Reader contributions are welcome, however the editor reserves the right to edit copy or hold material over for future issues. The editor is under no obligation to publish contributed copy. Letters to the Editor on issues of general University interests are invited. They should be brief and must be signed. The editor reserves the right to not publish letters that attack an individual, violate privacy or infringe on confidentiality.

The opinions expressed in UniTAS are not necessarily those of the University.

Contact with the Media Office should be made through email, wherever possible, or by mail or telephone. The Editor, Private Bag 40, Hobart 7001
Email: Media Office@utas.edu.au
Telephone: 6226 2194 or 0417 517 391

NOTICEBOARD

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

03 October
Pharmacy Research Seminar
Pharmacy Research Seminars - Peter Tenni, Pharmacy: Clinical Interventions in community pharmacies: The PROMISse Project
Time: 1:00 pm, venue: Sandy Bay Chemistry Room 319 (Chem 2)
Further Information: G Hadfield, 6226 2190

05 October
School of Plant Science Seminar
School of Plant Science Final Honours Seminar
Time: 2:30pm, venue: Lecture Theatre 9, Life Sciences Building, Sandy Bay campus
Further Information: 6226 1803

05 October
School of Sociology and Social Work Seminar
Policy as Catharsis: Writing urban frustration and anger through research
Dr Rowland Atkinson
Time: 3:30pm, venue: Room 319, Arts Building, Sandy Bay campus
Further Information: Dr Rowland Atkinson, 6226 1804

01 November
University Department of Rural Health & Discipline of General Practice Research Symposium
Further Information: Dr Romana Zieglerova, a strings student from Czechoslovakia, helped Jan organise a concert at the Federation Concert Hall to raise money for the Czech flood victims,” said Elinor.

“At the end of March 2003, Jan’s wife Beryl, approached me to see if I’d be interested in writing Jan’s biography. “So we started from scratch, we spoke in Czech and we worked together all through 2003. We interviewed 30 past colleagues, friends, students and family across Australia to help us piece together the enormous and rich life of Jan Sedivka and all those whose lives were touched by him.”

“Jan Sedivka’s life has been prolific. He is one of a handful of post-war migrants who brought to Australia a priceless knowledge of the deepest European traditions in music,” said Elinor.

“The book is divided into sections based on where Jan has lived: the Czech Republic, France, England, Queensland and, ultimately, Tasmania in 1965.

Elinor describes Jan as loyal, caring, impossible, and totally focused on the welfare and musical development of his students.

“He has had an unbelievably rich life. He gave so much to his work and to his students. His whole focus was music, and he is a complex and generous man.”

“Jan was the heart of the world.” At his birthday celebration (on 9 September), the energy with which the students performed for him typified the gratitude and love they feel for Jan. I could feel that.

The 90th birthday performance was conducted by John Couto, with Theo Lazareff leading the group. Theo, whom Jan met in 1947, went on to become the leader of the Queensland Symphony for 20 years.

“Their histories are different but their loyalty is unwavering to him, the depth of friendship is extraordinary,” said Elinor.

Telling the story of strings maestro

Jan Sedivka, acclaimed concert violinist, former Director of the Tasmanian Conservatorium of Music and one of Australia’s most influential music teachers for the past 30 years, celebrated his 90th birthday last month with former students, colleagues and his biographer, Elinor Morrisey.

Elinor Morrisey, a PhD student at the Tasmanian Conservatorium, has written the biography that two others before her had not been able to complete: the amazing life of Jan Sedivka. The yet-to-be titled biography started in 2002 and will be published shortly by Lyle and Skew Press in Melbourne. It grew from a fundraising concert in 2002. Romana Zieglerova, a strings student from Czechoslovakia, helped Jan organise a concert at the Federation Concert Hall to raise money for the Czech flood victims,” said Elinor.

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UTAS librarians (left) is the University Librarian, LINDA LUTHER (right pictured) won a 2007 Australian Press Council Journalism Student prize, which is awarded annually to journalism students in 14–16 universities around Australia for performance in an essay or a subject related to the question of journalism ethics. “The APC Student Prize provides a wonderful opportunity for journalism students to receive acknowledgement for their outstanding work in journalism ethics,” said UTAS journalism ethics lecturer DR NICOLA GOC. Journalism student JEFF DONNE was a finalist in this year’s Super Student. Journalist of the Year awards. The award, which is judged by journalists from the Media Entertainment and Arts Alliance and the Walkley Foundation for Journalism, is open to tertiary students studying journalism, media and communication related degrees who have not previously worked full-time in the media. Jeff’s radio piece “The LaRouche Movement” was chosen as a finalist from more than 90 entries.

UniTas has anything but bookish about getting the line-up of dozens of scholarships that are available to UTAS students and worth a combined value of more than $6 million. Among them is The Larry Knight Memorial Scholarship, established last year by Prime Minister John Howard in memory of the late Larry Knight, who was killed in the mining accident at Beaconsfield. The scholarship is a perpetual scholarship valued at $10,000 per annum for up to four years, to those who can demonstrate financial need and are studying mining-related undergraduate courses at UTAS. The inaugural scholarship recipient was MICHAEL NELSON, a Bachelor of Engineering student. Applications for the 2008 Larry Knight Memorial Scholarship close on Wednesday 31 October. On the subject of scholarships, watch this space for an announcement on the 2008 Rhodes Scholarship next month. For more information on the full range of UTAS scholarships available, visit www.scholarships.utas.edu.au

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

Bushfire research a burning issue

The Hobart waterfront played host to the 2007 Bushfire Cooperative Research Centre annual conference from 19–21 September at the Hotel Grand Chancellor. The conference, which included presentations, workshops, exhibitions and field trips, was attended by delegates from as far afield as the United States.

The Bushfire CRC was formed in 2003 as a partnership between Australian and New Zealand fire and land management agencies and research partners in an effort to better understand the complex social, economic and environmental aspects of bushfires. UTAS is a core partner of the Bushfire CRC through the involvement of its schools of Psychology, Plant Science and Education. Dr Christine Owen, Assistant Dean of Education at UTAS, is Program Leader of the Bushfire CRC Education and Training Program, which oversees around 30 research students across a range of projects.

Six UTAS students are undertaking research, including a study of the workings of Incident Management Teams, a study of how fire may affect dieback in eucalypt trees and research into effective risk communication during bushfires. The research is being undertaken at both masters and PhD levels, with assistance provided by scholarships from the Bushfire CRC.

Understanding bushfires was the focus of a recent Bushfire Cooperative Research Centre conference in Hobart.

A range of topics was covered during the three-day conference, with presentations and workshops hosted by experts from institutions such as UNSW, CSIRO, La Trobe University, RMIT and UTAS.

Engineering links with Thailand

Two University of Tasmania academics are helping to build engineering education links with their counterparts in Thailand.

Dr Gary Williams (Acting Director of the UTAS Graduate School and a senior lecturer at the Centre for the Advancement of Learning and Teaching) and School of Engineering Lecturer Dr Bernardo A. León de la Barra travelled to Bangkok recently as part of a project that seeks to improve University teaching and learning in engineering and technology by sharing expertise between Australia and Thailand.

The project, led by Dr León de la Barra, is funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade’s Australia-Thailand Institute.

As part of their activities, Drs Williams and León de la Barra visited the faculties of engineering at Chulalongkorn University, Kasetsart University, and King Mongkut’s University of Technology Thonburi. During their visit, Dr Williams also delivered a talk on “Learning and teaching at the University of Tasmania: The classroom environment and staff development”, and Dr León de la Barra presented some of his on-going work on “Engaging students to encourage deeper learning”.

To further strengthen these links, representatives from all three Thai universities are expected to visit the University of Tasmania in March next year, which will provide them with a first-hand experience of learning and teaching at UTAS.

Margaret Baguley, lecturer in Arts Education at UTAS, was one of six artists selected to interpret a dish from those offered at the premier food and wine event for the 2007 Tasmanian Living Lobster Telephone Stackhouse, the new owner of Margaret’s snappy Art that’s almost good enough to eat

the mouthpiece of the phone with the reproductive area of the lobster, drawing an interesting analogy between food and sex.

In her re-interpretation of this work, Margaret placed a replica of a crayfish on top of a small but dense pile of mobile phones with lime greens and orange covers to symbolise the colours of the course. The work compromises the sexual imagery of Dal’s work by providing too many phone options for the crayfish and also comments on how the public world increasingly intrudes on the private – sometimes during dinner.

The artworks were displayed on the night and auctioned later in the evening, with all proceeds going toward research into the Tasmanian devil facial tumour disease.
Young Tassie Scientists hit the road

From King Island to Geeveston, this year’s Young Tassie Scientist program reached more than 2500 school students around the state. Thirteen early career researchers, including UTAS postgraduate students and recent graduates, were involved in the program, which promotes awareness of the importance and relevance of science, engineering and technology. The Young Tassie scientists presented a range of talks and hands-on activities covering topics from brushtail possums to brain injury. The program also provided the opportunity for the scientists involved to develop their public speaking and communication skills. Feedback from teachers indicated that their students were completely engaged by the presentations and were left with an increased enthusiasm and appreciation of contemporary science issues being studied in Tasmania. Another teacher commented: “This is a fantastic way for the University of Tasmania to increase interest and enthusiasm for science within our schools and community.” The Young Tassie Scientists also gave public presentations at the Imaginarium Science Centre and at University Info Days. The program is supported through funding from the Commonwealth Department of Education, Science and Training as part of National Science Week, the Department of Economic Development, and the Faculty of Science, Engineering & Technology.

