Rare conifers return to their origins

BY MICHELLE NICHOLS

A unique collection of rare and endangered conifers will become an arboretum on Tasmania’s West Coast.

Since many of the plants collected over 12 years by Dr Tim Brodribb from the UTAS School of Plant Science risk becoming pot-bound in their current locations at the University and Tasmania’s Botanical Gardens, Dr Brodribb has selected Williamsford at the base of Mount Read to establish an arboretum.

It’s one of the wettest locations in Tasmania, an area where fossil records suggest conifers thrived around 40 million years ago.

In the northern hemisphere conifers thrive in the extreme cold while in the south, the highest diversity is found in the tropics. Conifers help scientists understand how climate and plants interact over all timescales, from contemporary to geological.

“The collection includes scarce seeds from 12 plants collected a decade ago from Viti Levu in Fiji,” Dr Brodribb said.

“For my PhD on the evolution of conifers I needed an extensive sample of conifer material from around the world looking at their photosynthetic and water transport systems and I collected a lot of living material,” Dr Brodribb said.

His collection is currently stored in the glasshouses near the School of Plant Science at the UTAS Sandy Bay campus and at the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens but he is running out of space.

Dr Brodribb started searching for a place to plant them several years ago.

“The land must be wet and he believes the two hectares selected near Mount Read is perfect; located at what was once the site of the mining town of Williamsford.”

After Dr Brodribb applied to the Crown Lands Office the proposal to buy the Crown land was supported by the West Coast Council and should be approved later this year.

“Fossil records suggest conifers were in this area or nearby around 40 million years ago. It’s appropriate that these types of conifers used to grow here and will now return,” he said.

Volunteers and UTAS students will help plant out the arboretum out; it will take more than a year to get it established and growing.

“I want to plant the material under a canopy of Nothofagus (myrtle beech) trees to simulate natural forest regeneration,” Dr Brodribb said.

“The arboretum will be a research and conservation tool; many people already use the collection and the arboretum will be a place where the conifers can grow and be studied.”

Plea for forests wins Commonwealth photography award

UTAS Fine Arts student, Lewis Jarrett, has won bronze in the Royal Commonwealth Society Photographic Award in the UK.

His photo, Quintessence, is about the effect of old-growth logging on society.

“Quintessence is intended to be social commentary on the logging of old-growth forests situation which gives a somewhat realistic perspective on the dilemma.

“I aimed to reveal different angles of opinion: for example the workers are merely doing their jobs, whether they approve of their actions is irrelevant, at the end of the day they are able to put food on the table,” Lewis said.

“Ultimately the purpose of Quintessence is to conclude that the current system that is in place urgently needs correction before old-growth forests are eradicated altogether.”

Lewis attended the gala event in London to collect his award and was the only winner from the Pacific region. He also won a bronze in the Australian Commonwealth Photographic competition.

The Royal Commonwealth Society Photographic Awards are open to young people in all Commonwealth countries.

Applications for 2011 are now open >> www.utas.edu.au
Tasmanian devil project grants

Applications are now open for grants and scholarships under the Save the Tasmanian Devil Program. The program is the largest single species conservation program in Australia, and its research and management programs are significant world-class collaborations between the Tasmanian Government, the University of Tasmania and other leading research institutions. The closing date for applications for this round is 15 November 2010, and for the first round for next year the closing date will be 30 May 2011. The grants and scholarships are provided through public donations received through the Save the Tasmanian Devil Appeal via the Tasmanian Devil Research Advisory Committee, and include the Dr Eric Guiler Tasmanian Devil Research Grant, the Dr Eric Guiler Tasmanian Devil Honours Scholarship, and the Tasmanian Devil Elite Scholarship. Application forms and further information are available at www.utas.edu.au/foundation/devil/grants-and-scholarships.

New project to restore dry agricultural landscapes

Greening Australia and UTAS have begun a project to help restore dry agricultural landscapes and conserve biodiversity in Tasmania. The project is titled, ‘Biodiverse landscapes for sustainable agriculture’, and will determine how soil can be restored. The plants and trees will be monitored over time to determine carbon storage. It is hoped that this research will also help identify ways to improve agricultural productivity. The project is funded by the Tasmanian Government and the Australian Research Council.

Tasmanian Law Reform Institute to review Criminal Code

The Tasmanian Law Reform Institute will undertake a review of some sections of the Criminal Code in relation to child sex offences. The Tasmanian Government has requested the review as a result of a 12-year-old girl prostituted by her mother and family acquaintance. Professor Kate Warner, director of the institute, will oversee the review which will consider the need to protect young persons for sexual exploitation and the rights of the accused. The institute will also review the publication of information that could lead to the identification of children. An issues paper will be released in early 2011 and the Final report will be due for release in mid-2011.

Riding to make a difference

By Cherie Cooper

Rain or shine, Corey Peterson is committed to taking two legs or two wheels to work each day.

Employed at the University for five months as the new Sustainability Officer, Corey has yet to drive his car to work; he lives within a 30-minute walk or 15-minute bike ride.

His aim is to increase awareness and show other UTAS staff members it is possible to use sustainable transport that not only does good for the environment but is good for health.

“Riding to work gives me the jump-start to the day and I’m invigorated at work,” Corey said. “Not only does it save you money but once you start it becomes routine.

“Even hills that seem daunting become easier.

“And you will certainly sleep better at night.”

On national Ride to Work Day the Active UTAS program, Unigym, the TUIU and the Sustainability Section of UTAS encouraged staff and students to get active and Ride to Work.

There were free breakfasts at the Newnham and Sandy Bay unigyms and coordinated meeting points in Launceston and Hobart for riders to meet and ride together to UTAS.

