



4 | Why the Tarkine is special
The View from Here



6 | Paramedic trailblazers
Sydney's first graduands

\$12m cash splash for seafarer training

BY NICOLE MAYNE

The Australian Maritime College is set to train more seafarers than ever with a funding injection by the federal government of \$12 million for vocational education and training.

The Prime Minister, Julia Gillard, announced the funding on a recent visit to the AMC, where she chatted with students about their aspirations for jobs in the maritime sector and said she is serious about ensuring a future for the Australian shipping industry.

The funding allows the AMC to deliver more than 160,000 hours of specialised training to more than 500 maritime students a year, supporting a national approach to seafarer training as part of the federal government's shipping policy reform.

The funds will be delivered over four years, enabling the AMC to sustain ongoing training courses for VET students who come from all over Australia and to develop new, world-leading programs.

Ms Gillard said the investment represents the latest in a number of initiatives aimed squarely at keeping Australian shipping strong. "It will help rebuild the Australian shipping fleet and the skills base needed to keep the industry growing and prospering into the future," she said.

"Together, with our shipping reforms, funding for AMC will see the college train more seafarers than ever before, with more jobs available on Australian-flagged ships."

It was the Prime Minister's second visit to the AMC in four years, her first being in 2009 when she attended in her capacity as Deputy PM and Minister for Education to open the newly-built



\$12m for national seafarer training: Prime Minister Julia Gillard announced a vocational funding boost for the Australian Maritime College on a recent visit.

cavitation research laboratory.

She said this visit was "a terrific opportunity to witness groundbreaking research from experts in the field", touring the facility in operation and viewing cutting-edge research work.

Ms Gillard also took the helm at the ship simulator before meeting representatives from AMC, UTAS and the wider community.

Both UTAS Vice-Chancellor Peter Rathjen and AMC Principal

Neil Bose welcomed the funding.

"This funding has secured the future of maritime VET training courses in Australia, thus supporting the training needs of this important industry sector," Professor Rathjen said.

"It will provide a stable base for AMC to compete internationally and help build on the already impressive economic benefits delivered by AMC to the state through students and research."

▶ AMC Search, the commercial arm of the Australian Maritime College, has also been successful in winning a \$10 million Commonwealth contract to continue its Pacific Patrol Boat training program. The contract will run for four years with an option to extend; training will be delivered at the AMC facilities at Newnham. The program provides participating Pacific Island nations with maritime surveillance capabilities to patrol and protect their exclusive economic zones.

\$27m ARC grant for lobster and food industry research

UTAS HAS secured \$27m in collaborative research funding from government and industry for two projects, as part of the Industrial Transformation Research funding from the Australian Research Council.

The funding will support world-class research with high economic impact in Tasmania, in areas such as sensor technology, aquaculture, food production and sustainability and supply chain management. The Industrial Transformation Research Hubs scheme encourages collaborative projects to address challenging industry issues and is dependent on attracting private and international investment in targeted industry sectors.

The two successful projects are a rock lobster project through the Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies with a total value of \$16.9m and a *Pathways to Market* project through

Sense-T with a total value of \$10.1m. This funding is expected to deliver up to a further \$5m in research infrastructure funding from the federal government.

UTAS is one of only two universities to receive funding through the scheme out of nine universities that applied. It leads the nation in the latest round of ARC funding.

The \$7.5 million ARC funding component represents 52 per cent of the government funding awarded nationally for the research hubs, placing UTAS as the lead funding recipient.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Peter Rathjen congratulated UTAS researchers on their success, which he said reflected the outstanding research environment at the university.

"Today's results highlight the strength of our global research relationships and the exceptional quality of our researchers."

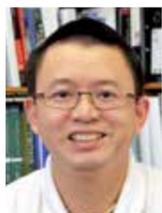
Our people



Menna Jones

Dr Jones from the School of Zoology is among recipients of a \$US2.25 million grant from the Australian Research Council's American equivalent, the National Science Foundation. She will

collaborate with researchers at Washington State University, the University of Idaho, Griffith University and the Wellcome Sanger Institute in Cambridge, UK, to investigate the genomic evolution of the Tasmanian devil and its facial tumour disease. The grant will fund a postdoctoral salary for Dr Rodrigo Hamede who has worked on this project since 2006.



Christopher Chin

National Centre for Maritime Engineering and Hydrodynamics lecturer Dr Chin has beaten thousands of nominees to be named Australia's Lecturer of the Year. The award is an initiative of UniJobs.com.au and aims to

reward the efforts of diligent academic staff who have helped enrich the lives of students and work colleagues. More than 100,000 votes were cast online in 2012, making it the most popular award to date.



Peter Byers

UTAS alumnus Peter Byers will become pro vice-chancellor (education) at Sir John Moore's University in Liverpool, UK. Currently deputy head of college and director of education in the College of Engineering and Physi-

cal Sciences at Birmingham University, Professor Byers majored in chemistry and was awarded a PhD at UTAS.



Anura Seneviratne

Captain Seneviratne's commitment to excellence in maritime training was recognised with a prestigious international award from industry magazine *Sailor Today*, a monthly international shipping

magazine based in India. The AMC's head of maritime training took home the Maritime Trainer of the Year award at the 12th *Sailor Today*/Ship Shore Industry Awards in India, attended by maritime professionals from around the world.



Unitas is the monthly newsletter of the University of Tasmania. It is printed in soy-based inks, on stock which is 80 per cent recycled and 20 per cent total chlorine-free pulp (FSC Mixed Source Certified). Aluminium printing plates are also recycled after use.

