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UTAS College option a win for students

Over 500 students in Tasmanian senior secondary schools and colleges are studying at university level in a visionary scheme that aims to increase the number of Tasmanians with higher education qualifications.

The students are studying units in languages, performing arts, philosophy and visual arts as part of a three-year pilot scheme called UTAS College.

The program has been developed as a means of enhancing connection between schools and colleges and the University, particularly for high-achieving students.

UTAS Vice-Chancellor Professor Daryl Le Grew said that the initiative started with a focus on languages because many students complete a pre-tertiary language course in Year 11 and then have no way of progressing until they start university.

"After a year's break many students do not return to language study," he said.

"We needed a much better pathway for language students, and the UTAS College initiative has created new options for students to develop their language skills."

Prof. Le Grew said that the initiative has a number of key strategic objectives.

"At a basic level we want to encourage more students to take on more challenging study," he said.

"We are also keen for UTAS students to have an international experience as part of their undergraduate

The program has been developed as a means of enhancing connection between schools and colleges and the University, particularly for high achieving students.

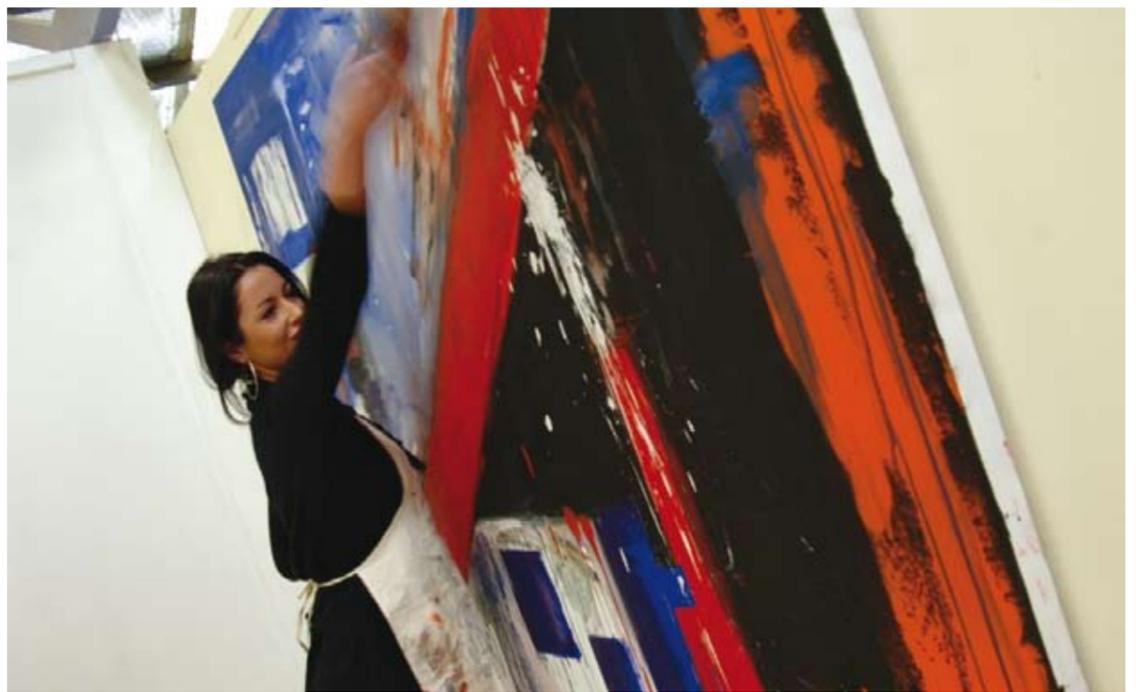
degree. The development of language skills and the opportunity to take part in in-country language programs is a key part of our strategic agenda.

"In addition, we are developing a much stronger relationship with school and college principals and teachers, and will work together on better articulated syllabuses and more coordinated and effective delivery arrangements."

Prof. Le Grew said UTAS has also committed to the ongoing development of teachers and is offering scholarships to support teachers to undertake continuing professional development through study at UTAS, so that they are confident to support UTAS College programs in their schools.

UTAS College has no physical college building.

"UTAS College is a strategy of co-delivery by the University and schools and colleges across the state," Prof. Le Grew said.



Seamless learning experience: Launceston College student Georgia Burke extends her visual arts skills through UTAS College.

"Students study in a combination of ways – at the University, at college, through intensive block teaching, extension programs and online study," he said.

The pilot began in 2008 with 473 enrolments from government colleges and private schools across Tasmania. The highest enrolments were in performing arts (music), followed by French and Japanese.

Associate Professor Anne Langworthy, who is coordinating the

UTAS College program, said that high-achieving students can accelerate their learning by studying some first-year university units while still in Year 12.

"This will allow them to accelerate their progress through an undergraduate degree or enable them to undertake additional study such as a Diploma of Languages alongside their normal degree," she said.

"By raising student aspirations and providing more effective and

challenging pathways to university study, this initiative will play a big part in increasing higher education participation rates in Tasmania.

"This major cross-sectoral partnership will facilitate a seamless learning experience for young people from various school and college systems and, importantly, build a strong bridge of understanding and cooperation between classroom teachers and University academics."

Australian award for eucalypt genetic discoveries

► ENVIRONMENT

UTAS botanist Professor Brad Potts has been awarded the 2008 Clarke Medal by the Royal Society of NSW for his cutting-edge research on the evolutionary biology and breeding of eucalypts.

The prestigious Clarke Medal has been awarded since 1878 for distinguished research in natural sciences performed in Australia and

its territories, and rotates through the fields of geology, botany and zoology.

Professor Potts now joins distinguished past winners such as Sir Richard Owen, awarded for his famous studies of Australian vertebrate fossils, and Sir Douglas Mawson, Antarctic explorer and geologist.

He has contributed to groundbreaking work on understanding the evolutionary processes by which eucalypts respond to changing envi-

ronments as well as their conservation genetics, backing the breeding programs of eucalypts for both pulp and solid wood products.

