Seasont’s Greetings to all from the University of Tasmania

Crayfish for Chrissy – courtesy of UTAS scientists

BY LUKES SCOTT

Queer Christmas and New Year. Australians love their rock lobster on the dining table. In the near future a super market rock lobster may be reared in captivity and either grown on a farm or released back into the wild to boost fisheries stocks. In aquaculture labs all over the world white-coated scientists have their heads down, working flat-out in the race to be the first to propagate rock lobster – and the quiet is biting up.

Associate Professor Stephen Battaglene of the Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies maintains rich rewards await the first successful commercial venture.

“For a long time aquaculture research scientists have worked on three problem animals – bluefin tuna, freshwater eels and rock lobsters. “They’re a significant scientific challenge because all have fragile oceanic larval stages.” UTAS is in the hunt for the rock lobster holy grail; IMAS has a team of 24 scientists and technicians working on it at their Taroona state-of-the-art facility. A quick glimpse through a doorway shows a Jurassic Park-like scene: lab-coated scientists, bubbling glass tanks and strange, purpose-built machinery.

According to Professor Colin Buxton, IMAS led the rock lobster race from the start; the institute was first in Australia to successfully rear southern rock lobsters from eggs in 2004. And in 2006 UTAS scientists reared the faster growing eastern rock lobster, the basis of the NSW fishery and occasionally found in Tasmania. The project is now reliably producing large numbers of juveniles with high survival rates. “Lobsters are the most valuable fishery in Australia,” Prof. Buxton said.

“The fishery access licences have a market capitalisation of around $2.5 billion and the most recent estimate of the annual revenue is $404 million. It’s the second biggest fishery in Tasmania after abalone.”

“But worldwide most rock lobster fisheries are nearly at maximum sustainable yield and that’s where aquaculture comes in – a move designed to increase yield.”

These lobsters grow faster in shallower water and become a richer red, increasing their attractiveness to Asian markets.

“The fact you can increase production through the release of large numbers of small lobsters into unfamiliar habitat augurs well for stock enhancement, the ranching of lobsters and our ability to combat the adverse impacts of climate change,” Prof. Buxton said.

The quest to breed crayfish in captivity: Associate Professor Stephen Battaglene from the UTAS Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies is in the race to put a home-bred rock lobster on our Christmas dinner tables. Here he holds a 1.5 kg, five-year-old lobster bred at the UTAS Taroona laboratories. (Photo by Matthew Newton)

Seasonal award for Launceston campus

BY SARAH NICOL

The UTAS Newnham campus has been recognised as Launceston’s export business of the year at the recent Launceston Chamber of Commerce Business Excellence Awards.

UTAS currently has 968 international students in Launceston, a 16.6% increase between 2009 and 2011. International students contribute over $100 million a year to Tasmania’s economy through university fees and living expenses and these figures are increasing, especially in Launceston, director of international services Paul Rigby said.

“Over a long history of offering higher education to the international marketplace, the brand awareness of Tasmania’s only university is strong,” he said.

International students, from school leavers to professionals and mature-age students, have studied at UTAS for some time, mainly from China, Malaysia and the Middle East. But now there is new interest coming from South East Asia including Thailand and Vietnam, as well as Latin America.

Paul Rigby says this is because of the general perception that Tasmanian cities are relatively safe compared with others, that Tasmania has reasonable fees and low living costs, and that UTAS is a ‘four star’ university, just outside the Group of Eight.

Launceston award for international student boost: Faculty of Business dean Gary O’Donovan and associate lecturer Liz Skiring accept the Launceston Chamber of Commerce award from Edward Sukowski, representing award sponsor the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Community award for Launceston campus

The UTAS Newnham campus has been nominated and shortlisted for the Launceston Chamber of Commerce Community Award for its role in supporting Tasmanian businesses through its graduate career program.

By Luke Scott

Awards presentation night at the Targa restaurant, Launceston.

Seasonal cards by Tasmanian artists

www.menzies.utas.edu.au
Dedicated team looks to students’ Futures

The 2012 UTAS Futures program involved 25 senior secondary schools and colleges across Tasmania, aiming to inform students about study opportunities at UTAS.

Managed through Student Recruitment and Marketing, the Futures program is a collaborative effort involving representatives from all faculties and the Australian Maritime College, as well as accommodation services, Jane Franklin Hall and staff from the scholarships office.

UTAS director of marketing, Jo Bailey, said Futures provides a valuable opportunity for year 11 and 12 students across the state to gain important information to prepare for university.

"For some students, Futures provides the impetus to start thinking about the benefits that university offers," she said.

"Other students already know the direction that they are heading, so the program is about ensuring they are on track with their subject choices, and also finding out more about degree structures, accommodation and scholarships."

The Futures program is a part of the annual recruitment activity for Tasmanian senior secondary schools, and is complemented by application drop-in sessions, a range of parent evenings, and an increasing number of class groups visiting UTAS campuses for workshops, tours and activities.

Jo said the program enjoys strong support from schools across the state – in particular the school career advisors who work closely with UTAS to stage these events – and this allows UTAS to continue encouraging young Tasmanians to further their education.

And while the focus of Futures is on working with school and college partners to inform students, it also has the added benefit of bringing together colleagues from across UTAS. A dedicated team of staff participate in Futures each year and the time ‘on the road’ has fostered strong and supportive relationships, as well as a greater understanding of the broader aspects of the university.
Tears and joy on Christmas Eve with TUMS carollers

By SHARON WEBB

A t the end of World War II the Tasmania University Musical Society, fondly known as TUMS, sang on Christmas Eve at the Hobart Repatriation Hospital to bring some ‘comfort and joy’ to returned hospitalised soldiers recovering from their war injuries. Sixty-five years later TUMS will again visit the repat to celebrate this momentous occasion.

