Unlocking the lives of convict women

R ight upon row of hand-stitched, calico baby bonnets recently lined the walls of Plimsoll Gallery in the Tasmanian School of Art, in a moving tribute to Tasmania’s convict women and their lost children.

The installation of 900 christening bonnets was the work of artist Christina Henri, who is completing her final year in a Master of Fine Art, and has spent the past four years exploring the rich but largely undocumented history of Tasmania’s convict women.

Christina found herself drawn to the story of the women after visiting the experience of female convict history and will include her work as part of its official records.

“I got a call from the Department of Corrections there after someone had read about my work and they asked if they could be involved, which was just wonderful,” she says.

Part of that reflection was the devastating loss of the many children born to convict mothers, with more than 1,000 children dying at the Female Factory between 1829 and 1877. Official records of these deaths fail to note either the name of the baby or mother, and the children were buried without ceremony.

Christina chose the symbol of a christening bonnet – a delicate item normally reserved for children born into the colonial upper class – as a poignant tribute to the women and their babies.

“Women from country towns and servicing groups across Australia helped make and embroider the bonnets for Christina’s installation, which began its life as part of Tasmania’s bicentenary in 2004.

Today Christina is casing her net even wider and preparing an installation of 25,266 colonial servants’ bonnets to represent each of the women expected to convict prisons in Australia. The Rosa from the Heart project involves women from around the world making and embroidering a bonnet with either the name of their female convict ancestor, or one of the names taken from official records.

Among those involved in the project are women serving community service orders in Adelaide, where Christina flew last month to collect more than 1,400 bonnets.

“I got a call from the Department of Corrections there after someone had read about my work and they asked if they could be involved, which was just wonderful,” she says.

Christina believes her work is helping to reveal the true story of the convict women, as opposed to furthering the mythology.

“We are always told that they were whores and prostitutes, when in fact the majority had a profession and brought those skills here, except they were in the domestic sphere and out of public view – unlike the bridges and roads built by the convict men.”

Christina’s work has been recognised by the federal department of Environment and Heritage as an important way of raising awareness of female convict history and will include her work as part of its nomination of the Female Factory for World Heritage listing.
Shaping law reform in Cambodia

Senior Law lecturer Rick Snell has just completed a $40,000 USAID consultancy on FoI in Cambodia on behalf of the Law School and UTAS Innovation Ltd. Here are his reflections:

Cambodia is the latest entrant to the list of countries considering a freedom of information law. It is a country riddled by corruption, where the average wage per day is less than $1.25, and where the people struggle to care for 500,000 orphans in the aftermath of two decades of civil war.

In the midst of this, FoI, instead of being considered an unnecessary luxury, has been accepted by the Cambodians as an important step in improving economic development and governance, and as a tool in the difficult fight to reduce widespread corruption.

An interministerial team has just added the final touches to a draft policy on FoI that will be presented in the next few weeks to the country’s council of ministers.

The drafting team attempted to adapt best practices to fit the circumstances of Cambodia. I worked with the team, which included two generals and several secretaries of state, for two months in Phnom Penh, helping to finalise a draft policy on Access to Information for the Royal Government of Cambodia.

The work involved numerous consultations, including with Ministers and Generals, and three public workshops, including a national workshop with 130 invited representatives at the Phnom Penh Hotel.

The hardest part was the need to quickly produce drafts so as to give ample time for them to be translated into formal Khmer well before each meeting of the team. In meetings and consultations with the ministers of information and national defence and leading public servants, I was struck by the contrast between their willingness to accept FoI and the Australian Government’s dismal record.

The upper echelons of the Cambodian Government were willing to consider endorsing very progressive FoI laws despite the obvious discomfort that greater transparency and accountability will bring to their monopoly on power and patronage.

Meanwhile, their Australian equivalents have allowed our FoI laws to fall into disrepair. More effort, time and money has been invested by successive Australian governments in denying access to information than has been committed to improving timely access to high-quality and reliable government data. My time in Cambodia has convinced me that we need to undertake a quantum shift and rebuild our FoI laws from the ground up.

Pam of this comment piece first appeared in the Sydney Morning Herald (23 August). Rick Snell is available to speak on his impressions of the Cambodian legal system.

NICK WARD
Meet Nick Ward, President of the Medieval and Renaissance Society at UTAS, studying engineering

WEARING

AIMING
Work in the power industry in Tasmania.

READING
He died with a felafel in his hand by John Birmingham.

LISTENING TO
Flamenco guitar music and downloading heaps onto my MP3 player.

WATCHING
Firefly, a sci-fi series from the US.

LAUGHING AT
This question. Quite like Ed Byrne, the Irish standup comedian.

LOOKING FORWARD TO
A Silver Arrow archery weekend where we go camping and have archery competitions. We also have a medieval feast coming up too.

The Medieval and Renaissance Society is just one of the 70 societies you can join at the University through the TUV.

Rick Snell (Middle) and members of FoI drafting team meet Madame TY Borasy, Chairwoman of the 5th Commission of the Cambodian Senate.

Our People
PROFESSOR JANE WATSON
has won one of five National Literacy and Numeracy Week awards for her outstanding contributions to numeracy. The $10,000 award was announced in Canberra by the Federal Minister for Education, Science and Training, Julie Bishop, and recognised Professor Watson’s standing as an international leader in statistics education in primary and secondary schools, together with her profound influence on mathematics education at the local, national and international levels.

School of Pharmacy
PROFESSOR GREG PETTERSON
is the 2007 recipient of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia’s PSA Pharmacist of the Year award. The prestigious award, which includes an $8000 education grant, recognises a significant contribution to the pharmacy profession and outstanding work that has provided an inspiration to others. In accepting the award, Greg paid tribute to his mentor, Roly Hill, who was local pharmacist to the Peterson family and inspired Greg to study pharmacy.

DR NATASHA CIA (pictures) has returned home to Tasmania to work as the Collaborative Research Project Developer for the faculties of Arts, Business, Law and Education, in Hobart. ANGELA SPARROW

Marine Observing System - a $65 million national collaborative facility headquartered at UTAS and designed to monitor the oceans around Australia. Dr Meyers will maintain his links with the oceans from Oceans Flagship as a CSIRO Honorary Fellow.

A unique community engagement project between Launceston City Council and the UTAS School of Sociology and Social Work has won the Community Participation and Partnership Category of the 2007 National Awards for Local Government. The Tree of Hope: Our Children’s View of the Future project recorded children’s personal, community, national and global hopes for the future. DR KAREN WILLIS (pictures) said the school was delighted to have worked with the council on the project and to strengthen their partnership.

OOPS! A story on the retirement of Launceston librarian Lana Wall in the August 14 edition of UniTAS incorrectly stated that Lana’s replacement is Linda Hoyle. In fact, the new Launceston campus librarian is WENDY HOYLE and the Hobart campus librarian is LINDA LUTHER. A gremlin decided to blend the two names for our story.

Do you have a tribute for Our People? Email news snippets on UTAS people to Sally James at sally.james@utas.edu.au. Visit www.admin.utas.edu.au/hr/visitors/emrieginfo.html to mark your email subject: Our People.

Seeking top community leaders
Nominations are now open for the 2007 Vice-Chancellor’s Awards for Outstanding Community Engagement. The awards recognise staff members (or teams of staff members) who have made a significant contribution to community life during the past 12 months. The contribution can include a wide range of community areas or many different activities on the part of the staff member (or team). This is the fourth year the awards have been held. For more information regarding the awards and the nominations process, visit www.admin.utas.edu.au/hr/policies/vc_award_ca.html}

Nicole Meier

Opposition to the media

OPINION
Rick Snell (Middle) and members of FoI drafting team meet Madame TY Borasy, Chairwoman of the 5th Commission of the Cambodian Senate.