Prof. Potts said his work had built on a solid foundation of eucalypt genetic and evolutionary research started by the School of Plant Science in the 1930s and expanded in the 1950s by Professors Newton Barbour and Bill Jackson.

"We are at the threshold of a new understanding of this iconic Australian tree," he said.

"One of the big challenges now for Australian forest geneticists is to work with international groups exploring the eucalypt genome to enhance the flow of information back to Australia for the benefit of Australian industry as well as the conservation and management of our native eucalypt genetic resources."



A look at the world of a gum tree expert ► Page 6

Clarke Medal winner: UTAS Professor Brad Potts.

Our people



Kate Crowley

Associate Professor Kate Crowley has been selected to head the new Tasmanian Climate Action Council, which will shape the state's response to climate change. The 10-person council will focus on Tasmania's greenhouse gas emissions targets. Council members include scientists, architects, urban designers and businesspeople.



Richard Turner

Professor Richard Turner has accepted an offer of appointment as Chair of Surgery at UTAS. He will commence work at UTAS in June this year. Prof. Turner is currently Associate Professor of Surgery at the James Cook University School of Medicine and Dentistry, based at the school's Cairns Base Hospital teaching site.



Rosemary Cane

UTAS Department of Rural Health researcher Dr Rosemary Cane recently received an award in the clinical report category of the *Australian Dental Journal Awards of Excellence*. The awards, presented by the Australian Dental Association, recognise outstanding papers published in the journal in the preceding year. Dr Cane's paper discussed the implications and management of dental infection in the rural setting for a patient with special needs in both medical and dental health. It was co-authored with Dr David Butler of Oral Health Services Tasmania and Dr Colin Chilvers of the Launceston General Hospital.



David McNeill

Experienced animal nutritionist Dr David McNeill has taken up the position of Dairy Research Leader at the Tasmanian Institute of Agricultural Research (TIAR) Dairy Centre in Burnie. Dr McNeill is looking to build on the centre's reputation in high-quality pasture research, particularly in dairy cow nutrition. The research team is one division of TIAR's Dairy Centre, with Dr McNeill working closely with the extension and development teams. Before joining TIAR, Dr McNeill ran a consultancy combining research and development in New South Wales, where he worked with Meat and Livestock Australia as national coordinator for the More Beef from Pastures industry-training program, and with other national programs, such as the Beef CRC and Grain and Graze, as well as private companies. He was a senior lecturer in the Dairy Science Group at Sydney University and has held appointments at the University of Queensland and the University of Western Australia.

Do you have a tidbit for 'Our people'? Email news snippets on UTAS people to: Media.Office@utas.edu.au and mark your email subject: 'Our people'.



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Home to roost at UTAS:

The UTAS Faculty of Business is home to a pair of hooters.

Two tawny frogmouths have made a home high up in one of the trees surrounding the Business building on the Sandy Bay campus.

The male and female birds do not make much noise and their presence has delighted staff.

These birds are common in Tasmania and appear in all forested habitats.

They hunt at night and spend the day roosting on a dead log or branch close to the tree trunk.

Tawny frogmouths are often confused with owls but are more closely related to nightjars.

They feed on mice, rats, cicadas, beetles, frogs and other small prey which they catch in their mouths rather than their talons.

These birds are 35–50cm tall, have yellow eyes and a wide beak, hence the name frogmouth. They breed from August to December.



(From left) Dr Judy Sankey, Madison DeCouvreur, Prabina Bastola, UTAS Chancellor Damien Bugg and Pranjali Bastola.



Sydney nurses were presented with postgraduate UTAS awards for the first time in a ceremony held at the Powerhouse Museum last month.

Head of the School of Nursing and Midwifery Professor Denise Fassett said the strong partnership between the school and St Vincents and Mater Health Services had gone from strength to strength.

"The course is now well known and highly regarded in New South Wales," she said.

Forty-two nurses were awarded Bachelor of Nursing degrees, while 15 received Graduate Certificates in Nursing or Graduate Diplomas in Nursing.

North-West region supports students' tertiary journey



UTAS Cradle Coast students Anne Garratt (left) and Olivia Lucas were among 15 lucky recipients in this year's West North-West Scholarship and Bursary Program.

BY ANNA OSBORNE

The North-West region has thrown its support behind a group of new UTAS students.

Fifteen students were the recipients of this year's West North-West Scholarship and Bursary Program, designed to provide financial assistance to

North-West students pursuing tertiary studies at UTAS.

More than 13 award donors, including North-West councils, businesses and individuals, contributed to the 2009 program, which also received support from benefactors beyond the Cradle Coast region.

In total, this year's program was valued at more than \$230,000.

'This scholarship has made such a difference ... I travel a 100km round trip four days a week to attend uni, and we've also got three children to care for.'

— Anne Garratt

"For some of these students, their dream of attending university and ultimately pursuing their career goals is only made possible through the program," said UTAS Cradle Coast campus Acting Director Professor Janelle Allison.

"The scholarships and bursaries really make a difference to a student's education journey, where businesses, individuals, groups and governments provide invaluable support and encouragement."

"The big reason this scholarship has made such a difference is that I travel a 100km round trip four days a week to attend uni, and we've also got three children to care for," first-year Bachelor of Regional Resource Management (BRRM) student Anne Garratt said.

Ms Garratt received the Gordon Cahill Memorial Scholarship.

"It's made such a difference and it's also been a great opportunity to network with people too," she said.

For Faculty of Arts student Olivia Lucas, receiving the Burnie City Council Bursary has ensured none of her first-year studies are interrupted.

"I'm doing some distance study, with two subjects online, and I needed to get a new computer in order to do the subject," she said.

"The bursary has helped me a lot in pursuing my studies."

Funding will further ore-inspiring research

► FRONTIER TECHNOLOGIES

BY **CHERIE COOPER**

CODES, the world-leading ore deposit research facility within the UTAS Faculty of Science, Engineering and Technology, has gained \$9.45 million in funding from the Australian Government, securing its operations until at least the end of 2013.

