourn-Parry also founded and became Director of the Institute of Environmental Science, while continuing to work with both the US and Australian Antarctic programs.

Professor Laybourn-Parry joined the Australian Antarctic Program because the British Antarctic Survey did not encourage women at that time.

“I made the point that they were denying themselves access to some very good scientists,” Professor Laybourn-Parry said.

A successful application for an Antarctic Science Advisory Committee grant marked the beginning of a love affair with the “stark, sometimes malevolent beauty” of the Antarctic. Professor Laybourn-Parry travelled to Davis Station for the summer of 1989, Laybourn-Parry travelled to Australia and took up a Chair at La Trobe University, where she became Head of Zoology.

She gained her PhD in Ecological Energetics from Stirling University in Scotland. During this time, Professor Laybourn-Parry also founded and became Director of the Institute of Environmental Science, while continuing to work with both the US and Australian Antarctic programs.

Professor Laybourn-Parry is eager to apply her expertise from other institutions to her role at UTAS.

“I think I bring a wealth of experience to this position. I have a lot of experience in research performance management and my research fits very well with a lot of the research that goes on in this University. I also want to enhance the profile of the University both nationally and internationally through research. I think there is a good platform, with a history of excellent research in this University, but I think we can enhance it even more,” she said.

Professor Laybourn-Parry believes a successful career is not solely about planning a path, but remaining open to possibilities.

“I think a successful career has a lot to do with being opportunistic and entrepreneurial. One needs to grab opportunities when they present themselves.”

Gym upgrades on the move

All three UTAS gyms are being refurbished to improve exercise facilities for students, staff and the wider community.

UTAS gym manager Gina Poulton said UTAS last year successfully applied for Voluntary Student Unionism transitional funding for the works at Cradle Coast, Launceston and Hobart.

The funding, provided by the Federal Government, saw UTAS receive $5 million in total. UTAS has also contributed significant in-kind support for each of the projects.

A $750,000 package was received for the Cradle Coast campus, where a Well-Being Centre is reaching the final stages of completion. The centre includes a social area with a coffee service and a TV, a rec room with a pool table and air hockey facilities, as well as a range of gym equipment.

The Launceston campus, which received $1.9 million, will receive a new Dojo martial arts facility expected to be finished by mid-2008. The recreation floor space of the Launceston facility will also be extended and more equipment and storage facilities added.

The Hobart campus received $2.3 million to refurbish its sports complex, which was built around 1974.

Plans for the Hobart campus will transform the area from just a gym facility into a complete Sport and Wellbeing centre.

The plans for Hobart also include making the ground floor into an open-plan area and creating a recreation area upstairs if there is sufficient space. The Hobart project is due for completion by mid-December 2008.

“We want to raise the profile of sport and recreation at UTAS and also create a more appealing, positive space for people,” Gina said.

“Impact will be invited from the various user groups to ensure the facility will meet the needs of the majority of users.”

Meanwhile, the UTAS Amazing Staff Challenge, organised by Gina to encourage staff members to stay fit, is enjoying a robust third year and has about 210 people involved.

“We have a series of teams of four and within those teams of four their aim is to become more aware of their current health and fitness levels,” Gina explained.

Challenges are low-intensity, fun-packed activities. They are offered once a week and range from soccer rounds and dancing to indoor bowls and lanehouse walks.

The Challenge aims to not only increase fitness, but also to encourage staff morale, relieve stress and to improve overall performance in the workplace.

Who’s Who comes to Tasmania


Nominations and self-nominations are welcome from University of Tasmania staff and graduates who have excelled in their chosen field. Vice-Chancellor Professor Daryl Le Grew has welcomed the arrival of the inaugural Tasmanian edition and encouraged staff and alumni to become involved.

“UTAS has a special place as the only university in our state. I encourage Who’s Who in Tasmania in recognising the role of our staff and graduates in the economic, social and cultural fabric of Tasmania,” he said.

To nominate, call 1300 854 686, visit www.crowcontent.com.au or email whsswh@crowcontent.com.au. For more information contact (03) 6293 9600.

THE DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT EDITION OF UNITAS IS 15 FEBRUARY (EARLY MARCH RELEASE).

Clinical school off and running

Twenty-four staff and students from the Rural Clinical School were among a record field of more than 3600 entrants to compete in this year’s Burnie Ten road race.

The Rural Clinical School’s Racing Team stood out from the crowd in their custom-designed T-shirts, sporting a message promoting the health benefits of exercise and created by final year medical student George Chandler.

For most of the 15 medical students and nine staff members, it was all about participation in the one of the region’s iconic community events. Fifth-year medical student Milford McArthur had more ambitious aims, however, and staged a brilliant finish to record a time of 56:05 minutes and place in the top 30 men – just one week after competing as an individual in the gruelling Freycinet Challenge multi-sport event.

The RCS team was among more than 60 UTAS staff and students involved in the event, which is described by organisers as Australia’s premier 10km road race.

“The event was the opportunity to become involved and have some fun, as well as providing a goal to improve their personal fitness levels. The race caters for elite athletes as well as fun-runners and those with the more modest aim of just completing the scenic 10km walk along the Burnie foreshore.”

Fifth-year RCS medical student Naganjoo Kalsawathane and Danielle Vericella display the Burnie 10 team shirt with their running mates. Photo by Grant Wells, The Advocate.
Graduates scale artistic summit

A round 100 works of art were on show at the Summit 07 exhibition at the Academy of the Arts in Launceston last month.

Summit 07 showcased the finest work from graduates of the Bachelor of Contemporary Arts, Master of Contemporary Arts, Master of Fine Arts, Honours and PhD courses. The artworks encompassed the media of painting, sculpture, photo, multimedia, glass and ceramics.

Head of School Professor Vincent McGrath said that Summit 07 showcased the best work by finishing students in the visual and performing arts.

“This year’s show was a good example of the way in which research has become a significant aspect of arts practice.

“Students first and foremost examine the issue and topics and then express these research outcomes through the medium of the arts.