More profiles can be found at www.youngtassiescientists.com

FROM THE DEPUTY VICE-CHANCELLOR

DAVID RICH | DEPUTY VICE-CHANCELLOR (ACADEMIC) & PROVOST

As this is my first UTAS column, it might be useful to introduce myself. I am a geographer with a primary research interest in regional development and industrial change. After undergraduate and postgraduate studies at Cambridge, I taught at the University of Exeter (UK) for three years, followed by more than two decades doing the same at Macquarie University. From Macquarie, I moved to the University of New England, in Armidale, initially as PVC (Teaching and Learning) and later as EVC (Academic). Moving south, my early impressions of UTAS include the great warmth of the welcome, a generosity of spirit, the profusion of great ideas, and the complexities of operating in a multi-campus, whole-of-state university. All of this comes with many good opportunities for the future, but like other universities we face the task of identifying which of those great ideas we should adopt and deciding how to meet the challenges of change.

Three great passions have driven my work: achieving and supporting academic excellence; improving access to educational opportunities; and the need to actively support staff to achieve their full potential. No doubt I will write more about those passions in future columns, but for now I am happy to note their close alignment with key elements of the EDGE 2 agenda for 2008-2010. Within the EDGE 2 agenda, one of my initial priorities has been to help work towards the unique, distinctive ‘UTAS Model’ of education proposed by the Vice-Chancellor. In part, this builds on the State Government’s Tasmania Tomorrow reform proposals for the senior secondary and TAFE systems, creating academies, polytechnics and a training enterprise.

UTAS is well represented in the groups working on the Tasmania Tomorrow proposals – I am on the Steering Committee and we have representatives on the various curriculum and administrative working parties – so we will have a significant voice in influencing the outcomes. Our intention is to achieve curricula that are much more tightly integrated between the sectors and to provide stronger pathways from the academics and polytechnics, as well as the independent and Catholic schools, into UTAS.

The closely related proposal for a University College will provide other ways of strengthening the cross-sectoral links and improving entry pathways into UTAS. Four dimensions of the University College proposal are being explored:

- The introduction of more programs that are shared between or jointly taught across the sectors, particularly in specialist areas such as languages and creative arts;
- Strengthening of UTAS high-achiever programs to provide intellectual stimulation and accelerated learning for elite students in academics and schools;
- Building on the work of the Enabling Programs Working Party, a substantial enhancement of programs providing entry pathways and supportive learning environments for those who have not qualified for university study or who want to come to university after a break from study; and
- A specialised foundation program for international students who do not meet entry requirements.

All this work is being guided by a Preparation and Pathways Steering Committee that I am chairing, supported by a number of smaller working parties. While proposals are only just being formulated, it seems clear that – when combined with other endeavours such as the Common Courser Structure Project – the University College proposal has the potential to bring significant benefits to Tasmania, as well as addressing key elements of the EDGE 2 agenda.

I look forward to providing progress reports in future editions of UniTAS and to discussing proposals in Academic Senate and other forums.

Typotastic wins design gold

The team behind the UTAS typotastic magazine was thrilled to have its talents recognised in the recent Tasmanian Print Industry Craftsmanship Awards (PICAs) in Hobart. Typotastic, launched in 2005, is a unique collaboration between design educators, students, industry professionals and commentators, working together to produce Australia’s first publication dedicated solely to the critical writing and exploration of typography. The magazine is produced annually by the Visual Communications studio at the University’s School of Art as part of the students’ professional practice experience. The magazine, typotastic #2, received three PICA awards, including a gold award for magazine design, despite stiff competition from professional designers and producers. The #2 issue also received gold in the student category, while April Krause won silver for her Design Research Symposium program. Graduate students Harry Rolf and Luke Morgan were at the presentation dinner to accept the awards on behalf of the delighted team. Typotastic #3 is due for release shortly.

Lisa Cawthen

is using radio tracking to reveal where brushtail possums find dens in natural forest

“My study will provide forest managers with a greater understanding of the types of hollow-bearing trees occupied by fauna. Such information will then be used in revised strategies for the retention of ‘valued’ habitat for fauna.”

Jerome Staal

is researching what happens to the brain following injury

“A brain injury can often be difficult to detect because the cells of the brain (neurons) can often die over a long period of time. I am trying to understand the way and speed at which these neurons die following injury. We have also been testing new drugs that may stop the cells from degenerating and even promote cell recovery. This is important because the neurons in the brain do not regenerate once they die, so any damage to the brain is permanent.”

Jess Andrewartha

is investigating ways to make hydro-electricity generation more efficient

“By reducing the friction between the water and the concrete canals that deliver the water from the dams to the power stations, we can deliver more water at a faster rate to the turbines. I work both out in the field and in a high-tech laboratory and spend a lot of time investigating how freshwater algae moves around in flowing water.”

April Krause

was thrilled when Typotastic magazine was awarded design gold

“Typotastic is a unique student magazine that is produced annually as a collaboration between students, educators and industry professionals.”

Award-winning graphic design students Luke Morgan, Harry Rolf and April Krause
Study helps asthma sufferers breathe easy

A recent study conducted by the University of Tasmania’s School of Pharmacy is helping people to better manage their asthma through collaboration between community pharmacists and General Practitioners. Professor Gregory Peterson, from the University of Tasmania, utilising a $100,000 grant from the Asthma Foundation of Australia, developed an innovative computer solution to assist community pharmacists in identifying people who may have poorly managed asthma. Once identified, these individuals would be encouraged to see their GP for a review of their management plan.

With about two million Australians affected by asthma, it is estimated that the software could potentially identify and assist more than 80,000 people with poorly managed asthma.

“The study used ‘data mining’ software to identify over 1500 adults as having poorly managed asthma, with half of these people encouraged to see their GP for a review of their asthma and the other half used as a control group,” Professor Peterson said.

The individuals studied were found to be exceeding the reliever medication usage rates of three puffs per week recommended by the Asthma Foundation of Australia.

“What we found during the following six months was a significant shift towards more people using preventer medications, relying less heavily on their reliever medications,” Professor Peterson said.

“This results in better health outcomes for patients, and ultimately places less of a burden on the health system,” Professor Peterson said.

Asthma Foundation of Tasmania education and training manager Melanie Blackhall said the AFT was excited to be part of a study.

“Asthma is a disease which affects 55,000 people in Tasmania alone and is responsible for an estimated 1000 presentations to emergency departments throughout the year.

“This study is vital as it has the potential to be implemented across the country, assisting thousands of community members to take control of their asthma and ensure they don’t end up becoming one of the Australians who die from asthma every day.”

Kourosity attracts museum visitors

A archaeologists and art historians alike have been taking in the attractions of the John Elliott Classics Museum, housed at the University Centre, Sandy Bay, Launceston.

Professor Wolf-Dietrich Niemeier, director of The German Archaeological Institute at Athens, recently dropped in for a tour of the centre before delivering his public lecture on the spectacular discovery of the Kouros of the Sacred Gate.

Professor Niemeier visited the University as a guest of the Tasmanian Friends of the Australian Archaeological Institute at Athens. The archaeologist captivated his audience with the story of how he and his team stumbled across the exquisite marble kouros (an idealised Greek youth) during an archaeological dig in 2000.

Professor Niemeier’s team was dating water channels in Kerameikos, the cemetery and potters’ quarter of ancient Athens, which had remained untouched for 2500 years, when a member of the team exposed a shoulder of the kouros. Remarkably, it is the second time in Professor Niemeier’s career that he has been part of a team to unearth a kouros, with the latest masterpiece dating to around 600BC.

While the John Elliott Classics Museum cannot boast a priceless kouros among its collection, it does contain about 800 examples of the art and culture of ancient Egypt and Mesopotamia, Greece, Etruria and Rome.

The collection was started in 1954 by the then Professor of Classics, J.R. Elliott, who began to acquire ancient Greek vases with a view to creating a museum that would both serve as a teaching adjunct to UTAS history and classics courses, and be accessible to all Tasmanians.

The museum is currently open from 9am–4pm (closed 12–1 pm) from Monday to Friday, and 10am–4pm on Saturday. It is closed on Monday in the school holidays, and during the university’s Christmas/New Year break.

Cooking up a creative summer feast

One of Australia’s most celebrated and exciting chefs, Xavier Mouche, will be part of a tempting line up for the second Tasmanian Creative Arts Summer School in Launceston early next year.

The Swiss-born Mouche, who has worked in some of the world’s top restaurants, will hold an eight-day culinary design course based around Tasmanian fresh produce and fine wine that promises to stimulate your palate, expand your cooking repertoire and dazzle your dinner guests.

The summer school, which runs from 9–18 January, is being hosted by UTAS in partnership with the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery, TAFE Tasmania and the Launceston City Council.

The school will offer a total of 15 creative arts workshops, including understanding Asian theatre, tackling textiles and learning the art of bronze casting. The highly successful Newstead Rock Music Summer School and Launceston College Concert and Stage Band program will also be available.

Director of the Summer School, Professor Vincent McGrath, said the school was open to everyone, including existing UTAS students who could enjoy learning hands-on creative skills while adding up to ten of their degree, potential UTAS students of the future, and members of the public looking for a new challenge.

“We have extended the partnership in 2008 to include two of the colleges in Launceston, enabling us to build pathways for college students to attain their first University subject over an eight-day summer period,” Prof McGrath said.