The announcement also secures CODES' position as Australia's only Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence in earth sciences.

The Centre stated that it granted the funding because CODES has proven to be a high-performing centre with a long-term strategic approach to the future.

Director of CODES Professor Ross Large says the funding will allow the centre to continue its many projects under way around the globe.

"CODES is currently engaged in 48 major research projects in 20 countries, employing a research team of 54 people, plus 97 postgraduate students," Prof. Large said.

"It also carries out joint research initiatives with 57 institutes and universities – 10



CODES Research Fellow Dr Isabelle Chambefort on a field trip in Bulgaria.

in Australia and 47 overseas."

A standout feature of CODES is the amazing hands-on studies its PhD students are able to undertake.

"Our postgraduate students work on geological sites within Australia and around the world – we have students conducting work on six continents in places as far afield as Zambia, Canada and Chile," Prof. Large said.

"The work that students undertake is equally diverse. For example, some may specialise in volcanology, which can include work on active volcanoes, while others may be involved with hydrothermal systems, which often includes deep-sea work, or examining formations that can sometimes be billions of years old."

Prof. Large said CODES' PhD students receive excellent

training, which means they are in demand the world over.

"Even in the current climate of economic uncertainty our students are very employable," he said.

In addition to receiving government funding, CODES has secured well over one-third of its income from private enterprise and has developed worldwide collaborations with 10 major industry partners.

Devil of a Diagnosis

► FRONTIER TECHNOLOGIES

BY **MICHELLE GRIMA**

The true impact of the perplexing Devil Facial Tumour Disease (DFTD) will be realised when a groundbreaking diagnostic test developed by UTAS researchers is used on wild and captive devils.

It is anticipated that scientists will begin the swift and non-invasive DFTD diagnostic program in about six months.

This DFTD milestone follows preliminary results from research conducted by a team from the Australian Centre for Research of Separation Science (ACROSS), UTAS School of Chemistry, which found for the first time that the disease can be diagnosed in devils before tumours are visible.

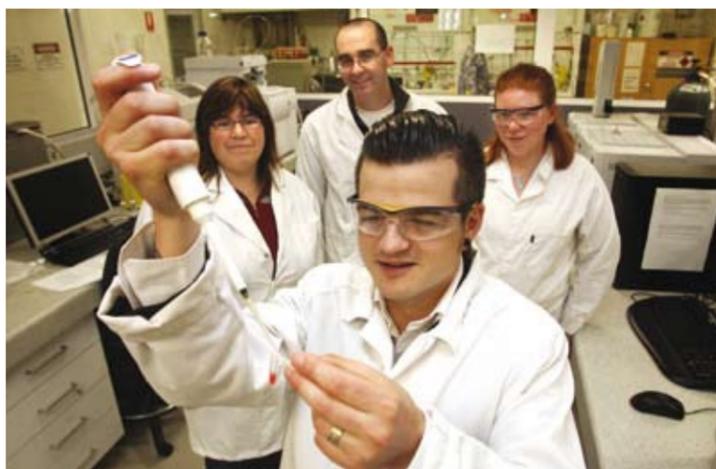
The Tasmanian devil is listed as an endangered species. DFTD has killed 70 per cent of the devil population since it was first detected in 1996.

Dr Robert Shellie, of the ACROSS research team, said

while the diagnostic program does not directly contribute to finding a cure for DFTD, the unique

of knowing or even guessing if an animal is infected," Dr Shellie said.

'Until now, unless a Tasmanian devil has had a visible tumour there has been no way of knowing or even guessing if an animal is infected.'



Devil of a team: Dr Robert Shellie inspects blood samples with Dr Emily Hilder, Dr Michael Breadmore and PhD Student Jessica Gathercole. Photo courtesy of *The Mercury*.

analysis of the blood will underpin all future research – benefiting disease suppression and monitoring insurance populations.

"Until now, unless a Tasmanian devil has had a visible tumour there has been no way

"One of the consequences of studying the blood of devils using separation science methodology is that we now have the scope to regularly test animals in captivity to ensure they are free of the contagious cancer."

Preliminary results from 100 blood samples taken from disease-affected areas across Tasmania have so far proven 100 per cent accurate in achieving a DFTD score.

"This test is fast, taking about three to four hours to produce a result and reduces the time needed to hold each devil; it's non-invasive – one drop of blood from an ear-prick – and you don't need a PhD to use it," Dr Shellie said.

Researchers now aim to analyse 1000 blood samples in about six months to validate their project.

Dr Shellie, Dr Emily Hilder, Dr Michael Breadmore and PhD student Jessica Gathercole hope to apply the test in the field once \$75,000 in funding is raised for essential equipment.

The two-year research project has been funded through the Department of Primary Industries and Water and the Australian Research Council, as well as public donations to the Save the Tasmanian Devil Appeal.

For more information or to make a donation to the Save the Tasmanian Devil Appeal, visit: www.tassiedevil.com.au

Big picture



Professor Daryl Le Greu
VICE-CHANCELLOR

Liberating UTAS courses

While I have indicated that the Building on Strength (BOS) process is not aimed at radical change, there are key aspects of UTAS culture that will be the subject of rapid advancement and improvement, including the profile of UTAS courses.

Under the rubric of 'liberating courses', a vital component of BOS, I acknowledge the raft of good work under way to develop a common course structure that will provide the basis for our curriculum and pedagogical thinking for the next decade.

Establishing a rational base for our courses, including a 'common currency' of modular unit weightings and overarching guidelines for core, contextual and interdisciplinary studies is an absolute must, if we are to have the proper ground within which our students can mix and match their course selections. This also encourages interchange and cooperation among the schools and faculties and provides a more rational and efficient system of teaching and learning.

An important new set of ingredients that we can usefully consider as part of our mainstream is emerging from the BOS agenda and from the more avant-garde end of our teaching and learning spectrum.