“This means the art is academic and investigative, rather than just representative - its real cultural value lies not so much in the ability to entertain, but rather to inform, challenge and speculate,” he said.

Awards were also presented to students for academic and artistic excellence at the opening of Summit 07.

The School of Art also celebrated the graduating year of both Bachelor of Fine Arts and Bachelor of Fine Arts with Honours students with an exhibition of their final examination submissions.

The exhibition, entitled Outfront, involved two shows at the Hunter St Art School. The first, the Bachelor of Fine Arts show, featured the final-year work of 83 students working in a variety of media, including painting, printmaking and e-media. Professor Jan Pakulski, Dean of the Faculty of Arts, performed the official opening.

The Honours show exhibited candidates’ final-year examination pieces in a range of media, including sculpture, photography and painting. The show was opened by Katherine Hough, Director of Arts Tasmania.

In the footsteps of Friendly Mission

R esearchers from the University of Tasmania recently walked in the footsteps of George Augustus Robinson for a fieldwork expedition held as part of the Meeting at Bark Hut research project.

Meeting at Bark Hut is one of the first projects for the new Community, Place and Heritage Research Unit, led by historian Professor Henry Reynolds.

This significant project seeks to retrace and re-interprete George Augustus Robinson’s Friendly Mission through the ancestral country of the northeastern clanspeople of Tasmania in October and November 1830.

The expedition of around 30 students, Aboriginal knowledge custodians and University researchers travelled through the Bay of Fires and Ansons Plains area from 28 October to 1 November – the dates coinciding with Robinson’s journey.

Led by researcher and Aboriginal Elder Paty Cameron and project manager Dr Linn Miller from Riawunna at UTAS Launceston, the Meeting at Bark Hut project aims to study, document and reflect upon the cultural and ecological significance of both the landscapes through which Robinson travelled and the stories inscribed in it.

Good tidings on the Tamar

T AS theatre students were among a cross-section of talent from the Launceston community who sang, danced and acted their way through the recent Tamar Tidings production held in the city’s north.

The fully rehearsed and elaborate theatre production was staged on a huge stage docked at selected accessible pontoons stretching along the full length of the Tamar River, from Launceston to Low Head.

The floating stage held an amalgam of contributions from all Tamar-based theatre, music and/or dance groups, who told the story of the Tamar River in a captivating and entertaining way that appealed to all ages.

Tamar Tidings also achieved the ambitious objective of bringing together eight theatre directors to collaborate on the one production.

“Meeting at Bark Hut is funded by the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies.

“Meeting at Bark Hut connects with the broader research theme, Telling Places in Country,” Dr Miller said.

“The LAARC Indigenous Health Research Unit, led by historian Professor Henry Reynolds, recently completed a fieldwork expedition held as part of the Meeting at Bark Hut research project.

“Meeting at Bark Hut is funded by the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies.

“Meeting at Bark Hut connects with the broader research theme, Telling Places in Country,” Dr Miller said.

“At the heart of the exhibition is the idea of reconciliation and the arts as a medium for cultural expression and understanding,” he said.
In brief

COLLEGE BUTTS OUT

The Jani Franklin Hall student residence in Hobart is now a smoke-free campus, with no smoking permitted in any building or within any part of the college grounds. Residents are positive about the move, with several saying that they will use the change as an opportunity to quit smoking. The residential college decided to make the change in response to the growing anti-smoking push in the wider community.

ENGINEERING WINNERS

Engineering students Andrew Lewis, Nicholas Ward and Aidan Wong recently won a design competition run by UTAS in partnership with TADTAS (Technical Aids for Tasmanians with Disabilities). TADTAS designs and builds a wide range of special needs aids for people with disabilities, and can also modify existing equipment. TADTAS holds a design competition run by UTAS for the Tasmanian Design and Technology Association (TADTAS) each year and Nicholas, Aidan and Andrew were the winners of the 2007 competition. Their entry was a folded deck chair that can be used by the disabled and the aging, and can be folded in less than 10 seconds.

DARE-ing to tackle diabetes

Living with type 1 diabetes has failed to dilute the determination of Caroline Burridge, who recently climbed Mount Kilimanjaro, the highest mountain in Africa and the largest free-standing mountain in the world, in order to help others experience the same feeling of achievement.

Caroline’s sense of adventure led to the creation of DARE: Diabetes Reaching Extremes, after she decided to help others experience the same feeling of achievement.

While there are no arduous peaks involved this time, Caroline will lead a group of 15-22-year-olds who live with diabetes on a trek of Tasmania’s famous Overland Track, which stretches from Cradle Mountain to Lake St Clair.

Caroline will be joined on the trek next March by Associate Professor Dr Tim Greenaway, diabetic educator Melinda Mus, Tasmanian Senator Guy Barnett and two guides from Tasmanian Expeditions.

“This is an incredible achievement,” Caroline said.

As well as being committed to her personal growth and development, Caroline says she enjoys seeing others realise their potential and assist in any way that she can.

PORTRAIT ADDITION

The highlight of an alumni tour of selected works in the University Collection on the Sandy Bay campus was the presentation to the University of an oil portrait of former Chancellor Sir Henry Somerset, by his daughter, Susan Morgan (pictured).

“It was a great pleasure to end up with a glass of champagne and the opportunity to finally officially present my father’s portrait to the University. It will be in good hands and I know he would be so pleased,” Susan said.

The portrait was painted by well-known Melbourne artist Dorothy Fitchie. It will be hung outside the Council Room, near the gallery of former Chancellor and Vice-Chancellors, in company with other portraits from the University Collection.

Scholarship winner set for greatness

Lionel Nicholas is a graduate who stands out from the crowd: he recently won both the 2008 Rhodes Scholarship to study at Oxford University and the 2007 Tim Hawkins Memorial Scholarship.

A gregarious high-achiever, Lionel has a Bachelor of Arts, a Master of International Politics and a Bachelor of Laws with First-Class Honours, all from UTAS.

While Lionel grew up in Tasmania, he was born in Brisbane, lived on Norfolk Island for three years and then on King Island for one year, before his family settled in Lenah Valley, Hobart. His father, Lester, is a bar manager and his mother, Carmel, a homemaker, while his younger brother Joey lives in Queensland.