Circulation 1,500
Editor Sharon Webb Ph: 03 6324 3218
Email Media.Office@utas.edu.au
Production ACYS Ph: 03 6226 2591

Contributions are welcome, but items with a broad appeal will be given priority. The Editor reserves the right to edit copy or hold it over for a later issue and is under no obligation to publish contributed material. The opinions expressed in **Unitas** are not necessarily those of UTAS.

For a list of **Unitas** deadlines and guidelines, visit us at: www.utas.edu.au/events/unitas.html

Nepal experience opens eyes of UTAS trainee doctors



Hands-on medical experience in Nepal: Fifth-year medical student Nick Voon (right) from the Rural Clinical School in Burnie says materials and equipment are a real necessity there.

BY ANNA OSBORNE

Their aim was to get hands-on experience a world away from their own environs and two Rural Clinical School students achieved that in their international placement in Nepal.

Fifth-year UTAS students Nick Voon (RCS Burnie) and Alex Willows (RCS Hobart) recently spent four weeks on placement at the Association of Medical Doctors of Asia's

Primary Healthcare Program for Bhutanese Refugees.

The program was based in Damak, Nepal, where Nick and Alex experienced medical scenarios from delivering babies to conducting tuberculosis clinics for refugees.

"It was unbelievable, a real eye opener for me," Nick said.

The AMDA Nepal operates three hospitals, provides an academic program for health-related courses, supplies health and nutrition services.

At the camp Nick and Alex visited there was only one doctor for 25,000 patients. Here, the two medical students worked alongside health professionals, applying and testing a range of skills and beliefs.

Nick said they didn't want to spend their summer elective in a major teaching hospital, preferring to experience a different health-care environment.

"To see first-hand what life

is like in a refugee camp really makes you appreciate what we have back here," he said.

"Things like materials and equipment are a real necessity there."

This is the second time the AMDA has hosted UTAS medical students. The chair and secretary of AMDA Nepal, Dr Rishikesh Shrestha and Dr Anil Das, recently visited the Rural Clinical School in Burnie for a community lecture.

Bouquets

Gabriella Tregurtha



Gabriella has been awarded the Steve Balcombe Southern Water Scholarship from Southern Water, valued at \$3,000 a year for the period of study. Gabriella is completing a science/engineering degree and doing work experience at Southern Water during university holidays. The scholarship helps talented students to get the best out of their studies and to give them exposure to the water industry, with a view to attracting high-quality graduates into the field. Southern Water said many past recipients are now working in leadership positions in their fields.

David Gwyther



Ocean modeller David Gwyther has won a Fulbright Postgraduate Scholarship and will spend 12 months at the University of Texas at Austin helping to develop models of ocean and ice shelf interaction. David's research will use data and observations from the international ICECAP project to help model the way the ice and ocean interact more than 2,000 metres below the ocean's surface in the Totten Glacier region of east Antarctica. He is doing his PhD through the CSIRO-UTAS Program in Quantitative Marine Science and will take up the scholarship in July.

Trevor Redding, Anthony Lufi and Hanna Chard



Trevor, Anthony and Hanna have been awarded 2013 Jim Bacon Scholarships, valued at \$10,000 for one year. Hanna is a medical scientist in haematology. She is investigating the particular haematological changes seen in cancer patients following chemotherapy. Trevor has completed his Bachelor of Fine Arts with a double major in photography and art and design theory, and plans to enrol in a PhD to fulfil his desire to pursue a career in teaching, researching and mentoring. After completing honours in political science Anthony hopes to join the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

In conversation



Professor Peter Rathjen
VICE-CHANCELLOR

How UTAS helps drive the Tasmanian economy



Most Tasmanians recognise the important role the University of Tasmania has played since 1890 as the state's provider of higher education and world-quality research. The benefits to Tasmania in terms of educational, social and cultural outputs are widely understood.

But with budgets tightening at both national and state levels, and a pressing need for Tasmania to build economic activity and regional prosperity, it is time for a different conversation about UTAS.

Higher education has for many years been among the top three export industries in Australia, together with iron ore and coal, and the top export earner within the services sector. It is the single largest export industry in Victoria.

Accordingly, most states have identified higher education as a key segment of the local economy. Recognising that universities compete globally for students and research funding, they describe through their economic development plans how this can be harnessed to their advantage. Tasmania, at present, is conspicuously quiet on this matter.

So how does UTAS perform from an economic perspective?

In 2013 the annual budget of UTAS will, for the first time, exceed half a billion dollars. Most of this is derived from competitive

activities, with only 3.1 per cent of our non-capital budget provided by the state in 2012. We spend some \$280 million on salaries, providing employment for more than 6,000 people across a range of fulltime, part-time and casual positions.

The total UTAS economic contribution to Tasmania is estimated at some \$1.7 billion a year. This figure takes into account a range of activities, spread across Tasmania by virtue of our campuses located in key regions of the state, including the impact of our skilled graduates in the economy.

Throughout 2012 (excluding casual staff) we employed 1828 people and enrolled 15,995 students in Hobart; employed 788 people and enrolled 7793 students in Launceston and employed 129 people and enrolled just over 1,000 students in Burnie – the last-mentioned a significant milestone for UTAS.

We increase opportunity for those who choose to study with us. In 2012 we hosted 29,240 students at UTAS, 7 per cent more than in 2011. As a university we rank among the nation's finest in teaching and research, and across the world within the top 3 per cent of universities. Our degrees are internationally recognised; our graduates benefit from the global opportunities this brings, and lifetime earnings some \$1.5 million greater than for those who do not enter higher education.