We’ll need to undertake a quantum shift and rebuild our FoI laws from the ground up.
Environmental expert inspires students

N ow that the former Australian Vice-Chancellors’ Committee has transformed into Universities Australia (UA), it is time for us to make one more such an event as a sector.

Despite the fracturing of UA into groupings and alignments there is now a chance to speak, as a sector, with one voice. If we want to be listened to seriously by government, business and the community, and if we aspire to position the Australian university sector in an increasingly competitive global education environment, then UA is our opportunity for that one voice – not a cacophony of 36 different voices.

UA must focus on a national agenda. Take export education for example. If ever the sector had a national agenda item, then the future of export education is it. A 5% industry sector, created by Australian universities over the past two decades, this spectacular industry not only drives export earnings greater than any of Australia’s key resource industries, but also generates a raft of less tangible assets for Australia’s society and economy.

Mention is often made of the Colombus Plan Scheme where students from Asia come to Australian universities from 1950 to the 1980s. The goodwill and relationships established then have been returned to Australia many times over, with Colombus Plan alumnae going on to hold high office in their home countries.

In our two decades, hundreds of thousands of more recent international graduates have returned home with valuable Australian degrees and are now forging the new Asian and global economies.

These alumni are among Australia’s greatest assets for the future. UA needs to reinforce our sector as an industry and a national asset with the federal government and ensure that policy and protocols that surround universities are enabling and empowering. In turn, we, as a sector, must ensure that quality is not allowed to slacken and that constant reviews and innovation in curricula, structures and programs of learning and teaching continue to be at the top of our agenda, and that of government, business and the broader community. To do otherwise would place a massive component of our sector’s viability and national economy at risk.

Government and businesses must work in concert with UA to foster background relationships, agreements and treaties that advance export education. They must remove red tape and unnecessary restrictions while maintaining protection of high standards. They must work to increase the span of the market and continue to devise products that excite and sustain increasing enrolments.

In future articles I will expand on the UA agenda. Enhancing our role in global research, development and innovation will be crucial. As we tackle the problems of indigenous education, ways of better supporting our students, finally addressing the pent-up problems of our failing infrastructure and, of course, lifting the levels of funding across the sector.

I look forward to UA stepping up to become an effective representative and lobbying group for the Australian university sector.

Top academics win national awards

I nside the University of Tasmania has again featured strongly in the national Carrick Citations for outstanding contributions to student learning, with five academic staff winning an award, valued at $10,000 each.

The citations, awarded on August 9 by the Carrick Institute for Learning and Teaching in Higher Education, recognise the unique contributions to quality teaching by academic staff throughout Australia. UTAS recipients of a citation in 2007 are:

Dr Chris Burke (Aquaculture): For sustained enthusiasm and commitment to student-centred learning of the scientific method in order to achieve positive learning outcomes in undergraduate microbiology.

Dr John Purser (Aquaculture): For facilitating links between the University and aquaculture industry to create high-quality work-integrated learning experiences for students.

Dr Carisona McLeod (Architecture): For innovative, holistic approaches to student learning in Years One and Five, leading to architecture students demonstrating and applying more sophisticated levels of functioning knowledge.

Dr Associate Professor Pam Allen (Asian Languages and Studies): For exemplary guidance of student learning through the use of authentic and engaging strategies designed to facilitate students’ deep understanding and appreciation of culture and language; and

Associate Professor Sue Jones (Zoology): For championing and supporting teaching development and improving the student learning environment at the level of the school, faculty and university.

Vice-Chancellor Daryl Le Grew said he was delighted by another strong showing of UTAS staff in the prestigious awards.” I am extremely proud of our staff’s achievements. These Carrick Citations are further recognition of the quality of the educational programs and specialist teaching that UTAS has to offer our students,” he said.

Media Spot

WARM RECEPTION FOR COOL IDEA

A proposal by Vice-Chancellor Daryl Le Grew to offer UTAS students the chance to study in Antarctica was met with enthusiasm by The Mercury. The newspaper devoted its 2 August editorial to the “cool idea”, saying the proposed centre next to the Casey research base would make a coup for UTAS. “Harvard, Yale, Oxford or Cambridge, none of them could match an experience like that,” the editorial said.

WICKED COVERAGE FOR WITCHES

Research on teenage witches by School of Sociology Associate Professor Douglas Ezzy attracted national attention, with The Australian (8 August) noting “low young witches used spells and pagan rituals to help them cope with the demands of modern life.” The Morning Show with Dave and Kim, screened on Channel 10, swooped on the story and flew Professor Ezzy to Melbourne for a 14-minute segment.

POWERFUL RESEARCH

Professor Ray Lowenthal’s research on shockwaves through newsrooms after Professor Ezzy’s appearance was published in the Internal Medicine Journal. Professor Lowenthal was overseas when the story broke on 20 August, with covered in the Sydney Morning Herald, on ABC national radio and television, and the Today show, among others.

WILD EXPERIENCES AT UTAS

The many advantages of studying at UTAS were captured by The Age in its 6 August education special on scholarships. UTAS science (Natural Environment and Wilderness Management) student Lilian Pearce told the paper how she loved the size of the university, its quality teaching and its location. “I loved the idea of being able to go out my back door and go on a beautiful bush walk,” she said.

FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

PROFESSOR DARYL LE GREW | VICE-CHANCELLOR

These alumni are among Australia’s greatest assets for the future. UA needs to reinforce our sector as an industry and a national asset with the federal government and ensure that policy and protocols that surround universities are enabling and empowering. In turn, we, as a sector, must ensure that quality is not allowed to slacken and that constant reviews and innovation in curricula, structures and programs of learning and teaching continue to be at the top of our agenda, and that of government, business and the broader community. To do otherwise would place a massive component of our sector’s viability and national economy at risk.

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I look forward to UA stepping up to become an effective representative and lobbying group for the Australian university sector.
Quiet star of graduations exists stage left

On students’ graduation day, Jeff says carefully, “The ones who wear jeans or look scruffy may not appreciate it’s a higher level of ceremony. But there’s never a problem with graduands’ behaviour. They understand they’re experiencing a ritual – it’s their 15 seconds of fame.” On occasional speakers, Jeff chortles, “I listen to them – and I have listened to many of them – and the best ones are those who believe what they’re saying – who own their words instead of reading them like a story.”

Jeff has justified his love of university and theatre throughout his career, sometimes working at university by day and directing theatre by night. He has also used his stage skills to create performances graduates will never forget. “People are unlikely to remember what was said at their graduation ceremony, but they will remember how they felt.”

Jeff intends to use his retirement to return to his former hobby of voice work. “I’m getting much more work from auctioneers, barristers, teachers, and broadcasters who want help to empower their voices.” He will also work on various theatre productions and return to the University to help on graduation ceremonies if needed. Will he miss anything in university life? “I don’t know you ever miss the nine-to-five routine. But if I get really bored I’ll come and sit in the library and read books.” Somehow that sounds unlikely.

The view from the West

An interview with Professor Jonathan West, director of the Australian Innovation Research Centre (AIRC) based at UTAS

What can you achieve here?

We intend to create a world-class institute in Innovation Studies, researching key issues in innovation performance and economic development. Innovation is the key to productivity, and productivity is the key to business profitability.

Does Tasmania have the technology base?