UTAS has developed very effective and efficient protocols for compressed degree programs to meet the requirements of those students who need to progress as quickly as possible through their first professional degree.

Equally, our course structures *must* make it possible for students to take a more exploratory and more lateral approach to undergraduate study – for those who wish to mix disciplines or build a wider range of contextual study into their main disciplinary or professional thrust. More flexible approaches to our course rules and protocols, more flexible logistics that mix and match face-to-face with electronic teaching and learning options, and a more open timetable with a reasonable amount of repeat offerings will be needed to complement our common course structure.

A good test for this may well be our capacity to relax our prerequisite and co-requisite rules for courses, for selected groups of students or even for individuals. Are our assumptions about sequencing and co-study requirements immutable, or are they negotiable, or even necessary in the contemporary world?

These are fairly radical questions, but they are ones that students and academic colleagues often ask. To what extent are we able to tolerate students designing and constructing their own programs free of over-restrictive and boundary-protecting rules of our own devising?

There are questions of academic integrity and consistency involved of course, but we are now dealing with a more assertive and sophisticated clientele, with different backgrounds and levels of life experience and expectation.

Daryl Le Greu

The full text version of this column is available from the UTAS website: <http://www.utas.edu.au/vc/>

Up close



Craig French

Business Manager,
Faculty of Business

What I do at UTAS Most of the time I'm the Business Manager at the Faculty of Business, but I'm currently on a short-term transfer to the Office of the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Teaching & Learning) as the Senior Executive Officer.

Reading Parenting books, *Stand Your Ground* by Kevin Sheedy.

Listening to Almost anything – I have a diverse taste in music: The Potbelleez, Sneaky Sound System, Midnight Oil, Dire Straits ... but not The Wiggles just yet.

Watching My newborn baby boy and old episodes of *Red Dwarf*, *Blackadder*, *Blake's 7*, *Doctor Who* and *Torchwood*.

Laughing at My newborn baby boy – and myself trying to change nappies and figure out how that grow suit fits (do the buttons go at the back or the front?).

Looking forward to A full night's sleep ... for my wife. Travelling again and showing my little boy the world.

Aiming for To do it well or find a better way of doing it!

Flexing mussels

▶ ANTARCTIC & MARINE STUDIES

AMC researchers are embarking on a \$1.3 million project aimed at boosting commercial production of blue mussels in Australia.

The project will look at how to increase numbers of juvenile mussels available to commercial aquaculture operations and increase Australia's ability to produce more mussels for national and international markets.

Currently farmed in Tasmania, Victoria, southern NSW, South Australia and Western Australia, blue mussels are one of the Australian aquacultures rising stars.

Research leader Associate Professor Natalie Moltschanivskyj



Boosting commercial mussel production: Dr Chris Bolch and Associate Professor Natalie Moltschanivskyj will work on the project.

said the project is focused on trying to address the bottlenecks in the hatchery production of blue mussels.

"We're particularly interested in that process when a baby mussel goes from being a pelagic juvenile to attaching onto a rope and

starting life as an attached mussel. There seem to be problems associated with that transition," she said.

The project will look at how to increase numbers of juvenile mussels available to commercial aquaculture operations.

Compassionate workplace recognised

UTAS workplace has received a major Victorian/Tasmanian workplace award because of its care of an employee during a time of bereavement.

The Australian Clearinghouse for Youth Studies (ACYS), an Australian Government-funded organisation based within the Faculty of Education at the Hobart campus of UTAS, was recognised by Victorian-based organisation The Compassionate Friends for being a compassionate employer. Of the 15 finalists from Victoria and Tasmania, ACYS was the only Tasmanian workplace to receive an award at a recent ceremony in Melbourne.

ACYS Information Manager Anne Hugo nominated her workplace, consisting of a small team of six employees for the awards because of her experience following the death of her 21-year-old son François three years ago while he was travelling overseas.

Mrs Hugo said that from the moment she had to let her workplace know what had happened, and throughout the continuing long and often rocky journey of grief, her workplace colleagues had shown a depth of understanding and support that was remarkable.

"My manager at the time, Sheila Allison, sent me a note wishing me strength for the journey I was about to embark on," Mrs Hugo said.

"She gave me a lot of strength and a lot of heart."

The support continues to this day.

"Grief is a long-term process and I think it is important that employers recognise that," she said.

"When you go back to work, you are not the same person and relationships have changed.

"Because of ACYS' approach, home was comforting and my office was comforting.



"I could shut the door, I could run out crying – no one judged me for my behaviour and they actually helped me do my job."

Anne Hugo from ACYS with former manager Sheila Allison who led Anne's workplace in a supportive response to Anne's grief. Photo courtesy of *The Mercury*.

Mrs Hugo said her colleagues did some of her tasks when she could not be there, without complaint. One even cooked meals for her and her husband, Giles.

Mrs Hugo is keen to promote The Compassionate Friends as an organisation which can not only help the bereaved, but also help to change perceptions and practices by workplaces when helping employees cope with grief.

"It is so important to have a supportive workplace – work can help to give you structure but at the same time if you are not allowed to grieve you cannot begin to heal," she said.

Joint benchmarking with Wollongong

UTAS has initiated a pilot benchmarking project with the University of Wollongong (UOW) focusing on first-year student transitions to university.

Recently the two vice-chancellors, Professor Daryl Le Grew and Professor Gerard Sutton, signed a memorandum of understanding based on mutual respect, a willingness to share and learn from each other and a shared commitment to quality management.

Tasmania's Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) and Provost, Professor David Rich, said

that in 2007 both universities had agreed to conduct a self-assessment, followed by a joint peer review in the area of academic transition support.

"For the purposes of the project, academic transition support has been identified as the facilitation of student transition into, through and out of the university learning environment," he said.

"It includes providing pathways into university, facilitating adjustment to academic life (including academic, administrative and social

processes), supporting the development of academic literacies and supporting the transition of students into further study and/or the workplace."