International students at UTAS contributed almost \$200 million to the state economy in 2012. Each of the students who move to Tasmania from the mainland or overseas brings a wealth of economic benefit beyond university fees – they seek accommodation, invite family and friends to visit and spend money in the state. The tourism sector is a major beneficiary.

There is room for significant improvement here, with demand for placements from the emerging middle classes in Asia and South America projected to grow steeply in the next few years. Given the right partnerships and policy settings, and building from growth of some 12 per cent in 2013, we have identified an opportunity to double international student revenue in Tasmania to \$400 million a year within the next five years.

Our island state is enriched by the diversity of experience, culture and thought that these students bring to us from around the globe.

UTAS research underpins the competitiveness of Tasmanian industry and contributes to the development of new, highly skilled, economic opportunities for the state. This enterprise is larger than many realise – nearly \$200 million a year. In recent weeks, we have announced, with our partners, some \$100 million funding for new projects as diverse as Sense-T,

climate change and marine research, training at the Australian Maritime College, and the development of Industrial Transformation Hubs focussed on food. This creates employment and opportunity at a time when other enterprises are struggling, and attracts world-class specialists who contribute much to the intellectual and cultural life of our community.

“Higher education has for many years been among the top three export industries in Australia, and the top export earner within the services sector.”

The construction industry is benefitting from \$564 million expenditure on capital works at a time of relatively depressed activity. In the Hobart CBD alone the Medical Science 1 and 2 buildings will be opened shortly and IMAS on the waterfront is well advanced.

Restoration of the original UTAS home on the Domain, student accommodation on Elizabeth Street and the Academy of Creative Industries and Performing Arts adjacent to the Theatre Royal will maintain this activity into the future.

Construction worth a total of \$42.4m in the heart of Burnie and at Newnham and Inveresk in Launceston will bring similar advantages to regional Tasmania.

On the other side of the ledger, UTAS 'exports' graduates – alumni who maintain strong links to their university and state. They connect us internationally and in doing so place Tasmania on the global stage. Our alumni in Asia will be crucial as Tasmania seeks advantage in the Asian Century.

These are contributions founded in education and research that flow into all areas of Tasmanian life, arising from the university's ability to translate ideas into opportunity and to leverage investment from outside the state.

There is much more that we can do. In partnership with the state we can help to create an economy that ensures Tasmania is known for more than tourism and traditional industry, and provides highly skilled jobs that transition the state to a prosperous future. The role of UTAS within the Tasmanian economy is an important conversation for our future.

Council to watch over UTAS cultural collections

BY PETER COCHRANE

A new Cultural Collections Advisory Council has been established at UTAS to advise on the development and promotion of the university's art and other cultural collections.

Having had its first meeting in April, the council will also advise on potential acquisitions, the staging of exhibitions, and the formulation of policies and programs, and on opportunities for obtaining financial

and other support from within and outside the university.

The 24 members comprise ex-officio and appointed staff from the university, and invited members from the wider community in Tasmania, Australia and abroad.

The university's cultural collections are many and varied: they range from the Fine Art Collection of 2,500 works by modern and contemporary Australian artists to the UTAS library's special and rare books to pottery, coins and other artefacts from ancient Egypt

and Mesopotamia, Greece, Etruria and Rome housed in the John Elliott Classics Museum.

They're also widely dispersed. Most of the works are hung in the foyers, theatres and corridors of the campuses in Hobart, Launceston and Burnie, or stand in the campus grounds.

Recently the overall catalogue was bolstered by the arrival from Washington DC of some 600 works, many by Corneliu Petrescu and other Romanian artists, part of a generous bequest by an alumnus, the late

Geoffrey Tyler, and his wife Frances.

On the eve of the first council meeting, during her third visit to Tasmania, major donor Frances Tyler said her husband had suggested she be part of the Cultural Collections Advisory Council.

If some of the works from the Tyler Collection end up on the walls of Domain House, once it has been restored to its former Gothic glory, that would be fitting. As a student at UTAS, Geoffrey Tyler attended physics lectures in that building.

Up close



Craig Barling

Chief Financial Officer

Before UTAS:

I began my career at Deloitte, where I eventually became a partner at age 29. I moved on to News Ltd as CFO at the Hobart *Mercury*. They then decided I was best placed in Melbourne and I became CFO of News Ltd Victoria.

In my first week at UTAS I quickly learned it is different from companies I've worked for – but it's been enlightening.

Passion for the job:

I find understanding new businesses really interesting, particularly their different structures and how they work, and ultimately what makes a successful business. That is where my true interests lie.

I've always been told I'm an ambitious person but since leaving Deloitte I've learned I'm not that ambitious: I simply enjoy contributing and working hard. My real passion is helping people or businesses achieve their goals, which is probably why I've stayed in finance.

Inspired by:

I don't read a great deal but when I do I'm interested in sport or business success stories. Not necessarily for inspiration, but more for understanding what drives people to success.

Family life:

My wife Jane is studying at UTAS to become a teacher. She wants to become an English teacher. We have two children, Felicity (5) and James (4).

We thoroughly enjoyed Melbourne as a city but it was challenging with young children. We have family support here and it just makes such a difference to be back home. After the hustle and bustle of Melbourne, we are very happy to be back in Hobart.

When I'm not working:

I didn't have much spare time in Melbourne due to work commitments, so now I try to spend as much time as possible with Jane and the kids. I also very much enjoy the odd round of golf.

Making choices in the Tarkine



The view from here

Professor Jamie Kirkpatrick from the School of Geography and Environmental Studies considers why the Tarkine is special for conservationists

In Australia, we ride on the open cut mine's back.