‘TUMS has been a part of the student experience at UTAS for probably over a hundred years...’

Secretary of TUMS, Julia Francis, said the choir would sing on request at the repat this year because the transitional care unit is to be closed in the new year.

“TUMS has been a part of the student experience at UTAS for probably over a hundred years under one name or another,” she said.

“The repat tradition continued on through from World War II to the Korean War and to the Vietnam War. As there were no more returned servicemen to sing to, at some point we expanded the event to include the Royal Hobart Hospital,” she said.

“Past and current choir members arrive at the main foyer of the hospital at 7pm every Christmas Eve, the carol books are handed round and off we set to every ward, including ICU and neo-natal (we sing very softly), led by one or more of the hospital chaplains.”

The experience of hospital carols on Christmas Eve is moving for patients, hospital staff and singers.

“Staff ask to be rostered on when they know we’re coming and patients love it. The hospital regulars who return because of bad health wear tinsel and crazy Christmas jewellery,” Julia said.

“They give us lollies and we have to take turns eating them because you can’t sing and eat lollies at the same time.”

But every Christmas Eve some carollers end the evening in tears at the sad sights they see.

“It’s pretty heavy emotionally for choir members. We go into intensive care and seeing young men on full life support who have been in car accidents, surrounded by their families, is pretty hard,” Julia said.

“One of my sons who’s 14 came for the first time two years ago and ended in tears.

“And normally there’s tears at the neo-natal ward: big men cry when they see tiny babies.”

The Tasmania University Musical Society was previously known as (not necessarily in this order) Tasmania University Glee Club, the University Singers, the University Madrigal Singers, the University Glee Singers and the University Glee Club (this was after WWII). Before then males and females were separate, with the Men’s Glee Club and the Women’s Glee Club, first founded before WWII. The name Tasmania University Musical Society was adopted in 1971.

TUMS singers, mostly current UTAS students or alumni aged 15 to 70 years, are still smiling after two hours of carolling in 2010: Bob Kuns (University of Wyoming), Fiona Zou, Ella Francis (TUMS vice president), Ali Hart, Kate Baker, Bronnli-Andersson, Nicki Burns, Rohan Scott, Rev. Andrea Ward (BRH chaplain), Imogen Paine, Dr. Helen Chisholm, James Francis-Smith, Jonathan Francis-Smith, Josh Deprez (TUMS president), Esther Colbourn, Margaret Eldridge, Rachel McIhery, Owen Phillips, Julian Bush, Taeko Tann, Serena Tann, Claire Reade, Simon Reade, Howard Oettle, Ruth Oettle and three European visitors brought along by the Oettle siblings. NOTE: TUMS secretary Julia Francis is not present as she was taking this photograph.

In conversation

Professor Peter Rathjen

VICE-CHANCELLOR

Leading by example

This month, as more than 3500 of our students celebrate a significant milestone in their lives by graduating from UTAS, another smaller, deliberately-selected cohort of students are marking an additional accomplishment.

These 52 students from across a wide range of academic disciplines, age, culture and gender have completed the UTAS Vice-Chancellor’s Leadership Award.

The university supports this program because we are committed to developing our students as leaders. I was pleased to be able to present certificates to the participants at ceremonies in Hobart and Launceston and was inspired listening to students speak of the tangible outcomes they had achieved.

The award involves a series of seminars, at least 40 hours of volunteer work and the writing of self-reflective pieces on leadership based on personal experience. Students complete the award on top of their academic, employment, family and social commitments.

Universities have always embraced the mission of preparing the leaders of tomorrow, yet leadership is not an attribute that can be learned directly from the curriculum.

A quote attributed to Somerset Maugham sums up the difficulty: “It is well known that there are three rules for creating good leaders, unfortunately no one knows what they are.”

The words of the students at the award ceremonies described some of the insights they gained from their own perspectives. They spoke in particular of personal attributes such as strength of character, work ethic, community awareness, initiative, communication, giving of self, teamwork and problem-solving.

They also described gaining a deeper knowledge of themselves, a level of self-awareness that they will continue to build on over their lives.

As an added outcome, more than 60 Tasmanian organisations also gained from having the students volunteer more than 7000 hours of service during the award programs. Contribution to the community was highlighted by several speakers.

As we as a university develop our next strategic plan, we challenge ourselves to identify what will contribute to our campuses in 10 years’ time. Studying at university is more than the acquisition of information; students do not and will not join us for the sake of curriculum alone.

Breadth of experience, diversity of opportunity and the chance to learn from interactions with peers and others are at the heart of what we provide. In turn these breed the attributes that ensure the next generation of leaders, able to contribute to personal and community advance alike. Their achievements enrich our reputation and our legacy.

I’m not so sure you can do better than that.

Peter Rathjen

Vice-Chancellor

www.utas.edu.au/vc
Up close

Elsa Gartner
Program support officer, estuaries program, Institute of Marine and Antarctic Science

My job...
Helping researchers with project management, including communicating and publicising their science, organising workshops and assisting in project documentation and finances. I started the job just a month ago.

I enjoy...
The new challenge of working in an area I barely knew a few months ago and the opportunity to learn new things every day.

Before UTAS...
I studied terrestrial ecology and biodiversity management at the Université des Sciences et Techniques de Montpellier in France, my home country. This allowed me to start a career in natural reserve management and promotion, with an emphasis on botany and GIS (geographical information systems). Before I came to Australia I studied the urban flora of Santiago de Chile – an amazing and challenging experience.

In my spare time...
I’m concentrating on settling down but I definitely want to explore Tasmania over the next few years to experience this marvellous island. I would like to understand the amazing endemic flora properly. I also love to spend time with friends having a good chat around a barbecue.