Lionel now works at Melbourne law firm Blake Dawson Waldron, where he will next year complete his articles clerkship, after which he plans to be admitted to practice by the Supreme Court of Victoria.

In order to win the prestigious 2008 Rhodes Scholarship, Lionel had to show not only consistent excellent academic achievement, but also a high level of community engagement, integrity of character and leadership qualities.

He has actively given back to the community, offering pro bono legal advice to asylum seekers and volunteering his services to the Homeless Persons Legal Clinic. Lionel also volunteered for many years for the Tasmanian Debating Union, encouraging young debaters, having used debating to beat his own childhood speech impediment.

“As well as being committed to my own personal growth and development, I enjoy seeing others realise their potential and I assist in any way that I can,” Lionel said.

Primary health care focus

The Primary Health Care Research Evaluation and Development (PHCRED) program Tasmania held its fourth annual symposium in early November at the UTAS Launceston campus.

More than 50 registrants, presenters and guest speakers attended, along with the PHCRED Team Tasmania, including director Mark Nelson, from the Membranes Research Institute at UTAS, and Associate Professor Sue Kilpatrick, from the UTAS Department of Rural Health.

Guest speaker Associate Professor Ellen McIntyre, manager of the Primary Health Care Research and Information Service, gave an overview of the PHCRED achievements since the start of the program four years ago, highlighting the diversity and quality of primary health care research across Australia.
**Tackling teen drinking**

UTAS researchers are helping to reduce alcohol-related harm among teenagers in four rural Tasmanian towns.

Led by the Tasmanian Institute of Law Enforcement Studies (TILES) and the Department of Rural Health, the Social Norms Analysis Project – or SNAP – looks at how young people are influenced by their ideas about what everyone else is doing, and seeks to make social environments more supportive of either safe or no consumption of alcohol.

The project also involves Tasmania Police and the State departments of Education, and Health and Human Services, and is supported by a multi-disciplinary Expert Advisory Panel. It also receives guidance from international social norms consultant Professor Alan Berkowitz.

SNAP chief investigator Dr Clarissa Hughes, TILES Director Associate Professor Roberta Julian and Tasmania Police Inspector Matthew Richman said they were pleased with the early results of the project, which is due to finish in mid-2008.

Baseline data was collected in October 2006 from students in Grades 7–10 at Rosebery District High, Mountain Heights School, Geeveston District High and Huonville High. Following an analysis of the data, SNAP worked with Professor Berkowitz to produce a set of ‘key messages’ based on the results.

In line with the principles of social norms interventions, the key messages needed to be both positive and affirming – with no ‘scare tactics’ – and based on data from each school. For example, the message for Geeveston District High was: Most Geeveston District High students make healthy choices. Most (83%) choose non-alcoholic drinks when hanging out with friends.

The key messages for each school were included in brightly coloured posters and badges which gave accurate, positive messages about students’ use, or non-use, of alcohol and their attitudes towards it.

A second round of data was collected in April this year. Changes after the first media campaign included a statistically significant decline in the mean frequency of alcohol consumption and attending parties where alcohol was consumed by students, as well as a decline in the mean perceived frequency of friends drinking and getting drunk.

“These early results are exciting because they are indicative of a cultural shift in these communities – since the ‘pressure’ for young people to conform to a false image of frequent, heavy drinking by their schoolmates is likely to be lessened,” Dr Hughes said.

A third and final round of data collection undertaken in November will indicate whether the positive and encouraging trends have continued.

**Finding the right drop for crops**

**MEISHA HOLLOWAY-PHILLIPS**
Tasmanian Institute of Agricultural Research (TIAR) Ag Science PhD candidate

The thought of spending all of her time in a lab didn’t appeal to Meisha Holloway-Phillips, despite her interest in science.

So she rejected a straight science degree in favour of a Bachelor of Agricultural Science, which allows her to work with people too.

Meisha’s PhD project is formally entitled ‘Defining the response of perennial ryegrass to water deficits to improve water productivity and water utilisation in the dairy industry’. In lay terms, Meisha is aiming to find ways of effectively improving water usage on pasture and lowering the amount of water wasted.

“I’m trying to understand how perennial ryegrass, which is a dominant dairy pasture species, responds to different soil water availability and how we can use this knowledge to better schedule irrigation,” Meisha said.

“Nationally, the dairy industry is the second highest user of water. Of this, it is estimated that only 45 per cent of the initial water resource is used by the plant.”

This high inefficiency comes from an irrigation management approach that maximises pasture yield by ensuring that pastures always have adequate water.

In practice, this has resulted in high losses of irrigation water through drainage and runoff, along with environmental problems such as salinity and nutrient losses and the ineffective use of rainwater.

Meisha’s project proposes a deficit irrigation approach: a lower soil water limit to ensure that plants remain in a responsive state and an upper limit where maximum water productivity occurs, to prevent water waste and optimise plant growth.

“With decreasing water availability for agricultural production and increasing water prices, finding ways to become more efficient is going to be very important for the long-term viability of the dairy industry, and hopefully my project will go towards finding a solution,” she said.

Eight months into her PhD, Meisha is “loving it, but it’s been a big challenge”. But it’s a long road ahead till I reach that point*

* Each month, this segment will profile an exciting research project within UTAS.
Vanuatu visitors enrich teaching

**THE VICE-CHANCELLOR’S AWARDS FOR OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

The Vice-Chancellor’s Awards for Outstanding Community Engagement recognize UTAS staff who have made an outstanding contribution to community life. In this fourth year of the awards, the level of interest in the awards and the high calibre of nominations received indicate a very significant commitment to community engagement from across UTAS. Twelve individual and team nominations were received, covering a wide range of disciplines, interests and community interaction — providing a very challenging task to select the awardees. The awards consist of a $5000 grant and a certificate.

**Dr Peter Hewitt**
Discipline Head, General Surgery, Launceston Clinical School.

Peter receives an award for his outstanding commitment to the resolution of suffering and disease in East Africa. The Vice-Chancellor said Peter’s boundless energy had galvanised the northern Tasmanian community to embrace practical social engagement.