“We hope to encourage students to enjoy the learning environment offered at the Academy of the Arts and hope they will be inspired to continue their education further within the University.”

Summer School manager Elissa Nolan said the school had been very fortunate in securing two young and highly talented musicians to be artists-in-residence throughout the Summer School.

Professor Wolf-Dietrich Niemeier, director of The German Archaeological Institute at Athens, takes a closer look at one of the exhibits in the John Elliott Classics Museum.

David Keeling: Looking Forward, Looking Back

TAASMANIAN MONOGRAPH

Quintus Publishing 2007 (Quintus Publishing, 2007)

Tasmanian artist David Keeling is a painter fully grounded in Western art’s long history of classicism, the tradition which runs from Botticelli to Poussin, from Pierre de Champaigne to Die- Chirico. He uses that artistic language – a combination of figurative, narrative and landscape to describe Australia’s shorter and sadder history of invasion and ecological destruction. From the bleak, denuded hillsides of this century, with the isolated markers of civilisation – houses, gables, dining tables, curtains – to the more recent, richly patterned treescapes of the Narawntapu National Park, Keeling’s work uncovers and expresses the beautiful, tragic, surreal poetry of the Tasmanian environment.

David Keeling is the fourth in the monograph series published by Quintus Publishing Limited, the publishing partnership launched in 2005 between the School of English, Journalism and Language Arts at the University of Tasmania, and Arts Tasmania.
Green building to rise from rubble

The former Menzies building on the corner of Campbell and Liverpool streets in Hobart has been reduced to rubble as work on the $50 million co-location of the Faculty of Health Sciences and Menzies Research Institute commences.

The latest newsletter from the UTAS Co-Location project outlines the "green" approach being taken to the development, given the focus around the world on creating sustainable buildings that minimise their impact on the environment.

According to the newsletter, research shows that commercial buildings contribute around 8.8 per cent of all greenhouse emissions in Australia every year.

Tasmania, with its reputation as a clean, green state, is well placed to lead the way in the development of environmentally friendly buildings, so the University and planning team behind the co-location project have given special consideration to the environmental scorecard of this undertaking.

Central to the approach has been the application of the Green Star – Education (Pilot) Scheme, developed by the Green Building Council of Australia.

Under this method, issues such as energy and water efficiency, waste management, thermal comfort, re-use of land, resource conservation and the maintenance of facilities are taken into account in the design of the building itself.

The environmentally sustainable design features of the new complex include:

- Water storage areas to enable water separation and recycling of office waste
- Cyclist facilities, including secure bike spaces
- Use of non-toxic materials around the building
- Maximisation of daylight access to all habitable and teaching areas
- Energy-efficient lighting sources
- Thermal mass via the concrete superstructure
- Movement sensors and reset switches for controlled lighting
- Double glazing to external windows with tinted performance glass
- Well insulated external walls, and
- A range of initiatives to minimise energy use throughout the building.

Creating a sustainable UTAS

The University of Tasmania is committed to ensuring its operations as well as its research and teaching are directed towards environmental outcomes consistent with responsible practice and community expectations. This is enshrined in University Council’s Governance Level Principle No. 9 addressing Environmental Management.

To translate this principle into action, the University Built Environment Committee created a working group, the Environmental Management Group.

In terms of reference are to:

- Promote the importance of environmental management at UTAS
- Develop policy and procedures to actively promote, encourage, implement and monitor initiatives and projects
- Review and prioritise projects against UTAS governance priorities
- Undertake reviews and audits to evaluate the success of environmental initiatives/projects
- Report compliance against the governance level principle to the Built Environment Committee.

Many universities in Australia and abroad have now implemented Environment Management Plans, and UTAS is developing its own with a view to learning from the experience of others.

The Environmental Management Group comprises academics and general staff from across the university community including:

- Chair: Professor Roger Fay (School of Architecture & Design)
- Mr John Aldridge (SA & TUU)
- Mr Alistair Broatch (Australian Maritime College)
- Professor Ted Le Fey (Centre for Environment)
- Professor Chris Lefroy (School of Engineering)
- Dr Elaine Stratford (School of Geography and Environmental Studies)

On October 17 the Built Environment Committee and the Environmental Management Group will hold a workshop to discuss the UTAS draft Environment Management Plan. They welcome comments from the UTAS community and look forward to building on our environmental achievements to date and moving to a more strategic and coordinated approach that will influence the design and operation of our buildings, our procurement policies, our logistics and our relationship to the natural environment.

Tobacco control in Tasmania still smoke and mirrors

Kathy Barnsley knows a bit about smoking, both as a former two-pack-a-day smoker, and now as a PhD candidate investigating what needs to be done to control it in Tasmania.

"While smoking rates are falling sharply in every other state, in Tasmania they are going up. We now have the highest percentage of smokers out of all the states and that concerns me. I am concerned for the people of my state and I want to try and make a difference," Kathy explains.

Kathy is eight months into her multi-disciplinary thesis – The Marlboro Man is alive and well: Why tobacco control is failing in Tasmania – under the supervision of respiratory physician Dr Richard Wood Baker, from the Menzies Institute, and Dr Kate Cowley, from the School of Government.

Last month, Kathy was one of more than 40 UTAS postgraduate candidates to present at the inaugural Sharing Excellence in Research Conference in which she laid out the startling facts about smoking in Tasmania. These include that smoking accounts for about 500 deaths each year and, between 1995 and 2000, killed more Tasmanians than alcohol, suicide, road accidents, drug use, and accidents and homicide combined.

"What I am exploring is the gap between what we know about the effects of smoking, what works to reduce the number of smokers, and the good will that is out there for change, and why this change is not happening. My thesis looks at what those barriers are," Kathy said.

These barriers, Kathy believes, include a mix of a lack of physical and financial resources for anti-smoking campaigns, plus the power of the tobacco industry and other lobby groups who have a major investment in people continuing to light up.

Kathy recently attended a New Zealand anti-tobacco conference where new Victorian research showed that mass media "shock" advertising campaigns do work, with graphic scenes of gongorous limbs and mouth cancer encouraging more people to quit. For Kathy, it is more than 25 years since she quit by going cold turkey.

"There is no easy way to give up. There is no silver bullet unfortunately, but the more times people try, the greater the likelihood of success." Kathy Barnsley was a senior policy officer with the Tasmanian Health Department until 2001 and is a former member of the Australian National Expert Advisory Committee on Tobacco Control (NEXACT). She is a board member of Arthritis Tasmania and an adviser to the Cancer Council Tasmania.

Breaking new ground in agriculture

A new era in Tasmanian vegetable and dairy research began with the launch of the two research, development and extension centres at the Tasmanian Institute of Agricultural Research on 11 September.

Primary Industries and Water Minister David Llewellyn and University of Tasmania Vice Chancellor Professor Daryl Le Grew presided at the official launch of the centres, which involve a $25 million investment over 10 years and a commitment to operate until 2017.

Under the move, the Forside (vegetable) and Elliott (dairy) Research and Demonstration farms will transfer to the University.

"Establishing the two new research centres at TIAR builds on an already successful research partnership between the University of Tasmania and the State Government."

"Establishing the two new research centres for vegetables and dairy is an opportunity to further that partnership and to support Tasmanian primary industries to be innovative to maintain market share and to face significant emerging issues," Mr Llewellyn said.

"TIAR is growing in stature as it continues to prove itself a successful model for research, development and extension for these industries."

The Vegetable Centre and the Dairy Centre will allow for a seamless approach to research, development and extension in the vegetable and dairy industries, and enhance a more cooperative approach between the University and the State Government.

Professor Le Grew said that the University partnership was extremely important for rural communities involved in vegetable and dairy production.

"The development of this partnership means we are able to provide better research services across the State by combining resources," he said.

"We can now provide important research to regional communities with our on-farm approach that is then linked with our innovation research. This development comes at a time when primary industries need to be innovative to maintain market share and face significant global issues such as biosecurity, water management and climate change."
INDIA EXPLORES RAJ WRITERS

Professor Ralph Crane’s research into Anglo-Indian writers, including Maud Diver, received phenomenal coverage in Indian newspapers and press via correspondent Neena Bhambani. ‘Australian academics explore stories from the Raj’ was picked up by 450 Indian news outlets and 15 countries that publish Indian newspapers, plus the Sunday Australian and ABC radio.

RETREAT OF THE PENGUINS


HOONING RESEARCH

Research into hooning by Professor Rob White and Hannah Graham, published in the UTAS-based journal Youth Studies, Australia, attracted wide attention, including their argument for greater understanding of hoon culture. Hannah appeared on CH7 Sunrise, while the story was also covered by the Sydney Morning Herald, ABC Newcastle, ABC Illawarra, ABC Canberra, ABC Hobart and others.

DEVIL STARS IN JAPAN

The Tasmanian Devil features in a top-rating news show destined for Japanese viewers, The T asmanian Devil shines at Inveresk, received phenomenal coverage throughout the country and in Indian newspapers and press via AAP, the media is full of discussions about affordable housing and the difficulty of finding appropriate accommodation. In Tasmania many locations are experiencing severe rental property shortages, with associated rent increases and high barriers to entry. The shortage is even tougher for people with mental illness; the task of gaining and retaining adequate accommodation can be insurmountable without some help.

For the past year, Anglicare Tasmania has been operating a National Homeless Strategy Demonstration Project called “My Place” in Launceston and the North-West. The My Place project is unique to Australia and involves Anglicare stuff members assisting small numbers of clients to find and sustain their accommodation through intensive case management.