Reading...
A short history about nearly everything by Bill Bryson, an interesting look about the creation and evolution of Earth, scientific discoveries and scientists’ bad moods.

Listening to...
I spent the last five years of my life in Latin America, so obviously listening to cumbia, samba and other Latin music is part of my daily routine. It’s just perfect for dancing!

To relax...
I like to have a coffee early in the morning while sitting alone in the sun, listening to my favourite French radio station.

Passionate about...
Learning languages, botany, dancing…

Future goals...
At the moment, professionally, I want to improve my skills within my current role as well as improving my GIS skills; personally, I would love to find a nice little house to live in with my husband and settle down at last.

Identity push for Indigenous Australians

BY SARAH NICOL

IN TWO RECENT PUBLIC lectures at utas, Aborigi
ginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Com
missioner Mick Gooda said recognition and un
derstanding of Indigenous Australian identity could be a powerful tool in achieving reconciliation.
Mick is a descendant of the Gangulu people of central Queensland and spoke in Hobart and Burnie as part of the James Martineau Memorial Lecture on the topic The Power of Identity: Naming Oneself, Reclaiming Community.
Recently Mick has been pushing for the formal recogni
tion of Indigenous Australians in the Australian Constitution.
“The Australian Constitution has been referred to as
our nation’s birth certificate’ and as ‘defining our legal universe,’ he said.

While this is the case for modern Australia, the con
stitution fails to recognise that Australia is home to the oldest continuing cultures in the world and this is something that each and every Australian should be proud of. And be proud to assert as part of the Australian national identity.”

Mick said greater self-determination and understand
ing of Indigenous Australians is important for Indigenous Australians, who have the oldest continuing culture in human history.

“The ability to shape one’s own identity is a powerful act - and a powerful factor in self-determination,” he said.

Quite simply, identity goes to the heart of being human. Its loss – when families are separated, when heritage is neglected – is a denial of our human rights.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people still have lower life expectancy and educational and health outcomes than other Austral
ians.

The lectures were sponsored by the Inglis Clark Centre for Civil Society in the School of Philosophy. Director Dr Natasha Cica said she was delighted Commissioner Gooda spoke at the lectures.

“These lectures aim to inspire debate on moral philosophy and the philosophy of religion. Academics and the general public alike still tend to overlook the distinctive contribution made by Indigenous Australians to these questions.”

The view from here

James Martineau Memorial Lecture: Social Justice Commissioner Mick Gooda discussed the importance of aboriginal identity at UTAS.

‘How hard it is that we have to die’

UTAS journalist SHARON WEBB considers the euthanasia currently practised in Australian hospitals.

There is a secret to life that many philosophis
eres have mentioned but few have trumpeted: just keep going.

When life is trying, the hurdles are too high and things go wrong, getting up the next day and simply placing one foot in front of the other is the key, apparently.

But what if your choice is that there should not be a ‘next day’?

Recently an old lady I know slightly had a stroke at home. At 85, she lived alone and was found unconscious on the floor by her adult children who were concerned when she didn’t answer the phone.

In a coma for a few days, she finally opened her eyes to the joy of those around her. But no matter how much she joked, how much their hope was that she would improve, it was apparent that the brain of this woman who was the same age as the Queen was severely impaired.

She had opened her eyes to a changed world.

From being someone who was fiercely independent, had lived alone since the death of her husband many years ago, had travelled and made a life for herself, she was now dependent on nurses to cater for most of her needs and bodily functions.

She had little use of one side of her body and worse, had lost the use of muscles allowing her to swallow food.

Almost two weeks after the stroke, hospital staff posed the crucial question: Did she want to continue using a feeding tube?

She said yes.

But in the darkness of that night, in the silence of the hospital ward, she must have considered that question:

All alone, she must have thought about whether she wanted to continue ‘placing one foot in front of the other’. And she made a decision.

The next morning nursing staff found she had removed the feeding tube.

She died a few days later – of starvation. It’s what passes these days for euthanasia.

It’s probably happening all around us, since then I’ve found my grandfather died that way.

My first thought was: How uncivilised, having to make a decision to starve to death.

But that’s what our politi
cians’ lack of courage is doing to us.

When a situation like this comes close to home that politicians are teetering around the edges of the euthanasia issue but never jumping into the mix and handling it.

Some want to and have given it a courageous shove but

The fear and indecision of the majority eventually leave us again in limbo. Well, we can always fall back on starvation.

Timor-Leste expert on this, UTAS Professor Margaret Orlowski, summed up the matter in two sad sentences:

“There has been no legisla
tive change in this state or other Australian states although bills are introduced from time to time ranging from legalisation through to decriminalisation in SA. A bill was introduced in Tasmania in 2010 largely based on the earlier Northern Territory model but failed to gain sufficient support.

Undeniably it’s a complex issue – but so are tax legisla
tion, industrial relations and the education system; politicians don’t shy away from those.

Undeniably there are religious principles. Undeniably human greed is a complicat
ning factor.

But people’s good lives are having uncivilised endings.

Johan Sebastian Bach’s morto was Serenity through continuing.

But when continuing is not the best option, we should be able to count on serenity through a quick painless death.

Not starvation.

Drawing by Mark Monnone
**Wild Sight in the Atrium**

BY MERIAN ELLIS

While the future management plan for the Tarkine is still unclear there is no denying the natural beauty of the area, as illustrated in the latest exhibition of photographs at the UTAS Cradle Coast campus.

The Tarkine covers around 4770km² of wilderness in North West Tasmania, the largest tract of cool temperate rainforest in Australia. An Aboriginal heritage assessment of the area has confirmed it as one of the richest and most significant Aboriginal heritage landscapes in Australia.