**Belinda Vella**
School of Education

Belinda was recognised for her consistent and outstanding performance and for her role in improving service provision, with particular respect to the design and implementation of an online timetable, integrated service provision across several programs and providing equitable access to support for all staff and students. Her considerable leadership skills were also thoroughly demonstrated during her time as acting Faculty Executive Officer (Academic).

**Peter Tatham**
Head, University Career Development and Employment Service.

Peter was recognised for his extensive range of professional service activities in the career development area. Peter’s extensive record of community engagement has significantly enhanced the reputation of UTAS in the local, Australian and international professional communities, and made a significant contribution to the development of national professional standards for Australian career practitioners, the Vice-Chancellor said. Peter successfully piloted the EDGE Award to introduce students to the value of participation in the Australian International Summer Orchestra Institute and the 90th Birthday Celebration for Jan Šedivka, was due to its dedication, professionalism and hard work. Team members’ involvement in auditions, technical examinations, and recitals, as well as specialist programs, such as the Prelude and Overture programs, has been critical to the development and ongoing success of the Conservatorium.

**Conservatorium of Music Team**

Andrea Michaelson, Lee-ann Nazzari, Robert Ruth.

The team has created a long list of programs that have given UTAS a high profile and resulted in strong enrolment demand and student retention. The team’s ability in organising and delivering specialist programs is exemplary. In particular, the success of the Australian International Summer Orchestra Institute and the 90th Birthday Celebration for Jan Šedivka, was due to its dedication, professionalism and hard work. Team members’ involvement in auditions, technical examinations, and recitals, as well as specialist programs, such as the Prelude and Overture programs, has been critical to the development and ongoing success of the Conservatorium.

**Jill Currey**
Manager, Staff Development Unit

Jill receives this award for her significant leadership role in introducing and sustaining the success of the UTAS Leadership and Management Program. In particular, the Getting Ahead, Talking Heads and Orienting Heads programs, Heads Retreat, Quality Leadership Program, Leadership Development for Women Program, and the Mentoring Program for Academic Women have all made a major impact on the level of staff development offered at UTAS.

**THE VICE-CHANCELLOR’S AWARDS FOR EXCEPTIONAL PERFORMANCE BY GENERAL STAFF**

These awards are made to general staff members who make an outstanding contribution which exceeds the normal requirements of their employment. Individual winners receive $5000 and groups $10,000 for professional development. The 2007 recipients are:

**Jill Currey**
Academic Women

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**Vanuatu visitors enrich teaching**

The partnership between the UTAS Faculty of Education and the Vanuatu Institute of Teacher Education (VITE) was strengthened with a recent visit to Tasmania by two lecturers from VITE.

Since 2006, UTAS Education students have taken practicum placements in Vila, capital of Vanuatu. The students live alongside Vanuatu teacher education students. In 2008, around 10 students will be placed in schools across the island of Efate.

This year an agreement was made between the Faculty of Education’s Dr Bob Andrew and the Vanuatu Government and VITE, to bring two VITE lecturers, Anton Mwarakourmes and David Coulon, to the UTAS Faculty of Education.

For five weeks they worked with Dr Andrew, Helen Yost and Shaun Sexton among others, on the structuring and resourcing of two groundbreaking courses in early childhood and special education, areas currently not addressed by VITE and only just set as national priorities.

The aim is to build course components deliverable not just in Vila but also through in-service in remote sites; the nation of Vanuatu has over 80 islands with schools whose resources would make our least well-off schools look wealthy by comparison.

VITE will intake students for 2008 dedicated to the two new specialisations and will lead the country’s reform towards a more culturally grounded, developmentally appropriate and inclusive education system.

As an AusAid partner organisation, the Faculty of Education has also placed a graduate volunteer, Renee Cadley (BEd 2005), in a remote but beautiful community on Malo, in the north, an island just 1km at its widest. Renee is developing early literacy practices in Avunatari School, including the setting up of a kindergarten program.

“Mi gud tumas” (very good too-muss) = I am very well, is an appropriate description of the UTAS exchange with our South Pacific partners in Vanuatu.

**Churchill fellowships**

If you are keen to travel and study overseas, a Churchill Fellowship may be your ticket to success. Each year, the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust rewards about 100 Australians striving for excellence with the opportunity to investigate a project overseas. Each fellowship has an average value of $20,000 and includes a return airfare and living allowance. Since the trust was established in 1965, more than 3000 fellowships have been awarded to Australians pursuing a wide variety of endeavours. Recent examples include research into hospice services, the restoration and building of a double bass, and training people with disabilities how to scuba dive.

Applications are now open for fellowships to be awarded in June 2008, with travel after 1 September next year. For more information and application forms, visit www.churchilltrust.com.au or phone 1800 777 231.
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“Through the Peter Hewitt Care for Africa Foundation, our young people can make a much greater understanding of their own privileged circumstances and become genuine global ambassadors for change in developing nations,” he said. The Foundation is now supported by an enormous groundswell of many others.

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“Mi gud tumas” (mee good too-muss) = I am very well, is an appropriate description of the UTAS exchange with our South Pacific partners in Vanuatu.

Above: David Coulou, Dr Rob Andrew and Amton Mwaraksurmes during an ABC Radio interview in Launceston.
Tackling teen drinking

U TAS researchers are helping to reduce alcohol-related harm among teenagers in four rural Tasmanian towns.

Led by the Tasmanian Institute of Law Enforcement Studies (TILES) and the Department of Rural Health, the Social Norms Analysis Project (SNAP) allows young people to understand why their peers are drinking and how to stop. The findings of the project were used to develop messages and campaigns to reduce harm.

A report by research fellow Rae Dufty and Dr Rowland Atkinson from the Housing and Community Research Unit attracted front-page coverage in The Mercury and a segment on 7ABTV after it encouraged Hobart to think about how it could better utilise city space.