Active UTAS also conducts lunchtime Heart Foundation walks; staff and students are encouraged to join. For further details visit the Active UTAS website: http://www.utas.edu.au/active-utas/active-launceston

UTAS Sustainability Officer Corey Peterson has ridden to work almost every day for five months.

For information about the fitness options available at UTAS, see the Unigym website: http://www.unigym.com.au/

On campus

A toast to the central mall redevelopment

The completion of the Central Mall Redevelopment Project was celebrated last month with a sausage sizzle, a performance by the UTAS Conservatorium of Music’s latin band – and an official toast from the filtered-water drinking fountain by UTAS Vice-Chancellor, Professor Daryl Le Grew.

The landscape project at the Sandy Bay campus complements the Morris Miller Library refurbishment, and also provides disability access to the upper part of the mall.

Other highlights of the redevelopment include power points in seats for students to use laptops, energy-efficient lighting, public place recycling bins and a filtered-water drinking fountain and water bottle filling stations, the first of three to be installed across the campuses.
Time for school leaders to take the lead

BY SHARON WEBB

The ‘new managerialism’ in schools has failed, leading to school principals being required to be managers instead of educational leaders, a UTAS academic told educators in his inaugural professorial lecture last month.

Professor Neil Cranston, professor of educational leadership and curriculum in the Faculty of Education, said many principals reported being too tied up in responding to management and accountability demands to engage in real strategic leadership in their schools and communities.

And he said there is real danger in focusing only on the literacy and numeracy goals of the Federal Government’s NAPLAN (National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy), testing to the exclusion of other educational goals, especially social skills.

“NAPLAN has its place, but an obsession with it is crazy,” Prof. Cranston said.

He called on school leaders to take back control of the education agenda.

“In a new era of professional responsibility for school leaders, they, the school leaders, should be leading debates about the purposes of schooling and about whose responsibilities it is for and on schools, and hence school leaders, are intensifying.

“Schools now operate in a period of rapid and unpredictable change – times of discontinuity where the past does not necessarily prepare one for the future. For example, the late educator Hedley Bears noted that Australia has now been through six decades of education restructuring.

“Many current school leaders moved into their roles when life in schools was more certain, predictable and straightforward. With the impending impact of baby boomer retirements, we need to look carefully at nurturing our next-generation school leaders.

“Schools operate predominantly under externally imposed corporate managerialist agendas, mainly imported from the business world, such as strategic planning and external accountabilities. Recent developments see schools charged with achieving improvements on student learning determined largely by externally imposed testing regimes such as NAPLAN.

“In brief, in the real world management aspects swamp leadership aspects – strategic, curriculum and people leadership,” Prof. Cranston said.

“The environment of constant changes and uncertainty results in a sense of powerlessness and loss of control.”

Prof. Cranston said leadership is fraught with complexities and challenges.

“I believe there is a need for school leaders to be actively engaged, deeply involved in their profession and to start to reshape, reconceptualise and lead it for the future.

“The profession can drive and lead the journey to a new place and state for school leadership and hence for education.”

Prof. Cranston joined academia 12 years ago. He dedicated his inaugural lecture to his father, who would have been just over 90 years old. Commenting on the lecture, the Dean of Education, Professor Ian Hay, described Prof. Cranston as “a world scholar in an area historically not well-researched”.

Celebrating our golden girls

BY JANETTE BRENNAN

The University of Tasmania has celebrated the lives of three centenarian UTAS alumni with a special morning tea hosted by Vice-Chancellor Professor Daryl Le Grew.

Mrs Jessie Luckman, Ms Evelyn (Eve) Masterman, and Mrs Nancy Weaver graduated from UTAS in the 1930s and are all life members of the Hobart Walking Club. All three women are at least 100 years young.

Prof. Le Grew told the gathering at the Sandy Bay campus that the University has grown dramatically since Jessie, Nancy and Eve were students at Domain House.

“Today UTAS has tens of thousands of students,” Prof. Le Grew said, “and that delights me because it means there’s a greater chance of seeing even more Tasmanians like the three of you.

Nancy Weaver graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in 1932, and fondly remembers attending classes at Domain House “the lovely old house,” as she calls it.

Jessie Luckman became a noted concert pianist with the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra after completing her Arts Degree in 1939. She was also one of Tasmania’s first “bushwalking conservationists”, long before that description became fashionable.

Eve Masterman completed her Bachelor of Arts at UTAS in 1933, and more recently was inducted on the Tasmanian Honour Roll of Women, for service to Human Rights. At the age of 103, she still lives happily alone in her Hobart home.

100 years young: Mrs Jessie Luckman, Ms Eve Masterman and Mrs Nancy Weaver all graduated from UTAS in the 1930s, and are life members of the Hobart Walking Club. (Photo by Sean Fennessy)
Sue Napier scholarships

**The Legacy of Northern Tasmanian political stalwart Sue Napier has been recognised, with the establishment of an education scholarship program in her memory.** The State Government recently announced the founding of the Sue Napier Scholarship in Education, which will benefit two Faculty of Education students at the University of Tasmania each year. Dean of the Faculty of Education Professor Ian Hay said Ms Napier had always been a prominent advocate of education and had enjoyed a strong relationship with the University of Tasmania. Ms Napier served as a lecturer at the Faculty of Education before she entered politics in 1992.

**Research volunteers: Naida Field and Irmgard Raitzer took on weight training and Ruth Cuff of Bridport braved a chilli diet for science.**

**Research volunteers: Anne Young and Kath Currie ate chicke peas for three months to contribute to Dr Jane Pittaway’s research.**

**Research volunteers: David Searle and Diane Oliver exercised and ate chickee peas for research.**

“arived at the university before breakfast, exercised, had breakfast there and three hours later I was off.”

