A life of ‘firsts’ for Distinguished Service Medal winner

BY CHERIE COOPER

One of Australia’s finest legal scholars and the first female professor of law at the University of Tasmania, Professor Kate Warner, has received the UTAS Distinguished Service Medal. The medal recognises a staff member who has made an outstanding contribution to the university, and this is only the fourth time it has been awarded.

At the presentation, the Provost, Professor David Rich, said Prof. Warner had given an outstanding and sustained commitment to UTAS for 30 years and had become a leading sentencing expert.

“She is recognised nationally and internationally as pre-eminent in her field,” he said.

“Indeed, Kate Warner is an institution in legal circles in this country,” Prof. Warner said the award was humbling and unexpected.

“I love my work and just like getting on with it so I don’t expect additional rewards – but it’s very nice to get it.”

Prof. Warner came to UTAS as a bright “happy-go-lucky” 17-year-old; her – a doctor and a radiographer – parents had strongly encouraged their children to go to university.

“They expected me, as a girl, to be able to support myself and be independent,” she said.

“When I started law, we had a rather authoritarian ex-army lecturer in contract law who went around the class and asked us about our matriculation results. He said to me: ‘No maths, you’ll fail’.”

Kate graduated with a Bachelor of Law with honours in 1970 and was admitted to the bar in 1971.

After two years of practical legal experience she travelled and married but on the verge of starting work in a legal firm realised she was pregnant.

“Academia offered more flexibility – and I have never regretted it.”

Prof. Warner completed her master’s in criminology with two babies and honed her expertise in criminal law and sentencing.

She became the first female professor of law at UTAS and the first female dean of the Faculty of Law.

In addition to being an outstanding teacher, researcher and scholar, Prof. Warner is an exceptional leader and mentor.

She sits on the editorial boards of leading academic journals, including the eminent Criminal Law Journal, frequently commenting in the media on criminal law and criminology.

In recognition of her high standing in legal circles, Prof. Warner was appointed a foundation fellow of the Australian Academy of Law and in 2009 was awarded a fellowship at All Souls College, Oxford.

“But it is as director of the Tasmanian Law Reform Institute, Tasmania’s only law reform body, that Prof. Warner has arguably made her most substantial contribution.

“She has played a pivotal role in virtually all of the institute’s work,” Prof. Rich said.

“Professor Warner commands great respect nationally and internationally as a leading expert in sentencing in Australia. Through her research she has made an enormous contribution to the Supreme Court of Tasmania and to those who practise in its criminal jurisdiction.

“Her book, Sentencing in Tasmania, which is now in its second edition, has a Bible-like status in relation to all questions of sentencing and is an indispensable aid for both judges and counsel.”

Prof. Warner’s award comes with a silver medal designed by Australian sculptor and medalist Michael Mezanyos and a $25,000 grant.

An outstanding teacher, researcher and scholar: Professor Kate Warner from the Faculty of Law has been awarded the 2012 UTAS Distinguished Service Medal.

UTAS success in world rankings

IN THE recently-released Academic Ranking of World Universities UTAS achieved a ranking of 326th in the world, a rise of 80 places from the 2010 result and the highest for 10 years. This placed UTAS tenth in Australia and reflects the university’s improving research performance over a number of years. Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) Professor Paddy Nixon, said international rankings have significant implications beyond the recognition of research excellence, raising international profile and visibility, recognising staff quality and impacting the university’s ability to attract new and retain existing academic staff.

“It is a result UTAS can be proud of, reflecting a growing energy within our academic community.

“At the mid-year point in 2012 we are beginning to see the broader impact of UTAS’ renewed focus on research.”

UTAS won $2.256 million ($7.6 million total including industry) in ARC Linkage, the best result since 2007, and $4.3 million for six future fellows. UTAS best performance to date in this scheme. These place UTAS 10th and 12th, respectively, in Australia.

In addition, UTAS has increased its number of federally funded higher research degree scholarships from 59 in 2009 to 90 in 2012 (reflecting an increased completion rate).

December’s 2012 ERA results and the next round of results in the key ARC and NHMRC programmes later in 2012 will be the next major assessment of the University of Tasmania’s trajectory.
Our people

Peter Frappell

UTAS' Professor Peter Frappell has been appointed as the University’s first Pro Vice-Chancellor (Global Engagement). Prof. Frappell is currently the Dean of Graduate Research in the Office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research). As Pro Vice-Chancellor (Global Engagement), Prof. Frappell will be responsible for strengthening UTAS’ international focus, developing our strategy and fostering partnerships overseas and with the Tasmanian Government and the community to achieve this. He will work closely with key staff based in the UTAS faculties and institutes and will be supported by colleagues in the Division of Students and Education in respect of international student recruitment, admissions, enrolment and support.

Paul Haddad

Professor Paul Haddad has become the first Australian to win the American Chemical Society Chromatography Award, an honour given to scientists at the peak of their profession. It will be officially presented with the award next April at a gala event in New Orleans during the ACS National Meeting. Prof. Haddad was also recently honoured closer to home in the Tasmanian Science Excellence Awards, presented with the Premier’s Tasmanian Scientist of the Year award.