Most people think of innovation as being about hi-tech, but the first important finding of recent economic research is that innovation is not concentrated in hi-tech sectors. Statistical studies show that all sectors of the economy innovate and that innovation is widely dispersed across the economy. This is great news for Tasmania because it means that to become an innovation-based economy we don’t have to create new hi-tech industries out of thin air.

How do you encourage people to innovate?

Innovation doesn’t come from boffins wearing lab coats – more often it comes simply from customers asking a company or supplier to meet their needs. To innovate, companies must first find out what their customers need, and work on a clear understanding of that. Incat is an excellent example here.

So what is your research about?

Innovation studies, linked with new growth theory, focuses on why some countries and regions are more innovative than others, and what governments might do to improve their performance.

Digging into innovation

It is often claimed that possession of natural resources leads to a “resource curse” that condemns a resource-rich economy to poverty. However, some of the richest and/or fastest growing economies are resource-based, including Norway, Sweden, Finland, Canada, New Zealand, Australia, and the Netherlands.

How these economies developed against the conventional wisdom on resources, and what are the implications for future development and economic development among resource-based economies more widely?

Incat is an excellent example here. Professor Keith Smith, chair in innovation at the Australian Innovation Research Centre, is examining how natural resources can be transformed into economic realities.

“These studies of Finland and Sweden show us it is through innovation that companies spring up to support and supply resource-based activities, and this is where growth occurs,” he said.

Professor Smith uses the evidence of what has been happening in Australia to look at the strong ripple effect from a major resources industry into other service areas of the economy. The clearest case of this, he says, is the Sydney financial markets, which are heavily focused on specialised finance for the resources sector.

This concentration on long-term funding has also encouraged the development of a range of exotic financial products for infrastructure projects globally.

Prof Smith addressed these issues at a recent AIRC seminar, based on a paper he wrote for the Committee for Economic Development of Australia. For a full copy of the paper or more information about AIRC seminars, contact the AIRC on (03) 6226 7388.

Diplomatic Ben off to UN

Anyone interested in picking leaders of the future would do well to pencil down the name Ben Groom. Ben, 23, is a Law-Economics student at UTAS who was earlier this year chosen as the Australian Youth Representative to the United Nations. And who last week flew out to New York to take up his two-month residency as an official member of the Australian delegation to the UN General Assembly.

It is a position for which Ben, the son of former Tasmanian Liberal Premier Ray Groom, has spent months preparing: taking a break from his studies to spend five months travelling the width and breadth of Australia to hear what young people have to say about the world and their place in it. For Ben Groom with one of the many children he met during his travels in West Australia.

The deadline for the next edition of UNITAS is 29 September (1 October release).
Sea level sensitivities under scrutiny

In a global first, researchers from the UTAS School of Geography and Environmental Studies will assess and map the Australian coastline’s sensitivity to sea level rise. The team of researchers will work on behalf of the Australian Greenhouse Office and Geoscience Australia, and through the University’s commercial arm, UTAS Innovation Ltd, and be led by coastal geomorphologist Chris Sharples and GIS and remote sensing specialist Dr Richard Mount.

UTAS Innovation chief executive Tony Baker said Australia would most likely be the first entire continent to have such an assessment carried out.

“Sea levels have risen by 10 to 20 cm around the globe over the past century, after staying stable for 6000 years, so softer, low-lying coastal areas around the world are now at unprecedented risk of flooding and erosion. “This project will give governments around Australia the ability to determine which areas are most at risk for future planning. What is really exciting is the Smartline GIS technique developed by Chris Sharples to map the Tasmanian coastline that will be used for this initial national assessment,” Mr Baker said.

The head of the School of Geography and Environmental Studies, Dr Elaine Stratford, said geomorphic maps already existed for most of the Australian coast, but unfortunately these have been prepared for a range of purposes and are in a mix of paper and electronic formats.

“For the first time, all the existing information will be put into a consistent scheme, so sections of coastline can be compared and analysed on the same basis,” Dr Stratford said.

“Additional components of the National Shoreline Geomorphic and Stability Mapping Project include tagging the map with beach numbers to enable the map to be linked directly to the Australian Beach Safety and Management Program database maintained by Surf Life Saving Australia,” Dr Stratford said.

The final, nationally consistent coastal geomorphic and stability maps will be a critical component of a major national study being undertaken by the Australian Greenhouse Office to conduct a “first pass” national coastal vulnerability assessment. Information from this study will be available on Geoscience Australia’s website through their OzCoasts portal next year.

Students graduated from the faculties of Arts, Business, Education, Health Science, Law and Science, Engineering and Technology.

Professor Le Grew congratulated all of the students on their outstanding achievement.

“Their graduation rewards their commitment and hard work, and the support of their family and friends. They are the embodiment of the university’s vital contribution to Tasmania,” he said.

Professor Le Grew said the number and calibre of PhD students graduating in this round of ceremonies highlighted the University’s important contribution to furthering knowledge.

“We are well-placed on the world stage as a place to study and will become increasingly so, especially in our areas of strength and distinctiveness,” he said.

Occasional addresses at the ceremonies were given by speakers from an array of different backgrounds: Stephen Eames, president of the Australian Bar Association; Professor David Adams, Professor of Management and Innovation at the University of Tasmania; Professor Allan Clark, director of the Department of Nuclear and Particle Physics at the University of Geneva; Diana Tompason, Managing Director of The Powercom Group; and Dr Alison Crook, former Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Monash University.

* A transcript of Mr Estcourt’s address is available online through the UTAS Law Faculty Alumni webpage.
Camp urges students to mooove into beef and dairy careers

A new program designed to build pathways for school students interested in working in the dairy and beef industries was recently held in the far north-west of Tasmania.

More than a dozen students travelled to Woolnorth, Dorrigo and Ulverstone on 13-14 August for the VDL Dairy Camp, where they had the chance to experience farm life first hand.

The camp provided a chance for interested high school and college students to learn about opportunities in the dairy and beef industries.

The camp was a co-operative effort between the VDL Company, Rural Skills Australia and the UTAS School of Agricultural Science's Skilling VDL Company, Rural Skills operative effort between the dairy and beef industries.

The second lecture focused on the question of our choices and values following night in Launceston, which was chaired by Education Justice Murray Wilcox.

The Australia we want: Our choices and values

Justice Wilcox spoke of the need to critically assess the choices we make, who makes them and how they may be crucial to our future success and happiness.

The lectures were presented by World Education Forum Tasmania, in association with the University of Tasmania. WEFT President Christopher Strong said at a time when society was “in crisis over the corruptibility of normal governmental systems”, it was timely to be able to hear the views of such an experienced Judge of the Federal Court, he Hon. Murray Wilcox QC, recently retired from the position.1

During the two-day camp, students from a number of high schools and colleges across the Cradle Coast visited a working dairy and wind farm, toured a beef operation, examined farm management practices and participated in hands-on workshops.

They also had the opportunity to talk to industry personnel and learn about career opportunities within the industries.

“The camp is aiming to show students how to move into the industries,” Mt O’Halloran said.

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“The camp is aiming to show students how to move into the industries,” Mt O’Halloran said.

Scoping the view from outer space

If your home phone bill is looking a little pricey, try paying $1 per second.

That’s how much it costs to access one of the world’s most powerful space telescopes, the XMM-Newton X-ray Telescope, built in the Netherlands. Dr Melanie Johnston-Hollitt, from the School of Mathematics and Physics, recently passed through a highly rigorous selection process to become the first Australian woman, and only the second Australian-based researcher, to have access to the telescope and has been allotted 35,000 seconds or almost 10 hours on the instrument, starting from next week.