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**College Butts Out**

The Jane Franklin Hall student residence in Hobart is now a smoke-free campus, with no smoking permitted in any building or within any part of the college grounds. Residents are positive about the move, with several saying that they will use the change as an opportunity to quit smoking. The residential college decided to make the change in line with the growing anti-smoking push in the wider community.

**Engineering Winners**

Engineering students Andrew Lewis, Nicholas Ward and Adam Wong recently won a design competition run by UTAS in partnership with TADTAS (Technical Aids for Tasmanians with Disabilities). TADTAS designs and builds a wide range of specialised aids for people with disabilities, and can also modify commercially-available aids to suit the individual. The students were challenged to come up with a design that solved one of four accessibility or mobility problems and presented their findings at the national TAD conference held in Hobart.

**Portait Addition**

The highlight of an alumni tour of selected works in the University Collection on the Sandy Bay campus was the presentation to the University of an oil portrait of former Chancellor, Sir Henry Somers Out, by his daughter, Susan Morgan (pictured). “It was a great pleasure to end up with a glass of champagne and the opportunity to finally officially present my father’s portrait to the University. It will be in good hands and I know he would be so pleased,” Susan said.

The portrait was painted by well-known Melbourne artist Dorothy Fitchett, who will be hung outside the Council Room, near the gallery of former Chancellor and Vice-Chancellors, in company with other portraits from the University Collection.

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**Dare-ing to Tackle Diabetes**

Living with type 1 diabetes has failed to dilute the determination of Caroline Burridge, who recently climbed Mt Kilimanjaro, the highest mountain in Africa, and the largest free-standing mountain in the world, but Caroline, who is Business Development Officer with the Tasmanian Institute of Law Enforcement Studies, “bagged” the 4,590m peak last January.

Caroline’s sense of adventure led to the creation of DARE Diabetics Reaching Extremes, after she decided to help others experience the same feeling of achievement.

While there are no inauspicious peaks involved this time, Caroline will lead a group of 15–22-year-olds who live with type 1 diabetes on a trek of Tasmania’s famous Overland Track, which stretches from Cradle Mountain to Lake St Clair.

Caroline will be joined on the trek next March by Associate Professor Dr Tim Burridge, who recently climbed Mt Kilimanjaro.

Kilimanjaro is the highest mountain in Africa and the largest free-standing mountain in the world.

While the participants will carry packs of up to 20kg, which, combined with long walking days, can make management of their diabetes difficult.

As a result, they will be required, during the training period, to monitor their blood glucose levels prior to, during and post exercise. Insulin regimes will also need to be developed individually as training progresses for each of the participants.

Caroline hopes the project will change the lives of those who have been selected for the journey.

“This adventure will show those who live with chronic illnesses that there is nothing they cannot achieve through commitment and hard work,” she said.

DARE is a collaborative project with Diabetes Australia Tasmania and has financial support from both UTAS and Tasmania Police as well as a number of local, national and international organisations.

Above: On top of the world. Caroline Burridge on Mt Kilimanjaro earlier this year.

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**Scholarship Winner Set for Greatness**

Lionel Nichols is a graduate who stands out from the pack: he recently won both the 2008 Rhodes Scholarship to study at Oxford University and the 2007 Tim Hawkins Memorial Scholarship.

A gregarious high-achiever, Lionel holds a Bachelor of Arts, a Master of International Politics and a Bachelor of Laws with First Class Honours, all from UTAS.

While Lionel grew up in Tasmania, he was born in Brisbane, lived on Norfolk Island for three years and then on King Island for one year, before his family settled in Lenah Valley, Hobart. His father, Lester, is a bar manager and his mother, Carmel, a homemaker, while younger brother Joey lives in Queensland.

Lionel now works at Melbourne law firm Blake Dawson Waldron, where he will next year complete his articled clerkship, after which he plans to be admitted to practice by the Supreme Court of Victoria.

In order to win the prestigious 2008 Rhodes Scholarship, Lionel had to show not only consistent excellent academic achievement, but also a high level of community engagement, integrity of character and leadership qualities.

He has actively given back to the community, offering pro bono legal advice to asylum seekers and volunteering his services to the Homeless Persons Legal Clinic. Lionel also volunteered for many years to the Tasmanian Debating Union, encouraging young debaters, having used debating to beat his own childhood speech impediment.

“As well as being committed to my personal growth and development, I enjoy seeing others realise their potential and I assist in any way that I can,” Lionel said.

Lionel’s thirst for knowledge is such that he took on extra course loads at UTAS on top of his substantial volunteer work.

“I have an insatiable desire to learn: in six years I completed over seven years of study,” he said.

As the recipient of the Tim Hawkins Memorial Scholarship, Lionel will undertake a six-month internship at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia in The Hague. Lionel plans to use this opportunity next year to learn from the leading experts on humanitarian law.

From there, he will read for the Bachelor of Civil Law and Master of Philosophy in Law at Oxford. As a passionate fighter for the underdog, Lionel eventually intends to work as a prosecution lawyer involving humanitarian crimes.

As ABC Hobart announcer Christopher Lawrence said after interviewing Lionel: “now there’s a name to watch for the future.”

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**Primary Health Care Focus**

The Primary Health Care Research Evaluation and Development (PHCRED) program Tasmania held its fourth annual symposium in early November at the UTAS Launceston campus.

More than 50 registrants, presenters and guest speakers attended, along with the PHCRED Team Tasmania, including director Professor Mark Nelson, from the Menzies Research Institute at UTAS, and Associate Professor Sue Kilpatrick, from the UTAS Department of Rural Health.

Guest speaker Associate Professor Ellen McIntyre, manager of the Primary Health Care Research and Information Service, gave an overview of the PHCRED achievements since the start of the program four years ago, highlighting the diversity and quality of primary health care research across Australia.

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For more information and abstracts, see: www.phcred.org.au. For further details on the BEACH program available at: www.fore.org.au/beach
Graduates scale artistic summit

A round 100 works of art were on show at the Summit 07 exhibition at the Academy of the Arts in Launceston last month.