In the island state of Tasmania, there is a medium size-class open cut mine (928 hectares) with 210 hectares of settling ponds, from which iron nodules are piped 85km through the middle of the largest rainforest in Australia (262,940 hectares).

This rainforest is part of the Tarkine, a name made up by conservationists for an extensive tract of wild country in the north-west of the state.

Much of the Tarkine region is highly prospective for minerals. Some of it is more than prospective, with the development of new mines currently being proposed to complement those that already exist and replace those that have closed down.

Short-term jobs and profit oppose nature conservation, promising a debate of equal virulence and divisiveness to that about logging of Tasmania's old-growth forests.

We know why developers, politicians and people in economically depressed regions love mines, but why are conservationists so passionate about the Tarkine forests that they propose to sacrifice themselves to prevent new mines?

What characteristics of the Tarkine forest make it special for them?

Conservationists correctly perceive the area of forest in Tasmania not logged or disturbed by mining and/or stock grazing is small (approximately 1 million ha) compared with the original 5,514,217 hectares of forest in the state.

More than 200,000 ha of such forest occurs in the Tarkine.

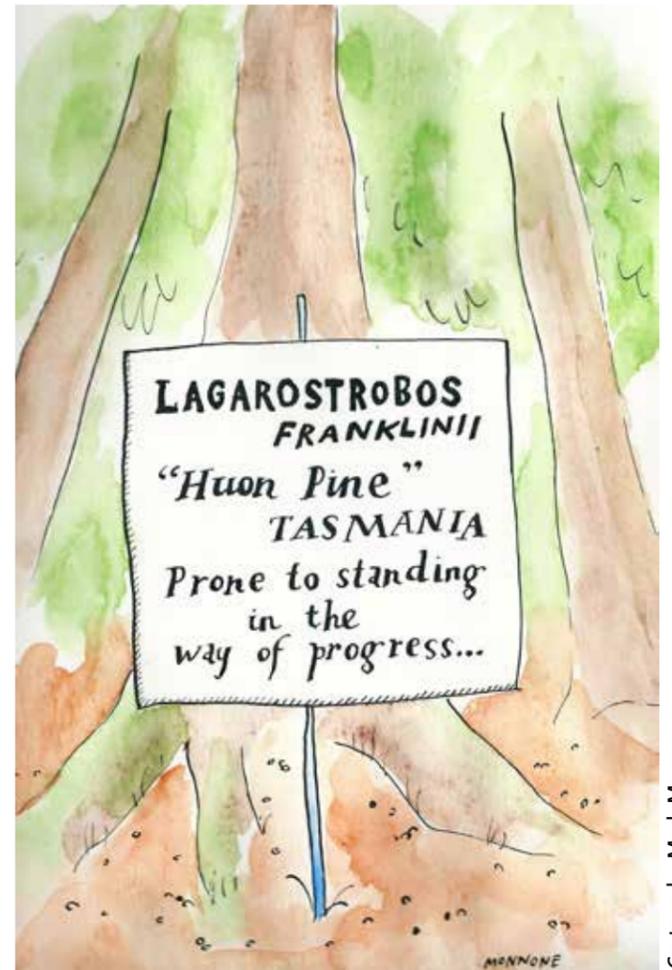
The trees in most of these forests were established well before Europeans occupied Australia. Research published in *Forest Ecology and Management* suggests one individual tall Tasmanian eucalypt is 509 years old.

"The forests have a harmony, complexity, detail and lushness irresistible to the nature photographer, and emotionally overwhelming for many others."

Some Huon pines on the rivers of the Tarkine are likely to be more than 2,000 years old.

The forests have a harmony, complexity, detail and lushness irresistible to the nature photographer, and emotionally overwhelming for many others. Although they lack the inspirational context of high mountains and lakes found in the nearby Tasmanian Wilderness Heritage Area, there is nowhere else in Australia where a large view-field can be totally composed of rainforest.

A recent paper in *Agricultural and Forest Meteorology* suggests there are few, if any, circumstances in which logging primary wet-eucalypt forest will not add to the global carbon burden. Mining destroys the forest, rather than removing a large part of its carbon, so this argument is stronger for mining



Cartoon by Mark Monnone

per unit area. However, the area covered by any single mining operation is small in relation to the forest as a whole.

Single mining operations need to be put in the context

of the expression of different types of vegetation through feedback to fire regimes can be found in the Tarkine. The flammable buttongrass moorlands and eucalypt forests to the west of the rainforest send sparks to light up ridges within the rainforest, maintaining them as eucalypt forest.

A recent paper in the *Journal of Biogeography* provides strong evidence that patterns of ignition by human beings have had huge effects on the distributions of rainforest and other vegetation types.

Conservationists hope the maintenance of wild forests in protected areas, free of roads and mines, will reduce such incidences of ignition, allowing the largest rainforest in Australia to survive intact.

The values of the Tarkine forests we have described above defy ready conversion into dollars or jobs. Like our economy, they are the product of values that are not shared by all of our species.

However, it is possible for us to determine how important the Tarkine is in representing each of them, a task with which we are presently engaged.

We can then ask questions like: is the money from a mine more important than risking the loss of some of the largest patch of callidendrous rainforest on basalt in Australia?

Such questions can then ultimately only be resolved by political processes at the state, national and international levels.

of potential and past mining operations, with mining leases and licenses covering approximately 80% of its wild forests.

The most important of the Tarkine forests are those on basalt. Around 70 per cent of the forest on basalt in Tasmania has been cleared for agriculture or plantations. The forests on basalt in the Tarkine are largely tall forests with cathedral-like understories dominated by southern beech.