Artists Jen Evens and Jenny Archer have visited the Tarkine regularly over the past few years and have developed a deep and intuitive understanding of the area. Their personal connection with the wilderness has allowed them to capture its beauty with images conveying love and deep understanding for its uniqueness and significance as a natural resource.

Wild Sight is open until January 2012

---

**Wild Sight**

**Graceful Violet (2010)**

K3 Ultrachrome Epson Ink on Museo Portfolio Rag Paper

Camera: Sony DSLR-A550

Focal length: 50 mm

Speed: 1/6 second

Aperture: f/5.6

---

**Bones (2010)**

K3 Ultrachrome Epson Ink on Museo Portfolio Rag Paper

Camera: Sony DSLR-A550

Focal length: 20 mm

Speed: 1/60 second

Aperture: f/6.3

---

**Delicate Beauty (2011)**

K3 Ultrachrome Epson Ink on Museo Portfolio Rag Paper

Camera: Sony DSLR-A550

Focal length: 105 mm

Speed: 1 second

Aperture: f/4.5

---

The Tarkine coast has rich Aboriginal cultural heritage of over 40,000 years and has the greatest concentration of Aboriginal sites in Australia. It is here that the brave tarkiner women dived beneath the icy waves collecting abalone, crayfish and other crustaceans for their families. History claims that these incredible women could hold their breath for up to 10 minutes.
Grand Chancellor challenge for design students

BY SHARON WEBB

Twelve UTAS interior design students have capped the final year of their degree with a major project to redesign Launceston’s Grand Chancellor Hotel.

Third-year student Alice Dwyer used curved walls and the repetitive, patterned work of Launceston artist and UTAS student Mairi Ward as the basis for her designs.

“I wanted to explore the idea of a dream through the hotel,” she said.

The interior design students showcased their work at an exhibition held last month.

They will graduate as the first-ever UTAS graduates with a Bachelor of Environmental Design (Interior Design) degree, marking the growth of Inveresk’s School of Architecture and Design, which now educates architects, furniture designers and interior designers.

In 2012 a degree for landscape designers will begin.

Making the point that interior design is design of interior space rather than décor, program director Kirsty Máté said the students had redesigned the Grand Chancellor’s foyer and three different types of room, themed around the work of Tasmanian artists.

“We have also designed apartments, restaurants and a light industry area in Launceston’s gasworks building.”

After graduation many of the interior design students will work in interior design or architecture companies nationally or internationally; some may specialise in exhibition designing or work for large corporations.

“Today people are recognising how important design is in the community,” Kirsty said.

“Interior design students have the capacity to think differently and more laterally about a subject.”

Interior design first: Alice Dwyer, pictured with a display of student design work, is one of the first 12 UTAS students to graduate with a Bachelor of Environmental Design (Interior Design) degree this month. (Photo courtesy Examiner)

Rite of passage exhibition: emerging designers hatch

BY SHARON WEBB

Three young UTAS designers recently exhibited their designs in furniture, lighting and tableware as they prepared to graduate with their Bachelor of Environmental Design degrees.

Third-year student at the School of Architecture and Design, Alec Balcombe, said the students see the exhibition, Hatched, held at the Powerhouse Gallery at Inveresk, as a rite of passage as they transition to professional design practice.

“These works are about finding our identities as designers,” he said.

“My tables are about clear lines and a floating aesthetic that places a focus on the table tops.”

Alec’s tables, designed as a work surface but flexible enough to be used anywhere in a home, consist of slim, hollow blackwood veneer tops with folded steel legs triangulating the structure. He is exhibiting a series of tables and a bed.

Nathan Freeman is showing his Lilium range of centrepiece bowls and platters thermo-formed from Corian, an aluminium-based stone used more commonly for kitchen benches.

David Houbaer’s interest is in expanding his knowledge of the use of different materials. His pendant lighting uses porcelain casting and cardboard.

Designers of the future: Alec Balcombe and Dave Houbaer from the School of Architecture and Design with some of their designs in their exhibition, Hatched. (Photo courtesy Examiner)

UTAS dish in the pink: The UTAS radio telescope at Cambridge was lit up bright pink during October to raise awareness of breast cancer. The highly-visible dish is 26m across. This is the first time the UTAS School of Mathematics and Physics has done this and they hope by doing so people will think long and hard about both women and men suffering from breast cancer and what can be done to prevent it. (Photo: Dr Jim Lovell)
The benefits of respite care: to join a new study into how they and the public view pregnant bodies.

She is exploring how media focus on visibly pregnant women’s ‘baby-bumps’ has opened the door to thinking about the ways in which pregnancy is represented visually in popular culture compared with the experiences of everyday women.

‘...Discussion about the pregnancies and post-partum bodies of celebrities like Victoria Beckham and Jessica Alba is now commonplace.’

‘Only 20 years ago pregnancy was a taboo subject in public,’ Dr Nash said.

“My study looks at how it has become an everyday topic in the media and public conversation, and how that affects women. Discussion about the pregnancies and post-partum bodies of celebrities like Victoria Beckham and Jessica Alba is now commonplace.”

But Dr Nash said most Tasmanian women don’t have access to the personal trainers, nannies and nutritionists that allow celebrities to have such control over their post-natal bodies.

“Photographs of tight and polished postpartum celebrity bodies are most likely influencing the diet and fitness regimes of the average Tasmanian woman trying to lose her ‘baby weight’ and are probably influencing women’s self-image.”

“I would like women to use photographs to tell me how they see themselves when they are pregnant; how their pregnant body image differs from their non-pregnant body image,” Dr Nash said.

Dr Nash wants to hear from women between 12–16 weeks pregnant who agree to be interviewed three times during their pregnancy and once after the birth of their baby.

Participants would also be asked to take digital photographs of themselves and their lives during and after pregnancy (camera provided). Interviews will consist of questions regarding the photographs they take each month, pregnant bodies, and motherhood.