Greg Dicinoski

Associate Professor Dicinoski was presented with the Tasmanian Minister’s Science Innovation Award for the ACRROSS project scantex, an anti-terrorism device which detects the presence of home-made explosives. Assoc. Prof. Dicinoski thanked the selection committee and his colleagues involved in the development of Scantex. “I’d like to acknowledge their contribution to this product, which will make it safer for members of the public when they travel, as Scantex makes it possible to detect a much wider range of explosive devices,” he said. “Hopefully this will lead to a commercial product in the very near future.”

Open Day a great success

Members of the DigiVisPup society (pictured) were a colourful addition to the Hobart Open Day in August. The society celebrates Japanese animation and digital culture.

Churchill fellowship

UTAS Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture academic Dr Karen Barry has been awarded a 2012 Winston Churchill Travelling Fellowship. The award of up to $20,000, which is open to all disciplines, goes to research projects with clear benefit to Australia. Dr Barry will visit research trials and farms in Canada and the United States with cool climates such as North Dakota and Saskatchewan that have low fertilizer and pesticide regimes and use beneficial fungi to increase crop yield. “It’s about trying to do more with less, especially with the aim of using less phosphorous which is a limited resource,” Dr Barry said. Dr Barry will be building knowledge for Tasmanian and Australian farmers. “Boosting soil biology is also great for soil health and carbon”, Dr Barry said. “In the USA and Canada there are many examples of successful management of beneficial fungi and I’d like to examine those situations.”

Philippines experience

Six young UTAS doctors from the Rural Clinical school in Burnie won first place for the research paper, research poster and public health poster competitions at the recent Asian Medical students conference in the Philippines. They were among 300 delegates from 16 countries, including Japan, Korea, Mongolia, Nepal, and the UK. With the conference theme Surmounting health inequalities across Asia as one region, Tasmanian delegates Jeevan Phang, Nicholas Voong Sze Ee, Ashwin Bhana, and Kieran Longley were confronted by the differences between the private and public health systems in the Philippines. They found that private health care in the Philippines is exceptional; those who can’t afford it are exposed to a system with only one doctor for 10,000 people. And the students spent time in the community learning about what’s being done at ground level to improve the health of Filipinos, visiting a medical clinic in a poor community about an hour out of Manila.

Bouquets

Paul Canty was inducted into the University’s newly formed Central Committee, a role that involves attending meetings to help shape the way in which the University operates. Prof. Canty has been a member of the Jewellery Committee for many years, and it is hoped that this appointment will expand his role within the University. The tie that binds …

Distinguished Professor Allan Carty has a tie for every occasion. One that he wore frequently – but only to the many committee meetings that he was forced to attend as a former head of the School of Chemistry – was his ‘prison bars’ tie. On retirement at his recent official farewell he decided to sell this to a worthy attendee. “I thought first of David Rich because he attends heaps and heaps of meetings, but then I thought, ‘Well, it’s a good tie, but not a quality tie,’”, Prof. Carty said, tongue firmly in cheek. “I thought of Paddy Nixon but he doesn’t wear a tie, but then I thought, ‘Well, it’s a good tie, but not a quality tie,’”, Prof. Carty said, tongue firmly in cheek. “I thought of Paddy Nixon but he doesn’t wear a tie, and then I thought of the perfect candidate – someone who works for two senior managers, who I am sure gets commissioned for many committees … step forward, Peter Frappell.”

On campus

The tie that binds …
VET students succeed in uni study, report finds

BY LANA BEST

UTAS research shows students admitted to higher education with vocational qualifications perform well but can face initial obstacles to gaining credit for their VET studies.

The Path Less Travelled: VET Articulation In Tasmania by Associate Professor Anne Langworthy, formerly acting-director of the UTAS Centre for University Pathways and Partnerships, social inclusion researcher Dr Susan Johns and statistician Melissa Humphries, challenges commonly held myths about VET students’ academic ability.

“For the first time in Tasmania we analysed seven years of data on around 2000 UTAS students admitted on the basis of previous VET at diploma or advanced diploma level along with a random sample of other students,” Assoc. Prof. Langworthy said.

“We found limited uptake of direct pathways from VET to higher education in Tasmania and examined reasons for this.”

Sponsored by the Tasmanian articulation and Credit Transfer Committee, the study also considered students’ perceptions and completion data from Tasmania’s two public VET providers, Tasmania Polytechnic and Tasmanian Skills Institute.

“It is in the interests of Tasmania to develop a more highly skilled community through higher participation in tertiary education,” Assoc. Prof. Langworthy said.

“Future directions are likely to include development and co-delivery of a bridging program from VET to higher education and better and more transparent credit transfer processes.”

Alicia Bushby is an example of a student who gained credit for previous vocational study which helped her at university.

She gained her real estate licence through the polytechnic, now she has almost completed a three-year UTAS Bachelor of Business majoring in finance and management.

In her thirties with work in hospitality and real estate behind her and more definite goals in mind, Alicia revelled in university life.

“I’d certainly recommend a university education to anyone – it’s not as hard as you think,” she said.

“Having VET training behind me made the process easier too.”