The My Place project is improving housing stability, but that the literature suggested that some of the broader benefits, on employment for instance, required about two years of intensive support.

‘Rock’ star rhinoceros shines at Inveresk

Mavis may literally have a heart of stone, but she is a rhinoceros with an important message.

The three-tonne rhinoceros sculpture was officially unveiled at the Academy of Arts, Inveresk, on 10 September by Professor Jan Pakulski, Dean of the Faculty of Arts.

Mavis is the work of Canadian artist, Professor Roger Gaudreau, who was an artist-in-residence at the Academy of Arts in March and April, and is the tenth rhinoceros sculpture he has created around the world.

“Do you ask, why a rhinoceros in Tasmania?” said Dr Wayne Hudson, Head of Sculpture at the Academy of Arts.

“Perhaps Roger considers that global warming will change the way that animals will need to relocate in order to survive. He considers that the bears in Canada may move somewhere else and that rhinos could move to Canada. The rhinoceros in Tasmania is an extended comment on this potential dislocation.”

Professor Pakulski noted that “in many ways Mavis is an immigrant like many of us. Mavis brings understandings about the fragility, resourcefulness and ability to adapt to new circumstances.”

Many of Gaudreau’s earlier rhinos have been made from material that will break down over time. For this work, however, he used 6mm stainless steel rod to construct the outer frame of the rhino and then welded this together, maintaining an aperture of 5mm. The inside is filled with Tasmanian basalt rock. Overall, Mavis is 3.6m long x 1.6m high x 1.1m wide.

Professor Vincent McGrath introduced the unveiling by Professor Ralph Crane and senior lecturer in the School of Sociology and Social work, Dr Daphne Habibis, have been contracted by Anglicare Tasmania to evaluate the effectiveness of the “My Place” project.

Dr Habibis said there was a two-way link between homelessness and mental illness, with mental illness contributing to loss of accommodation and vice-versa. “People with some forms of mental illness can find it difficult to sustain stable accommodation for many reasons. The problem can be as simple as rent not being paid during a hospital stay, or as complex as the loss of social connections and support networks,” Dr Habibis said.

Dr Habibis added that they may also have behavioral and substance use issues, leading to high levels of tenancy breakdown. She said that stable accommodation was vital for recovery and the My Place project assisted people, sometimes before they leave hospital, to ensure they have a stable home to return to. In addition, My Place helps people to develop living skills, such as dealing with neighbours, cooking, cleaning and budgeting. As well as extracurricular activities, the program offers long-term assistance with establishing a support network.

Dr Habibis said that the evidence so far suggested the My Place project was improving housing stability, but that the literature suggested that some of the broader benefits, on employment for instance, required about two years of intensive support.

The involvement of Simon Ellingson and the School of Maths and Physics in the Japanese SELENE lunar mission, attracted wide attention, including their argument for greater understanding of hoon culture. Hannah appeared on CH7 Sunrise, while the story was also covered by the Sydney Morning Herald, ABC Newcastle, ABC Illawarra, ABC Canberra, ABC Hobart and others.

STUDENTS JOIN JAPANESE LUNAR MISSION


A nationwide shortage of environmental health officers has led to the development of a new course, to be offered by the School of Human Life Sciences in 2008. The Bachelor of Health Science (Environmental Health) will train students to monitor and maintain health standards in the areas of food, water and air quality, water and waste management, housing, occupational health and safety and environmental protection.

The course has a strong emphasis on the understanding of health and disease, and the determinants of health. Graduates will have the practical ability to anticipate future problems, critically evaluate reports and complex data, and deal with environmental health issues that may involve conflict between interested groups.

Students won’t have to wait until they graduate to work in the field, as the course includes two practicum units that can be taken as part of a cadetship, as part of paid employment, or as a full- or part-time student. Graduates will be employed in industry and government, particularly local government, and other career paths include research and development, training and education, and health services.

“The opportunities for employment are excellent, and they are increasing as the public becomes more aware of health and environmental issues.”

For more information on this course, please contact Merran Rogers on (03) 6324 5490 or email Merran.Rogers@utas.edu.au

Environmental officer shortage prompts new course

The My Place project is unique to Australia and involves Anglicare stuff members assisting small numbers of clients to find and sustain their accommodation through intensive case management.


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HOUSING SHORTAGE HITS HARD

The involvement of Simon Ellingson and the School of Maths and Physics in the Japanese SELENE lunar mission, launched last month, attracted extensive coverage, including the SMH, The Australian, The Age, Daily Advertiser, The West Australian, Coffs Coast Advocate, Sunraysia Daily, APE, Courier Mail and the Canberra Times.

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A new dimension for rural health

Celebrating the health and wellbeing of rural and regional Tasmanians reflected a new dimension last month with Tasmania’s first Rural Health Week.

Rural Health Week was developed by the University Department of Rural Health (UDRH) in collaboration with the Department of Health and Human Services and involved a range of partners agencies at a state-wide level to focus on a broad range of health priority areas. It was an opportunity to bring individuals and communities together at wellbeing under the theme of “Celebrating Rural Health”. It was their communities’ interests and aspirations about health and of Tasmania, Department of Health and Ageing, General Practice in the planning process, including the Local Government Association of Tasmania, Department of Health and Ageing, General Practice Workforce and the Department of Education.

The aim of Rural Health Week is to provide an avenue for rural communities to tell their stories in the way that best reflects their communities’ interests and aspirations about health and wellbeing under the theme of “Celebrating Rural Health”. It was an opportunity to bring individuals and communities together at a state-wide level to focus on a broad range of health priority areas impacting on rural communities in Tasmania.

Medical students ‘go bush’

Experiencing a taste of a country practice is now a feature of the first-year medical curriculum at UTAS through “Rural Week”. An early introduction to rural medicine is designed to give students a greater incentive to consider building their career in a rural medical practice and, in doing so, help to alleviate the national shortage of rural doctors.

Rural Week is part of a staged introduction to rural medicine throughout the five-year medical undergraduate degree. During the week, held last month, all first-year medical students travelled to community health centres at Swansea, Oatlands and Campbell Town to work with doctors and the broader health team, and to talk with patients and their carers.

On campus, students were involved in discussing rural health policy and in identifying key rural health issues affecting health delivery across Australia. Students particularly appreciated visiting the various rural sites and enjoyed putting basic patient communication skills into practice. They were impressed with the facilities and the generous team spirit prevalent in the health centres, and with the willingness of patients to share their stories and experiences of health care in rural communities.

Rural Week leader and UTAS GP academic, Associate Professor Jan Radford, said delivery of the program was a collaborative effort between the Campbell Town, Oatlands and Swansea health communities and the University’s School of Medicine and Rural Clinical School.

“These changes in medical education can only be positive in terms of how our students view rural practice, and ultimately in addressing the rural health workforce shortages currently experienced around much of Australia,” Associate Professor Radford said.

Other highlights of the week included insights into rural emergency medicine facilitated by Dr Peter Arter, Senior Lecturer in Rural Medical Practice with the Rural Clinical School, and first-hand experiences of remote and indigenous medical practice presented by Dr Amy McCormack (a former Rural Clinical School student), Dr Jenny Jackson and Dr Campbell Miller.

Dealing with a death at home

Marg Hughes

PhD candidate
Sociology and Social Work
Launceston

What happens when someone dies at home from a terminal illness is rarely discussed. As part of her PhD research, Marg Hughes studied the experiences of 21 Tasmanians who attended to the death and final arrangements of a significant other person who died at home.

Marg’s own experience of losing a loved one at home from illness, and her work as a palliative care social worker informed her research topic.

“Death and dying is all around us,” says Marg, “but it’s in an abstract sense. We are surrounded with death on the news, in cinemas, on TV, in literature, it is all around, yet when we personally have to address death, we are so segregated from death, in economically advantaged countries for example, most people die in an institution. Due to our improved living conditions, our sophisticated medical technology and other reasons, we are not familiar with death like previous generations,” she said.

For her research, Marg recruited people through advertising, word of mouth, and in response to a story in The Examiner and an ABC radio interview.

“A number of people rang me and wrote to me, telling me of their personal accounts, their intimate stories. The process I adopted was one of conversational interviews. The people that got involved wanted to get involved and to share their stories.”

Marg found from the interview process that there were three distinct temporal phases that people experience before the death, at the time of the death, and after the death.

As Marg interviewed people, keeping in mind these distinct phases, various themes emerged through the narratives.

“There were four key themes that became apparent: the experience of caring, watching, organising and knowing.

“People throughout their journey were advised by friends and carers about what they should or shouldn’t do (and) they felt uncertainty, doubt or fear. In some cases, people were being advised how to care for a person at home, or how to do it better.”

Marg says we need to understand how people build up skills and competencies and that these experiences can help inform other key health workers about how to support people through the process.

“My research was interested in how someone dies and what they do with the body in the house and how they care for that person, how they dress the body, the funeral organisation, visiting the cemetery, keeping small personal belongings: very intimate stories. I believe the person never ceases caring for that person, even after death.”

“It’s one of the hardest things they have done, so it’s important they stand in a place of support and understanding and not of judgment … in all the cases, the people said they were pleased they had enabled someone to die at home.”

* Each month, this segment will profile an exciting research project within UTAS.

ANGELA MILLER

Meet Angela Miller, from California, who is studying for a Master of Contemporary Arts degree at the Academy of the Arts at Inveresk. How has she found Tasmania? “Exhilarating.”