Naida Field from Newstead and Irmgard Raitzer of Lilydale joined research involving them doing five months of weight training and stretching; they were amazed at the weight the women in their group were able to lift towards the end of the project.

“That experience changed the lifestyles those women,” said Dr Pittaway.

“Most joined a gym after the project; I joined a fitness group at Lilydale High school.”

Ruth Cuff was so keen on joining Dr Kiran Ahuja’s research on the benefits of chilli that she drove from Bridport to Launceston many times to be involved.

“I like to feel I’m doing something to help the sciences,” she said.

**Volunteers bond over chickpeas and chilli**

**BY SHARON WEBB**

June Hazelwood needed to take a break from chickpeas after eating them for three months as part of Dr Jane Pittaway’s research in the School of Human Life Sciences.

“I won’t say publicly what they did to me,” she laughed, “but I’m back on them now.”

June joined around 60 people at an afternoon tea at Newnham recently, held to thank the many people across northern Tasmania who happily volunteered to be guinea pigs for research.

The great majority of volunteers are in the older age group, their motivation is wanting to help the sciences, to do something worthwhile.

But there are some unexpected side effects.

Diane Oliver from River- side ended up converting her husband to the never-ending diet of chickpeas, buying double the recipe amounts so he could suffer with her.

Kath Currie and fellow former Beaconsfield District Health Service nurse Anne Young bonded over curried chicke peas for months, having joined the research group out of curiosity. Then they found they came from the same village in Scotland.

“Now my husband loves chickpeas too and he’s fasci- nated to see what the results of the research are,” Kath said.

“The experience has made me more focused on my health.”

Charles Piper of Launces- ton and David Searle of Burnie took advantage of the gym time offered by UTAS research into lung capacity and weight manag- ement.

“It wasn’t a chore,” Charles said.

**Summer school for uni greenhorns**

**BY LUKE SCOTT**

If you’re heading to uni- versity next year but have been out of the study loop for a while, a special summer school program could be for you.

New students enrolled in 2011 are being offered a helping hand to ensure a smooth transition into university life through UTAS College’s University Preparation Program Summer School.

The summer school is aimed at helping adult learners into university study by ensuring they have the skills required to succeed before the first semester gets under way.

UTAS College academic director, Associate Professor Anna Langworthy, said the pilot program last year had been a pleasing success.

“ ”But it does require com- mitment because it is an intense course. The students who took part in last year’s pilot were able to achieve good results that they would not have been able to achieve had they not done the program.”

Former University Prepara- tion Program participant and first-year Bachelor of Educa- tion student Chris Hill, of Mowbray, said attending Janu- ary’s pilot program had been a huge benefit to him.

“I’m 34 years old and I was scared to get back into study,” Mr Hill said.

“I was told about the course and I thought it sounded all right so I went along. It was really good. It took the rust out. It got me used to the aca- demic lifestyle of reading and thinking outside the box again.”

“Having the opportunity of getting used to the surround- ings, not being stressed and feeling at home with the place was a huge plus.”

The program this year is two-tiered – a computer course to be held over two weekends in December followed by a broader three-week course in January focusing on research- ing and writing essays, manag- ing study schedules, working in a group, using the library, note taking and other skills necessary for university-level study.

The University Prepara- tion Program is being offered at the University of Tasmania’s Hobart, Launceston and Cradle Coast campuses and enrolments are open now.

For University Preparation Program inquiries statewide, contact UPP.

ph: (03) 6244 3714.
All in the family for art prize

BY SHARON WEBB

When young artists are asked to paint a portrait of a living Tasmanian who is important to them, it’s fascinating to see who they choose. Singers, actors, artists, politicians?

Interestingly, many of the artists in the RACT Insurance Tasmanian Youth Portraiture Prize, which has been on show at the Cradle Coast Campus and is now at the NEW Gallery at Newnham, chose family members as their subjects.

The winner of the $5000 prize was UTAS architecture student Ash Bodell, who chose her younger sister Sophie as the subject for her entry, Elsewhere. The criterion for the prize is that entrants be Tasmanians under 30 years old. The judges commented that the top five portraits captured the spirit of their subjects as well as the likeness.

(Left) Ashley Bodell, Elsewhere: A portrait of my little sister, Sophie. Bored, weary, deep in contemplation or simply off with the fairies; truth be told no one knows and no one ever will. Despite her vacant expression, the gaze of her big, blue, enchanting eyes is engaging and somewhat personal. I think everyone has had this feeling at one stage or another and can identify with the feeling of being neither here nor there, but simply ... elsewhere.

(Below) Michael Blake, He ain’t heavy: My brother John is a young man who is far too talented and intelligent for the job he does. He left home when he was 17 because no other feasible option presented itself. You can’t quite see the chip on his shoulder in this picture but it’s there. He probably drinks and smokes too much. He is older than me by three years and taller than me by an inch. I weigh five kilos more than he, and I’m sitting on the fence at the ‘underweight’ end of the BMI scale. So he sure isn’t heavy, but he is my brother.

(Below) Elissa Davies, Jill Wescombe: This painting is based on a photograph of my grandmother (Grandma) taken during her nursing days in the early 1960s. Grandma was born in Burnie, Tasmania, in 1945. She has been married for 46 years and has four children. During my childhood I spent time at the farm where Grandma grew up. In her eyes, one can see that the light shows characteristics of mischief and the ability to have fun and explore. She is a caring person who has touched the lives of many through her ability to relate, teach and nurture.

(Below) Teshia Kelly, My Uncle Jub: My portrait is of my uncle Justin. He has distinctive eyes and had lost his mum to cancer a few years before this shot. I tried to capture the sadness in his eyes and his intensity. He was going through the 80s punk stage and had dyed some of his hair. I like to work with space in my portraits as I feel they can tell just as much if not filled in completely. Some of my previous pictures trail off and I like this effect. I am proud of this painting and gave it to my mum for Christmas.