Alicia is now heading for a career in financial planning and this semester is doing an internship with InTas Financial Services.

But the report found many VET students do not receive credit at university because of:

• Lack of awareness;

• The complexity of the credit transfer process;

• VET completion in an area unrelated to proposed university studies;

• The time spent away from study since completing VET;

• Lack of formal articulation arrangements.

Dr Johns said the research showed a need for increased confidence in credit transfer.

“Greater collaboration between VET and higher education is required to map out curriculum and identify equivalence,” she said.

Since 2004 the number of students admitted to UTAS on the basis of previous VET has gradually increased to 11 per cent of total undergraduate enrolments.

VET students entering university are more likely to be female, mature-age and enrol in education, management and commerce, society and culture and health subjects.

A paper from the report won best paper at the recent Higher Education Research and Development Society of Australasia conference.

It challenges the perceived differential status of VET and higher education and suggests the latter can learn valuable lessons from VET on practice-based learning.

Information from the research was fed into the VET review commissioned by Tasmanian Government which is informing new policies on pathways in tertiary education.

Community engagement agenda at UTAS

Of the three main planks upon which the new strategic plan, Open to Talent, is built, there is one that distinguishes us among most Australian universities. Sharing equal status with “research” and “students’ is “community.”

Our position as the sole university in Tasmania offers great potential for engagement with the economic, social, cultural and intellectual life of the island, and this has been recognised in Open to Talent. Now we are in the throes of developing a formal community engagement strategy and plan.

Other significant initiatives which will help realise the vision articulated in Open to Talent include the appointment last year of Professor Janelle Allison to the new position of Pro Vice-Chancellor (Regional Development), with a brief to oversee relationships with communities in north and north-west Tasmania, and the signing of a new agreement with the State Government in which we have agreed to collaborate on four priority areas: educational attainment, research, health and international education.

Providing intellectual rigour and vigour to UTAS’ role as a thought leader is the Inglis Clark Centre for Civil Society under Associate Professor Natasha Cica, recent recipient of a prestigious Sidney Myer Creative Fellowship. The centre’s major functions include leading democratic conversation in Tasmania and beyond, and developing collaborations between UTAS and agenda-setters in government, business and industry, philanthropy and the non-government sector.

Our community reach is local, national and international in its focus. On 19 September we will host the next Denison Debate, with the theme being The Tasmanian moment? – real options and opportunities for Tasmania’s future. Early next month, the university will bring the world stage to Tasmania and welcome Nobel Peace Laureate José Ramos-Horta to Tasmania to deliver the Sir James Pimm Lecture.

On a grassroots level, UTAS is reaching out in a myriad of different ways. In the north, for example, we are linking with the various communities and the neighbourhoods surrounding our campuses, with one aim being to build tolerance of cultural diversity within the community by working with local organisations, such as the Launceston City Council and the Chamber of Commerce. In the north-west, the Cradle Coast campus has partnered with The Advocate newspaper to launch an app which features UTAS and access opportunities. It has been enthusiastically embraced by the public, and has generated a significant increase in hits on the UTAS web site. Initiatives such as hosting the Manufacturing Forum featuring local entrepreneur Dale Ephraimstone and international manufacturing authority Goran Roos also link the campus to the community and the region.

Our community engagement is a real agenda for the university and one which we will pursue with enthusiasm, with the first steps being made now to begin the Community Engagement Plan.

Professor David Rich

Provost

www.utas.edu.au/vc
At the outset I want to state that there can never be one vision for Tasmania. There must be multiple visions, depending on your place in this state, your experiences, your expectations and your values.

I say values deliberately because too often our vision for a country is too narrowly defined in terms of its gross national product; that is, about how much money it brings in and how much it spends.

In terms of a vision for a Tasmanian future, Bhutan’s notion of Gross National Happy (GNH) Index has merit.

The country of Bhutan is rural, small in population and overall size, and geographically isolated by mountains. Its GNH Index provides to its government, policy makers and leaders an overview of the performance of the country across ten areas: 1. Employment and people’s use of time and engagement with others; 2. Level of local and community activities;
3. Tolerance of differences; 4. Support for its environment; 5. The strength of its economy and finances; 6. People’s living standard;
7. The quality and responsiveness of its health services; 8. The relevance of its education to the individual and the society; 9. The quality and demonstration of good governance for the people and the maintenance of their safety;
10. People’s psychological, creative, and spiritual wellbeing.

For the Bhutanese the ‘happiness’ comes from the inter-connectedness of these elements and their balance. Too much focus on one dimension or too little focus on another causes a dislocation to the whole.

In any vision for the future of Tasmania these inter-connected dimensions need to be considered.

This notion of the inter-connectedness has practical implementations, illustrated to me in a recent project where I was asked to report on the financial and service viability of a large New South Wales agency delivering a range of medical, health and educational services across the State.

One of the best predictors of the financial viability of the different locations was the quality of the relationship between the provider and the person paying for, and receiving the service. Those locations that scored highest by clients on measures of respect, communication, and trustworthiness were more financially viable.

This concept of inter-connectedness and balance in one’s life is an important topic in the health professions, in education and in economics. In education, a balanced reading program has been shown to be the most effective for the child’s ongoing literacy development.