The pilot benchmarking project was given an official seal of approval and support with the two vice-chancellors, UOW Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) and Pro Vice-Chancellor (Students and Education) Professor Rob Castle, and UTAS Pro Vice Chancellor (Teaching and Learning) Professor Gary O'Donovan all launching the project.

Also attending the launch were representatives in academic transition support which included 15 UTAS leaders and 24 UOW leaders.

Both vice-chancellors stressed the importance of developing collaborative relationships between the universities, particularly in light of the Bradley Review.

This project will also contribute to the development of knowledge and experience in the benchmarking process, which will inform the next Australian Universities Quality Agency (AUQA) audit in 2011.

Experiencing Antarctica

► ANTARCTIC & MARINE STUDIES

BY SARAH NICOL

The first students to undertake the UTAS Master of Antarctic Science degree swapped warm beaches for a trip to the icy continent this past summer.

Five masters students eagerly took the opportunity to travel on board research or tourist vessels to Antarctica to complete a research unit towards their degree.

Colleen O'Brien spent seven weeks with the French research vessel *L'Astrolabe* assisting researchers in their long-term study of the marine ecosystem. She focused mainly on fish larvae.

Two weeks of her time was spent at sea, while the rest of the time she was located at the Dumont d'Urville French base.

Colleen said reading about Antarctica was not the same as actually seeing it.

"Seeing the first iceberg out the window, it was huge, you don't expect it to be that big," she said.

"It puts everything into perspective."

It was also a chance for Colleen to put her French major to good use.

Alex Piekutowski and Tom Berli spent about five weeks on *Marina Svetaeva*, a tourist ship run by Aurora Expeditions.

Alex looked at the tourism side of Antarctica. He researched passengers' awareness of Antarctic environmental issues and looked at changes in attitudes, interests and concerns related to conservation and tourism management in the pre- and post-Antarctic experience.

While the masters degree focuses on the biological sciences, Alex said this voyage was a good chance to have a closer look at the social science side of Antarctica.

"I wanted to conduct research in Antarctic tourism because, in a place as politically and ecologically unique as Antarctica, social and biological studies can become difficult to separate," he said.

Alex said Antarctica was a special place.

"You can never expect it to be what you think, the place is incredible, it's huge," he said.

Colleen said reading about Antarctica was not the same as actually seeing it. 'Seeing the first iceberg out the window, it was huge, you don't expect it to be that big. It puts everything into perspective.'



'I wanted to conduct research in Antarctic tourism because, in a place as politically and ecologically unique as Antarctica, social and biological studies can become difficult to separate.'

– Alex Piekutowski

Tom Berli looked at zooplankton with a basic biodiversity estimate.

He was also impressed with the trip and said he would like to work there again.

"If the opportunity came up again I'd go," he said.

Because Alex and Tom travelled to Antarctica on a tourist ship, they were able to take part in a few additional fun activities.

They were helicoptered to the

tongue of the Mertz Glacier and had a small game of soccer.

Rob Johnson and Simon Reeves also recently returned from Antarctica, where they were part of an *Aurora Australis* voyage.

Almost all masters students were able to travel to Antarctica as part of their degree, but they had to instigate the trips themselves.

All trips were arranged through the International Antarctic Institute.

Top: Antarctic masters student Tom Berli and the *Marina Svetaeva*. **Second from top:** Taking water samples off the *Marina Svetaeva*. **Below left:** Tom Berli takes a header playing soccer in Antarctica. **Below** Colleen O'Brien gets friendly with Antarctic penguins. Photos by Alex Piekutowski.

Alex and Tom ... were able to take part in a few additional fun activities. They were helicoptered to the tongue of the Mertz Glacier and had a small game of soccer.



Bush research brings rewards, by gum!

► ENVIRONMENT

BY SHARON WEBB

It stretches the imagination to view Tassie's bush as a laboratory, but that's how UTAS gum tree expert Brad Potts describes it.

For the latest winner of the prestigious Clarke Medal, a bushwalk to his favourite spots on the Tasman Peninsula or Bruny Island is not simply an enjoyable toddle through the trees.

"I suppose it's the big difference between me and other people," Professor Potts said.

"The forest is a system I know a lot about and I'm seeing well beyond the obvious eucalypt species to the hybrids and genetic diversity around me," Prof. Potts said.

These days life's pressures mean it's a good week when Brad Potts gets out into the bush just once. Mostly he's co-ordinating the fieldwork of others.

But apparently it's not too difficult to bring the bush into the office. Dried gum leaves pile up on his Sandy Bay window sills along with intriguing fungi and interesting-looking brown packets.

He looks a bit of a bushy too, with tousled bedroom hair, a pointed ginger and white beard and piercing brown eyes.

But, in his fifties, Brad Potts has evidently spruced up; his noticeboard photos reveal a younger, infinitely more hirsute version.