“...Our fossil-fuel dependent economy is yet another extension of our dependence on combustion,” Dr Balch said.

“All these phases still occur today. Natural fires occurring regardless of humans; Tame fire used by hunter-gatherers to manage landscapes for game and wild food production; Agricultural fire for clearing land, growing food and burning fallow; Industrial fire powering modern societies that switched from using living to fossilised plants as fuel.”

The researchers’ analysis recognises four ‘fire phases’:

1. Natural fires occurring regardless of humans;
2. Tame fire used by hunter-gatherers to manage landscapes for game and wild food production;
3. Agricultural fire for clearing land, growing food and burning fallow;
4. Industrial fire powering modern societies that switched from using living to fossilised plants as fuel.

By Cherrie Cooper

The benefits of respite care for carers are clear but a new research project focuses on what carers think their loved ones get out of respite care.

The UTAS Wicking Dementia Research and Education Centre is working in partnership with Glenview Community Services to conduct the Bisdee Project.

The project has been inspired by the programs and services currently being run at Bisdee House, a stand-alone wing at Glenview in Glenorchy. The current Bisdee House program has been operating for three years offering respite care for carers of older people.

Project chief investigator and honorary research associate of the Wicking Centre, Dr Christine Stirling, said much research examined the benefits of respite for carers but this innovative research will survey carers to find out what carers believe are the benefits to their loved ones.

Wicking’s Dr Sharon Andrews said it’s hoped that results from the project can help older people to stay in their own homes for longer.

Andrew Wilkie MHR launched the Bisdee Project.

Andrew, a strong supporter of Glenview, said most people want to live in their own homes for as long as is practicable.

“We expect the results of this project will be of great benefit over time.”

The CEO of Glenview Lucy O’Flaherty, said: “If we can find ways to improve the lives of older people and their carers, and help to de-stigmatising the role of respite care it will be a very worthwhile project.”

Researching baby bump body image

New project to focus on the benefits of respite care: The Wicking Centre’s Dr Christine Stirling (left) and Dr Sharon Andrews (right) discuss the new Bisdee Project with the CEO of Glenview, Lucy O’Flaherty.

Helping those who help others

Our complex relationship with fire

Professor David Bowman from the School of Plant Science is the lead author of a new paper in the Journal of Biogeography offering an historical framework for considering the relationship between people and fire.

He is working with 18 international researchers at the National Centre for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis at the University of Santa Barbara USA. He said the historical framework is key to planning for future fire risk and understanding the role of fire in natural ecosystems: “This study presents a critical assessment of the diversity of human uses of fire, from tamed landscape fire to agricultural fire to industrial fire.”

Postdoctoral associate Dr. Jennifer Balch from the national centre and second author on the paper said human use and misuse of fire has been so prevalent in our evolutionary history that we’ve forgotten how dominant a force fire really is.

The researchers’ analysis recognises four ‘fire phases’:

1. Natural fires occurring regardless of humans;
2. Tame fire used by hunter-gatherers to manage landscapes for game and wild food production;
3. Agricultural fire for clearing land, growing food and burning fallow;
4. Industrial fire powering modern societies that switched from using living to fossilised plants as fuel.

All these phases still occur today. However, the problem is that the excessive combustion of fossil fuels is driving climate change.

“Our fossil-fuel dependent economy is yet another extension of our dependence on combustion,” Dr Balch said.

“The result of massive dependence on this one use of fire may ultimately overwhelm human capacities to control landscape fire, given more extreme heatwaves and more production of fuels.”
Derby Day ‘helmet’ a winner for Jess

BY SARAH NICOL

Fashion on the Field is a long way from the Mt Pleasant soil laboratory but PhD candidate Jess Coad is excelling in both.

Jess is currently finishing research in a Dairy Australia-funded project on phosphorus in soil but last month took a week off to compete in the Fashions on the Field for Melbourne’s Derby Day, the Melbourne Cup and the Crown Oaks.

She won the Derby Day Women’s Racewear competition against 140 other competitors wearing what media described as “a flouncy mid-call Stanfor and Theodore black dress high-lighted with self-crafted copper belt”. Her “unusual helmet-style hat, made of knitted copper wire and electrical wire” was designed by Burnie milliner Susan McArthur and she accessorised her dress with a belt and clutch shed she made herself.

Out of the dirt for Fashions on the Field: UTAS Agricultural Science soil researcher Jess Coad took time off her PhD to win the fashion stakes on Derby Day.

The judges told her she’d won the event because her outfit’s contemporary edge was “forward-thinking.”

This is the third time she has participated but first time she’s won.

Jess said her colleagues were often surprised to hear she’d entered a fashion competition.

“Today I’m back in the lab working on soil; it’s pretty different,” she said.

“It’s nice to get dressed up and be quite feminine... and by the same token it’s nice to come home and be a normal person again.”

Students raise funds for disabled people

BY EMMA KELLAWAY

UTAS entrepreneurship students have raised $1500 for COSMOS, a not-for-profit organisation that helps people with disabilities to participate in recreation, leisure and learning activities in community based settings.

Dr Colin Jones’ entrepreneurship students are taught to challenge the status quo.

“Entrepreneurship is a mindset,” Dr Jones said.

“It really is a way about thinking about the world, being alert to opportunities, having the confidence to try and pursue them and understand the resource challenges of trying to do something.”

Jia Ming Li, Mona Sharbat Maleki, Hannah McDonald, Catherine Viney, Angela Haley, Rachel Hennessy, Amy Willows, Stacey Cornish and Olivia Wilson-Gorman ran a project raising $1500 for COSMOS.

The judges told her she’d won the event because her outfit’s contemporary edge was “forward-thinking.”

The judges told her she’d won the event because her outfit’s contemporary edge was “forward-thinking.”