In terms of people’s psychological and physical wellbeing there is also a greater recognition of the importance of a work/life balance and that all individuals need a mix of social, physical and intellectual stimulation. The new research on how the human brain works speaks of its plasticity and inter-connectedness, needing to receive and respond to a range of stimulation and activities across the life span.

Within my own Faculty of Education our applied research is designed to address complex behaviours and problems.

For example, we are seeing enhanced productivity for employees who sit for long periods of time if they participate in short physical activities using the computer-based program Exercise-e.

In the creative arts we are investigating how better to use the arts to enhance an individual’s engagement with others as well as with life-long learning.

We are also developing technology resources such as the App Prof’s Phonics to help young children to become better readers by using a multisensory approach to develop their early phonological skills.

The evidence is that individuals who receive a balanced education where social skills, physical skills, team work, persistence, communication skills, content knowledge, creative skills and problem solving skills are all enhanced are more likely to become inter-connected with others, to be responsive to change, to be respectful of others, and to become participants and contributors to their community and the world of work.

I am not sure that Tasmania will embrace the notion of a Gross National Happy Index but there is merit in encouraging the concept of balance and the inter-connectedness of the nine elements from Bhutan when conceptualising this state’s future.

I am not sure that this vision for the future of Tasmania will embrace the notion of a Gross National Happy Index but there is merit in encouraging the concept of balance and the inter-connectedness of the nine elements from Bhutan when conceptualising this state’s future.
Awards for focus on student learning

Three UTAS academics have been recognised for their contribution to teaching through National Citations for Outstanding Contributions to Student Learning. Introduced in 1997 and expanded in 2005, this category of the Australian Awards for University Teaching recognises the contribution of individuals and teams to the quality of student learning in a specific area of responsibility over a sustained period.

Dr Andrew Seen: Chemistry

Dr ANDREW Seen believes that whether students are into science or not, they need to be able to "think scientifically" in order to question what they see and read.

Whether it’s Green politician Christine Milne’s justification for opposing a fish dragger or a proposed method of cleaning up a river, he believes students should have a grasp of the facts and figures.

Dr Seen started an environmental science program in Launceston seven years ago, knowing that prospective students were keener on the environmental science than the more difficult chemistry angle.

He saw it as a challenge then "to put chemistry into a context we can sell and teach" and years later admits that offering sustainable programs to science and non-science students at Newsham is still a challenge.

"Much science teaching is still very much 'stand in front of the class and lecture'; I prefer to get into discussion-based stuff – using the time not simply to deliver content but to get a better understanding of content," he said.

This is why Dr Seen sees his focus on teaching needs to link with the community, both to encourage students into science and to provide applied problems for students to learn from.

His students are fully involved in delving into research on the heavy metals in the Tamar River and what can be done about it, or examining the leaching of cadmium, copper and zinc from mines at Story’s Creek in Tasmania’s north-east.

"Taking on consultancies can inform teaching and provide a link with the community," Dr Seen said.

"It comes back to understanding the world around us and everyone learning. I believe lifelong learning for the sake of it is a pretty noble cause."

Associate Professor Greg Dicinoski: Chemistry

ONE OF the first lecturers in the School of Chemistry to embrace online teaching practices, Assoc. Prof. Greg Dicinoski’s citation is for sustained commitment to the introduction and use of flexible learning methodologies and improved research-derived undergraduate laboratory student experiences.

"I’m interested in flexible methodologies for instruction which use a range of different variants – from a full-distance mode to file storage, from online assignments to laboratory manuals, to a whole spectrum of uses," he said.

Currently head of the School of Chemistry, Assoc. Prof. Dicinoski was pivotal in the initial implementation of online learning at UTAS in 2000.

"We were one of the first schools to road test it in a couple of topics in first-year chemistry. We found students improved their performance by using the technology," he said.

Previously a recipient of the 2008 Royal Australian Chemical Institute’s Chemistry Educator of the Year Award as well as a 2009 RAChI citation, Assoc. Prof. Dicinoski is also the deputy director of the Australian Centre for Research in Separation Science. He has a broad range of research interests within analytical and physical chemistry, including novel extraction processes for the mining industry, pharmaceutical and environmental analysis and even finding solutions to real world problems such as counter-terrorism.

Assoc. Prof. Dicinoski considers good teaching goes hand-in-hand with good research, where research-derived initiatives are implemented into the teaching program.

"There is a teaching/research nexus which crosses over each other, one informs the other. You need the research to drive the teaching and the teaching to influence the research. There is no hard boundary between the two, they merge into each other," he said.

Associate Professor Justin Walls: Medicine

Over the past 10 years he has received a number of teaching merit certificates and teaching development grants, and in 2011 was awarded a Vice-Chancellor’s Award for teaching excellence.

"I’m not focused on the traditional base of science, arts or whatever field at university that has remained relatively unchanged for the last 30 years. Although this has its place, I am about differentiating from that, finding what’s new, what’s cutting-edge and staying one step ahead of everyone else," he said.