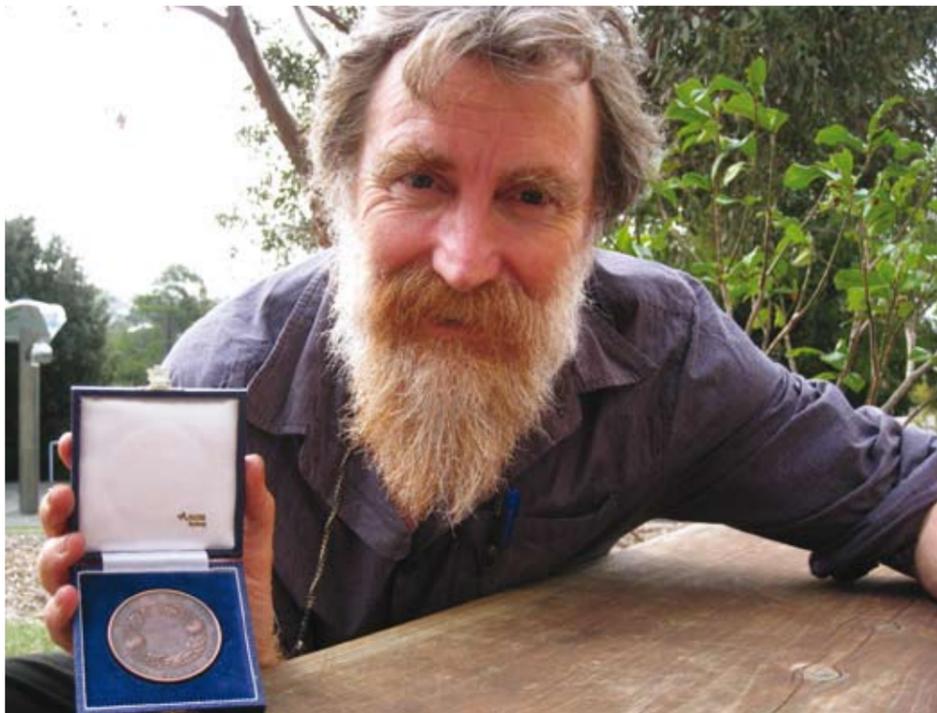
But young or old, this fifth-generation Australian has never been very far from the University of Tasmania.

Educated in Taroona and at UTAS, for years he's been using the place as his base for interaction with the world, whether as a third-year plant science student with a summer job researching insects growing on eucalypts or a world-renowned professor of forest genetics, travelling to the countries which have adopted the Tassie eucalypt for their own plantations – France, Portugal, Chile and Spain.

The work for which Prof. Potts won the Clarke Medal has given us brand new information on the evolutionary processes operating in our forests, as well as the genetic control of many of their characteristics which are of ecological and economic significance.

Scientists have already worked out this type of genome information for humans and other species; the availability of a genome sequence for eucalypts will be like opening a window to a new universe. The information will allow scientists to really understand how eucalypts work – to develop molecular tools to monitor eucalypts' response to climate change as well as markers for trees with characteristics important to the forest industry.

"We'll be able to directly select genetic variants for traits we're inter-



2008 Clarke Medal winner: Professor Brad Potts from the School of Plant Science and the Forestry CRC is a world leader in eucalypt biology.

ested in for plantation forestry," Prof. Potts said.

"One of our big challenges is to have the results of our research adopted in terms of breeding and seed production for better plantations.

"The other is to feed our knowledge of the genetic diversity in eucalypts back to strategies for native forest conservation."

When he talks about being awarded the Clarke Medal, there's an appreciation of history in Prof. Potts' tone.

He knows past winners were Antarctic explorer and geologist Sir Douglas Mawson, and botanist Leonard Rodway, who won the medal in 1918 and is one of few Tasmanian winners.

But he also mentions the formative work done by two former UTAS professors of botany: Newton Barbour (1947 – 1964) and Bill Jackson (1966 – 1986) - who did not win the medal.

Newton Barbour's training at

'The forest is a system I know a lot about and I'm seeing well beyond the obvious eucalypt species to the hybrids and genetic diversity around me.'

– Prof. Brad Potts

Cambridge and London in genetics and cytogenetics led him to foster an interest at UTAS in evolution, ecological genetics and physiological genetics.

Bill Jackson made a major contribution to the understanding of fire in maintaining Tasmanian plant communities and the patterns of variation in the genus *Eucalyptus*.

It's fair to say that if they were able, these men would join Brad Potts in regarding the Tasmanian bush as their laboratory – and loudly applaud his Clarke Medal award.

UTAS honours former graduates

Three of the University of Tasmania's most distinguished alumni have been honoured for their achievements.

Ophthalmologist Professor David Mackey, engineer John Cruickshank and scientist Jim Reid were acknowledged for their contribution at this year's UTAS Foundation Dinner.

Prof. Mackey was recognised with the Foundation Graduate Award for his work at the Royal Hobart Hospital Eye Clinic and the Centre for Eye Research Australia, through the universities of Tasmania and Melbourne respectively.

He graduated from the UTAS Faculty of Medicine in 1983 and moved into the field of ophthalmology, in particular the genetics of eye disease.

Mr Cruickshank was also recognised as a Distinguished Alumnist. He graduated from the UTAS School of Engineering in 1957 and has since excelled in many professional areas including the manufacture of wood flour, various consultancies, software technology and viticulture.

Mr Cruickshank was president of the Tasmanian University Union in 1950 and is now an honorary life member.



At the Alumni Awards ceremony: UTAS Chancellor Damien Bugg, Prof. Jim Reid (award winner), Elizabeth Daly (Chair of Alumni), Prof. David Mackey (award winner), John Cruickshank (award winner), Chair of Foundation Richard Watson, UTAS Vice-Chancellor Prof. Daryl Le Grew.

Professor Jim Reid was acknowledged as the recipient of the 2007 University of Tasmania Alumni, Distinguished Alumni Award for outstanding service to the University of Tasmania.

Prof. Reid holds a Bachelor of

Science (Honours), awarded 1972, a Doctor of Philosophy, awarded 1977 and a Doctor of Science, awarded 1995, and was named inaugural Distinguished Professor in 2008.

University Foundation chair Richard Watson said both Prof.

Mackey and Mr Cruickshank had shown true leadership and reached the top of their respective fields of expertise.

"Professor Mackey is now Australia's most eminent genetic ophthalmologist, with an extremely high international profile.

"Mr Cruickshank is also internationally recognised. Since graduating from UTAS, he has expanded his interests and talents to such a successful degree that he must surely rank as one of our brightest and most entrepreneurial graduates," he said.

Chair of the Alumni Elizabeth Daly said that Prof. Reid had brought UTAS great honour through his outstanding teaching, research and administrative abilities, his national and international research collaborations, and through his tireless representation of UTAS in a variety of forums.