The Tarkine is the stronghold of these callidendrous (tall) rainforests, which closely resemble other forests dominated by *Nothofagus* species, which are found in New Zealand and South America. All these *Nothofagus* species appear to have had ancestors that lived on the Gondwana supercontinent.

Some of the best examples

Brightest ag science minds get a boost



Agricultural science scholarship recipients: Rowan Snare, Aaron Thomason, Kaylia Cameron, Victoria White, Freya Griffin, Elya Richardson, Daniel Goss and Amy Lucas

BY LANA BEST

They came together under the UTAS Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture tent at Agfest: traditional farmers, second- and third-generation farmers, industry suppliers, educators and governing bodies.

TIA's annual scholarship awards at Agfest are an institution, passing an important baton to future primary producers and agricultural scientists.

The recipients were from all around Tasmania, interestingly mainly females, and all extremely grateful for the assistance in pursuing their chosen field of study.

An opportunity for scholarship donors to catch up with their students and talk about their studies, TIA representatives were

kept busy talking to young people and their parents about the many career opportunities for agricultural science graduates and research; development and extension staff showcased their current work to a wide cross-section of the Tasmanian community.

In the UTAS HealthStop tent more than 80 trainee pharmacists, exercise physiologists, nurses and doctors and their supervisors engaged young and old with their full suite of medical equipment to conduct tests and give advice on all aspects of health care.

From making sorbolene cream and real plaster casts to checking out SimMan and having their blood pressure measured, it proved a popular exhibit.

The UTAS careers stall in the Trades Expo Pavilion also drew in

many potential students and had some fun dressing up children in the garb of their "dream career" and giving them a polaroid photo for inspiration.

Scholarship certificates presented were:

Robert Gatenby Tasmania University Scholarship in Agricultural Science

\$4,000 per year for up to three years. From the estate of Robert Gatenby, who was an innovative Tasmanian farmer and horticulturalist before his death in a light plane crash in 1992. Available to a student eligible to enter second year of the Bachelor of Agricultural Science.

Recipient: Elya Richardson of Hobart.

Bruce Wall Estate Honours Scholarship (Agriculture/Aquaculture)

\$4,500 per year for up to four years. The estate of the late Bruce Wall supports a number of scholarships each year in agricultural science and aquaculture as well as Tasmanian youth projects.

Recipient: Daniel Goss of Scottsdale.

AgVita Scholarship in Agricultural Science

\$4,000. Devonport-based AgVita Analytical is a professional laboratory offering soil, plant and water analysis nationally.

Recipient: Elizabeth Jolly of Forth.

Beef Industry Trust Scholarship

\$4,000 per year for up to three years. Provided by the Tasmanian Beef Industry Trust to assist students with an interest in the beef and cattle industry. Available to a student eligible to enter the second year of a course in the School of Agricultural Science.

Recipient: Rebekah Smart of Hobart.

Bert Campbell Memorial Scholarship in Agriculture

\$2,000. Provided by the Agricultural Contractors of Tasmania to honour the memory of Bert Campbell, a pioneer in harvesting, cereal production and the poppy industry.

Recipient: Victoria White of Crabbtree.

George Wade Scholarship in Agricultural Science

\$2,000 per year for up to four years. Provided by the family of the late Professor George Wade, a respected plant pathologist who established the School of Agricultural Science at UTAS in 1962. Offered to a talented Tasmanian student entering the Agricultural Science course.

Recipient: Amy Lucas of Sandfly.

Other major scholarships recently awarded include the Neale Edwards Scholarship in Agriculture, \$6,500 per year for three years, recipient Rowan Snare (Wynyard); and the Robert Menary Scholarship in Agriculture, \$4,000 per year for three years, recipient Aaron Thomason of Sandfly.



AgVita Scholarship: AgVita's operations manager Michael Ruffels and Elizabeth Jolly of Forth, who received the AgVita Scholarship in Agricultural Science.



In memory of plant pathologist George Wade: School of Agriculture Science deputy head Dr Richard Doyle (left) and Ian Wade with Amy Lucas of Sandfly who received the George Wade Scholarship in Agricultural Science.



HealthStop at Agfest: Third-year School of Nursing and Midwifery student Hannah Purton takes the blood pressure of a HealthStop visitor.

Trailblazer paramedics graduate in Sydney

BY PETER COCHRANE

Among the more than 100 Sydney graduands from the faculties of Business and Health Science were 31 admitted to the degree of Bachelor of Paramedic Practice.

They were, as noted by the deputy chancellor, Harvey Gibson, who presided at the ceremony, the first New South Wales cohort to be admitted to this degree at a Sydney graduation ceremony. (It is also delivered on the Domain campus.)

After two years of intensive study, including three one-month blocks of practical experience, the graduates are now finding their feet in their initial 12-month postings, many scattered around the eight zones of the greater Sydney metropolitan area, others in regional NSW and at least one in the ACT.

Apart from the performance of Queen's *Bohemian Rhapsody* by a string quartet and the anecdote-filled occasional address by the new head of Nursing and Midwifery, Professor Steven Campbell, the Sydney ceremony was notable for the 'cheer squads' to be found among family



Graduation jubilation: Bachelor of Nursing graduate Brenda Zinyuke joins in the euphoric atmosphere at the recent Sydney graduation ceremony, observed by Michael Sim.

and friends gathered in the City Recital Hall at Angel Place. Some of the loudest cheers were accorded the paramedic graduates in their lilac-trimmed academic dress.