Currently associate dean of learning and teaching in the Faculty of Health Science, Assoc. Prof. Walls is responsible for the organisation and delivery of key medical and health science units in the School of Medicine and has played a key role in the design and implementation of a new five-year undergraduate medical curriculum.

UTAS students reach out to kids of Cambodia

BY LANA BEST

FROM NORTH-WEST Tasmania to the Kingdom of Cambodia – university is taking Adam McDermott and Hamish Chapman on a wild ride.

The two sports-mad 20-year-olds are in their third year of a Bachelor of Physical Activity at UTAS in Launceston.

A quick scan of a brochure handed out at a university seminar has led to them joining another 20 Reach Out volunteers from around Australia who will spend their summer holiday working at schools and orphanages in the poorest regions of South East Asia.

Hamish, who is a member of the Ulverstone Surf Lifesaving Club, wants to teach physical education at secondary school and is specialising in health science.

“I’m looking forward to spending time in the villages of the Kro Bei Riel community, meeting and interacting with the people there and taking classes in conversational English, arts and crafts, sports and recreation and agriculture,” he said.

“We’ll also be teaching basic nutrition and hygiene, and it will be a constant schedule of teaching and building while we are there, except for day eight where we get the day off to visit nearby temples and other places of interest.”

Adam, from Strahan, plays State League football with Devonport and spends his summers working as a lifeguard at the local swimming pool.

He has also been looking for an overseas adventure where he can gain some hands-on teaching experience.

“Through Reach Out we can teach English to children and young adults who are trying to pull themselves out of poverty – it’s a doorway to employment and it also help us put our teaching knowledge to the test,” Adam said.

“We are fundraising to cover the $4000 it costs each of us to complete the project, and whenever possible Reach Out uses local guides, labour and translates the finding that money back to the community.”

“We purchase all food and building supplies locally and as much as possible we use environmentally friendly companies, and in 2011 was awarded a Vice-Chancellor’s Award for teaching excellence.”

For more information on Reach Out see www.rovolunteers.com

Three UTAS academics have been recognised for their contribution to teaching through National Citations for Outstanding Contributions to Student Learning. Introduced in 1997 and expanded in 2005, this category of the Australian Awards for University Teaching recognises the contribution of individuals and teams to the quality of student learning in a specific area of responsibility over a sustained period.
Graduations brighten up Tassie’s winter

UTAS held mid-year graduation ceremonies in Hobart and Launceston in August with 1,121 students graduating.

UTAS VICE-CHANCELLOR, Professor Peter Rathjen, said graduations were always a cause for great celebration.

“Graduations give our students the chance to be formally recognised for their academic achievements in front of their peers, family and the university staff who have supported them,” Prof Rathjen said.

“I extend my congratulations to all the students who graduated – this occasion is the culmination of much hard work and dedication.”

Former Olympic swimming gold medalist Shane Gould, was among more than 230 students graduating in Launceston; she was awarded a Master of Contemporary Arts in visual arts.

A record 18 PhD candidates graduated in Launceston at the Albert Hall and former UTAS Chancellor Dr Michael Vertigan AC also attended in Launceston for the first time in his new role as Chair of the Australian Maritime College.

An honorary Doctor of Laws was conferred on National Gas Shipping Co. and Abu Dhabi National Tanker Co. CEO Ali Obaid Al-Yahhoumi for his outstanding service and commitment to maritime education and training.
Graduations

“I extend my congratulations to all the students who graduated – this occasion is the culmination of much hard work and dedication.”

Jazzing up mid-year graduations: Jazz trio Gadje, including Harry Edwards, Oscar Neyland and Joshua Dunn played at all the Hobart graduation ceremonies. At the same time Joshua was awarded his Bachelor of Music with first class honours. Oscar plays double bass and graduated from UTAS with a Bachelor of Music in 2011. Harry plays guitar and is in his final year of study at the UTAS Conservatorium of Music. Joshua wrote his honours thesis on the music of Django Reinhardt, one of the world’s most popular jazz guitarists.

A high-achieving family: Graduating with a PhD is always a big accomplishment but graduating alongside your brother makes the occasion extra special. Dr Leanne Chalmers, lecturer in the UTAS School of Pharmacy, graduated with her brother, Dr Andrew Stafford, at the Hobart mid-year graduation ceremonies. Dr Chalmers’ project trialled a service that improved the clinical outcomes of patients discharged from hospital who were taking the blood-thinning medication warfarin. Having completed her doctorate, Dr Chalmers has been appointed to a full-time position as a lecturer in the School. Similarly, Dr Stafford was a lecturer whilst he studied there. Dr Stafford now lives in Perth and currently is a lecturer at Curtin University’s School of Pharmacy. He is also a partner in a Tasmanian medication review consultancy business, the topic of his PhD.
Awards celebrate commitment and expertise

The University of Tasmania celebrated its annual excellence awards for academic and professional staff at the Sir Stanley Burbury theatre on the Sandy Bay campus.

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Peter Rathjen, presented the awards commenting that in the 122 years since the university was established on Hobart’s Domain, its staff had built an enviable international reputation for excellence in teaching and research and in the learning and research environment they provided.