Under the arrangement, Melanie does not physically peer into the telescope, but has various coordinates for her galaxy project keyed into the instrument and the instrument tells her what to do.

Melanie can, however, keep an eye on its progress via a link on her computer.

Along with NASA’s Hubble Space Telescope and the Chandra X-ray Observatory, XMM-Newton is one of the world’s major space telescopes and is the largest scientific satellite ever built in Europe. Its telescope mirrors are among the most technologically advanced ever developed, and its sensitive cameras can ‘see’ more than any previous X-ray satellite.

Gaining time on the XMM-Newton telescope is extremely competitive, with only 15 per cent of proposals selected from about 4500 submitted annually – that makes it more competitive than the Australian Research Council.

Melanie studies galaxy clusters, the largest gravitationally bound structures in the universe, and for this project she is zooming in on galaxy cluster A3376.

“Working with my collaborators in Germany, I am looking at the merging cluster of galaxies A3376. This is the second galaxy cluster to be seen with a pair of shockwaves left from the result of a cosmic merger – one of the most energetic events since the Big Bang.”

Two collections of galaxies have literally smashed into each other sending massive shockwaves out through the intervening space.

“The collision and its aftermath are like “the Titanic hitting an iceberg,” she says.

“Afterwards you see only ripples and bits of wreckage, but that’s enough to show that there’s been a collision.”

Melanie will spend the next couple of months analysing the data as it comes down from the XMM-Newton and hopes to have some preliminary results of her research by November.

Breaking the gender divide

I dentifying barriers to women’s career progression at UTAS will be the primary focus of this month’s forum.

“Getting It Right is an interactive one-day forum and workshop to be held on 18 September at the Sandy Bay campus and is sponsored by the UTAS Women’s Group, with all female University staff invited to attend.”

Pro Vice-Chancellor (Teaching and Learning) Professor Gail Hart said that while UTAS has made solid progress over recent years in addressing gender balance at senior levels, female staff still remained under-represented in senior academic and general staff positions.

“They are therefore less likely to hold leadership positions such as Head of School or Section,” she said.

While UTAS again performed well in the recent Good Universities Guide, gender imbalance was identified as an area for ongoing work and strategies.

The forum will allow us to develop strategies that the university community can take into appropriate forums as steps towards achieving our vision, that as an institution we put in place policies and programs that actively support women to achieve their full career potential,” Professor Hart said.

“Getting It Right will:

• Identify issues impacting on the career development of female staff at UTAS
• Develop a vision for the future
• Identify strategies for achieving that vision.

The forum will be chaired by Professor Hart and two workshops will be facilitated by Staff Development manager, Jill Curley.

For more information and to register, contact Carol McDade, ext. 2904, or email Carol.McDade@utas.edu.au.
Moving medicine across the miles

In Vietnam it is often up to the family to bring injured relatives to hospital, and the pre-hospital communication and management systems that Australians take for granted are largely non-existent. “Back in Vietnam, Dr Chinh has been responsible for setting up the equivalent of the 000 emergency number service as a basis for improving pre-hospital management of trauma cases. The links with Tasmania continue in December when Dr Chinh will welcome Rural Clinical School medical student Josephine Stringer to the Van Diemen’s Island for an eight-week elective. Jo has been awarded the $5000 Rural Clinical School’s Hoc Mai Student Bursary for 2007 and says she is looking forward to being challenged by the opportunity to experience medical practice in a developing country.

In her thesis, Dr Arvier explored how employers, educators and health professionals are responding to the challenges faced by rural emergency medicine workforce. He surveyed 230 doctors from 57 rural and regional hospital emergency departments across Australia to determine the characteristics and future plans of the rural emergency medicine workforce. Dr Arvier also spent 12 months in Canada to examine how that country approached similar problems. Dr Arvier said that while rural emergency doctors enjoy a variety of clinical work and close team-work in smaller hospitals, many felt overworked, unsupported, and lacking educational opportunities or career perspectives. “There appeared to be considerable instability in this workforce with the majority of doctors planning to change their current position or reduce their clinical involvement. There was little agreement amongst stakeholders as to how these difficulties should be addressed,” he said.

Further reading

Chinh, N. (2008). Doctor of Philosophy, August PhD graduate. "For research on trauma care. "A lot is written these days about people’s impact on the environment, but I was really looking at the two-way process,” James said. “In my case, I asked the question: Did it matter that convicts were brought to this particular island rather than any other place? They were poor, they wore oxen and they had few resources to buffer them from the experience of the place.”

The impression left by history books, James said, is that the environment of Tasmania was a rough, harsh experience for English convicts. Their main aim, therefore, was to tame it into a little England. One of the first steps in that process was to erect a settlement for the convicts. But that was not the end of it. The impression left by history books is that the convicts and their descendants – adjusted very quickly to the environment and made the most of it. They ate wallaby and shell-fish – their diet was very healthy.

“...they wore clothes made of wallaby skins. They built houses, made their firewood and they had no church – their diet was very healthy.

Furniture piece wins student art prize

Chait Kongsiwian (Num) is the inaugural winner of the $5000 acquisitive art prize hosted by Accommodation Services for students living at Christ College, St John Fisher College and the University Apartments. Organisers believe the winning works will profile an exciting research project within UTAS.

The prize was launched as part of the University’s Celebration of Colleges program to stimulate art and cultural appreciation; and to foster a dynamic and creative sense of community among students living at Christ College, St John Fisher College and the University Apartments. Organisers believe the winning works will become a ‘talking point’ among students at the colleges.

Chait Kongsiwian’s ‘It Only Comes Out At Night’.
Penguins’ future not all that happy

Penguins - those majestic, good looking, fast swimming species of the seas - are the subject of the 6th International Penguins Conference being held for the first time in Hobart and hosted by UTAS.

The conference, running this week, has attracted 175 delegates, free keynote speakers, 56 oral presentations and more than 100 poster sessions. The keynote public lecture will be delivered by Susie Ellis, from the USA, who is a renowned conservationist for her work on penguins.

Conference convenor and honorary fellow of the School of Zoology Dr Eric Woehler said the event was attracting top researchers from around the world. “The conference is an international drawcard, bringing together research managers and policymakers from around the world to discuss current and emerging conservation issues,” Dr Woehler said. “We will learn from each others’ experience and our aim is to improve the conservation outlook for penguins around the world.”

Dr Woehler said penguins were facing significant threats from oil spills, coastal development resulting in loss of habitat, predation of dogs, competition for resources and loss of food from commercial fishing activities.

Twelve of the world’s 17 species of penguin have a conservation status.

The international penguin conference is held every three to four years and unites people from around the world who are working to reverse the downward trend in penguin populations.

“We hope to develop outcomes for improving the conservation of penguins,” Dr Woehler said.

Putting the word out on awards

The Penguins are a new award set up by the Vice-Chancellor, Daryl Le Grew, to recognise outstanding contributors to the university.

The inaugural winner, the Director of International Services, Paul Rigby, was chosen for his tremendous effort in substantially increasing the number of UTAS international enrolments from India, China and Malaysia.

Paul was awarded the perpetual fluffy penguin and a hand-blown glass penguin. The fluffy penguin has since moved on to Dr Patti Virtue’s office in Institute of Antarctic and Southern Ocean Studies as the second recipient of the VC penguin award.

The award recognised Patti’s outstanding work in her field, increasing the number of UTAS international enrolments from the north-west of the state, developed in conjunction with the Dean of Education, Megan Cavagnagh-Russell.