(Above) Aaron Hutchins, Vincent: My grandfather, if you ever meet him, will tell you stories from his past as if you were flicking through his personal photo album. He is an interesting character with old-world charm, an infectious sense of humour and an obsessive desire to improve everything that is not up to his high standard. His stories tell of all his experiences, which can be seen in every facet of his face, from his sun-damaged cheeks to his rich frown lines. I have tried to capture the essence of the man; however, I have come up with a mere glimpse of his character.

(Above, left) Matt Cottrell, Tania: This is a portrait of my mother, Tania. In searching for a way to accurately represent her I experienced the complex and multilayered exchange between mother and son occurring inside my head. I found her to be the catalyst for many things in me. Her presence extended into my symbolic and even cultural vocabulary, and I noticed that she is indexical of a vast range of thoughts and feelings. I found that her most profound presence, to me, was routed in sentiment. In paying attention to feelings over conscious thoughts “Tania” then began to morph into shapes, colours and symbols, and she assumed multiple visual dimensions happening, in my mind, at different times and places.

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Australian first in climate projections

Tasmania's most important source of climate change data at a local scale has been released.

Dr Tony Press is the CEO of the Antarctic Climate and Ecosystems Cooperative Research Centre (ACE CRC), which is based at the University of Tasmania. An Australian first, the report's fine-scale climate modelling gives Tasmania the jump on the rest of Australia (and most of the world) in having realistic climate change projections to inform decisions about the future at a local scale.

Among the report's findings:

- Tasmania's temperature is projected to rise by about 2.9 degrees Celsius under high greenhouse gas emissions.
- A significant increase in pan evaporation of up to 19% is projected, which is likely to impact on aspects of water availability. The increase in evaporation is greater in the north and west, and lower in the south and east.
- Australian first, the report's projected 2.9 degrees Celsius under low greenhouse gas emissions. This is less than the projected global average temperature rise.
- There will be a steadily emerging pattern of increased rainfall over the coastal regions, and reduced rainfall over central Tasmania, but there is no significant change in the projected total annual rainfall for the state as a whole.

The importance of the Climate Futures for Tasmania project, and the community networks to get on the front foot facing climate change

The time series figures: The time series from 1900 to 2100 shows the Tasmanian mean temperature from observed records to the present (green), the simulated temperature for the high emissions scenario (black) and the low emissions scenario (green).

The CEO of the ACE CRC, Dr Tony Press, said the information from the research has found both winners and losers of climate change will be much harder to know that Tasmania will become more suitable for growing shiraz, the central and north-western parts of Tasmania should become the centre-piece of plans to adapt to climate change. They will provide a climate service to governments and the community in a similar way that weather forecasts do. Regular re-analyses and projections can then be made to take into account new information or improved modelling to refine our view of the future. Adapting to climate change will be much harder without this.

From conception, Climate Futures for Tasmania was designed to understand and integrate the impacts of climate change on Tasmania's weather, water catchments, agriculture and climate extremes. In the course of the project more than twice the amount of data that was used by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change to model global climate was processed to model changes to the Tasmanian climate.

In setting up the project a great deal of effort was put into discussing ‘end-users’ what they wanted to know about climate change in their area of business, and what climate variables were important to them. The results of these discussions and ongoing dialogue between the scientists and the community mean that the Climate Futures for Tasmania project will, from this point on, provide a series of specific reports covering diverse subjects such as impacts on agriculture, extreme tide and sea-level events; severe wind and water and catchments, impacts on tide and sea-level events, severe wind hazards, and extreme events.

The results of the scientific modelling will be presented in a way that can be used to guide future decisions for specific areas of the Tasmanian economy. The CEO of the ACE CRC, Dr Tony Press, said the information from the reports allowed for judgments to be made about managing the impacts of climate change over this century, and the investments required in adaptation and mitigation.

Tasmania on the front foot facing climate change

Dr Tony Press says Tasmania will warm less than the global average but climate change will still bring changes.

About major infrastructure investment or the course of agricultural development must be informed by well-researched projections of future climate. That is the reality confronting all governments and communities.

Studies like Climate Futures for Tasmania should become the centrepiece of plans to adapt to climate change, with its geographical location and maritime environment, is expected to warm less than the global average, and less than that projected for mainland Australia. And the regional changes projected for Tasmania mean that some areas will become more suitable for crops that cannot be grown at present. Lovers of Australian hearties may be pleased to know that Tasmania will become more suitable for growing shiraz, and less for pinot noir. This doesn’t mean that there won’t be downsides: for example, the general increase in temperature and loss of rainfall in the central and north-western parts of Tasmania has implications across the economy, from farming and agriculture to power generation.

The views from here

Dr Tony Press is the CEO of the Antarctic Climate and Ecosystems Cooperative Research Centre.
First national course in timber production and building

Tasmania launches a national-first graduate certificate course.

The Graduate Certificate in Timber (Processing and Building) will be offered at the School of Architecture and Design in Launceston. As it is an online course it is accessible for students all over Australia. Associate Professor Gregory Nolan for the UTAS Centre for Sustainable Architecture with Wood (CSAW) said: “Sustainability is a catchword at the moment, but it is sometimes difficult to understand what the term really means in practice. In this complex area, industry needs to know how issues and concepts of sustainability influence how timber is used and sold.”

To provide some workable answers for the timber production and component industry, CSAW has brought together experts in the practical and theoretical side of sustainability to share their knowledge and skill. They will deal with the key concepts of sustainability, their day-to-day implications and the prospects of marketing timber's sustainability in business.

Full-day master classes will be run in Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane this month as part of the new timber education and skills course.