Summit 07 showcased the finest work from graduates of the Bachelor of Contemporary Art, Master of Contemporary Art, Master of Fine Arts, Honours and PhD courses. The artworks encompassed the media of painting, sculpture, photos, multimedia, glass and ceramics.

Head of School Professor Vincent McGrath said that Summit 07 showcased the best work by finishing students in the visual and performing arts.

“This year’s show was a good example of the way in which research has become a significant aspect of arts practice. “Students first and foremost examine the issue and topics and then express these research outcomes through the medium of the arts.

“TAS Art and the arts is academic and investigative, rather than just representative – its real cultural value lies not so much in the ability to entertain, but rather to inform, challenge and speculate,” he said.

Awards were also presented to students for academic and artistic excellence at the opening of Summit 07.

The School of Art also celebrated the graduating year of both Bachelor of Fine Arts and Bachelor of Fine Arts with Honours students with an exhibition of their final examination submissions.

The exhibition, entitled Oaunfure, involved two shows at the Hunter St Art School. The first, the Bachelor of Fine Arts show, featured the final-year work of 83 students working in a variety of media, including painting, printmaking and e-media. Professor Jan Pakulski, Dean of the Faculty of Arts, performed the official opening.

The Honour show exhibited candidates’ final-year examination pieces in a range of media, including sculpture, photography and painting. The show was opened by Katherine Hough, Director of Arts Tasmania.

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In the footsteps of Friendly Mission

Researchers from the University of Tasmania recently walked in the footsteps of George Augustus Robinson for a fieldwork expedition held as part of the Meeting at Bark Hut research project.

Meeting at Bark Hut is one of the first projects for the new Community, Place and Heritage Research Unit, led by historian Professor Henry Reynolds.

This significant project seeks to retrace and reinterpret George Augustus Robinson’s Friendly Mission through the ancestral country of the northeast clanspeople of Tasmania in October and November 1836.

The expedition of around 30 students, Aboriginal knowledge custodians and University researchers travelled through the Bay of Fires and Ansons Plains area from 28 October to 1 November – the dates coinciding with Robinson’s journey.

Led by researcher and Aboriginal Elder Paty Cameron and project manager Dr Linn Miller from Riawunna at UTAS Launceston, the Meeting at Bark Hut project aims to study, document and reflect upon the cultural and ecological significance of both the landscape through which Robinson travelled and the stories inscribed in it.

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Led by researcher and Aboriginal Elder Paty Cameron and project manager Dr Linn Miller from Riawunna at UTAS Launceston, the Meeting at Bark Hut project aims to study, document and reflect upon the cultural and ecological significance of both the landscape through which Robinson travelled and the stories inscribed in it.

Good tidings on the Tamar

TAS theatre students were among a cross-section of talent from the Launceston community who sang, danced and acted their way through the recent Tamar Tidings production held in the city’s north.

The fully rehearsed and elaborate theatre production was staged on a barge that docked at selected accessible pontoons stretching along the full length of the Tamar River, from Launceston to Low Head.

The floating stage held an amalgam of contributions from all Tamar-based theatre, music and/or dance groups, who told the story of the Tamar River in a captivating and entertaining way that appealed to all ages.

Tamar Tidings also achieved the ambitious objective of bringing eight theatre directors to collaborate on the one production.

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Coming in from the cold

CHERIE COOPER CATCHES UP WITH NEW UTAS PRO-VICE CHANCELLOR (RESEARCH) PROFESSOR JOHANNA LAYBOURN-PARRY:

A polar scientist, Professor Laybourn-Parry has a distinct passion for knowledge and discovery, having been heavily involved in research throughout her impressive career.

Professor Laybourn-Parry gained her first degree, in Zoology and Geology, from the University of Reading in the UK, where she later obtained a Doctor of Science. She gained her Masters and PhD in Ecological Energetics from Stirling University in Scotland.

While Professor Laybourn-Parry enjoyed teaching, it was the excitement of research that fuelled her career decisions. After working as a senior lecturer at Lancaster University, Professor Laybourn-Parry travelled to Australia and took up a Chair at La Trobe University, where she became Head of Zoology.

A practitioner in Antarctica programs, Professor Laybourn-Parry is eager to apply her expertise from her research career to enhance student learning and research performance management and her research fits very well with a lot of the research that goes on in this University.

"I think being a wealth of experience to this position. I have a lot of experience in research performance management and my research fits very well with a lot of the research that goes on in this University. I also want to enhance the profile of the University both nationally and internationally through research. I think there is a good platform, with a history of excellent research in this University, but I think we can enhance it even more," she said.

Professor Laybourn-Parry believed a successful career is not solely about planning a path, but remaining open to possibilities.

"I think a successful career has a lot to do with being opportunistic and entrepreneurial. One needs to grasp opportunities when they present themselves." The publisher of the century-old Who’s Who in Australia is launching a state edition book series, with Who’s Who in Tasmania to be released in June 2008. The Tasmanian edition and encouraged staff and alumni to become involved. "UTAS has a special place as the only university in our state. I encourage Who’s Who in Tasmania in recognising the role of our staff and graduates in the economic, social and cultural fabric of Tasmania," he said.

Gym upgrades on the move

All three UTAS gyms are being refurbished to improve exercise facilities for students, staff and the wider community.

UTAS gym manager Gina Poulton said UTAS last year successfully applied for Voluntary Student Unionism transitional funding for the works at Cradle Coast, Launceston and Hobart.

The funding, provided by the Federal Government, saw UTAS receive $5 million in total. UTAS has also contributed significant in-kind support for each of the projects.

A $750,000 package was received for the Cradle Coast campus, where a Wellbeing Centre is reaching the final stages of completion. The centre includes a social area with a coffee service and a TV, a rec room with a pool table and air hockey facilities, as well as a range of gym equipment.

The Launceston campus, which received $1.9 million, will receive a new Dojo martial arts facility, expected to be finished by mid-2008. The recreation floor space of the Launceston facility will also be refurbished its sports complex, which was built around 1974.

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The Hobart campus received $2.3 million to refurbish its sports complex, which was built around 1974.