“We became one of the first universities to develop equity scholarships and, to some extent, that template was followed by businesses and individuals. It has been quite humbling to work with the generosity of so many people and to know that we have perpetual awards which will still be there in 100 years time,” Eoin said.

Eoin, a former English and social science school teacher, was lured to UTAS by former special projects advisor Graeme Foster to develop what was then a fledgling scholarship program.

There are now more than 1800 UTAS undergraduate students on some form of scholarship, covering a wide range of areas from physics to football, and worth a combined value of more than $6 million.

A significant portion of the scholarships program has been equity based, including the groundbreaking bursary program for the north-west of the state, developed in conjunction with the Dean of Education, Megan Cavagnagh-Russell.

“We became one of the first universities to develop equity scholarships and, to some extent, that template was followed by the Commonwealth for its Learning Scholarships that are available today,” Eoin said.

Breen there, done that

The scholarship program is supported not only by federal funds, but generous donations from businesses and individuals.

“It has been quite humbling to work with the generosity of so many people and to know that we have perpetual awards which will still be there in 100 years time,” Eoin said.

Since announcing his retirement, Eoin has received personal letters of support from scholarship recipients, including one card from a pair of students who thanked him for “opening doors that we didn’t know existed”.

It is this personal contact with students and watching their success which made his job “the best in the world,” Eoin said.

Eoin’s impressive legacy is now being built upon by Jenny Hogan, who has been seconded from the Education Department where she has worked for the past 15 years, including her most recent position as a senior manager in the English as a Second Language program.

While scholarships are a new field for Jenny, it is not her first time with UTAS. She was also seconded to UTAS in 2000-02 to conduct research in civics education, leading to a one-year lectureship in Education.

“I am delighted to be back with the University and looking forward to a new challenge in scholarships, and meeting all of our wonderful scholarship sponsors and recipients,” Jenny said.

Get up to speed on penguins

Free Public Lecture
What’s the conservation status of the world’s penguins?
Susie Ellis, USA
Dr Susie Ellis has worked for Conservation International and the IUCN. She has led global conservation assessments of penguins for 12 years.

Thursday 6 September 7pm Stanley Burbury Theatre, Hobart campus

Key dates
Abstract submission (papers): 20 September
Abstract submission (posters): 36 September
Notice of acceptance: 4 October
Submission of full papers for refereeing: 20 October
Notification to authors: 15 November
Program on website: 30 November
For full details, visit the Teaching Matters website http://www.utas.edu.au/teachingmatters/
Penguins’ future not all that happy

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Putting the word out on awards

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2007 Showcasing Innovation conference

Staff are urged to submit proposals for papers, workshops and posters for the 2007 Showcasing Innovation conference, which this year has four themes: Innovations in teaching and learning; Interdisciplinary innovations: Action research; and Recognising and rewarding teaching.

• Paper presentations (15 min. + 5 min. questions) Should address current or recent work conducted at UTAS and/or by UTAS staff. In 2007, authors will have the opportunity to submit a full paper for refereeing.

• Interactive poster presentations (5 min. each + discussion) Posters or other static displays will be available for viewing in the Studio Theatre for the duration of the day. Interactive poster review sessions will be held for each of the conference themes.

• Workshops (60–70 min.) Intended to be interactive, heavily involving the participants. Workshops will be run parallel to the other sessions of Teaching Matters.

Key dates

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Moving medicine across the miles

Hanoi is a world away from north-west Tasmanian but eminent Vietnamese surgeon Dr Nguyen Duc Chinh already had a special connection with the area before he recently visited the North-West Regional Hospital and the University’s Rural Clinical School.

That “connection” was Associate Professor Marcus Skinner, conjoint Regional Director of Clinical Care Services NWRH and the Rural Clinical School Associate Professor Skinner visits Vietnam each year to provide trauma training in conjunction with Dr Chinh’s team at the Viet Duc University Hospital in Hanoi, through the Primary Trauma Care program.

The links between the two countries and two medical systems have grown stronger due to a medical exchange program for doctors and medical students – made possible through the Hoc Mai Australia Vietnam Medical Foundation in collaboration with the Rural Clinical School. Hoc Mai is a Vietnamese phrase that translates into English as “forever learning”.

The Hoc Mai program provides opportunities for Vietnamese doctors to come to Australia to further develop their skills in trauma medicine and experience Australian approaches to patient care. Associate Professor Skinner was responsible for introducing Hoc Mai to the Rural Clinical School after learning about the exchange program through a chance conversation with a University of Sydney colleague.

Dr Chinh has had a special interest in road trauma and pre-hospital care. “We see over 30,000 cases of serious trauma per year in my hospital in Hanoi. Most cases are the result of serious road traffic accidents, with over 60 per cent involving motorcycles. Over 12,000 people were killed in road traffic accidents across Vietnam last year which is well above the global mortality rate,” he said.

“In Vietnam it is often up to the family to being injured relatives to hospital, and the pre-hospital communication and management systems that Australians take for granted are largely non-existent.”

Back in Vietnam, Dr Chinh has been responsible for setting up the equivalent of the 000 emergency number service as a basis for improving pre-hospital management of trauma cases.

The links with Tasmania continue in December when Dr Chinh will welcome Rural Clinical School medical student Josephine Stringer to the Viet Duc Hospital for a six-week elective. Jo has been awarded the $5000 Rural Clinical School’s Hoc Mai Student Bursary for 2007 and says she is looking forward to being challenged by the opportunity to experience medical practice in a developing country.

He surveyed 230 doctors from 57 rural and regional hospital emergency departments across Australia to determine the characteristics and future plans of the rural emergency medicine workforce. Dr Arvier also spent 12 months in Canada to examine how that country approached similar problems.

Dr Arvier said that while rural emergency doctors enjoy a variety of clinical work and close team-work in smaller hospitals, many felt overworked, unsupported, and lacking educational opportunities or career development.

“Traditional workforce models are no longer appropriate and radical changes are needed to deliver a consistently high level of care. A new model that crosses the boundaries of medicine, nursing, paramedic and allied health may be the answer,” Dr Arvier said.

Exploring convict history at its grassroots

James Boyce has combed the Archives of Tasmania’s State Library to discover how the Island’s environment affected the lives of its earliest European inhabitants – the convicts.

“A lot is written these days about people’s impact on the environment, but few are looking at the two-way process,” James said.

“In my case, I asked the question: Did it matter that convicts were brought to this particular island rather than any other place? They were poor, they were exiles and they had few resources to buffer them from the experience of the place.”

The impression left by history books, James said, is that the environment of Tasmania was a rough, harsh experience for English convicts. Their main aim, therefore, was to tame it into a little England. Dr Boyce said it now appears to be correct: the evidence is in the Ross Bridge, the Georgian architecture of Richmond, Oatlands and Hobart, oak trees and hawthorn hedges.

“Trafalgar and the battle of Jutland are the stuff of history but the Ross Bridge is real – the direct result of convict labour,” James said.

“Did it matter that convicts were brought here? Did it matter that convicts were brought to this particular island rather than any other place? It made a difference.”

James Boyce’s book, Van Diemen’s Land, will be published in February 2008 by Black Inc.

* Each month, this segment will profile an exciting research project within UTAS...
Camp urges students to mooove into beef and dairy careers

A new program designed to build pathways for school students interested in working in the dairy and beef industries was recently held in the far north-west of Tasmania.

More than a dozen students travelled to Woolnorth Station at Circular Head on 13-14 August for the VDL Dairy Camp, where they had the chance to experience farm life first hand.

The camp provided a chance for interested high school and college students to learn about opportunities in the dairy and beef industries.