Titled “Timber and Sustainability: Concepts and Marketing”, the classes are about timber, its sustainability and the contribution timber and wood products can make to a sustainable built environment. They are tailored specifically for businesses that produce, supply or sell timber and timber components to the construction industry.

UTAS Centre for Sustainable Architecture with Wood (CSAW) Director, Associate Professor Gregory Nolan said: “Sustainability is a catchword at the moment, but it is sometimes difficult to understand what the term really means in practice. In this complex area, industry needs to know how issues and concepts of sustainability influence how timber is used and sold.”

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“IT focuses strongly on the requirements of sustainable construction and production practice, especially practice relevant to Australian conditions, and highlights major international technologies and developments,” he said.

“As timber production and construction is often based in regional areas a long way from universities, this online course is flexibly structured. It can be completed part-time from work, home or anywhere with an internet connection.”

The new graduate certificate’s units cover:

- Origin and characteristics of timber;
- Timber in building construction;
- Timber and durability in exposed applications;
- Board processing – hardwood and softwood;
- Engineered wood products.

Applicants for the new certificate are required to have a relevant degree or an acceptable combination of training and relevant industry experience. This provides a career pathway for non-degree holders active in industry.

For more information prospective students should contact the University of Tasmania’s School of Architecture and Design, ph. (03) 6324 4488 or email enquiries@arch.utas.edu.au

Piece by piece: Students from Marrara Christian College’s trade training centre assemble the flat-pack home in Darwin last month.

UTAS designs flat-pack homes for Darwin

BY LUKE SCOTT

The Australian home of the future could arrive by post according to UTAS Centre for Sustainable Architecture (CSAW) director Associate Professor Gregory Nolan.

Prof. Nolan said prefabricated timber homes were in demand in isolated locations, or areas where skilled labour was in short supply. But there was also potential for prefabricated homes to become commonplace in the Australian residential housing market in the future.

CSAW recently partnered with Australian softwood producer Carter Holt Harvey to develop a ‘flat-pack home’ which was erected in Darwin earlier this month.

While it might be too big to be shipped by regular mail, Prof. Nolan said the Darwin prototype could be transported in a standard shipping container.

Prof. Nolan said he expected the kit home – which he compared to flat-pack furniture from IKEA – would also generate interest from the mining industry.

"Over the past two years we have been doing work with indigenous and remote area communities in the Northern Territory to look at ways in which they can use wood to solve housing issues," Prof. Nolan said.

"At the same time we have been working with industry colleagues to develop a panel system that can be manufactured in a central location, whether that be Canberra or Darwin – and then deployed to more remote areas."

Prof. Nolan said the Darwin prototype had been erected on site at Marrara Christian College in three days without the use of skilled labour or heavy machinery.

"There is no reason why a lot of domestic construction in Australia can't move this way," he said.

"Internationally we see more and more of a trend towards prefabrication."

"It is becoming more attractive to both major builders in suburban areas as well as remote areas. Moving things into a factory allows you to ensure quality as well as delivery without having to cope with site conditions."

The development of the prefabricated timber home follows a similar CSAW industry partnership last year to build homes for the Gumatj community in Arnhem Land.

Marrara Christian College business manager Richard Hart said the two-bedroom kit home would be used as a caretaker’s cottage.

"However, the real benefit to us is the training opportunities it has offered our Year 11 and 12 students at our trade training centre in putting it together," he said.

"So much good learning takes place during a project like this, and we are looking at doing a four-bedroom model next," Prof. Nolan said the prefabricated building had been built to withstand the Northern Territory’s extreme weather conditions – including tropical cyclones – and that it would "not come apart easily."

It was even guaranteed to withstand termite attack. "It will probably be there for another 60 years," he said.
Two distinguished academics have been recognised for their excellence and contribution to the University of Tasmania at the recent 2010 Celebration of Excellence Awards.

Distinguished law academic, Professor Don Chalmers was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal and Professor Paul Haddad has received the Medal for Research Excellence.

A total of 14 awards and medals presented at the Stanley Burbury Theatre celebrate excellence in research and teaching across the breadth and diversity of the university.

Professor Daryl Le Grew, said the awards recognise the significant contribution made by all 14 recipients who continue to strive for excellence.

“These awards recognise the passion and commitment of our research and teaching staff across all campuses,” he said.

“They showcase our commitment to providing high-quality research and teaching to benefit our students and the whole community.”

“The calibre of our staff and their expertise drives the university’s reputation at a local, national and international level.”

The inaugural winner of the Medal for Research Excellence, Professor Paul Haddad, established the Australian Centre for Research on Separation Science, now known as ACROSS, in 2001.

Under his leadership, ACROSS has developed an outstanding reputation and is known for its team-based research, cooperation and collaboration.

In addition, Professor Haddad has had 476 career publication outputs and attracted over $18m in funding grants.

Professor Don Chalmers was Dean of the Faculty of Law from 1985–1987 and 1999–2009. He has played a pivotal role in raising the faculty’s research profile, increasing postgraduate enrolments, attracting funding and introducing flexible approaches to teaching.

‘The calibre of our staff and their expertise drives the university’s reputation at a local, national and international level.’
Simulated heart attacks key to innovation

BY CECILIA CHIU

When a delegate at a conference in France has a heart attack all eyes are on the speed and efficacy of the response. So it was recently when the School of Nursing and Midwifery’s simulation specialists Nigel Chong and Angela McKay recently delivered a 90-minute workshop at the national SimTecT Health 2010 Simulation Conference in Melbourne.

During the opening of the workshop, to the surprise of the participants, Simmy, the UTAS human simulator, had a cardiac arrest.

Midwifery, along with Glen Williams of Calvary Health-care North, to educate nurses and other health professionals to identify deteriorating patients.