Sixty students started the

fast-track degree in 2010. Those that stayed the distance have become a tightknit group deeply appreciative of the efforts of their lecturers and tutors.

"The teaching staff at Rozelle

(campus) is exemplary," mature-age graduate Simon Chivers said on the eve of the ceremony. "If you are prepared to put your head down and study hard, they are there for you. I now feel so well-prepared

for what can be a difficult working environment."

Adds fellow graduate Hayley Freer about the emphasis put in this course on getting out of the classroom and on the road: "When we combined with students from another university for an extreme emergency scenario, there was an obvious difference in that we had much more real-world experience behind us."

The coordinator of the Sydney paramedic practice program, Dr Paula McMullen, is as complimentary about this first cohort. "The staff is incredibly proud of these graduates' accomplishments. Their hard work and commitment was infectious.

"They truly lived the values that are espoused in the course objectives – that is, 'A community of learning that integrates humanistic values if integrity, accountability, respect and teamwork to achieve a paramedic degree of the highest standard'.

"They've set a very high benchmark for our future students and other universities to strive to achieve," Dr McMullen said.



Stuart Bradshaw

Stuart (Stu) Bradshaw had worked just four "pretty crazy" shifts at Bankstown just 15 minutes' drive from his home in south-western Sydney when *Unitas* spoke to him. Three months of clinical placements chalked up over the two years of the fast-track degree – including two months at Bankstown and one at Liverpool – had prepared him for the reality of being a first responder. However, it has not been without its challenges: "Dealing with trauma is one thing, but it has been a lot more emotionally challenging than I expected, such as knowing what to say to someone that does not exacerbate the situation." Stu enrolled in the Bachelor of Paramedic Practice course after first applying for Bachelor of Policing and Bachelor of Nursing degrees. "I was accepted for both but chose nursing which I thought would allow me to find work overseas. However, after studying for a year I decided that my future was as a paramedic."



Simon Chivers

At 49 Simon Chivers is the oldest of the NSW cohort, his first posting as a paramedic in Sydney's north. In addition to three one-month placements during his UTAS degree, Simon was able to complete brief locums in London, Edinburgh and Evansville, Indiana. "I started out as a research scientist at the Royal Botanical Gardens before going overseas for a few years. Then I went into project management in construction. Finally, my wife and I became professional stage actors, touring Australia for 10 months of the year, for five years, performing at about 200 schools a year." When daughter Lily started Year 11 the touring ended. Simon decided to pursue a lifelong interest in medicine by enrolling in the paramedic course while his wife opted for film directing. "My decision to study involved the whole family. Because the course is full-time and fast-tracked you have to throw yourself into it – you must stop work for two years," he explained.



Hayley Freer

Hayley Freer has been posted to Balgowlah on Sydney's northern beaches, not a world away in terms of environment from her home on the Central Coast, despite the daily commute of one hour and 20 minutes each way. Each week she works two day shifts (7am-7pm) and two night shifts (7pm-7am). "There have not been too many surprises so far," she says. "UTAS students are provided with a total of three months on-road prac time before graduating. This is quite a bit more than some universities. The UTAS paramedic degree teaches in line with NSW ambulances, ensuring graduates are familiar with ambulance service protocols and as prepared as possible to transition into the workplace. Pip and Paula have a wealth of knowledge to share, and all our tutors are on-road paramedics who come in to the campus during their days off."



Sarah Mead

In her posting to Wentworth, Sarah Mead has ventured further afield than any of her colleagues – as she puts it, "as far as you can go and still be in NSW". Although Sarah is a country girl, a posting to the bush wasn't her first choice, she admits. "I nominated Sydney East (central Sydney) as my first choice." Nevertheless, after nearly six hectic years in the Big Smoke, she is settling back into a rural lifestyle as one of seven paramedics – including another trainee, a Charles Sturt University graduate – based in Wentworth but servicing a large, remote corner of the state. "We also perform back-up for our colleagues in Broken Hill 230 kilometres to the north and in Balranald 180 kilometres to the south-east as well as Mildura just across the border." She pays tribute to her Rozelle campus lecturers Pip Lyndon-James and Dr Paula McMullen: "Thanks to them, I arrived in Wentworth well prepared for this initial 12-months placement."



Serena Sayed

"Every day is different, everyone is different," says Serena Sayed of the appeal of her profession. Serena has had "some interesting jobs" in her first month working with ACT Ambulance and is delighted to be paired with a partner who is a fine mentor. After stints in age-care nursing and youth work Serena's future was always going to be in the community health sector. Her prac experience with NSW Ambulance gave her a "good taste of what it was going to be like after graduation". The hard part came when she had to say goodbye to her fellow cohort members because the group had become so close over the two years' intensive course. Not content to rest on her laurels, she will soon begin part-time study for a Graduate Diploma of Emergency Health (Intensive Care) at Monash University.

The Alzheimer's journey

BY FIONA HORWOOD

John Haynes was diagnosed eight years ago with Alzheimer's disease. There were a couple of outstanding incidents before the diagnosis that made John's wife, Bubbles, realise something was not quite right.

"Ten years ago, John was active in assisting with the running of Targa Tasmania. One day he was supposed to start off the competitors at one of the stage points, but he was unable to coordinate with the countdown and a friend had to take over," Bubbles said.

"It was worrying and embarrassing and not like my John," she said.

Another notable incident occurred shortly after John retired. A friend asked him to give him an approximate quote on some house renovations. John had been a director of a building company, where he did all the quantity surveying and managed the workers.

"The quote was well off, even I knew it was totally incorrect," said Bubbles.