“This is the result of the commitment, the integrity, the expertise and the willingness that our teachers and researchers display in their work,” he said.

“It is also an outcome of our engagement with the community at both the local and national level, and the commitment and dedication of our professional staff in supporting our teaching and research activities,” Prof. Rathjen said UTAS’ success was the result of the passion and commitment in the work of every member of staff.

“That contribution enables the university to thrive and grow and to have real impact on the wider community in which we operate.

“From time to time, however, some of our members stand out from the crowd for the significance of their contribution. It is their contribution that we are celebrating specifically with these awards.”

Outstanding contribution to student learning: Dr Nenagh Kemp, School of Psychology.

2012 Vice-Chancellor’s excellence awards

Awards for outstanding contributions to research and research training

Dr Costan Magnussen
Menzies Research Institute Tasmania

For demonstrated leadership in defining key research questions and approaches, and being the first to pool and analyse data from an international collaboration established to investigate childhood factors associated with adult cardiovascular disease risk.

Professor Vadim Kamenetsky
School of Earth Sciences and ARC Centre of Excellence in Ore Deposits

A key member of the CODES team, Prof. Kamenetsky is ranked in the top one per cent of global geoscientists, based on citation numbers by Thomson Reuters. He has co-authored seven papers in the journals Nature and Science in the past nine years.

Professor Gustaaf Hallegraef
Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies

As chair of education at IMAS Prof. Hallegraef works with three graduate research coordinators to indirectly oversee up to 100 higher degree research students. During his previous 20 years at the School of Plant Science he was principal supervisor to 15 students.

Commendation for sustained commitment to teaching excellence

Professor Susan Jones
Tasmanian Institute of Learning and Teaching

For providing outstanding leadership in learning and teaching at the institutional and national level over many years at UTAS, for being a strong catalyst for improvement in learning and teaching practices and for a commitment to learning and teaching that is inspirational. The sustained excellence of Professor Jones’ contributions to teaching and learning has been recognised by students and peers with a range of awards at both university and national levels from 1994 to 2012, reflecting her increasing leadership and degree of influence on learning and teaching.

Awards for programs that enhance learning

Dr Brendan Gogarty and Anja Hikemeijer
School of Law constitutional law team

For innovative program of practice based teaching in a core law unit initiated in response to directives by key national bodies to better equip students with skills for practice. To cite a former Tasmanian Attorney General: ‘The course now has a level of energy and relevance that many others would do well to emulate’.
**Awards**

**Distinguished Professor honour for ‘public intellectual’**

Professor Jeff Malpas from the School of Philosophy has been named as a Distinguished Professor of the University of Tasmania.

Confering the high honour at the September awards ceremony, the Provost, Professor David Rich, said that Professor Malpas’ level of service had not only been of high distinction but had significantly exceeded the scope and commitment of usual expectations.

He commented on Prof. Malpas’ record of research grant successes and on the way he’d assumed the role of a ‘public intellectual’ through broadcasts, public lectures and workshops.

“He has shown energy, enthusiasm and sustained commitment to his work as professor and head of school, as a senior academic and in service to the profession. “Prof. Malpas’ international reputation and eminence in research and scholarship is clearly evidenced through research grants and awards and he has a considerable publication record as an international leader for research on the philosophy of place and space across both analytic and continental philosophical traditions. His supervision and co-supervision of successful research higher degree candidates and his activity in cross-disciplinary PhD research has been exemplary.” Prof. Rich said the establishment and development of the Centre for Applied Philosophy and Ethics, now the Inglis Clarke Centre, has been an important component of the community engagement effort of the School of Philosophy led by Prof. Malpas, and his effective collaboration with many areas of the Tasmanian Government had also been worthy of recognition.

Prof. Malpas will now assume a university-wide role to foster research collaborations and engagement across disciplines, drawing on his particular expertise in issues relating to place, environment, technology and design.

Conferral of the title Distinguished Professor was approved by the UTAS Council in 2008 to recognise and reward particularly meritorious service. The title may only be accorded to eminent professors of exceptional distinction who have made an outstanding and sustained contribution in their field and to the University of Tasmania.

**Distinguished Professor honour:** Professor Jeff Malpas was recognised as an eminent professor of exceptional distinction who has made an outstanding and sustained contribution in his field.

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**Citations for outstanding contributions to student learning**

**Associate Professor Leon Barmuta**

School of Zoology

For inspiring students to ‘think like working scientists’ by developing a coherent understanding of the processes of science.

**Dr Andrea Carr**

School of Psychology

For an enthusiastic and personalised commitment to student-centred learning that motivates and inspires first-year psychology students to become life-long learners.

**Tracy Douglas**

School of Human Life Sciences

For sustained commitment to first-year students in human life sciences, using active learning to engage students and support their transition into independent learners.

**Dr Michael Gardiner**

School of Chemistry

For leadership in developing sustainable student support strategies in large first-year science programs entailing intervention approaches in contact teaching, assessment and unit coordination.

**Associate Professor Mark Hovenden**

School of Plant Science

For a decade of inspirational teaching of ecology, inspiring a deeper and lasting understanding of the processes shaping vegetation locally and globally.