Nigel, manager of simulation for the school said, “We delivered a unique style of workshop, which was fully interactive for all those who attended.”

“We used our Laerdal 3G human simulator known as Simmy to highlight that clinical simulation is delivered in any setting to meet the learning objectives of the participants,”

The workshop focused on the innovative approach in in-situ simulation developed by the School of Nursing and Midwifery, along with Glen Williams of Calvary Health-care North, to educate nurses and other health professionals to identify deteriorating patients.

“During the workshop, the Simmy the human simulator, had a cardiac arrest.”

According to Nigel, manager of simulation for the school, “We delivered a unique style of workshop, which was fully interactive for all those who attended.”

“The workshop focused on the innovative approach in in-situ simulation developed by the School of Nursing and Midwifery, along with Glen Williams of Calvary Health-care North, to educate nurses and other health professionals to identify deteriorating patients.”

UTAS in situ simulation a conference winner: Simulation specialists Angela McKay and Nigel Chong with Sim Man 3G.

Environmental issues feature at Interpol conference in France

The Tasmanian flag was proudly on show at the 7th International Conference on Environmental Crime hosted by Interpol in Lyon, France.

Internationally recognised UTAS academic, Professor Rob White, head of the School of Sociology and Social Work, was the only academic invited to address over 200 senior officials from environmental law enforcement agencies, inter-government agencies and large NGOs such as Greenpeace.

Professor White presented on the topic of eco-global criminology, horizon scanning and inter-agency collaboration. It is a subject he is passionate about, having just recently put the final touches to his new book, ‘Transnational environmental crimes: Toward an eco-global criminology’, to be published in April 2011.

His presentation gave an Australian perspective on environmental harm – ecological effects, questions of justice, the need for strong collaborative partnerships between countries and agencies and greater emphasis on criminal justice institutions valuing environmental harm.

“It was a fabulous learning experience for everyone concerned, yet there is still so much that collectively we need to do,” Prof. White said.

Interpol is the world’s largest international police organisation, with 188 member countries. Created in 1923, it facilitates cross-border police cooperation, and supports and assists all organisations, authorities and services whose mission is to prevent or combat international crime.

The conference looked at a number of different aspects of environmental crime in relation to wildlife, pollution, illegal logging, over-exploitation of fisheries, bio-security, and misuse of protected areas and theft of natural resources. It is organised by Interpol, which has a particular interest in wildlife crimes and pollution offences.

“What came through loud and clear at this conference was that we need more resources in the area of environmental law and enforcement, and better collaboration with a whole range of agencies including governments and NGOs. NGO law enforcement agencies are doing a lot of good work out there and you don’t hear enough about it,” Prof. White said.

“Protecting the environment cannot rely just on goodwill, it needs resources and expertise.”

Interpol conference:

‘Interpol is the world’s largest international police organisation, with 188 member countries.’

In Brief

Gold print awards

Joanne Hanusiewicz, from the UTAS School of Medicine and UTAS graduate Katie Hepper, now of creative agency Red Jelly, were recently awarded a prestigious gold PICa Award, the Students Award – any concept design ready for print production, for the exhibition catalogue of last year’s GREENMACHINES event. The PICa Awards are the 2010 Tasmanian Printing Industries Craftsmanship Awards. The pair spent a week in June 2009 documenting the GREENMACHINES art program, run by the School of Art for secondary students. The catalogue was designed to be strong, durable and interactive, through the use of thick paper and the creation of the central ‘Flip Book’ for students to interact with. The resulting catalogue is bold, vibrant and playful, reflecting the atmosphere of workshops and the week’s activities.

“The pair said it was vital to capture the energy of the week and create a book that would itself be an art object that would continue on after the program had finished.”

Royal Society of Tasmania Awards for 2011

Nominations are now open for the 2011 Royal Society of Tasmania Awards. The awards recognise the work of distinguished scholars who have made an important contribution to culture in Tasmania. This year, two awards will be presented: the Doctoral Award and the Clive Lord Memorial Medal. The Doctoral Award is presented to an individual who has completed a PhD in the past three years and who has made significant advances during this research. It carries a certificate and a cheque for $1000. The Clive Lord Memorial Medal is presented every three years to an individual who has conducted research in Tasmanian science or history. The Royal Society of Tasmania supports the advancement of knowledge. It was established in 1843 and is the oldest Royal Society outside the United Kingdom. For further information on the awards, visit www.rst.org.au. Nominations for the Doctoral Award close on 19 November 2010.

New line up for TUU

Saleh Bintalib has been elected the new president of the Tasmanian University Union for 2011. Mr Bintalib’s key priorities as president will be to lower the cost of living for students, particularly around transport costs, and to build a more socially inclusive community on campus. Also elected to the TUU were Elise Jenkins (Vice President South), Peter Nicholson (Vice President North), Tom O’Malley (Vice President Cradle Coast) and Harry Rolf (Post Graduate President). By-elections will be held this month to fill remaining positions on the board.

Place and Experience Poetry Prize 2010 winners announced

The UTAS School of Philosophy has announced the winners of the Place and Experience Poetry Prize 2010. The poetry competition sought to hear from aspiring poets Australia-wide about their experience of place. The first prize of $1500 was awarded to Jillian Pattinson (Vic), for her poem The Still Point. Highly commended were With the Bank by Kevin Gillman (WA), Flight by Andy Kissane (NSW) and How to Dive in Kelp Forest by Susan Fealey (Vic). Gillman, Kissane and Fealey each receive a prize of $250. The competition attracted more than 260 entries nationally. The competition was sponsored by the UTAS School of Philosophy, the Utahs Society of Geography and Environmental Studies, Island magazine, Fullers Bookshop and the Tasmanian Writers’ Centre.