The camp was a co-operative effort between the VDL Company, Rural Skills Australia and the UTAS School of Agricultural Science’s Skilling the Cradle Coast program.

“There is a real skills gap in the beef and dairy industry,” University of Tasmania School of Agricultural Science education officer Paul O’Halloran said.

“The camp was designed to provide valuable links to students and industry. The students were able to look at various operations, find out what they like and learn about the pathways to follow in order to get there.”

During the two-day camp, students from a number of high schools and colleges across the Cradle Coast visited a working dairy and wind farm, toured a beef operation, examined farm management practices and participated in hands-on workshops.

They also had the opportunity to talk to industry personnel and learn about career opportunities within the industries.

“The camp is aiming to show students how to move into the industries.” Mr O’Halloran said.

Esteemed speaker for lecture series

The Hon. Murray Wilson QC, recently retired Judge of the Federal Court, Former Chief Justice of the Industrial Relations Court and Former President of Australian Conservation Foundation, delivered two specially prepared memorial lectures in Tasmania last month.

Justice Wilson presented the 2007 William Oats Memorial Lecture in Hobart on 22 August, chaired by Vice-Chancellor Daryl Le Grew, followed by the Honora Drame Memorial Lecture the following night in Launceston, which was chaired by Education Dean Megan Caravaghi-Russell.

In the first lecture, Justice Wilson addressed the issue of Education and involvement: The quality of our democracy, in which he explored the importance of participatory democracy and how we, as a society, can equip people to play their proper role.

The second lecture focused on the question of The Australia we want: Our choices and values, and what makes a desirable nation. In this lecture, Justice Wilson spoke of the need to critically assess the choices we make, who makes them and how they may be crucial to our future success and happiness.

The lectures were presented by World Education Forum Tasmania, in association with the University of Tasmania. WETF President Christopher Strong said at a time when society was “in crisis over the corruptibility of normal governmental systems”, it was timely to be able to hear the views of such an experienced expert as Justice Wilson.

“Justice Wilson connects true democracy, an educated community, involvement in public life, the public good, environmental stability, rights, responsibilities and the opportunities for the betterment of society,” he said.

Justice Wilson is no stranger to controversy. His recent judgment on native title in Perth proved challenging, and in his recent Blackburn Lecture to the Law Society of the ACT, The role of law: Looking behind the laws, he raised some of the issues which are confronting our parliamentary democracy and increasingly challenging the loyalty of citizens.

Scoping the view from outer space

If your home phone bill is looking a little pricey, try paying $1 per second.

That’s how much it costs to access one of the world’s most powerful space telescopes, the XMM-Newton X-ray Telescope, based in the Netherlands.

Dr Melanie Johnston-Hollitt, from the School of Mathematics and Physics, recently passed through a highly rigorous selection process to become the first Australian woman, and only the second Australian-based researcher, to have access to the telescope and has been allotted 35,000 seconds or almost 10 hours on the instrument, starting from next week.

Under the arrangement, Melanie does not physically peer into the telescope, but has various coordinates for her galaxy project keyed into the instrument and the instrument sends data via a link on her computer.

Along with NASA’s Hubble Space Telescope and the Chandra X-ray Observatory, XMM-Newton is one of the world’s major space telescopes and is the largest scientific satellite ever built in Europe. Its telescope mirrors are among the most technologically advanced ever developed, and its sensitive cameras can see much more than any previous X-ray satellite.

Gaining time on the XMM-Newton telescope is extremely competitive, with only 13 per cent of proposals selected from about 4500 submitted annually – that makes it more competitive than the Australian Research Council!

Melanie studies galaxy clusters, the largest gravitationally bound structures in the universe, and for this project she is zooming in on galaxy cluster A3376.

“Two collections of galaxies have literally smashed into each other sending massive shockwaves out through the intervening space. ”

The collision and its aftermath are like “the Titanic hitting an iceberg,” she says.

“Afterwards you see only ripples and bits of wreckage, but that’s enough to show that there’s been a collision.”

Melanie will spend the next couple of months analysing the data as it comes down from the XMM-Newton and hopes to have some preliminary results of her research by November.

Breaking the gender divide

I dentifying barriers to women’s career progression at UTAS will be the focus of a new initiative this month.

Getting It Right is an interactive one-day forum and workshop to be held on 18 September at the Sandy Bay campus and is sponsored by the UTAS Women’s Group, with all female University staff invited to attend.

Pro Vice-Chancellor (Teaching and Learning) Professor Gail Hart said that while UTAS has made solid progress over recent years in addressing gender balance at senior levels, female staff still remained under-represented in senior academic and general staff positions.

“They are therefore less likely to hold leadership positions such as Head of School or Section,” she said.

While UTAS again performed well in the recent Good Universities Guide, gender imbalance was identified as an area for ongoing work and strategies.

The forum will allow us to develop strategies that the university community can take into appropriate forums as steps towards achieving our vision, that as an institution we put in place policies and programs that actively support women to achieve their full career potential,” Professor Hart said.

Getting It Right will:

• Identify issues impacting on the career development of female staff at UTAS

• Develop a vision for the future

• Identify strategies for achieving that vision.

The forum will be chaired by Professor Hart and two workshops will be facilitated by Staff Development manager, Jill Currey.

For more information and to register, contact Carol McDade, ext. 2904, or email Carol.McDade@utas.edu.au.
Sea level sensitivities under scrutiny

In a global first, researchers from the UTAS School of Geography and Environmental Studies will assess and map the Australian coastline's sensitivity to sea level rise.

The team of researchers will work on behalf of the Australian Greenhouse Office and Geoscience Australia, and through the University's commercial arm, UTAS Innovation Ltd, and be led by coastal geomorphologist Chris Sharples and GIS and remote sensing specialist Dr Richard Mount.

UTAS Innovation chief executive Tony Baker said Australia would most likely be the first entire continent to have such an assessment carried out.

“Sea levels have risen by 10 to 20 cm around the globe over the past century, after staying stable for 6000 years, so softer, low-lying coastal areas around the world are now at unprecedented risk of flooding and erosion.

“This project will give governments around Australia the ability to determine which areas are most at risk for future planning. What is really exciting is the Smartline GIS technique developed by Chris Sharples to map the Tasmanian coastline that will be used for this initial national assessment,” Mr Baker said.

The head of the School of Geography and Environmental Studies, Dr Elaine Stratford, said geomorphic maps already existed for most of the Australian coast, but unfortunately these have been prepared for a range of purposes and are in a mix of paper and electronic formats.

“For the first time, all the existing information will be put into a consistent scheme, so sections of coastline can be compared and analysed on the same basis.

“Additional components of the National Shoreline Geomorphic and Stability Mapping Project include tagging the map with beach numbers to enable the map to be linked directly to the Australian Beach Safety and Management Program database maintained by Surf Life Saving Australia.” Dr Stratford said.

The final, nationally consistent coastal geomorphic and stability map will be a critical component of a major national study being undertaken by the Australian Greenhouse Office to conduct a “first pass” national coastal vulnerability assessment. Information from this study will be available on Geoscience Australia’s website through their OzCoasts portal next year.

Tony Baker from UTAS Innovation and geomorphologist Chris Sharples.

Graduation joy for UTAS students

University of Tasmania students from seven faculties celebrated their academic achievements in August as they graduated at ceremonies in Hobart and Launceston.

University Chancellor Mr Daryl Le Grew and Vice-Chancellor Professor Daryl Le Grew conferred post-graduate and graduate degrees to more than 1500 graduands.