"Jim is recognised as being amongst the foremost in his academic discipline of plant science,

Ophthalmologist Professor David Mackey, engineer John Cruickshank and scientist Jim Reid were acknowledged for their contribution at this year's UTAS Foundation Dinner.

particularly in eucalypt genetics. His research has attracted an impressive record of professional awards, including the prestigious David Syme Research Medal," she said.

"Since winning his first Academic Research Council grant in 1976, he has succeeded in winning continuous ARC funding – an outstanding achievement for any researcher. He is regularly invited to give keynote addresses at conferences in Asia, North America and Europe."

Landmark building nears completion

BY SIMONE YEMM

Workers on the new UTAS Medical Sciences building in Hobart will fit its unique curved windows into place this month in a complicated manoeuvre certain to add to the building's landmark characteristics.

The \$58m five-storey building on the corner of Liverpool and Campbell Streets is on track for completion in late November and will include state-of-the-art laboratories with new technology and equipment not previously seen in Tasmania.

Funded by the University of Tasmania, the Tasmanian and Australian governments and the United States-based philanthropic organisation Atlantic Philanthropies, the building will house the Menzies Research Institute, the School of Medicine and the Executive of the Faculty of Health Science.

The five concrete floor levels and the level six rooftop plantroom are now complete, with roofing. The facade glazing is 50 per cent complete.

Inside, the fit-out is steadily

The building will house the Menzies Research Institute, the School of Medicine and the Executive of the Faculty of Health Science.



Moving right along: The new UTAS Medical Sciences building in Hobart is on track for completion by November.

moving along with ceilings and plasterboard installed through to level three of the building.

Staff and students are looking forward to occupying the new building at the end of the year.

View the latest progress of the building via webcam at: http://www.healthsci.utas.edu.au/location/livefeed/live_feed.html

My PhD



Ian Edmondson

Faculty of Education

Exploring meaningful student participation

I wish they could ask us what we want and then make the teachers' votes worth 1, and ours 10.

— Student comment

In Tasmania most government school building projects are completed within tight time frames and limited budgets; there is little historical evidence of involvement of teachers and students in the planning and design process.

Ian Edmondson, a teacher within the Faculty of Education with a background in environmental design and education, was approached by leaders of a run-down middle school who had identified a desperate need to improve their physical environment. This collaborative effort allowed Ian to engage in participatory action research, primarily to help generate the case for funding.

During this process there was a particular emphasis on facilitating opportunities for students and their teachers to explore their school environment, engage in research and visit other schools.

"This way students built useful knowledge and understanding about the design of spaces, resulting in greater capacity to contribute to design improvements of their own school environment," Ian said.

More significantly, their concerns, needs, desires and aspirations for a better physical environment were heard. Their responses indicated deep thinking about their capacity to effect long-term change and their place within a learning organisation.

Furthermore, data exposed an under-explored relationship between physical space and the influence that spatial arrangement and quality might have on participants' sense of wellbeing and their place in the organisation.

From the positional perspective of an 'insider', Ian's PhD thesis is examining the underbelly of organisational dynamics within this project, and the influence this might have on participation.

"Considering this involves a group of students at a pivotal stage of their educational and social development, the study raises questions about the status of adolescents and other users of spaces, and reveals how organisational structures and processes can either marginalise or enable voice," Ian said.

He hopes the study findings, while limited to one highly complex case, will ultimately lead to improvements in the way schools consider and enact participatory approaches in relation to architectural redevelopments.

UTAS books



The Queen's Other Realms: The Crown and Its Legacy in Australia, Canada and New Zealand

Emeritus Professor Peter Boyce, UTAS School of Government (The Federation Press, 2008)

This book traces the long and sometimes subtle process of localising monarchy in the vice-regal office from the mid-twentieth century onwards, and compares the powers and functions of the Queen's surrogates with each other and with those of the monarch herself, including their recourse to the so-called "reserve powers".

The author's underlying loyalties are neither firmly monarchist nor firmly republican. But he believes that several factors in the Westminster-derived systems of Australia, Canada and New Zealand make it difficult for governors-general to fulfil key roles.

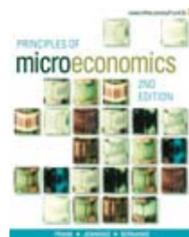


Regulating International Business

Edited by Peter Carroll, UTAS Faculty of Business, and Richard Eccleston, UTAS School of Government (Pearson Education, 2008)

This book looks at the issues, institutions and players involved in both national and international business regulation. It contains case studies in eight key policy areas to highlight the diverse range of regulatory responses and to demonstrate the significance of the unique institutions and players in specific arenas.

Success in business conducted worldwide depends on being commercially competitive as well as understanding the political and regulatory contexts in which firms operate. This easy-to-read book equips students with a clear understanding of the regulatory issues and institutions that they will inevitably encounter during their professional lives.



Principles of Microeconomics (2nd edition)

Robert Frank, Cornell University, Ben Bernanke, US Federal Reserve, and Sarah Jennings, UTAS School of Economics (McGraw Hill, 2008)

Principles of Microeconomics encourages students to see economics as a way of thinking about problems and of analysing choice. Core economic principles are introduced through simple examples, which are repeated and reinforced with illustrations, exercises and features. It deliberately avoids an encyclopaedic approach. The text is selective rather than exhaustive in its methodology. It adopts a slightly more analytical perspective to the study of economics, which challenges students to think critically while applying core economic principles to each scenario.



Media and Journalism: New Approaches to Theory and Practice

Jason Bainbridge, Nicola Goc and Liz Tynan, UTAS School of English, Journalism and European Languages (Oxford University Press, 2008)

This is the first book to bring together theory and practice from both media and journalism perspectives and reflects the innovative journalism, media and communications course established at UTAS. The course is now in its 10th year. All three writers were members of staff during the planning of this text, so it really is a reflection of the program at UTAS. So far seven universities have adopted the book, which is a wonderful commendation for the UTAS program.

Renata's furniture purrrrs



Renata Carmichael's furniture will be shown in Sydney and Melbourne in the Design Now! exhibition. (Below) Emerging designer Renata Carmichael.