Without the assistance of Alzheimer's Australia Tas, The Parkside Foundation and Carers Tasmania, Bubbles

says the journey would have been horrific.

"As John became more dependent on me, Alzheimer's Australia Tas helped me with counselling and home support.

"One of the most difficult situations I have ever had to endure was when I had to organise for John to have his driver's licence revoked. John had been a racing car driver and a member of an advanced driver's group attending workshops for 40 years. He was an extremely competent and safe driver until his illness started to cause problems.

"It is up to loved ones and family members to control the situation and make the heart-breaking decisions.

Last October, John suffered a mini stroke and was admitted to the Royal Hobart Hospital. It was decided that John needed to be moved to the older person's acute care unit. The specialist advised the Haynes that it was time for John to go into permanent care.

"I was given time to come to terms with this decision. At all times my needs and John's were respected.

"Since mid-November, John has been in Snug Village in the dementia secure ward. He is



The sadness of Alzheimer's: According to Bubbles Haynes, whose husband John suffers from Alzheimer's disease, "it is up to loved ones and family members to control the situation and make the heart-breaking decisions".

close by, he is well-loved, and he is well cared for and safe during this stage of his illness.

"Continuing research into the disease gives us a reason to hope. Although in early stages,

maybe this new evidence could help our loved ones. If not us, the next generation could be spared the distress, fear and sadness of the Alzheimer's journey."

Discovery may lead to new Alzheimer's treatments

To transfer information quickly in our brain, our nerves are insulated like electrical cables. If nerve cells lose their insulation they can short-circuit and information is no longer transferred to where it is needed.

We know from diseases like multiple sclerosis that losing insulation makes nerve cells extremely vulnerable to damage and death. This may also be true for patients suffering from Alzheimer's disease and schizophrenia.

There is a growing body of evidence indicating brain insulation is lost in Alzheimer's disease before nerve cells are damaged. In fact, insulation loss could contribute directly to nerve cell loss.

By studying brain scans from patients with Alzheimer's, researchers previously have found the amount of insulation that is damaged matches the level of the patient's dementia. The more damaged the insulation, the worse the person's memory problems.

Collaborative research spanning the United Kingdom, Australia and Japan has determined that the cells responsible for making brain insulation (called oligodendrocytes) are not the passive bystanders to brain function that we once thought.

Dr Kaylene Young, a senior research fellow at Menzies Research Institute Tasmania, and her colleagues have determined that insulating cells, the cells that protect our nerves, are made from immature cells in the brain called OPCs (oligodendrocyte precursor cells).

Dr Young says this new research demonstrates that new insulation is added to brain circuitry every day.

"The addition of new insulation to nerve cells can change the way that our brain circuits function," she said.

"This continued addition of insulation is likely to be very important for learning, memory, vision and co-ordination, and has important implications for nervous system disease."

Dr Young and her colleagues are currently investigating ways to hijack the natural ability of OPCs to make new insulating cells.

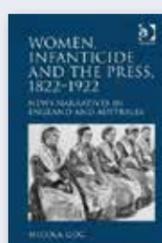
"Their aim is to stimulate OPCs to produce more insulating cells, in order to repair the insulation damage that is seen in the brains of Alzheimer's patients. Stimulating OPCs in the brain is an appealing possibility since they are found throughout all brain regions, meaning that they are already where they need to be.

"If we succeed in repairing the damaged brain insulation, and can re-wrap the 'at risk' nerve cells, we may be able to protect and prevent these nerve cells from dying.

"Protecting nerve cells would prevent the rapid mental deterioration seen in people after they are diagnosed with AD," she says.

This research was recently published in the international journal *Neuron*.

UTAS books



Women, Infanticide and the Press, 1822-1922: News Narratives in England and Australia

by Nicola Goc, School of Humanities, Ashgate, 2013

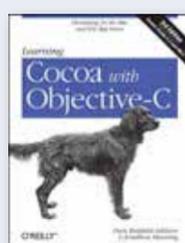
In her study of anonymous infanticide news stories appearing from 1822 to 1922 in Britain and in the penal colony of Australia, Nicola Goc reveals both the broader patterns and the particular rhetorical strategies journalists used to report on young women who killed their babies. Newspapers provide a way to investigate the practices that brought the nineteenth-century infanticidal woman into being. The actions of the infanticidal mother were understood as a fundamental threat to society, not only because they subverted the ideal of Victorian womanhood but also because a woman's actions destroyed a man's lineage. For these reasons, Goc demonstrates, infanticide narratives were politicised in the press.



Grounds for Respect: Particularism, Universalism, and Communal Accountability

by Kristi Giselsso, School of Humanities, Lexington Books, 2012

In recent years traditional foundations of respect for others have been challenged on the basis that universal grounds — the assumption that we share a common humanity — have resulted in the exclusion of particular others from full moral consideration or respect. This current questioning of the concept of a common humanity is of enormous significance. This book attempts to address the question of just what grounds are needed in order to justify respect for others, and in addressing this question raises issues of fundamental importance; such as, what exactly does it mean to be human? The author not only critically assesses past and current arguments for and against a common humanity.



Learning Cocoa with Objective-C

by Paris Buttfield-Addison and Jonathon Manning, School of Computing and Information Systems, O'Reilly, 2012

This technical book covers the developing of iPhone, iPad, and Mac applications, helping readers get up to speed on Cocoa and Objective-C, and start developing applications on the iOS and OS X platforms. From object-oriented programming to storing app data in iCloud, this book covers everything needed to build apps for the iPhone, iPad, and Mac. Readers can learn how to work with the Xcode IDE, Objective-C's Foundation library, and other developer tools such as Event Kit framework and Core Animation. Along the way readers can build example projects, including a simple Objective-C application, a custom view and others.