Despite chilly weather conditions for some of the ceremonies, the atmosphere was upbeat and optimistic as the graduands and their families celebrated the culmination of years of academic work.

Students graduated from the faculties of Arts, Business, Education, Health Science, Law and Science, Engineering and Technology.

Professor Le Grew congratulated all of the students on their outstanding achievement.

“They graduated with their commitment and hard work, and the support of their family and friends. They are the embodiment of the university’s vital contribution to Tasmania,” he said.

Professor Le Grew said the number and calibre of PhD students graduating in this round of ceremonies highlighted the University’s important contribution to furthering knowledge.

“We are well-placed on the world stage as a place to study and will become increasingly so, especially in our areas of strength and distinctiveness,” he said.

Occasional addresses at the ceremonies were given by speakers from an array of different backgrounds: Stephen Emmerich*, president of the Australian Bar Association; Professor David Adams, Professor of Management and Innovation at the University of Tasmania; Professor Allan Clark, director of the Department of Nuclear and Particle Physics at the University of Geneva; Diana Tompson, Managing Director of The Powercorp Group, and Dr Alison Crook, former Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Monash University.

* A transcript of Mr Emmerich’s address is available online through the UTAS Law Faculty Alumni webpage.

Top Brendan McCoy and James Mainwaring both graduated with a Bachelor of Business Administration. Middle left John Denver (Bachelor of Biotechnology) and Chana Meredith (Bachelor of Computing) Middle right The scene on stage during the Hobart graduation ceremony. Bottom Dayanand Chellappanada (Masters in Business) with his wife Meena.

BOOKS

PEOPLE, SHEEP AND NATURE CONSERVATION: THE TASMANIAN EXPERIENCE

Jamie Kirkpatrick and Dr Kerry Bride (CSIRO Publishing 2007).

From the arrival of the first merino sheep in Tasmania in 1803 through to the expansion of the sheep industry in the mid-nineteenth century and the changes occurring today, this new book by Professor Jamie Kirkpatrick and Dr Kerry Bride examines the history of Tasmanian wool growing.

People, sheep and nature conservation is full of farming family memories about interacting with bush rangers and indigenous Australians, and the establishment of groups to exterminate the Tasmanian tiger and emus.

The book investigates how contemporary graziers manage the runs for profit and manage their properties for conservation, how they feel about nature, how sheep interact with native animals and plants on the runs, and the implications of the ongoing loss of run country to clearance and inundation. In an unusual combination of history, geography, social science, ecological science and policy analysis, this entertaining and well-illustrated book uses the vivid words of the graziers, historical sources and the results of contemporary research to provide some insight into these issues.

It explains how graziers and farmers learn to manage their properties and to turn a profit while maintaining their land management and stock strategies for maintaining their pastures.

The first export of Tasmanian wool to London took place in 1823. Today Tasmanian merinos are supplied to top fashion houses in Europe and Japan - and there are six times as many sheep as people in Tasmania.

Professor Kirkpatrick and Dr Bride are in the School of Geography and Environmental Studies at the University of Tasmania.
**Quiet star of graduations exists stage left**

It's typical of Jeff Hockley that he's organised a thousand things to do in retirement.

Jeff has been the public face of the University's well-oiled graduation machine for a decade, flitting in his black gown and around the auditoriums, but his history with UTAS goes back 35 years.

He arrived in Tasmania in 1972, experienced in making TV programs for schools in Adelaide, and became the head of the Tasmanian College of Advanced Education audio-visual unit.

"Those were the days of film projectors and overhead projectors, lugging them from place to place," he says.

In 1993, Jeff moved into distance education, taking the graduation officer job three years later. Reflecting on his career, Jeff is the utmost in discretion.

If a student has ever turned up for graduation poorly dressed, or an occasional speaker spoke too long, Jeff doesn't remember it.

But he does recall a Hobart graduation where an elderly woman fell down the stairs. Jeff rushed to her side, but the woman's daughter then fainted at the sight of her mother and fell on top of Jeff, creating a sandwich of the three of them.

"And all the time the lady's camera, which she'd dropped, was going off, taking photos of us," he muses.

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**Diplomatic Ben off to UN**

Anyone interested in picking leaders of the future would do well to pencil down the name Ben Groom.

Ben, 23, is a Law-Economics student at UTAS who was earlier this year named as the Australian Youth Representative to the United Nations, and who last week flew out to New York to take up his two-month residency as an official member of the Australian delegation to the UN General Assembly.

It is a position for which Ben, the son of former Tasmanian Liberal Premier Ray Groom, has spent months preparing: taking a break from his studies to spend five months travelling the width and breadth of Australia to hear what young people have to say about the world and their place in it.

Ben has documented their concerns — from boredom and drug use, to indigenous issues and the impact of climate change — and will present them directly to the UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon.

He will also work on various theatre productions and return to the University to help on graduation ceremonies if needed.

Will he miss anything in university life?

"I don't know you ever miss the nine-to-five routine."

"But if I get really bored I'll come and sit in the library and read books."

Someone that sounds unlikely.

---

**The view from the West**

On students’ graduation dress, Jeff says carefully: "The ones who wear gowns or look scruffy may not appreciate it’s a higher level of ceremony."

"But there’s never a problem with graduands’ behaviour. They understand they’re experiencing a rite — it’s their 15 seconds of fame."

On occasional speakers, Jeff cheerles: "I listen to them — and I have listened to many of them — and the best ones are those who believe what they’re saying — who own their words instead of reading them like a story."

Jeff has juggled his love of university and theatre throughout his career, sometimes working at university by day and directing theatre by night.

He has also used his stage skills to create performances graduates will never forget.

"People are unlikely to remember what was said at their graduation ceremony, but they will remember how they felt."

Jeff intends to use his retirement to return to his former hobby of voice work.

"I'm getting much more work from auctioneers, barristers, teachers, and broadcasters who want help to empower their voices."

He will also work on various theatre productions and return to the University to help on graduation ceremonies if needed.

Will he miss anything in university life?

"I don't know you ever miss the nine-to-five routine."

"But if I get really bored I'll come and sit in the library and read books."

Someone that sounds unlikely.

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**Digging into innovation**

It is often claimed that possession of natural resources leads to a "resource curse" that condemns a resource-rich economy to poverty.

However, some of the richest and/or fastest growing economies are resource-based, including Norway, Sweden, Finland, Canada, New Zealand, Australia and the Netherlands.

How have these economies developed against the conventional wisdom on resources, and what are the implications for future development and economic development among resource-based economies more widely?

"The case studies of Finland and Sweden show us it is through innovation that companies spring up to support and supply resource-based activities, and this is where growth occurs," he said.

Professor Keith Smith uses the evidence of what has been happening in Australia to look at the strong ripple effect from a major resources industry into other service areas of the economy.

The clearest case of this, he says, is the Sydney financial markets, which are heavily focussed on special finance for the resources sector.

This concentration on long-term funding has also encouraged the development of a range of exotic financial products for the resources sector.

Professor Smith addressed these issues at a recent AIRC seminar, based on a paper he wrote for the Committee for Economic Development of Australia. For a full copy of the paper or more information about AIRC seminars, contact the AIRC on (03) 6226 7388.

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**What can you achieve here?**

We intend to create a world-class institute in Innovation Studies, researching key issues in innovation performance and economic development. Innovation is the key to productivity, and productivity is the key to business profitability.

**Does Tasmania have the technology base?**

Most people think of innovation as being about hi-tech, but the first important finding of recent economic research is that innovation is not concentrated in hi-tech sectors. Statistical studies show that all sectors of the economy innovate and that innovation is widely dispersed across the economy. This is great news for Tasmania because it means that to become an innovation-based economy we don't have to create new hi-tech industries out of thin air.