LOVES

Contemporary theatre – the small intimate, gritty stuff.

AIMING

For success with my idea of ‘players’ – movie-style trailers to promote plays – in both my masters and as a business venture.

READING

Neil Guinea’s The Anansi Boys

LISTENING TO

Voice-overs for ‘Tis the season, the upcoming production for CentrStage. And, until I left the US, people asking me why I was going all the way to Tasmania. My response? “Let’s see, a great theatre program in a picturesque part of the world, with some of the nicest people I have ever met. Nope, can’t imagine why I would want to come all the way over here from the chaos of California.”

LAUGHING AT

The fact that I was at school until 3.45 am today: videotaping cardboard pieces of people for animation.

LOOKING FORWARD TO

Going home to see my nephew who will be born in late October.
Cradle coast hosts national small campus directors’ conference

Directors of small University campuses from across Australia attended a unique conference at the UTAS Cradle Coast campus recently.

Leaders from seven small campuses, including from Western Australia, Victoria and Queensland, gathered to discuss ideas and strategies for the small campus directors’ conference.

The conference was the first of its kind to be hosted by the UTAS Cradle Coast campus and reflected the campus’s reputation in benchmarking industry best practice.

“The conference offered an opportunity for directors of small campuses to come together and share ideas and exchange information on what is best practice management,” UTAS Cradle Coast campus Director and Dean of Education Megan Cavanagh-Russell said.

She said the meeting also addressed the importance of the relationship between a small University campus and its local community.

Over the two-day conference, attendees examined small campus models, discussing initiatives regarding academic programs and delivery, research activity, funding and organisational structure.

The conference concluded with a tour of the region, highlighting projects the UTAS Cradle Coast campus has undertaken with local industry and government.

Art fundraiser for Foundation

The Marie Edwards Art Gift exhibition and sale offers the opportunity to secure excellent quality work without paying gallery commission.

Proceeds of this exhibition will support the Marie Edwards Travelling Scholarship in Fine Arts, Craft and Design.

A graduate of the Tasmanian School of Art, Marie Edwards generously donated a substantial selection of her artworks to the University Foundation for the benefit of students. Marie passed away on 15 September 2005.

Art fundraiser for Foundation

View and purchase the Marie Edwards Art Gift online at: www.utas.edu.au/foundation/mariewards or in person by appointment on October 21 and 22 at: UTAS Fine Arts Gallery, University Union Building, Churchill Avenue, Sandy Bay

To arrange your personal viewing time and secure a work: 03 6226 2053 or email University.
Cradle coast hosts national small campus directors’ conference

Directors of small University campuses from across Australia and overseas gathered for a 3-day symposium at the UTAS Cradle Coast campus in September to examine the 1790s – a foundation period for modern society.

Each internationally renowned in their respective fields, scholars from the UK joined Australian academics for the day-long forum: The 1790s – An International Symposium. The event addressed the political, cultural and ideological landscape of one of the most crucial turning points to modern society.

Symposium convener and UTAS Cradle Coast campus History lecturer Dr Mike Davis said the forum was designed to offer an opportunity for an exchange of ideas, acting as a launching pad for a major assessment of the 1790s and the beginning of modernity.

“The 1790s are a crucial time in our history where, after the French Revolution, positive steps were being taken towards modern society,” he said.

The symposium covered a range of issues, including social inequality, music and radical culture, the Irish rebellion, anti-slavery and the operation of martial law in Ireland.

It also drew particular attention to the impact of the French Revolution in Britain and Ireland.

Guest speakers included Professor John Barnell (University of York), Professor Gregory Claeys (Royal Holloway College, London), Professor Michael Durey (Masstech University), Professor Cassandra Paslos (University of Sydney) and Dr Jennifer Radden (La Trobe University).

A number of UTAS Faculty of Arts honours students, as well as other individuals, also attended the symposium.

The event was part of the British Enlightenment Research Network (BERN), established last year by Dr Davis to facilitate new research from national and international scholars of the British Enlightenment.

The symposium was supported by: the Australian Research Council Network for Early European Research; the Australian Modern British History Association; the University of Tasmania, and the University of Tasmania’s Faculty of Arts and School of History & Classics.

The impact of the French Revolution was part of the discussion at a recent Cradle Coast symposium on the 1790s.

World-class centre for nursing students

A new $4 million dollar Nursing Centre of Excellence in Simulation, with computerised equipment rivaling the best in the world, is enhancing the education of nurses at the University’s Launceston campus.

The building, an addition to the School of Nursing and Midwifery and housed in the former School of Architecture and Design, doubles the clinical laboratory space available to Nursing and Midwifery students.

The new centre gives students access to a range of simulated nursing experiences which will complement their clinical education, ensuring standards of quality and safety.

The new equipment includes two “Sim Men” – high fidelity, whole-body mannequins which use robotic technology and are computer-operated.

The Sim Men simulate real life medical situations, including having an asthma attack or a heart attack, and will be used to assess students’ competence.

New “task-trainers” will also be used: these simulate body parts for practicing clinical skills, such as taking blood pressure or giving an injection.

The Head of the School of Nursing and Midwifery, Associate Professor Denise Fassert, said the new building contains two high-fidelity laboratories, three medium-fidelity laboratories, a task-training laboratory, staff offices, teaching space and a practice laboratory for self-directed learning.

“This Simulation Centre of Excellence is one of the best of its kind in the world and is not replicated in any Australian school of nursing,” she said.

“Research and support for the centre was vital in creating world-class simulation centres in New Zealand and North America. From February 2007 onwards, the University has worked at top speed to have the Centre available for use this month.”

“The centre will be open to health science students, including those studying medicine, nursing and pharmacy, as well as qualified health professionals such as registered nurses and medical practitioners.

The Vice-Chancellor of the University of Tasmania, Professor Daryl Le Grew, said UTAS was on track to become the fourth largest nursing school in Australia, addressing a significant national priority.

“The Centre of Excellence in Simulation, headquartered and managed from the Launceston campus, is placing UTAS at the forefront of the nursing profession, providing quality nurses in an area of fast-increasing demand.”

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A new dimension for rural health

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Rural Health Week was developed by the University Department of Rural Health (UDRHI) in collaboration with the Department of Health and Human Services and involved a range of partner agencies in the planning process, including the Local Government Association of Tasmania, Department of Health and Ageing, General Practice Workforce and the Department of Education.

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Other highlights of the week included insights into rural emergency medicine facilitated by Dr Peter Arvier, Senior Lecturer in Rural Medical Practice with the Rural Clinical School, and first-hand experiences of remote and indigenous medical practice presented by Dr Amy McCormack (a former Rural Clinical School student), Dr Jenny Jackson and Dr Campbell Miller.

Dealing with a death at home

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN SOMEONE DIES AT HOME FROM A TERMINAL ILLNESS IS RARELY DISCUSSED. AS PART OF HER PHD RESEARCH, MARG HUGHES STUDIED THE EXPERIENCES OF 28 TASMANIANS WHO ATTENDED TO THE DEATH AND FINAL ARRANGEMENTS OF A SIGNIFICANT OTHER PERSON WHO DIED AT HOME.

Marg’s own experience of losing a loved one at home from illness, and her work as a palliative care social worker informed her research topic.

“Death and dying is all around us,” says Marg, “but it’s in an abstract sense. We are surrounded with death on the news, in cinemas, on TV; in literature, it is all around, yet when we personally have to address death, we find it really difficult.

“There are many reasons why we are so segregated from death, in economically advantaged countries for example, most people die in an institution. Due to our improved living conditions, our sophisticated medical technology and other reasons, we are not familiar with death like previous generations,” she said.

For her research, Marg recruited people through advertising, word of mouth, and in response to a story in The Examiner and an ABC radio interview.

“A number of people rang me and wrote to me, telling me of their personal accounts, their intimate stories. The process I adopted was one of conversational interviews. The people that got involved wanted to get involved and to share their stories.”

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“People throughout their journey were advised by friends and carers about what they should or shouldn’t do (and) they felt uncertainty, doubt or fear. In some cases, people were being advised how to care for a person at home, or how to do it better.”

“MARG HUGHES

PhD candidate Sociology and Social Work Launceston

WHAT started out as a relatively simple community engagement initiative soon took on its own life as rural and health interest groups embraced the concept,” Chair of the Rural Health Week State Planning Committee and UDRHI Assistant Director, Stuart Auckland said.

“This is a time of considerable change in rural health with the implementation of the Tasmanian Health plan. The plan is underpinned by a strong preventive care focus. Rural Health Week provided an opportunity for communities to develop collaborations and share their understanding of preventive care through a diverse range of health and wellbeing activities,” Stuart said.

A highlight of Rural Health Week was the presentation of the inaugural Rural Health Week Awards. Health and Human Services Minister Lara Giddings and Senator Gay Barnett presented awards to finalists in two categories. Annette Barrett, of Wrestown, won the Health Worker Award, while Mark Jones, of Oatlands, won the Community Award. A total of 46 nominations were received for both award categories.

Community Award winner Mark Jones at the Rural Health Week Award gala presentation.

At home, there are many reasons why we would want to come all the way over here from the chaos of California.”

Meet Angela Miller, from California, who is studying for a Master of Contemporary Arts degree at the Academy of the Arts at Inveresk. How has she found Tasmania? “Exhilarating.”

LOVES Contemporary theatre – the small intimate, gritty stuff.