‘The competition attracted more than 260 entries nationally.’
Keeping the mental health of Business in Mind

BY CHERIE COOPER

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e all know work can be stressful, but if you own and run your own business, it can be really tough. A unique research project based at UTAS aims to help. The Business in Mind project focuses on mental health in the small to medium enterprise (SME) sector. It was recently launched in Hobart and Launceston to coincide with Mental Health Week. Business in Mind, which is co-founded by beyondblue, Workcover Tasmania and an Australian Research Council Linkage Grant, also has the support of the Tasmanian Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The project will provide workshops with an innovative DVD and resource kit which helps owners and managers to:

- Recognise the signs and symptoms of depression and anxiety in themselves and their employees;
- Manage mental health issues in the workplace;
- Learn skills that could help prevent such stress at work and in life generally.

The DVD features interviews with mental health and business experts and a range of owners and managers discussing the mental health challenges they have faced in their businesses, and how to manage them.

Business in Mind: Clare Shann, Deputy CEO of beyondblue and project leader Dr Angela Martin, UTAS School of Management, say the project aims to help small to medium businesses and their staff deal with mental health issues in the workplace.

The project includes workshops and printed resources for business owners and managers. Participants so that no business feels it is being asked to reveal its specific business issues will be kept confidential.

The DVD also features interviews with mental health professionals and employee representatives from various business sectors. Interviews are aimed at showing how others are handling the mental health challenges of the workplace.

Census check on Tassie’s innovative businesses

BY CHERIE COOPER

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he Australian Innovation Research Centre (AIRC) is keen to find out which Tasmanian businesses are innovating and how they are doing it. The AIRC, an independent research centre at UTAS, recently launched the second Tasmanian Innovation Census.

The 2010 survey of the innovative activities of Tasmanian businesses (with five or more employees) was conducted in 2007 and showed 79% of Tasmanian businesses innovate. Examples of innovation in business include computerising business processes, implementing new marketing methods and training staff in the use of innovative technologies and software.

The Tasmanian Innovation Census is the only source of innovation data for all business sectors in Tasmania and the AIRC would like all Tassies businesses to consider participating.

The AIRC researchers will use the results to identify changes in the innovative activities and capabilities of the Tasmanian business sector since 2007. Professor of Innovation at the AIRC, Anthony Arundel, said businesses must innovate to create or enter new markets and to improve productivity.

Innovative activities are crucial to the Tasmanian economy and consequently to the living standards of all Tasmanians,” Prof. Arundel said.

The results of both the 2007 and 2010 surveys will help regional, state and national governments design and implement better policies to support innovation by Tasmanian businesses and strengthen the Tasmanian economy.

The 2010 survey includes new questions on internet use, skills and energy-savings innovations.

“A high participation rate by both innovators and non-innovators is essential to ensure accurate results for all industries and regions and for small, medium and large businesses,” Prof. Arundel said.

“This includes both businesses that innovate and businesses that might not consider themselves as innovative.”

AIRC researchers maintain the confidentiality of all participants so that no business or individual can be identified.

Data access is limited to AIRC researchers and only aggregated results are published or presented in any form.

For enquiries about participation in the study contact the AIRC at (03) 6226 7384 or see www.airc.utas.edu.au

Accounting professionals meet UTAS students

A new Northern Students Accounting Association has been launched in Launceston at an event where students met local members of the accounting professions.

Students from the School of Accounting and Corporate Governance held the meet and greet in the Seafarers Bar at the Launceston campus to launch the association and enable students from the school and members of the accounting profession to meet and network.

The guest speakers from local accounting firms were Mr Bob Ruddick (Ruddicks), Mr Malcolm Mathews (Gunnas), Stephen Freeman (JAC Group), Steve Henry (Deloitte) and Ben Cozzi (WHK Garrotts) as well as the representatives from the professional bodies: Jane Grainger (National Institute of Accountants) and Richard Chapman (CPA Australia).

In welcoming everyone the head of school, Dr Sue Hrasky, said the school is supportive of such functions.

“We hope that other students will become inspired to join the society and become involved in other activities that are social and professional for accounting students in the north of Tasmania,” she said.

Researchers at the Australian Innovation Research Centre are investigating innovation in Tasmanian businesses: Professor of Innovation, Anthony Arundel and Mr Kieran O’Brien.

New Northern Students Accounting Association: Corey Johnston, Sarah England, Bridget McCarthy, Adam di Tommaso and Sam Kelty are the student organisers of the group.
Clinic eases dental fear

Don’t let your teeth chatter in fear: The UTAS Psychology Clinic’s Dental Phobia program is aimed at helping people who suffer from anxiety or fear of seeing a dentist.

Chilli use for diabetes and heart disease

Volunteers needed for chilli research: Dr Kiran Ahuja is testing the effect of chillies on people with diabetes and heart disease, she tells long-term Launceston research volunteer June Hazzledewood.

My PhD

From island to island

Laurie Brinklow
School of Geography and Environmental Studies

IY CHERIE COOPER

Chilli could revolutionise medication for type-2 diabetes sufferers

UTAS School of Human Life Sciences research team hopes that chillies could revolutionise medication for type-2 diabetes sufferers. The team is on the hunt for people who can handle spicy food for a new study aimed at exploring the impact of chillies on the metabolism of people with type-2 diabetes or impaired glucose tolerance.

Researchers Dr Kiran Ahuja and PhD candidate Sibella King believe that chilli, native to South America, packs a punch that science is only just beginning to understand. Based on previous research in healthy individuals, the pair believes that chilli could replace, or be used in conjunction with, current medications for the treatment and prevention of diabetes and cardiovascular disease.