Portrait of a practising, prolific artist

Portrait 2 is in Hilton Owen's preferred mix of paints, an oil and acrylic on canvas, and is an intriguing mix of expressive and more controlled brushstrokes.

"It's like some of my other recent paintings: a mixture of different looks, not styles, that I've used to create works where I do not feel 'stuck' or repetitious," he said.

"In some ways it's not thinking, it's just judging."

The Hobart artist and UTAS alumnus' artistic career is taking off; after holding his first solo show at 17 in a city café, he has held one or two exhibitions every year, both in Tasmania and on the mainland.

"I've had 12, coming up to 13, solo shows - I've never been scared about showing my work," he said.

Now 24, with a Bachelor of Fine Arts under his belt from UTAS and working on a BA, Hilton is selling works at Handmark Gallery and recently exhibited at the Morris Miller library on UTAS' Sandy Bay campus.

Initially he was interested in graphic design and was awarded a scholarship to pursue the subject at university. But after studying graphics for a year he decided to focus on painting.

"Some of my paintings have been influenced by graphic design, in terms of the composition and certain colours, which come from when I was interested in creating logos- all of those things have fed into my paintings," Hilton said.

Like other creative people, his inspiration ebbs and flows.

"It can be a real struggle when



The work

it doesn't flow naturally. I often tear canvases off because I don't like to paint over them.

"But when things are flowing I can do two paintings in a day and finish them, if I'm lucky.

"My work evolves through practice and for me that is important, otherwise I could not do it."

Hilton cites artists Francis Bacon and Lucien Freud as key influences, as well as Picasso and Van Gough.

"I think Francis Bacon has done some of the best portraits.

"Freud moulds the faces of his portraits with paint to create an ultra-real but painterly look. That's

what Van Gough did too, take paint and make it look more real than it actually is.

"I'm at a point where I can enjoy and appreciate the work of other artists without it creeping too much into my own work, which is not an easy point to get to."

Portrait 2 by Hilton Owen:
"An intriguing mix of expressive and more controlled brushstrokes."

What's on

EXHIBITIONS

21 JUNE

Honours and postgraduate coursework

Art by 13 honours and postgraduate students from the College of the Arts, Hunter St campus.

Time: 12pm–5pm, until 30 June

Venue: Plimsoll Gallery, Centre for the Arts, Hunter St Hobart

5 JULY

What a life!

Photos, drawings, academic papers and archival material which has shaped the thinking of Professor Roger Fay, now retired from the School of Architecture and Design.

Venue: NEW Gallery 2, UTAS Newnham campus

Time: 9am–5pm, until 2 August
Information: Malcom Bywaters (03) 6324 4410

5 JULY

Binding times

Artist books and visual journals from across Australia.

Venue: New Gallery 2, UTAS Newnham campus

Time: 9am–5pm, until 2 August
Information: Malcom Bywaters (03) 6324 4410

5 JULY

Moments

Selected artworks by Mary Ballantine Fooks

Venue: Academy Gallery B, UTAS Inveresk campus

Time: 9am–5pm, until 2 August
Information: Malcom Bywaters

(03) 6324 4410

19 JULY

Shaun Gladwell: Afghanistan

Video art by Shaun Gladwell, the Australian War Memorial's official war artist in 2009 in Afghanistan.

Time: 9am–5pm, until 15 September

Venue: Academy Gallery A, UTAS Inveresk campus

Information: Malcom Bywaters (03) 6324 4410

PUBLIC LECTURES

1 JULY

15th Annual Dare Shott Public lecture

Professor Paulo de Souza on how engineers and scientists are exploring Mars and the solar system

Venue: Sir Raymond Ferrall Centre, UTAS Newnham campus

Time: 6pm

RSVP: (03) 6348 7010; gold coin donation

16 JULY

The Royal Society of Tasmania: Winter Lecture Series 2013

Future proofing the food supply: food security and innovation in Tasmania lecture two: Food from the sea: the changing marine environment by Professor Colin Buxton, Professor Chris Carter and Dr Greta Pecl.

Venue: Stanley Burbury Theatre, UTAS Sandy Bay campus

Time: 7.30pm

Information: No RSVP required

THEATRE

24 JULY

The Photo

A play by Stephen Sewell, directed by Robert Lewis and Nicole Lewis. Contains coarse language and adult themes (MA15+).

Time: 7pm, until 27 July

Information: 1300 783 448 or email admin@atginc.org.au

Venue: Annexe Theatre, UTAS Inveresk campus

Tickets: Princess Theatre, Launceston (03) 6323 3666 and Annexe Theatre, one hour before performance. Adults: \$25, concession: \$18, students: \$10

ALUMNI

24 JULY

Brisbane alumni event

Drinks and canapés: guest speaker Helen Szoke, UTAS alumna and CEO of Oxfam Australia.

Venue: Bleeding Heart, 166 Ann St, Brisbane CBD

Time: 5.30–8pm

Information: (03) 6324 3052 or email Alumni.Office@utas.edu.au

25 JULY

Melbourne alumni event

Drinks and canapés: guest speaker Tim McCormack: From the Netherlands to Van Diemen's Land and back again – a Tasmanian perspective on the pursuit of global justice.

Time: 5.30–8pm

Venue: RACV Club, 501 Bourke St, Melbourne

Information: (03) 6324 3052 or email Alumni.Office@utas.edu.au