This is the third time she has participated but first time she’s won.

Jess said her colleagues were often surprised to hear she’d entered a fashion competition.

“Today I’m back in the lab working on soil; it’s pretty different,” she said.

“It’s nice to get dressed up and be quite feminine... and by the same token it’s nice to come home and be a normal person again.”

The judges told her she’d won the event because her outfit’s contemporary edge was “forward-thinking.”

This is the third time she has participated but first time she’s won.

Jess said her colleagues were often surprised to hear she’d entered a fashion competition.

“Today I’m back in the lab working on soil; it’s pretty different,” she said.

“It’s nice to get dressed up and be quite feminine... and by the same token it’s nice to come home and be a normal person again.”

For their assessment the students were given the challenge of running an event where they needed to rely on other people’s resources. They decided on a 1920s-themed cocktail party at the Ivory Bar in Hobart and a silent auction.

Group leader Rachel Hennessy said that the night was a rewarding experience.

“Planning it was a great experience for all of us and it gave us a chance to put to use the skills we have learned over the past two years through studying entrepreneurship.”

The judges told her she’d won the event because her outfit’s contemporary edge was “forward-thinking.”

This is the third time she has participated but first time she’s won.

Jess said her colleagues were often surprised to hear she’d entered a fashion competition.

“Today I’m back in the lab working on soil; it’s pretty different,” she said.

“It’s nice to get dressed up and be quite feminine... and by the same token it’s nice to come home and be a normal person again.”

For their assessment the students were given the challenge of running an event where they needed to rely on other people’s resources. They decided on a 1920s-themed cocktail party at the Ivory Bar in Hobart and a silent auction.

Group leader Rachel Hennessy said that the night was a rewarding experience.

“Planning it was a great experience for all of us and it gave us a chance to put to use the skills we have learned over the past two years through studying entrepreneurship.”

The judges told her she’d won the event because her outfit’s contemporary edge was “forward-thinking.”

This is the third time she has participated but first time she’s won.

Jess said her colleagues were often surprised to hear she’d entered a fashion competition.

“Today I’m back in the lab working on soil; it’s pretty different,” she said.

“It’s nice to get dressed up and be quite feminine... and by the same token it’s nice to come home and be a normal person again.”

For their assessment the students were given the challenge of running an event where they needed to rely on other people’s resources. They decided on a 1920s-themed cocktail party at the Ivory Bar in Hobart and a silent auction.

Group leader Rachel Hennessy said that the night was a rewarding experience.

“Planning it was a great experience for all of us and it gave us a chance to put to use the skills we have learned over the past two years through studying entrepreneurship.”

The judges told her she’d won the event because her outfit’s contemporary edge was “forward-thinking.”

This is the third time she has participated but first time she’s won.

Jess said her colleagues were often surprised to hear she’d entered a fashion competition.

“Today I’m back in the lab working on soil; it’s pretty different,” she said.

“It’s nice to get dressed up and be quite feminine... and by the same token it’s nice to come home and be a normal person again.”

For their assessment the students were given the challenge of running an event where they needed to rely on other people’s resources. They decided on a 1920s-themed cocktail party at the Ivory Bar in Hobart and a silent auction.

Group leader Rachel Hennessy said that the night was a rewarding experience.

“Planning it was a great experience for all of us and it gave us a chance to put to use the skills we have learned over the past two years through studying entrepreneurship.”

The judges told her she’d won the event because her outfit’s contemporary edge was “forward-thinking.”

This is the third time she has participated but first time she’s won.

Jess said her colleagues were often surprised to hear she’d entered a fashion competition.

“Today I’m back in the lab working on soil; it’s pretty different,” she said.

“It’s nice to get dressed up and be quite feminine... and by the same token it’s nice to come home and be a normal person again.”
Oceanography study for Rhodes Scholar

By Cherie Cooper

Bachelor of Science honours graduate Edward Doddridge has been awarded the 2012 Rhodes Scholarship for Tasmania.

The 25-year-old applied mathematics expert from Hobart also speaks German and next October he will travel to the UK so he can begin his scholarship at Oxford University.

Edward will study physical oceanography, modelling ocean dynamics and currents – "an exciting and useful application for maths," he said.

Edward has volunteered with the State Emergency Service and the Tasmanian Sail Training Association enjoying bushwalking, hockey, kayaking and mountain-bike riding, reading and travelling.

Edward will study physical oceanography, modelling ocean dynamics and currents – "an exciting and useful application for maths," he said.

The Tasmanian Arts Advisory Board met at the UTAS Cradle Coast campus in October.

UTAS TAAB members at the meeting included Clayton Hawkins, Lucy Frost (literature); Nicki Fletcher (community cultural development); Andrew Legg (music); and Damian Bugg, advisory board chair.

Scientists collaborate worldwide to check out marine life

By Sarah Nicol

The Australian component of the international Census of Marine Life, chaired by Professor Nic Bax of the Centre for Marine Science and IMAS, has been awarded the 2011 International Cosmos Prize for excellence in researching relationships between living organisms.

Ten years of research and exploration by 2700 scientists from 80 countries has culminated in the discovery of 6000 potentially new species and a greater understanding of life beneath the waves.

The Australian team identified information on 33,000 data-based species and a further 17,000 which were awaiting names – the highest of any national/regional group.

Prof. Bax said that at a rough estimate, Australia potentially may have 250,000 marine species, excluding microbes.

"This is a reflection of Australia’s mega-diverse status and our history of productive taxonomists," he said.

Census results were reported in more than 2600 papers, 34 books and 40 reports. The Australian results launch was at Parliament House in August.

But Prof. Bax said it also created a community of scientists working together to monitor marine life. It was one of the largest scientific collaborations of all time.