AIMING For success with my idea of ‘playlers’ – movie style trailers to promote plays – in both my masters and as a business venture.

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LISTENING TO Voice-overs for ‘To the Season, the upcoming production for CentrStage. And, until I left the US, people asking me why I was going all the way to Tasmania. My response? ‘Let’s see, a great theatre program in a picturesque part of the world, with some of the nicest people I have ever met. Nope, can’t imagine why I wouldn’t want to come all the way over here from the chaos of California.”

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CentrStage

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### Environmental officer shortage prompts new course

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The course has a strong emphasis on the understanding of health and disease, and the determinants of health. Graduates will have the practical ability to anticipate future problems, critically evaluate reports and complex data, and deal with environmental health issues that may involve conflict between interested groups.

Students won’t have to wait until they graduate to work in the field, as the course includes two practicum units that can be taken as part of a cadetship, as part of paid employment, or as a full- or part-time student. Graduates will be employed in industry and government, particularly local government, and other career paths include research and development, training and education, and health services.

“The opportunities for employment are excellent, and they are increasing as the public becomes more aware of health and environmental issues.”

For more information on this course, please contact Merran Rogers on (03) 6324 5490 or email Merran.Rogers@utas.edu.au

### Housing shortage hits hard

The media is full of discussions about affordable housing and the difficulty of finding appropriate accommodation. In Tasmania many locations are experiencing severe rental property shortages, with associated rent increases and high barriers to entry. The shortage is even tougher for people with mental illness; the task of gaining and retaining adequate accommodation can be insurmountable without some help.

For the past year, Anglicare Tasmania has been operating a National Homeless Strategy Demonstration Project called “My Place” in Launceston and the North-West. The My Place project is unique to Australia and involves Anglicare stuff members assisting small numbers of clients to find and sustain their accommodation through intensive case management.

Dr Daphne Habisib, Housing Development Officer, Anglicare Tasmania, said there was a two-way link between homelessness and mental illness, with mental illness contributing to loss of accommodation and vice-versa.

### ‘Rock’ star rhinoceros shines at Inveresk

Mavis may literally have a heart of stone, but she is a rhinoceros with an important message.

The three-tonne rhinoceros sculpture was officially unveiled at the Academy of Arts, Inveresk, on 10 September by Professor Jan Pakulski, Dean of the Faculty of Arts.

Mavis is the work of Canadian artist, Professor Roger Gaudreau, who was an artist-in-residence at the Academy of Arts in March and April, and is the tenth rhinoceros sculpture he has created around the world.

“You may ask, ‘why a rhinoceros in Tasmania?’” said Dr Wayne Hudson, Head of Sculpture at the Academy of the Arts. “Well, Roger considers that global warming will change the way that animals will need to relocate in order to survive. He considers that the bears in Canada may move somewhere else and that rhinos could move to Canada. The rhinoceros in Tasmania is an extended comment on this potential dislocation.”

Professor Pakulski noted that “in many ways Mavis is an immigrant like many of us. Mavis brings understandings about the fragility, resourcefulness and ability to adapt to new circumstances.”

Many of Gaudreau’s earlier rhinos have been made from material that will break down over time. For this work, however, he used 6mm stainless steel rod to construct the outer frame of the rhino and then welded this together, maintaining an aperture (mesh construction) of about 60mm. The inside is filled with Tasmanian basalt rock. Overall, Mavis is 3.6m long x 1.6m high x 1.1m wide.

Professor Vincent McGrath introduced the unveiling by saying it was “a very special day, because we are celebrating Mavis as our number-one theatre patron and the School of Visual and Performing Arts mascot.”

He added that such a major sculpture would also enrich the Inveresk cultural precinct by giving pleasure to generations of students and visitors. Mavis has been placed next to the entrance of the Inveresk cultural precinct by giving pleasure to generations of students and visitors. Mavis has been placed next to the entrance of the Inveresk cultural precinct by giving pleasure to generations of students and visitors.
Green building to rise from rubble

The former Menzies building on the corner of Campbell and Liverpool streets in Hobart has been reduced to rubble as work on the $50 million co-location of the Faculty of Health Sciences and Menzies Research Institute marches on.

The latest newsletter from the UTAS Co-Locating project outlines the “green” approach being taken to the development, given the focus around the world on creating sustainable buildings that minimise their impact on the environment.

According to the newsletter, research shows that commercial buildings contribute around 8.8 per cent of all greenhouse emissions in Australia every year.

Tasmania, with its reputation as a clean, green state, is well placed to lead the way in the development of environmentally friendly buildings, so the University and planning team behind the co-location project have given special consideration to the environmental scorecard of this undertaking.

Central to the approach has been the application of the Green Star – Education (Pilot) Scheme, developed by the Green Building Council of Australia.

Under this method, issues such as energy and water efficiency, waste management, thermal comfort, re-use of land, resource conservation and the maintenance of facilities are taken into account in the design of the buildings.

The environmentally sustainable design features of the new complex includes:

• Waste storage areas to enable waste separation and recycling of office waste.
• Cyclist facilities, including secure bike spaces.
• Use of non-toxic materials around the building.
• Maximisation of daylight access to all habitable and teaching areas.
• Energy-efficient lighting sources.
• Thermal mass via the concrete superstructure.
• Movement sensors and reset switches for controlled lighting.
• Double glazing to external windows with tinted performance glass.
• Well insulated external walls.
• A range of initiatives to minimise energy use throughout the building.

Creating a sustainable UTAS

The University of Tasmania is committed to ensuring its operations as well as in research and teaching are directed towards environmental outcomes consistent with responsible practice and community expectations. This is enshrined in University Council’s Governance Level Principle No. 9 addressing Environmental Management.

To translate this principle into action, the University Built Environment Committee created a working group, the Environmental Management Group.

In terms of reference are to:

• Promote the importance of environmental management at UTAS.
• Develop policy and procedures to actively promote, encourage, implement and monitor initiatives and projects.
• Review and prioritise projects against UTAS governance priorities.
• Undertake reviews and audits to evaluate the success of environmental initiatives/projects.

Report compliant against the governance level principle to the Built Environment Committee.

Many universities in Australia and abroad have now implemented Environment Management Plans, and UTAS is developing its own with a view to learning from the experiences of others.

The Environmental Management Group comprises academics and general staff from across the university community including:

Chair: Professor Roger Fey (School of Architecture & Design)
Mr John Aldridge (SA & TUU)
Mr Alistair Broatch (Australian Maritime College)
Professor Ted LeFrere (Centre for Environment)
Professor Chris Letchford (School of Engineering)
Dr Elaine Stratford (School of Geography and Environmental Studies)

On October 17 the Built Environment Committee and the Environmental Management Group will hold a workshop to discuss the UTAS draft Environment Management Plan. They welcome comments from the UTAS community and look forward to building on our environmental achievements to date and moving to a more strategic and coordinated approach that will influence the design and operation of our buildings, our procurement policies, our logistics and our relationship to the natural environment.

Tobacco control in Tasmania still smoke and mirrors

Kathy Barnsley knows a bit about smoking, both as a former two-pack-a-day smoker, and now as a PhD candidate investigating what needs to be done to control smoking in Tasmania and failing it.

"While smoking rates are falling sharply in every other state, in Tasmania they are going up. We now have the highest percentage of smokers out of all the states and that concerns me. I am concerned for the people of my state and I want to try and make a difference," Kathy explains.

Kathy is eight months into her multi-disciplinary thesis – The Marlboro Man is alive and sick: Why tobacco control is failing in Tasmania – under the supervision of respiratory physician Dr Richard Wood Bakes, from the Menzies Institute, and Dr Kate Crowley, from the School of Government.

Late last month, Kathy was one of more than 40 UTAS postgraduate candidates to present at the inaugural Sharing Excellence in Research Conference in which she laid out the startling facts about smoking in Tasmania. These include that smoking accounts for about 500 deaths each year and, between 1995 and 2000, killed more Tasmanians than alcohol, suicide, road accidents, drug use, terrorism, accidents and homicide combined.

"What I am exploring is the gap between what we know about the effects of smoking, what works to reduce the number of smokers, and the goodwill that is out there for change, and why this change is not happening. My thesis looks at what those barriers are," Kathy said.

These barriers, Kathy believes, include a mix of a lack of physical and financial resources for anti-smoking campaigns, plus the power of the tobacco industry and other lobby groups who have a major investment in people continuing to light up.

Kathy recently attended a New Zealand anti-tobacco conference where new Victorian research showed that mass media “shock” advertising campaigns do work, with graphic scenes of gongulous limbs and mouse cancer encouraging more people to quit.

"There is no easy way to give up. There is no silver bullet unfortunately, but the more times people try, the greater the likelihood of success."

Breaking new ground in agriculture

A new era in Tasmanian vegetable and dairy research began with the launch of the two research, development and extension centres at the Tasmanian Institute of Agricultural Research on 11 September.

Primary Industries and Water Minister David Llewellyn and University of Tasmania Vice Chancellor Professor Daryl Le Grew presided at the official launch of the centres, which involve a $25 million investment over 10 years and a commitment to operate until 2017.

Under the move, the Forthide (vegetable) and Elliott (dairy) Research and Demonstration farms will transfer to the University.

Establishing the two new research centres at TIAR builds on an already successful research partnership between the University of Tasmania and the State Government.

"Establishing the new centres for vegetables and dairy is an opportunity to further that partnership and to support Tasmanian primary industries to be innovative to maintain market share and to face significant emerging issues," Mr Llewellyn said.