**Dr Hui Jiao**

School of Engineering

For developing and implementing an innovative e-assessment system that enhances student engagement and fosters greater independent learning in engineering education.

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Outstanding contributions to student learning: (Top row) Associate Professor Leon Barmuta, Dr Andrea Carr, Tracy Douglas. (Bottom row) Dr Michael Gardiner, Associate Professor Mark Hovenden, Dr Hui Jiao.
Awards for exceptional performance by professional staff

**Dr John Greenhill**
School of Mathematics and Physics
A voluntary position-holder since his retirement from the department of physics in the mid-1990s, Dr Greenhill has not only carried out a significant international research program at Mt Canopus Observatory but has been manager and director of that facility. He has also been prime instigator of the new optical telescope project at Biskee Tier.

**Dr Michelle Phillipov**
School of English, Journalism and European Languages
For the development of curricula that equip students to make ‘real life’ connections between theory and practice in journalism, media and communications.

**Dr Nenagh Kemp**
School of Psychology
For awakening students’ interest in the wonder of human development and communication, and for inspiring and facilitating learning in these areas.

**Dr Michael Powell**
School of History and Classics
For excellence in teaching, sustained commitment to student pastoral care and continued focus on developing quality learning that contributes to active scholarship and citizenship.

**Professor Adrian Franklin**
School of Sociology and Social Work
For initiating, directing and choreographing the major exhibition: The Research Life of Arts Objects showcasing the research work of schools in the Faculty of Arts – one example of a large output of community engagement: keynote speeches, presentations, lectures, addresses and openings to a large range of organisations.

**Associate Professor Erica Bell**
University Department of Rural Health
For developing a strong, focused and productive relationship with the Salvation Army, in which Assoc. Prof. Bell has brought the best of current relevant theoretical knowledge to bear on the challenges facing vulnerable members of our community.

**Neil Haddon**
School of Art
Chair of the not-for-profit Contemporary Art Spaces Tasmania, Neil is an exemplar of the significant contribution UTAS staff make in teaching and research and in developing cultural change and development in the wider community.

Awards for excellent community engagement

**Outstanding contributions to student learning:**
(Top) Dr Michelle Phillipov, (Bottom L-R) Dr Nenagh Kemp, Dr Emma Pharo, Dr Michael Powell.

**Team Award**
for outstanding contributions to student learning

**The Bookend Trust**
Dr Niall Doran, Assoc. Prof. Alastair Richardson, Mr Andrew Hughes, Dr Regina Magierowski, Mrs Felicity Wilkinson, Ms Ninna Millikin and Mr Peter Harcourt.

The Bookend Trust is a philanthropic educational initiative created and run by UTAS alumni and staff who volunteer to sacrifice their own income for the benefit of Tasmanian school students and the community. The program aims to inspire the community with the value of further study and the potential of building good environmental careers across a range of disciplines, whether in science, law, economics or the arts.

**Dr Karine Cadoret**
Australian Maritime College
For a performance which has significantly contributed to the university mission and objectives through her substantial involvement in high-quality research as well as her efficient management of the fish health laboratory.

**Pamela Page**
Faculty of Education
For demonstrated sustained exceptional performance as faculty officer (learning and teaching), innovating a number of key administrative processes.
Trailblazers pitch ideas to judges

"This is the first fully research-based app that targets specific strategies for reading comprehension in children with autism spectrum disorder."

"But innovation and ideas are not just restricted to sciences, they can come from any field."

Michelle said the Trailblazer competition was an opportunity to look at her research from a different perspective, and to go through the presentation process. She was delighted to be highly commended in the student section.

OTHER PRIZE WINNERS:

Open Winner: Leigh Parker, Vital Signs; Runner-Up: Arko Lucier, Darren Turner and Steve Harwin, Nerrumara; Highly Commended: Greg Dzicinski (and team), EFC-SCAN.

Student Winner: Belinda Chapman, Antibacterial CLS-coated nanodiamonds; Runner-Up: Sebastian Boswick, Ecolys; Highly Commended: Michelle Somerton, Research-based reading comprehensive iPad application.

Democrat decline and democratic renewal: Political Change in Britain, Australia and New Zealand

By Ian Marsh, Australian Innovation Research Centre and Raymond Miller, Cambridge University Press, 2012

The story of liberal democracy over the last half century has been a triumphant one in many ways, with the number of democracies increasing from a minority of states to a significant majority. Yet substantial problems afflict democratic states, and while the number of democratic countries has expanded, democratic practice has contracted. This book introduces a novel framework for evaluating the rise and decline of democratic governance. Examining three mature democratic countries, the authors discuss patterns of governance from the emergence of mass democracy at the outset of the twentieth century through to its present condition.

My PhD

School of Geography and Environmental Studies

Tasmania is home to a remarkable living fossil: pygmy shrimp. These freshwater crustaceans live only in Tasmania’s south-west, in wilderness world heritage areas.

Michael Driessen’s PhD looks at the effects of fire on invertebrates in buttongrass moorlands where the shrimp lives in small pools, or yabby nurseries when conditions get dry.