**How do you encourage people to innovate?**

Innovation doesn’t come from boffins wearing lab coats – more often it comes simply from customers asking a company or supplier to meet their needs. To innovate, companies must first find out what their customers need, and work on a clear understanding of that. Incat is an excellent example here.

**So what is your research about?**

Innovation studies, linked with new growth theory, focuses on why some countries and regions are more innovative than others, and what governments might do to improve their performance.

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**THE DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT EDITION OF UNITAS IS 28 SEPTEMBER (1 OCTOBER RELEASE).**

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**An interview with Professor Jonathan West, director of the Australian Innovation Research Centre (AIRC) based at UTAS**

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Innovation studies, linked with new growth theory, focuses on why some countries and regions are more innovative than others, and what governments might do to improve their performance.
Environmental expert inspires students

The artwork will provide a physical and visual reminder of the estimated 27,000 species of plants and animals lost through extinction each year.

Ms Callis-Suzuki, daughter of science guru David Suzuki, led a discussion about environmental sustainability and how related concepts can be made accessible to school children. The group also talked about ways for teachers and their classes to take action that makes a positive difference to the planet’s future.

During her visit, Ms Callis-Suzuki also launched a Faculty of Education Community Engagement Project, Memorial: The silence of extinction, of which she is the patron. The Memorial project is designed to heighten individual and community awareness of the annual global extinction rate. It is a collaborative project that will involve many people, worldwide, in creating an artwork. The artwork will provide a physical and visual reminder of the estimated 27,000 species of plants and animals lost through extinction each year.

WILD EXPERIENCES AT UTAS

The many advantages of studying at UTAS were captured by The Age in its August education special on scholarships. UTAS science (Natural Environment and Wilderness Management) student Lilian Pearce told the paper how she loved the size of the university, its quality teaching and its location. “I loved the idea of being able to go out my back door and go on a beautiful bush walk,” she said.

FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

Professor Daryl Le Grew | Vice-Chancellor

Top academics win national awards

The citations, awarded on August 9 by the Carrick Institute for Learning and Teaching in Higher Education, recognise the unique contributions to quality teaching by academic staff throughout Australia. UTAS recipients of a citation in 2007 are:

Dr Catherine McLeod (Architecture): For innovative, holistic approaches to student learning in Years One and Five, leading to architecture students demonstrating and applying more sophisticated levels of functioning knowledge.

Dr John Parer (Aquaculture): For facilitating links between the University and aquaculture industry to create high-quality work-integrated learning experiences for students.

Dr Carinna McLeod (Architecture): For innovative, holistic approaches to student learning in Years One and Five, leading to architecture students demonstrating and applying more sophisticated levels of functioning knowledge.

Supporting teaching development and improving the student learning environment at the level of the school, faculty and university.

Vice-Chancellor Daryl Le Grew said he was delighted by another strong showing of UTAS staff in the prestigious awards. “I am extremely proud of our staff’s achievements. This Carrick Citations are further recognition of the quality of the educational programs and specialist teaching that UTAS has to offer our students,” he said.
Shaping law reform in Cambodia

Senior Law lecturer Rick Snell has just completed a $40,000 USAID consultancy on FoI in Cambodia on behalf of the Law School and UTAS Innovation Ltd. Here are his reflections:

Cambodia is the latest entrant to the list of countries considering a freedom of information law. It is a country riddled by corruption, where the average wage per day is less than $1.25, and where the people struggle to care for 500,000 orphans in the aftermath of two decades of civil war.

In the midst of this, FoI, instead of being considered an unnecessary luxury, has been accepted by the Cambodians as an important step in improving economic development and governance, and as a tool in the difficult fight to reduce widespread corruption. An interministerial team has just added the final touches to a draft policy on FoI that will be presented in the next few weeks to the country’s council of ministers.

The drafting team attempted to adopt best practice to fit the circumstances of Cambodia. I worked with the team, which included two generals and several secretaries of state, for two months in Phnom Penh, helping to finalise a draft policy on Access to Information for the Royal Government of Cambodia.

The work involved numerous consultations, including with Ministers and Generals, and three public workshops, including a national workshop with 130 invited representatives at the Phnom Penh Hotel. The hardest part was the need to quickly produce drafts so as to give ample time for them to be translated into formal Khmer well before each meeting of the team. In meetings and consultations with the ministers of information and national defence and leading public servants, I was struck by the contrast between their willingness to accept FoI and the Australian Government’s dismal record.

The upper echelons of the Cambodian Government were willing to consider endorsing very progressive FoI laws despite the obvious discomfort that greater transparency and accountability will bring to their monarchy on power and patronage. Meanwhile, their Australian equivalents have allowed our FoI laws to fall into disrepair. More effort, time and money has been invested by successive Australian governments in denying access to information than has been committed to improving timely access to high-quality and reliable government data. My time in Cambodia has convinced me that we need to undertake a quantum shift and rebuild our FoI laws from the ground up.

Pam of this comment piece first appeared in the Sydney Morning Herald (23 August). Rick Snell is available to speak on his impressions of the Cambodian legal system.

Nick Ward
Meet Nick Ward, President of the Medieval and Renaissance Society at UTAS, studying engineering

Wearing

Aiming
Work in the power industry in Tasmania.

Reading
He died with a felafel in his hand by John Birmingham.

Listening to
Flamenco guitar music and downloading heaps onto my MP3 player.

Watching
Firefly, a sci-fi series from the US.

Laughing at
This question. Quite like Ed Byrne, the Irish standup comedian.

Looking forward to
A Silver Arrow archery weekend where we go camping and have archery competitions. We also have a medieval feast coming up too.

The Medieval and Renaissance Society is just one of the 70 societies you can join at the University through the TUV.
Unlocking the lives of convict women

R
ow upon row of hand-stitched, calico baby bonnets recently lined the walls of the Plimsoll Gallery in the Tasmanian School of Art, in a moving tribute to Tasmania’s convict women and their lost children.

The installation of 900 christening bonnets is the work of artist Christina Henri, who is completing her final year in a bluster of Fine Art, and has spent the past four years exploring the rich — but largely undocumented — history of Tasmanian convict women.

Christina found herself drawn to the story of the women after visiting the Female Factory, in South Hobart, which, like so many Hobartians, she had driven past many times on her way to the university. “I ended up staying there all day, sitting on a sandstone slab and just reflecting on the lives of the many women who had been through there,” Christina says.

Part of that reflection was the devastating loss of the many children born to convict mothers, with more than 1000 children dying at the Female Factory between 1829 and 1877. Official records of these deaths fail to note either the name of the baby or mother, and the children were buried without ceremony.

Christina chose the symbol of a christening bonnet — a delicate little garment normally reserved for children born into the colonial upper class — as a poignant tribute to the women and their babies.

“We are always told that they were whores and prostitutes, when in fact the majority had a profession and brought these skills here, except they were in the domestic sphere and out of public view — unlike the bridges and roads built by the convict men.”

Christina’s work has been recognised by the federal department of Environment and Heritage as an important way of raising awareness of female convict history and will include her work as part of its nomination of the Female Factory for World Heritage listing.

Among those involved in the project are women serving community service orders in Adelaide, where Christina flew late last month to collect more than 1400 bonnets.

“After a call from the Department of Corrections there after someone had read about my work and they asked if they could be involved, which was just wonderful,” she says.

Christina believes her work is helping to reveal the true story of the convict women, as opposed to furthering the mythology.

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