"The Census of Marine Life led to an unprecedented international collaboration among marine scientists. It is the kind of international initiative that will be required as scientists develop the technology and capacity to monitor the global biological marine environment at a similar level to that already achieved for the global physical marine environment."

Prof. Bax has recently returned from Aberdeen, where he and Dr Graham Edgar (also from IMAS) and Tim Moltman (director of the Integrated Marine Observing System hosted at UTAS) attended a planning meeting for a proposed sequel to the census, Life in a Changing Ocean.
Business leaders share success skills

Two inspirational business leaders recently described their experiences in leadership and key business success factors in Masters of Business Lectures at the UTAS Cradle Coast campus.

**Graeme Wood**, chairman of the Elphinstone Pty Ltd/William Adams group, and the founder of Ashgrove Cheese, Jane Bennett, emphasised clear vision and decision making as major factors in their business success.

Dale Elphinstone's businesses have a turnover of around $12.2 billion a year, employing more than 2000 people.

"I often get asked how we make all this happen from a small regional centre like Burnie," he said.

"It is a matter of identifying opportunities, and employing people with passion. If you get a large enough group of people with the passion to make something happen, there is nothing that can stop that going ahead."

Dale identified some key factors in successful leadership:

- "You need to have a clear vision and mission that is up there on the wall for all your employees to see every day.
- "It is important to surround yourself with people who are passionate about what they are doing and you have to look after them, keep them involved with your plans, lead by example, keep your word, and retain integrity at all times," he said.

Jane Bennett stepped down as managing director of Ashgrove Cheese this year after 18 years in the family business. In recognition of her role at Ashgrove and contribution to regional development Jane was awarded the 1997 Australian Rural Woman of the Year and named 2010 Tasmanian Telstra Business Woman of the Year.

She believes good leadership is about choices and decision making.

"I had no goal, plan or ambition to become a cheesemaker and it took my father six months to convince me it was a good career option. I finally realised that I needed to step out of my comfort zone and give it a go," she said.

Jane studied dairy technology at the Gilbert Chandler Campus of the Victorian College of Agriculture and Horticulture in Werribee.

"When I finished I decided I needed to find out more from the experts. So I worked with leading UK farmhouse cheesemakers to learn about small-scale cheese-making. I wanted to get experience working for other people, to see how they ran their business," Ms Bennett explained.

"When I came home I was ready to put my ideas into action and found my personality fitted comfortably in the entrepreneurial space rather than in a rigid management structure. I believe there is no such word as ‘can’t’, and I always look for solutions, not problems."

Clear vision and decision making for business success: Dale Elphinstone (left) and Jane Bennett (right), with director of the Institute of Regional Development Janele Allison, spoke about the key to business success at Cradle Coast lectures.

Where are the female tradies?

"We will be attempting to find out what proportion of the building and construction workforce is female and how many women are in the various professions and trades," she said.

Dr Alessandri said the research would also look at understanding whether there might be an economic impera-
tive to increasing female participation in the building and construction industry.

"And if there are barriers to increasing participation in the industry, we’d like to find out about those too."

I am also interested in finding out if there is a level of ‘hidden’ female employment in the industry – for example, are women doing unpaid adminis-
tration work in partnerships or small businesses?"

Executive director of the training board Simon Cocker said it was important to find out why there were not more women in the building and construction workforce.

“While we are now seeing some females entering the traditionally male trades, it really is still more of a trickle than a flood."

“These days there is no reason at all why women should not see building and construc-
tion as a very promising career," he said.

“We are keen to do all that we can to attract more women to the industry.”

Dr Alessandri is looking for female participants working in the building and construction industry for this research project who do paid work or help out in a small business. Participants will be asked to undertake a survey or be interviewed. All participants will be eligible to win a Coles / Myer shopping spree of $500. To participate, please contact (03) 6226 2363 or email M.Alessandri@utas.edu.au

**Wotif founder donates two million to Menzies II**

ONE OF AUSTRALIA’S leading online entre-
trepreneurs has pledged $2 million towards the cost of the second stage of the UTAS Menzies Research Institute.

The founder of the travel website wotif.com, Graeme Wood, announced the donation in response to a challenge grant from The Atlantic Philanthropies, the foundation established by the Irish-American philanthropist Chuck Feeny.

The $58-million first stage of Menzies was opened in 2009. Atlantic was a major contribu-
tor to that project with a $7.5 million gift.

The second stage of Menzies will cost an estimated $90 million, with the Commonwealth Government contributing $45 million via the Health and Hospitals Fund, the University of Tasmania $15 million, with Atlantic Philanthropies committing $10m already matched by $10m from the State Government.

The challenge from Atlantic is for the university, with Atlantic’s support, to raise an additional $5 million from Australian philanthropists, with the State Government promising to match up to another $5 million on a dollar-for-dollar basis.

Stage II will transform the site into a com-
prehensive medical research precinct with a world-class biomedical and clinical research facility: A six-storey lecture building with a 250-seat lecture theatre and a basement car park, it will allow Menzies to accommodate 500 staff and research students, a 40 per cent increase on current numbers.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Peter Rathjen welcomed Mr Wood’s donation.

Mr Wood said: “I’m proud to be supporting world-class medical research through this project. Stage II of Menzies is important as it will add to the vibrancy of the strong medical and scientific research community that already exists in Tasmania.”

Hard yakka: In this day and age, there’s no reason why women shouldn’t see building and construction as a career choice.

**BY MERIAN ELLIS**

IT IS WIDELY RECOGNISED that the Australian building and construction industry is largely male-dominated.

But by how much? And what might be stopping female participation in this industry?

A new research project at UTAS aims to find out.

Dr Megan Alessandri, from the UTAS School of Government, is leading the project which is being conducted for the Tasmanian Building and Construction Industry Training Board.
Revealing women’s convict stain

Telling the stories of convict women’s lives:
Editor Professor Lucy Frost says she likes to see the book as a collaboration between university and community researchers.