Funky furniture based on stylised animal forms created by a UTAS fine arts honours graduate has been selected for Australia's only touring exhibition of student design, Design Now!

Renata Carmichael was chosen from 200 entries to be one of 18 finalists from Australian universities whose work, from furniture and fashion to architecture and animation, will feature at Sydney's Object Gallery until June and at the Melbourne Museum from August.

Of the 18, the joint winners of the Object Award for Creative Innovation valued at \$2500 were Michael Anderson from the University of Technology Sydney and Anthony Hamilton Smith from RMIT University.

Object Gallery's director Steven Pozel



'My work is inspired by animals and the way they move. The toughest challenge is to make sure the animals don't look static and lifeless – and making the wood do what I want.'

– Renata Carmichael

said the exhibition honours the year's most outstanding contributions from design graduates all over Australia and is a launching pad for young designers.

"This year's finalists show strong tendencies towards sustainable design and humour – two necessities in today's climate," he said.

Renata's *Animals in Furniture* collection

is made from block-laminated MDF wood panelling. The collection's chair uses steam-bent laminations carved back and sanded smooth.

"My work is inspired by animals and the way they move," she said.

"The toughest challenge is to make sure the animals don't look static and lifeless – and making the wood do what I want."

Design Now! features three pieces of work in six categories: built environment, the body, communication, studio production, the home and industry.

The work



Biggles

This sculpture has been exhibited at the Academy Gallery, Launceston, as *Project Four: Another Memory*, which continues artist Malcom Bywaters' research study into the home, hearth and domestic space.

Malcom said, "It relates to a flight I took as a seven-year-old in a Tiger Moth bi-plane that landed in the top paddock of our family farm at the base of the Grampians mountain range.

"The memory has always stayed with me as a positive reminder of my early home life and the importance of family. As the fourth in the series it has been wonderful to show the students and staff of the Academy the other side of my life as a practising visual artist."

Artist Malcom Bywaters (born 1964, Hamilton, Victoria) is currently director of the Academy Gallery at the UTAS Academy of the Arts at Inveresk.

Another of his plane sculptures was unveiled recently at Scotch Oakburn College in Launceston. That sculpture is made of cardboard and suspended high above the new Middle School atrium.

Malcom has recently been a consultant for the Australia Council, curating the exhibition *KP11: Key Producers*, which will be exhibited at the Academy Gallery in August 2010 as part of the National Regional Arts Conference.

What's on

LECTURES/SEMINARS

14 MAY
Australian Maritime College
Vulnerability assessment of the Tasmanian Rock Lobster to climate change

Speaker: Dr Greta Pecl, Research Fellow, Tasmanian Agriculture and Fisheries Institute.

Venue: Rm G83, Swanson Building, AMC Time: 12 noon Information: Dr Melissa Nursey-Bray, 0437 738 635

15 MAY
School of Sociology and Social Work

Three angles on social inclusion in contexts of neighbourhood disadvantage

Speaker: Dr Deborah Warr, Centre for the Study of Health and Society, University of Melbourne.

All welcome – no charge. Venue: Rm 319, Arts Building, Hobart campus Time: 3pm Information: Rowland Atkinson, (03) 6226 7604

29 MAY
School of Sociology and Social Work

Housing agencies' role in preparing and responding to natural disasters and emergencies

Speakers: Assoc. Prof. Keith Jacobs (School of Sociology and Social Work, UTAS) and Dr Stewart Williams (School of Geography, UTAS). All welcome – no charge. Venue: Rm 319, Arts Building, Hobart campus Time: 3pm

Information: Rowland Atkinson, (03) 6226 7604

MUSIC

20 MAY
Conservatorium of Music
Lunchtime Recital Series

Venue: Conservatorium Recital Hall, 5 Sandy Bay Road, Hobart Time: 1.10pm Tickets: Entry to all lunchtime recitals is by gold coin donation. Information: (03) 6226 7306

22 MAY
Conservatorium of Music
Ensemble in Residence: Southern Cross Soloists

Venue: Conservatorium Recital Hall 5 Sandy Bay Road, Hobart Time: 7.30pm

Tickets: \$30 adults, \$20 concession Information: (03) 6226 7306

23 MAY
Conservatorium of Music
Conservatorium Big Band

Alistair Dobson, leader. Featuring the compositions and arrangements of Bill Reddie, Sonny Rollins, Paul Simon, Oliver Nelson, Kelly Ottaway and Slide Hampton.

Venue: Conservatorium Recital Hall, 5 Sandy Bay Road, Hobart Time: 7.30pm Tickets: \$15 adults, \$10 concession Information: (03) 6226 7306

For a complete list of, or to contribute to, *What's on/Classifieds*, visit: www.utas.edu.au. Contributions are free but may be edited.

24 MAY
Conservatorium of Music
Conservatorium Concert Choir and Conservatorium Wind Ensemble

Program will be released closer to concert date. Venue: Conservatorium Recital Hall, 5 Sandy Bay Road, Hobart Time: 3pm Tickets: \$10 Information: (03) 6226 7306

27 MAY
Conservatorium of Music
Lunchtime Recital Series: Composition Students

Venue: Conservatorium Recital Hall, 5 Sandy Bay Road, Hobart Time: 1.10pm Tickets: Entry to all lunchtime recitals is by gold coin donation. Information: (03) 6226 7306

05 JUNE
Conservatorium of Music
Southern Gospel Choir

Venue: UTAS Stanley Burbury Theatre, Churchill Avenue, Sandy Bay.

Time: 7.30pm Tickets: \$25 adults, \$15 concession Information: (03) 6226 7306

09 JUNE – 23 JUNE
Conservatorium of Music
Performance Examinations

All performance examinations are open to the public. A full list of dates and times will be published in the last week of May 2009.

Venue: Conservatorium Recital Hall, 5 Sandy Bay Road, Hobart Tickets: Entry by gold coin donation. Information: (03) 6226 7306