Plans for the Hobart campus will transform the area from just a gym facility into a complete Sport and Wellbeing centre.

The plans for Hobart also include making the ground floor into an open-plan area and creating a recreation area upstairs if there is sufficient space.

The Hobart project is due for completion by mid-December 2008.

"We want to raise the profile of sport and recreation at UTAS and also create a more appealing, positive space for people," Gina said.

"It will be inviting from the various user groups to encourage the facility will meet the needs of the majority of our users." Meanwhile, the UTAS Amazing Staff Challenge, organised by Gina to encourage staff members to stay fit, is enjoying a robust third year and has about 210 people involved.

"We have a series of teams of four and within those teams of four their aim is to become more aware of their current health and fitness levels," Gina explained.

Challenges are low-intensity, fun-packed activities. They are offered once a week and range from soccer rounds and dancing to indoor bowls and luncheon walks.

The Challenge aims to not only increase fitness, but also to encourage staff morale, relieve stress and to improve overall performance in the workplace.

Clinical school off and running

Twenty-four staff and students from the Rural Clinical School were among a record field of more than 3600 entrants to compete in this year’s Burnie Ten road race.

The Rural Clinical School’s Racing Team stood out from the crowd in their custom-designed T-shirts, sporting a message promoting the health benefits of exercise and created by final year medical student George Chandler. For most of the 15 medical students and nine staff members, it was all about participation in the one of the region’s iconic community events. Fifth-year medical student Milford McArthur had more ambitious aims, however, and staged a brilliant finish to record a time of 56.05 minutes and place in the top 30 men – just one week after competing as an individual in the gruelling Freycinet Challenge multi-sport event.

The RCS team was among more than 60 UTAS staff and students involved in the event, which is described by organisers as Australia’s premier 10km road race.

Team members said the event provided the opportunity to become involved and have some fun, as well as providing a goal to improve their personal fitness levels. The race caters for elite athletes as well as fun-runners and those with the more modest aim of just completing the scenic 10km walk along the Burnie foreshore.
Focus on Tasmanian architecture

An important history of Tasmanian architecture by Launceston psychiatrist Dr Eric Ratcliff is likely to be the first publication from the newly formed Community, Place and Heritage Research Unit.

Due for publication in 2008, the book will be a history of building and architecture in Tasmania during the 19th century, from 1803 to 1914.

In a recent public lecture at the School of Architecture, Dr Ratcliff said the lack of reference material in the area was a major reason for writing the book.

“There has been, and remains, an urgent need to record the motivations, methods and details that produced our earlier built heritage, for the guidance of owners, builders, designers and viewers now and into an uncertain future,” he said.

There are many books and papers on the subject but little scholarly work examining it closely.

“Tasmania’s strength architecturally is that all the international architectural styles and transitions can be seen right here,” Dr Ratcliff said.

This publication, the result of many years of thorough and careful work, will make a significant contribution not only to our understanding of Tasmanian architectural history but also to that of Australia.”


BOOKS

LOOKING SOUTH: AUSTRALIA’S ANTARCTIC AGENDA
Editors Larrie K. Kraweek, Julia Labour and Alan D. Herringshaw (The Federation Press, 2007)
A number of UTAS staff participated in bringing this book to life, either as editors or contributors. There had been no contemporary analysis of Australia’s involvement in Antarctic matters until 1984, when Australia’s Antarctic Policy Options brought together an array of Australians focused on Antarctic law, policy and social science. Twenty years on, Looking South explores how the issues identified have developed, what significant news issues have emerged and how Antarctica sits in the current Australian political agenda.

ENDANGERED: TASMANIA’S WILD PLACES
Text by Senator Bob Brown, Professor Jamie Kirkpatrick and Dr Pete hay (Penguin, 2007)
Tasmania’s wild places are internationally renowned for their scenic, ecological and wilderness values. Yet many of these areas remain partly or wholly unprotected and are under threat from logging, mining and similar developments. Endangered is a celebration of those vulnerable and often very beautiful wild places. It is also a call to ensure that these areas are given the national park status they deserve.

GRANDPA JACK AND THE HUNT FOR THE ELUSIVE SNOOGLEBERRY
Professor Carey Denholm (University of Tasmania, 2007)
This is the second children’s book by Professor Denholm, following the 1999 publication of How Albert Saved Kathiwin the Cat. This new title has been produced in conjunction with a Grade 6 class at Margate Primary School, who pursued the drafts, provided feedback on the book’s structure and humour, and suggestions on how the story might proceed. While Professor Denholm has produced two top-selling books and five journal articles in the past two years, he says that Grandpa Jack was more “taxing, difficult and demanding”. “I guess it required different language and a creative flair that had to be rediscovered.”

THE COMPANION TO TASMANIAN HISTORY
Edited by Alison Alander (University of Tasmania, 2005)
This encyclopaedia of 760 entries on all aspects of Tasmania’s history is available to UTAS staff and students for the special pre-Christmas price of $30 or on CD for $80. Available from the School of History and Classics, Hodor campus, or by ph: 03 6226 2958.

calling all Conservatorium alumni

“We are confident the Conservatorium of Music Alumni Branch, under the wing of the University of Tasmania Alumni, will help make Tasmanian music graduates the most sought after in Australia,” Ms Thompson said.

Pommerent Conservatorium of Music Alumni Diane Tompson, who is also a Conservatorium graduate, said that many of the Conservatorium’s original student records were lost in the 1970s due to a fire, so Conservatorium faced an extra challenge in tracking down its achievements of our graduands and the contributions of our staff in guiding the students through their courses. A university education is about learning, formally and informally, and developing both an understanding of chosen fields and the generic skills essential to making the most of a professional and personal life in the 21st century.

EDGE2 brings Excellence and Distinctiveness to the fore, without losing sight of the essential elements of growth and engagement. It is exciting and challenging to consider what UTAS can emphasise what is different about us, and how we increase our student, and academic and professional staff to achieve the very best in their endeavours. At UTAS we will continue to work hard to achieve our goal of lifting university participation in Tasmania, and to balance this social responsibility agenda with a quality agenda. Certainly, we will be working hard to find the additional resources necessary to invest in EDGE2 to ensure that we create the environment of high performance that we all desire.