“Traditionally South American cultures have used chilli for the treatment of various diseases, including diabetes.” “What we hope to do is give people an easy, cheap method of controlling their diabetes that will hopefully help them avoid cardiovascular disease in the future.”

However, in order to do that Ms King and Dr Ahuja need volunteers who are available to visit the University of Tasmania’s Newnham campus for blood tests and blood pressure measurements three times over two weeks.

Ms King said the study was suitable for men and women between the ages of 35 and 70 who suffer from either impaired glucose tolerance or type-2 diabetes.

Participants’ cholesterol and blood pressure will be monitored, as well as their glucose and insulin levels.

Volunteers would be asked to avoid spicy foods in their diet for one week, Ms King said, before being asked to introduce 30 grams of chilli paste per day the following week.

Ms King said diabetes and impaired glucose intolerance were a growing scourge.

“Particularly in Tasmania, diabetes is on the rise,” she said.

“But it is on the rise around the world. Even countries that traditionally have not been associated with these ‘diseases of affluence’ – cardiovascular disease and diabetes – are seeing a lot more of it.”

The study follows on from several other University of Tasmania and PhD research projects exploring the power of the chilli in recent years, including the effect of chilli on sleep.

Northern Tasmanians interested in volunteering for the study can contact Dr Kiran Ahuja, ph. (03) 6324 5478 or Sibella King, ph. (03) 6324 3688.

IY LUKE SCOTT

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The work

Armour for multicultural goddesses

BY SHARON WEBB

Brigitte Wolfe’s Multicultural Goddess Bustier is on show in the Hands Up exhibition at the School of Visual and Performing Arts at Inveresk.

Its creator is one of 26 volunteers at the Academy Gallery exhibiting their work; more than 60 volunteers, mostly university, polytechnic and college art students, help out at the gallery throughout the year.

The bustier is made of copper and bronze plates and leather from a vintage skirt. It was made completely by hand—hammered and sewn.

Brigitte, who has Aboriginal heritage, made it as part of a university unit on body adornment.

“The theme is very feminine—I wanted to interpret the symbols of multi-cultural women,” she said.

“It’s wearable armour for the goddess in women and I hope it symbolises the similarities and restrictions we all share.”

The president of the Gallery Volunteer Club, George Parker, said the exhibition is a way of giving back to the volunteers, who help to pack, unpack and hang exhibitions, repair walls and give a hand on exhibition opening nights.

Multicultural Goddess Bustier by Brigitte Wolfe; copper, bronze and leather, 90cm long.

What’s on

CONCERTS

12 NOVEMBER

PhD Recital

Abby Edens, flute

Program: Jean François Con certo pour flûte et orchestre (piece reduction) Maurice Ravel Pavane pour une infante défunte (arr. flute and piano) Jean François - Wind Quintet No. 1

Tickets are free. Time: 6pm Venue: Conservatorium Recital Hall 5 Sandy Bay Road, Hobart Information: (03) 6226 7306

12 NOVEMBER

Postgraduate series

Abby Kruzer, flute

Program: François, Saint-Saëns, Jolivet & Poulencc

Time: 6pm Venue: Conservatorium Recital Hall 5 Sandy Bay Road, Hobart Information: (03) 6226 7306

12 DECEMBER

Australian International Symphony Orchestra Institute performance

Concert 2 - BRUCKNER #4

Tickets: $50 Adults / $40 Concession / $25 UTAS Staff Students and Alumni Time: 7pm Venue: Hobart City Hall, Macquarie Street, Hobart Information: (03) 6226 7306

16 DECEMBER

PhD Recital

Matthew Ives, drums

Continuing on from his July recital, Matthew will present more material sourced from the Buddy Rich Big Band repertoire. Results from the analysis of his research will be presented in context by Matthew and his Big Band. All tickets are free.

Time: 6pm Venue: Conservatorium Recital Hall 5 Sandy Bay Road, Hobart Information: (03) 6226 7306

17 DECEMBER

Southern Gospel Choir’s Big Night Out

Tickets: $35 Adults / $25 Concession / $21 Alumni. On sale 7th May 2010. Time: 7.30pm Venue: City Hall, Macquarie Street, Hobart Information: (03) 6226 7306

EVENTS

17 NOVEMBER

School of Pharmacy seminars

Antioxidant and antimicrobial activity of Australian, Saudi and Malaysian Amoebae by PharmSci candidate, Basmah Almochtayi and the pharmaceutical potential compounds from Tasmanian Climatis species by Fangming Jin. The School of Pharmacy seminars cover a range of presentations by honours and postgraduate students, staff and visiting speakers.

Time: 5am Venue: Room 2007, UTAS School of Pharmacy, Hobart Information: Julie Perfeld (03) 6226 2190

19 NOVEMBER

Australian Innovation Research Centre seminar

Speaker: Robert Wallis, CEO, Tasmanian Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Time: 11am Venue: Level 5, 33 Salamanca Place, Hobart Information: (03) 6226 7384

26 NOVEMBER – 15 APRIL 2011

Ten Days opportunity for art students

The School of Visual and Performing Arts and Ten Days on the Island is offering students an opportunity to engage with some of the exhibitions presented in the 2011 programme, while completing the Gallery Studies unit of study. Enrolments close Friday 19 November. Tutor: Catherine Wollhagen and premieres

Maximum class size: 20

Venue: Inveresk Cultural Precinct, Launcesto. Information: academy.admin@utas.edu.au

2 DECEMBER

ANZACA annual meeting

Anatomy educators: making anatomy necessary and attractive to modern audiences

The two-day meeting of the Australian and New Zealand Society of Clinical Anatomists will focus on the importance of educators in stimulating student interest in topographical, histological and development anatomy in the current climate of integrated medical teaching. Information: Dr Jamie Chapman (03) 6226 2916

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