"TIAR is growing in stature as it continues to prove itself a successful model for research, development and extension for these industries.

The Vegetable Centre and the Dairy Centre will allow for a seamless approach to research, development and extension in the vegetable and dairy industries, and enhance a more cooperative approach between the University and the State Government."
Study helps asthma sufferers breathe easy

A recent study conducted by the University of Tasmania’s School of Pharmacy is helping people to better manage their asthma through collaboration between community pharmacists and GPs.

Professor Gregory Peterson, from the University of Tasmania, utilising a $100,000 grant from the Asthma Foundation of Australia, developed an innovative computer solution to assist community pharmacists in identifying people who may have poorly managed asthma. Once identified, these individuals would be encouraged to seek their GP for a review of their management plan.

With about two million Australians affected by asthma, it is estimated that the software could potentially identify and assist more than 80,000 people with poorly managed asthma.

“The study used ‘data mining’ software to identify over 1500 adults as having poorly managed asthma, with half of these people encouraged to see their GP for a review of their asthma and the other half used as a control group,” Professor Peterson said.

The individuals studied were found to be exceeding the reliever medication usage rates of three puffs per week recommended by the Asthma Foundation of Australia.

“What we found during the following six months was a significant shift towards more people using preventer medications, relying less heavily on their reliever medications,” Professor Peterson said.

“This results in better health outcomes for patients, and ultimately places less of a burden on the health system,” Professor Peterson said.

Asthma Foundation of Tasmania education and training manager Melanie Blackhall said the AFT was excited to be part of a study.

“Asthma is a disease which affects 55,000 people in Tasmania alone and is responsible for an estimated 1000 presentations to emergency departments throughout the year. “This study is vital as it has the potential to be implemented across the country, assisting thousands of community members to take control of their asthma and ensure they don’t end up becoming one of the Australians who die from asthma every day.”

Kourasity attracts museum visitors

A team of archaeologists and art students alike will have been taking in the attraction of the John Elliott Classics Museum, housed at the University Centre, Sandy Bay Campus.

Professor Wolf-Dietrich Niemeier, director of The German Archaeology Institute at Athens, recently dropped in for a tour of the centre before delivering his public lecture on the spectacular discovery of the Kouros of the Sacred Gate.

Professor Niemeier visited the University as a guest of the Tasmanian Friends of the Australian Archaeological Institute at Athens. The archaeologist captivated his audience with the story of how he and his team stumbled across the exquisite marble kouros (an idealised Greek youth) during an archaeological dig in 2001.

Professor Niemeier’s team was dating water channels in Kerameikos, the cemetery and potters’ quarter of ancient Athens, which (an idealised Greek youth) during an archaeological dig in 2002.

Athens. The archaeologist captivated his audience with the story of Tasmanian Friends of the Australian Archaeological Institute at University Centre, Sandy Bay campus.

A new study aims to make asthma sufferers less reliant on puffers. A study into the worth of a $100,000 grant from the Asthma Foundation of Australia.

“Professor Niemeier’s team was dating water channels in Kerameikos, the cemetery and potters’ quarter of ancient Athens, which (an idealised Greek youth) during an archaeological dig in 2002.

“We have extended the partnership in 2008 to include two of the colleges in Launceston, enabling us to build pathways for college students to attain their first University subject over an eight-day summer period,” Prof McGrath said.

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While the John Elliott Classics Museum cannot boast a priceless kouros among its collection, it does contain about 800 examples of the art and culture of ancient Egypt and Mesopotamia, Greece, Etruria and Rome.

The collection was started in 1954 by the then Professor of Classics, J.R. Elliott, who began to acquire ancient Greek vases with the aim of creating a museum that would both serve as a teaching adjunct to UTAS history and classics courses, and be accessible to all Tasmanians.

The collection was recently part of the 2007 Spring Learning Program, Kids-ed, with holidaying school students taken on a trip back in time by Cerealis, the Commander of the 9th Cohort of Batavians (aka third-year Arts/Law student Casey Ieraci).

The children explored “Life in Victorian, a Roman frontier town in Britain” during an activity session as the collection last month.

The collection is open from 9am–4pm (school 12–1 pm) from Monday to Thursday and tours are available on request for school groups or other general interest groups. For bookings or more information, contact Sally Gay, Education Officer/Visitor Services, on (03) 6226 2235.

Cooking up a creative summer feast

One of Australia’s most celebrated and exciting chefs, Xavier Mosche, will be part of a tempting line up for the second Tasmanian Creative Arts Summer School in Launceston early next year.

The Swiss-born Mosche, who has worked in some of the world’s top restaurants, will hold an eight-day culinary design course based around Tasmanian produce and fine wine that promises to stimulate your palate, expand your cooking repertoire and dazzle your dinner guests.

The summer school, which runs from 9–18 January, is being hosted by UTAS in partnership with the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery, TAFE Tasmania and the Launceston City Council.

The school will offer a total of 15 creative arts workshops, including understanding Asian theatre, tackling textiles and learning the art of bronze casting. The highly successful Newstead Rock Music Summer School and Launceston College Concert and Stage Band program will also be available.

Director of the Summer School, Professor Vincent McGrath, said the school was open to everyone, including existing UTAS students who could enjoy learning hands-on creative skills while adding a unit toward their degree, potential UTAS students of the future, and members of the public looking for a new challenge.

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BOOKS

David Keeling: Looking Forward, Looking Back

A Tasmanian Monograph

Quintus Publishing 2007 (Quintus Publishing, 2007)

Tasmanian artist David Keeling is a painter fully grounded in Western art’s long history of classicism, the tradition which runs from Bolivia to Pissaro, from Puvis de Chavannes to De Chirico. He uses that artistic language – a combination of figuration, narrative and landscape – to describe Australia’s shorter and sadder history of invasion and ecological destruction.

From the bleak, desolate hillsides of the 1990s, with their isolated markers of civilisation – houses, gables, dining tables, curtains – to the more recent, richly patterned treescapes of the Narawntapu National Park, Keeling’s work uncovers and expresses the beautiful, tragic, surreal poetry of the Tasmanian environment.

David Keeling is the fourth in the monograph series published by Quintus Publishing Limited, the publishing partnership launched in 2005 between the School of English, Journalism and Languages at the University of Tasmania, and Arts Tasmania.

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Delving into the politics of consumption tax reform in Japan, the United States and the United States, Dr Eccleston provides an insight into the controversy and conflict that has surrounded the issue in recent decades in these four nations where political resistance to these policies has been strongest. Utilising contemporary theoretical debates, Dr Eccleston provides an overview of existing approaches to tax policy analysis as well as a synopsis of existing debates within institutional theory.

Dr Richard Eccleston is senior lecturer for the School of Government at the University of Tasmania. 
Young Tassie Scientists hit the road

From King Island to Geeveston, this year’s Young Tassie Scientist program reached more than 2500 school students around the state. Thirteen early career researchers, including UTAS postgraduate students and recent graduates, were involved in the program, which promotes awareness of the value and relevance of science, engineering and technology. The Young Tassie scientists presented a range of talks and hands-on activities covering topics from brushtail possums to brain injury. The program also provided the opportunity for the scientists involved to develop their public speaking and communication skills. Feedback from teachers indicated that their students were completely engaged by the presentations and were left with an increased enthusiasm for science within our schools and community. The Young Tassie Scientists also gave public presentations at the Imaginum Science Centre and at University Info Days. The program is supported through funding from the Commonwealth Department of Education, Science and Training as part of National Science Week, the Department of Economic Development, and the Faculty of Science, Engineering & Technology.

More profiles can be found at www.youngtassiescientists.com

Jess Andrewartha
is investigating ways to make hydro-electricity generation more efficient.

"By reducing the friction between the water and the concrete canals that deliver the water from the dams to the power stations, we can deliver more water at a faster rate to the turbines. I work both out in the field and in a high-tech laboratory and spend a lot of time investigating how freshwater algae moves around in flowing water."

Jerome Staal
is researching what happens to the brain following injury.

“A brain injury can often be difficult to realise as the cells of the brain (neurons) can often die over a long period of time. I am trying to understand the way and speed at which these neurons die following injury. We have also been testing new drugs that may stop the cells from degenerating and even promote cell recovery. This is important because the neurons in the brain do not regenerate once they die, so any damage to the brain is permanent.”

Lisa Cawthen
is using radio tracking to reveal where brushtail possums find dens in natural forest.

“My study will provide forest managers with a greater understanding of the types of hollow-bearing trees occupied by fauna. Such information will then be used in revised strategies for the retention of ‘valued’ habitat for fauna.”

FROM THE DEPUTY VICE-CHANCELLOR
DAN HODGKISS | DEPUTY VICE-CHANCELLOR (ACADEMIC) & PROVOST

Tasmania Tomorrow
Tasmania Tomorrow is due for release shortly.

Typotastic wins design gold

The team behind the UTAS typotastic magazine was thrilled to have its talents recognised in the recent Tasmanian Print Industry Craftsmanship Awards (PICAs) in Hobart. Typotastic, launched in 2005, is a unique collaboration between design educators, students, industry professionals and commentators, working together to produce Australia’s first publication dedicated solely to the critical writing and exploration of typography. The magazine is produced annually by the Visual Communications studio at the University’s School of Art as part of the students’ professional practice experience. The magazine, typotastic #2, received three PICA awards, including a gold award for magazine design, despite stiff competition from professional designers and producers. The #2 issue also received gold in the student category, while April Krause won silver for her Design Research Symposium program. Graduate students Harry Rolf and Luke Morgan were at the presentation dinner to accept the awards on behalf of the delighted team. Typotastic #3 is due for release shortly.