Finally I would like to say thank you to all members of the UTAS community for their hard work in 2007. I very much value all the contributions that you have made to UTAS during the year. I wish you and your family a relaxed and safe Christmas break and look forward to seeing you all in 2008.

Decmeber is a good time for reflection. Graduation ceremonies give us the chance to stop for a moment and think about the achievements of our graduands and the contributions of our staff in guiding the students through their courses. A university education is about learning, formally and informally, and developing both an understanding of chosen fields and the generic skills essential to making the most of a professional and personal life in the 21st century.

EDGE2, our strategic plan for 2008-2010, is almost ready for launch after much consultation, debate and refinement. EDGE2 brings Excellence and Distinctiveness to the fore, without losing
New look UniTAS in 2008

As flagged in the August edition of UniTAS, the newsletter will in future be brought into line with the look and role of contemporary university newsletters. The plan is to return in March 2008 with a full-colour, A3-sized UniTAS that will appear in the first week of each month from March to December. Media Officer Sharon Webb will be Editor of the new UniTAS, backed by a team of regular contributors drawn from the University’s communications staff, freelance journalists and the Media Office.

The same editorial policies will apply, in that reader contributions are welcome, but may be edited or held over for future editions. The Editor is also under no obligation to publish contributed copy. Guidelines and policies for UniTAS submissions will soon be available on the UTAS News and Events website.

“What’s On” and “Classifieds” will continue to appear on the UTAS website and in UniTAS. In addition to publication, preference shall be given to events which have an appeal to a wide audience. The same preference shall apply to editorial content.

The new UniTAS will have a set deadline of the 15th of each month – or the Monday after the 15th if this date falls on a weekend – but earlier submissions are always welcome.

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- Incorrect contact details were printed for the Whitewater article involving the Outdoor Education Teaching Specialisation Unit. This unit is within the Centre for Human Movement, Faculty of Education, where Dr Janet Dyment is the contact: (03) 6204 3510.
- Dr Catriona MacLeod, who was quoted on the Leadership Development for Women program, is from the Tasmanian Aquaculture and Fisheries Institute, and is not Dr Catriona McLeod from the School of Architecture and Design.

After 34 years with the School of Agricultural Science and the Tasmanian Institute of Agricultural Research, SALLY JONES ended her full-time position with UTAS last month. Head of School Dr Peter Lane said Sally had made an “outstanding contribution” during her time as secretary and later executive assistant within the school, TIAR and the Australian Food Safety Centre of Excellence. Sally is well known for her eye-catching shoes, so it was fitting that staff presented her with a pair of artistic heels as a gift. Sally will continue to be involved with UTAS on a casual basis.

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NOTICEBOARD
For a complete listing of What’s On, please visit: www.utas.edu.au/events/whatsont.html

5 December
University Department of Rural Health Seminar
Physical Activity, Fall Risk Factors, Balance Confidence and Quality of Life
Differences between Active and Sedentary Seniors
Time: 12:10pm – 1:30pm
Venues: Various TeleHealth video conferencing studios
Presented by Sharon Hetherington, Centre for Human Movement, School of Education.
Information: Cecilia Chiu, (03) 6324 4028

Accommodation wanted
Professional couple, 16 co, and house-trained dog, required a frame to house-sit or rent from January 2008. Reliable, honest family with exceptional references. Happy to care for pets or gardens. Information: Deb, (04) 4291 6306 or 1800 030 034

Accommodation wanted
Friendly new lecturer looking for two-bedroom flat or house close to the University. House-sitting for six months also an option. Starting: First week in January 2008. Information: Inge Fairin, 1ingfairin@gmail.com

Accommodation wanted
Central/University area for a student who will be working and studying at the Sandy Bay campus will house-sit in and around the Sandy Bay campus. Information: 0427 245 171

Accommodation wanted
For a spring house sit in and around the Sandy Bay campus. Looking for 2–3 bedroom accommodation. Information: Adrian Franklin, 0407 544 876

Satellite laser an Australian first
Tasmania’s north-west coast is host to the first international Satellite Laser Ranging (SLR) system ever used in Australia, with UTAS scientists directly involved in the exciting project.

The system, the only one of its kind in the world, will be housed at the Burnie TAFE for the next five months and will play a crucial role in helping scientists use satellites to measure phenomena such as climate change and sea level rise.

“Tasmania has really put itself on the global environmental map with the arrival of the SLR system,” said UTAS spatial scientist Dr Christopher Watson, from the School of Geography and Environmental Studies, who is working with the project.

The green laser measures distances to satellites 1300 km away, accurate to about the width of an index finger.

“The laser plays a fundamental role in helping us to understand climate and sea-level changes, which assists in shaping and informing public policy and environmental planning around the globe,” Dr Watson said.

The system was created by the French Observatoire de la Côte d’Azur and French scientists Dr Francis Pierron joined Australian researchers in setting up the Burnie site.

“The laser plays a fundamental role in helping us to understand climate and sea-level changes, which assists in shaping and informing public policy and environmental planning around the globe,” Dr Watson said.

“The information from the satellites is vital in planning for the future, especially for somewhere like Australia where most of the population is clustered around the coast.”

Researchers from CSIRO Marine and Atmospheric Research and the Australian National University are also involved in the laser system project.

The SLR system has been made available through funding from the Australian Government’s National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy (NCRIS).

Dr Watson said UTAS had since built on the NCRIS funding with a successful ARC Discovery grant of $1.16m over five years, as part of a collaborative climate change project with ANU, UNSW and Curtin University.

“This is a very significant achievement that brings together the four Australian geoelectrics (an earth science specialisation) powerhouses into one collective group,” Dr Watson said.

“As an early career academic, it is extremely exciting to be involved in such a team.”

The research team includes UTAS Professor Richard Coleman, from the Centre for Marine Science.

INSIDE:
BEHIND BARK HUT
TAKING A DARE
TACKLING TEEN DRINKING
RHODES SCHOLAR SHINES