BY SHARON WEBB

They were mostly thieves, the women who spent time at the Ross Female Factory in Tasmania’s colonial days.

Like many women convicts people such as Bridget Lee, a sheep stealer from County Clare, or pickpocket Julia Rigby had been transported to Tasmania for repeated thieving.

And when they got here they stole again and were sent to a female factory in Hobart, Ross, Launceston or George-town for punishment and hiring out for work.

Emeritus Professor Lucy Frost has edited a new book on the lives of individuals who followed this pattern, Convict Lives at the Ross Female Factory.

Screwtoman Helen Leslie was described as ‘depraved and dishonest’ and became a drunk. She also had pierced ears and from the dull housework she was allotted, yearned for the excitement of life in downtown Glasgow.

Limerick’s Margaret O’Meara, ‘promiscuous and turbulent’, fell in love while on a ticket of leave and left her husband and two small boys for another.

And the conduct record of Liverpool’s Amelia McCabe stated that she had been ‘nine times in prison before for stealing and lived two years by thieving’ and was ‘on the town’.

These days the Ross Female Factory is virtually an empty field: it’s difficult to visualise how women lived, were punished, worked and had babies there, except for some interpretation by Tasmania’s Parks and Wildlife Department.

But this book takes readers into the lives of these struggling, poor, thieving, sometimes drunken and often pregnant women.

According to Prof. Frost, after publishing a book on women of the Cascades Female Factory in Hobart that research group wanted to write a book to add to the Ross experience.

“It’s part of the larger picture of getting the female story told,” she said. “The Port Arthur male convict story is well-told; we’re trying to do the same for women.”

The writers of Convict Lives are academics and university students but others have no connection with the university: independent historians and people with convict ancestors.

“I like to see it as a collaboration between university and community researchers,” Prof. Frost said. “They are attracted to different stories to tell, and their interests and research skills develop along the way.

A huge advantage with this book is that it includes background sections on the history of the Ross Female Factory, in staff, how it functioned and how the women and children survived there.

Reading about women put into isolation for misdemeanors or controlled in the muster yard for looking over by prospective employers, I went again and again to the book’s floor plan illustration to picture exactly where in the walled compound these women would have been located.

Convict Lives helps readers standing on that hillside over the hill from the near sandstone buildings of Ross to absorb some of the feelings of isolation and emptiness these English and Irish convict women experienced in this foreign environment.


My PhD

The sixty-somethings are surprisingly good... –

Do women think that getting older is a good or bad fact of life? And do women in their late teens and twenties think about ageing in the same way as women in their forties or nineties? Jane Henriette, PhD candidate in the School of Sociology and Social Work, wants to find out.

“The key to my approach is in seeing ageing as a lifelong process, not an isolated segment towards the end of life. So, I’m considering how the experiences and understandings of ageing shape who we are throughout life,” she said.

Jane is studying women aged 18 years onwards and is interested in how women think and feel about getting older or ageing, and how it affects them throughout their lives. Of particular interest is how it impacts on their bodies, how they see themselves (their identity) and the impact it has on their personal life.

“Our ideas of ageing start in childhood, and shape how we think about ourselves. I’m interested in whether these ideas change throughout our adult lives, and affect how we live our lives,” she said.

“The key to my approach is in seeing ageing as a lifelong process, not an isolated segment towards the end of life.

The study will focus on women specifically.

“Although there are similarities between men’s and women’s experiences of ageing, including the pressure that we all experience of being expected to stay youthful for as long as possible, there are also some important differences,” she said.

“Such as what is considered acceptable behaviour, bodily appearance and dress for women of different ages. Or how we can still feel we are important and visible members of society as we start to show signs of ageing. Many women talk of becoming invisible as they get older.”

Women will be given journals to fill out for four weeks and afterwards, Jane will conduct a short interview.

She already has enough women in the 35-45 age group but needs participants from 18 to 34 and over 46. If you are interested in participating, please contact Jane by emailing jane.henriette@utas.edu.au or calling (03) 6226 2950.

A warm red room with thousands of books, uncomfortable chairs, carpets and reading lamps: it sounds like a bookworm’s dream.

Dr Brigit Ozolins, from the UTAS Tasmanian School of Art, made this dream come true with her installation The Reading Room.

“The Reading Room incorporates around 30,000 books and a video of more than 100 Tasmanians from all walks of life reading a passage from their favourite book. Visitors were able to walk into the room, browse and be filmed reading amidst the exhibition. A voracious reader herself, Dr Ozolins was inspired by the adventurous literature on her father’s bookshelf she discovered as a child.

“I started reading Virginia Woolf’s ‘The Waves’ as a 13-year-old and I was just flabbergasted by the experimental writing,” she said.

“My father’s library really introduced me to possibilities and breadth of writing,” Dr Ozolins said on the red walls above the books in The Reading Room there was a code made from convex mirrors that spelt out: ‘It is below, so it is above.’ It’s an ancient text which forms the basis of a lot of religious and esoteric beliefs.

“One of the key ideas behind The Reading Room is that our identity is shaped by the books that we read – in turn, the books we read reflect the society in which we live.”

Dr Ozolins said the final days of the exhibition at the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery into a fundraiser for the Indigenous Literacy Foundation. On the final weekend of the installation the books were made available for sale to the public for a gold coin donation, with the proceeds going to the foundation. Hundreds of people came to take away a piece of The Reading Room, turning the artwork into a giant public book stall.

“It was an honour to be able to donate to such a worthy organisation,” Dr Ozolins said.

If you missed The Reading Room you can still enjoy it online. Visit: http://brigitaozolins.com/thereadingroom/.