Awards winning graphic design students Luke Morgan, Harry Rolf and April Krause
Bushfire research a burning issue

The Hobart waterfront played host to the 2007 Bushfire Cooperative Research Centre and Australian Fire Authorities Council annual conference from 19–21 September at the Hotel Grand Chancellor. The conference, which included presentations, workshops, exhibitions and field trips, was attended by delegates from as far afield as the United States.

The Bushfire CRC was formed in 2003 as a partnership between Australian and New Zealand fire and land management agencies and research partners in an effort to better understand the complex social, economic and environmental aspects of bushfires.

UTAS is a core partner of the Bushfire CRC through the involvement of its schools of Psychology, Plant Science and Education. Dr Christine Owen, Assistant Dean of Education at UTAS, is Program Leader of the Bushfire CRC Education and Training Program, which oversees around 30 research students across a range of projects.

Six UTAS students are undertaking research, including a study of the workings of Incident Management Teams, a study of how fire may affect deer in eucalypt trees and research into effective risk communication during bushfires. The research is being undertaken at both masters and PhD levels, with assistance provided by scholarships from the Bushfire CRC.

Engineering links with Thailand

Two University of Tasmania academics are helping to build engineering education links with their counterparts in Thailand. Dr Gary Williams (Acting Director of the UTAS Graduate School and a senior lecturer at the Centre for the Advancement of Learning and Teaching) and School of Engineering Lecturer Dr Bernardo A. León de la Barra travelled to Bangkok recently as part of a project that seeks to improve University teaching and learning in engineering and technology by sharing expertise between Australia and Thailand. The project, led by Dr León de la Barra, is funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade’s Australia-Thai Institute.

As part of their activities, Dr Williams and Dr León de la Barra visited the faculties of engineering at Chulalongkorn University, Kasetsart University, and King Mongkut’s University of Technology Thonburi. During their visit, Dr Williams also delivered a talk on “Learning and teaching at the University of Tasmania: The classroom environment and staff development”, and Dr León de la Barra presented some of his on-going work on “Engaging students to encourage deeper learning”.

Dr Williams and Dr León de la Barra also watched teaching sessions conducted in English. To further strengthen these links, representatives from all three Thai universities are expected to visit the University of Tasmania in March next year, which will provide them with a first-hand experience of learning and teaching at UTAS.

Our People

UTAS librarians have been making headlines of their own lately. CATHERINE KELLY (pictured) won a 2007 Australian Press Council Journalism Student Prize, which is awarded annually to journalism students in 14–16 universities around Australia for performance in an essay or a subject related to the practice of journalism ethics. “The APC Student Prize provides a wonderful opportunity for journalism students to receive acknowledgement for their outstanding work in journalism ethics,” said UTAS journalism ethics lecturer DR NICOLA GOG. Journalism student JEFF DONNE was a finalist in this year’s Tas Super Student. Journalist of the Year awards. The award, which is judged by journalists from the Media, Entertainment and Arts Alliance and the Walkley Foundation for Journalism, is open to tertiary students studying journalism, media and communications related degrees who have not previously worked full-time in the media. Jeff’s radio piece “The LaFouche Movement” was chosen as a finalist from more than 90 entries.

Art that’s almost good enough to eat

Margaret Baguley, lecturer in Arts Education at UTAS, was one of six artists selected to interpret a dish from those offered at the premier food and wine event for the 2007 Tasmanian Living Artists’ Week, An Artwork at My Table. The dinner, organised by arts@work and held at Stillwater in Launceston, featured a degustation menu created by Stillwater head chef, Don Cameron.

For her artistic interpretation of the gourmet experience, Margaret chose the warm Baked English crabeast served on a bed of green mango and cucumber ribbons, coriander, Vietnamese mint and lime butter, for which she created a parody of Salvador Dali’s Lobster Telephone (1936). The sexual nature of Dalí’s Lobster Telephone aligns with the mouthpiece of the phone with the reproductive area of the lobster, drawing an interesting analogy between food and sex.

In her re-interpretation of this work, Margaret placed a replica of a crayfish on top of a small but dense pile of mobile phoners with lime green and orange covers to symbolise the colours of the course. The work comprises the sexual imagery of Dalí’s work by providing too many phone options for the crayfish and also comments on how the public world increasingly intrudes on the private – sometimes during dinner.

The artworks were displayed on the night and auctioned later in the evening, with all proceeds going toward research into the Tasmanian devil facial tumour disease.

Understanding bushfire was the focus of a recent Bushfire Cooperative Research Centre conference in Hobart. A range of topics was covered during the three-day conference, with presentations and workshops hosted by experts from institutions such as UNSW, CSIRO, La Trobe University, RMIT and UTAS.
The opinions expressed in UniTAS are not necessarily those of the University.
Contact with the Media Office should be made through email, wherever possible, or by mail or telephone.
The Editor, Private Bag 40, Hobart 7001
Email: Media.Office@utas.edu.au
Telephone: 6226 2194 or 0417 517 591

Reader contributions are welcome, however the editor reserves the right to edit copy or hold material over for future issues. The editor is under no obligation to publish contributed copy. Letters to the Editor on issues of general University interests are invited.

For future issues. The editor is under no obligation to publish contributed copy. Letters to the Editor on

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

03 October
Pharmacy Research Seminar
Pharmacy Research Seminars - Peter Tinni, Pharmacy: Clinical Interventions in community pharmacies: The PROMISse Project
Time: 9am venue: Sandy Bay Chemistry Room 329 (Chem 2) Further Information: G Hadfield, 6226 2190

05 October
School of Plant Science Seminar
University of Adelaide: final Honours Seminars
Time: 2:00pm venue: Lecture Theatre 2, Life Sciences Building, Sandy Bay campus Further Information: 6226 2603

05 October
School of Sociology and Social Work Seminar
Policy as Catharsis: Venting urban frustration and anger through revenge
Dr Rowland Atkinson
Time: 3.30pm, venue: Room 319, Arts Building, Sandy Bay campus Further Information: Dr Rowland Atkinson, 6226 2725

17 October
Pharmacy Research Seminar
Andrew Stafford, Pharmacy: Drug related problems identified in pharmacist conducted medication reviews in Australia
Bonnie Bienzovich, also presenting
Time: 9am, venue: Sandy Bay Chemistry Room 329 (Chem 3) Further Information: Julia Forsyth, 6226 4803

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Houseswap Wanted
Sydney academic and family seeking house swap for about 3 weeks December 2007 - January 2008 to Hobart or surrounds. Our house is adjacent to the Garigal National Park. It has a pool, is close to the northern beaches and within easy reach of the CBD.
Contact: Dr Shirley Scott, s.scott@unsw.edu.au

Accommodation wanted
Responsible, mature academic requires house or unit from October to March 2008. Would prefer house sitting or negotiated rent in return for pet care, garden maintenance etc.
Contact: Leigh Hobbs, 62094332, hobba@utas.edu.au

The Editor reserves the right to not publish letters that attack an individual, violate privacy or infringe on confidentiality.

INSIDE:
SMOKING UNDER THE SPOTLIGHT
NURSING CENTRE OPENS
RHINO CALLS INVEResk HOME
SUMMER SCHOOL TO SIZZLE

Telling the story of strings maestro

Jan Sedivka, acclaimed concert violinist, former Director of the Tasmanian Conservatorium of Music and one of Australia’s most influential music teachers for the past 30 years, celebrated his 90th birthday last month with former students, colleagues and his biographer, Elinor Morrisby.

Elinor Morrisby, a PhD student at the Tasmanian Conservatorium, has written the biography that two others before her had not been able to complete: the amazing life of Jan Sedivka. The yet-to-be titled biography started in 2002 and will be published shortly by Lyrebird Press in Melbourne.

“...It grew from a fundraising concert in 2002. Romana Zaglenova, a strings student from Czechoslovakia, helped Jan organise a concert at the Federation Concert Hall to raise money for the Czech flood victims”, said Elinor.

“At the end of March 2003, Jan’s wife Beryl, approached me to see if I’d be interested in writing Jan’s biography. So we started from scratch, we spoke in Czech and we worked together all through 2003. We interviewed 30 past colleagues, friends, students and family across Australia to help us piece together the enormous and rich life of Jan Sedivka and all those whose lives were touched by him. Jan Sedivka’s life has been prolific. He is one of a handful of post-war migrants who brought to Australia a priceless knowledge of the deepest European traditions in music,” said Elinor.

The book is divided into sections based on where Jan has lived: the Czech Republic, France, England, Queensland and, ultimately, Tasmania in 1965. Elinor describes Jan as loyal, caring, impossible, and totally focused on the welfare and musical development of his students.

“He has had an unbelievably rich life. He gave so much to his work and to his students. His whole focus was music, and he is a complex and generous man. Jan has been a true artist. At his birthday celebration (on 9 September), the energy with which the students performed for him typified the gratitude and love they feel for Jan. I could feel the tears swelling in my eyes. The 90th birthday performance was conducted by John Couros, with Theo Lazaridis leading the group. Theo, whom Jan met in 1947, went on to become the leader of the Queensland Symphony for 20 years.

“Their histories are different but their loyalty is unwavering to him, the depth of friendship is extraordinary,” said Elinor.