Senior zoologist in Tasmania’s Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment (DPIPWe), he recently presented his work at the annual conference of the School of Geography and Environmental Studies.

“I became interested in the shrimp ten years ago when there was a plan to conduct fuel reduction burning in their habitat and I set up monitoring to look at the fire,” Michael said.

“I realised that apart from their initial discovery, no-one has done much work on these creatures.”

Of the two species of shrimp, Hickman’s and the marsh pygmy shrimp, the former is currently listed as “rare” under the Tasmanian Threatened Species Protection Act.

“Hickman’s pygmy shrimp lost around 85 per cent of its habitat and the marsh pygmy shrimp lost about 60 per cent.”

DPIPWe researchers are now keeping an eye on these freshwater crustaceans live only in Tasmania’s south-west, in wilderness world heritage areas. Hickman’s pygmy shrimp lost around 85 per cent of its habitat and the marsh pygmy shrimp lost about 60 per cent.

DPIPWe researchers are now keeping an eye on the shrimps, quantifying their distribution through surveys in moorlands surrounding their previously know distribution.

“Hickman’s pygmy shrimp should be maintained but a listing of ‘vulnerable’ for the marsh pygmy shrimp is no longer warranted,” Michael said.

“They are certainly important for Tasmania – the whole family of organisms exists only here.”

Last days of the Mill


For seven decades ‘The Pul’ constructed the social, economic and environmental circumstances of life on Tasmania’s north-west coast. In 2011 on the last day of its operation, artist Tony Thorne went on site armed with a sketchpad and camera, and writer and social theorist Peter Hay (who formerly taught geography, politics and philosophy at UTAS) interviewed displaced mill workers. The result of this extraordinary collaboration of dramatic monologues in the vernacular voice of the mill floor and artworks of stark confronting beauty that vividly capture the dying days of an industrial colossus.

The sentencing of children: professional work and perspectives

By Max Travers, School of Sociology and Social Work, University of Technology Sydney

This book provides a detailed description of how professional groups collaborate in reaching sentencing decisions in children’s courts. Based on observation of hearings in Tasmania, Victoria and New South Wales, it describes the practical considerations in sentencing minor, and repeat offenders, and the mitigating factors that influence magistrates. The study conveys the immense institutional effort spent in trying to reduce or contain the problem of youth offending in a developed, well-ordered society, which we largely take for granted. It supplies a well-documented insight into what actually happens inside children’s courts, and the challenges in addressing youth offending.
The work

War art: Studies in grey and vastness

BY LANA BEST

The School of Visual and Performing Arts’ Academy Gallery at Inveresk recently became a portal to a war zone with its walls lined with visually compelling images that reveal the desolate reality Australian troops face in Afghanistan.

In 2007 Melbourne artists Charles Green and Lyndell Brown were offered a six-week tour of artistic duty to the Persian Gulf and Afghanistan as Australia’s official war photographers and artists for the National War Memorial.

It was a dangerous mission but one they didn’t consider turning down, such was the privilege of following in the footsteps of the many illustrious war artists since WWI.

Attached to the Australian Defence Force, they visited various Australian bases, which were generally part of larger US operations and compounds.

Entitled Framing Conflict: Iraq and Afghanistan, Brown and Green’s works of art record the activities and experiences of the Australian troops. They are contemplative works that reveal new and strange configurations of landscape, culture, and technology.

“Photography has been central to our work ever since 1989, when we started our collaboration,” Lyndell Brown said.

“Our paintings exist in relation to photography: they consciously exhibit and flaunt their nature as transcriptions.”

Green describes the military bases as a “study in grey and vastness”.

“It’s worth remembering, of course, that we aren’t documentary photographers, that is not our task, even though our work might resemble that.

“We’re artists, and our only responsibility is to our own artistic conscience.”

Framing Conflict: Iraq and Afghanistan: Photographs from the National War Memorial by Melbourne artists Lyndell Brown and Charles Green.

Research and skills critical to manufacturing future

TASMANIA’S manufacturing sector needs to adopt a high value, low volume approach to stay competitive, according to an international expert in advanced manufacturing.

Newly appointed chair of South Australia’s Advanced Manufacturing Council, Professor Göran Roos, told a recent conference at UTAS Cradle Coast campus that universities had a clear role to play in securing a future for Australia’s manufacturing sector which operates in the third most expensive environment in the world.

Prof. Roos was the keynote speaker at Manufacturing Tasmania, a two-day event organised by the Institute for Regional Development, which attracted 120 delegates from Tasmania and interstate. He was joined by the Executive Chairman of the Elphinstone/William Adams Group, Dale Elphinstone, managing director of the Advanced Manufacturing Cooperative Research Centre, Bruce Grey and industry presenters from across the state.

Prof Roos said manufacturing is the biggest spender of applied research and innovation in Australia and a key driver of productivity improvement, with spillover effects to the rest of the economy. Twenty-one thousand Tasmanians are employed in the manufacturing sector.

He urged Tasmanian manufacturers to invest in skilling up their workforce and in new technologies that would enable them to service niche markets and move away from high volume, low value manufactured goods that were now being outsourced from China to countries with even cheaper labour costs, such as Vietnam. He said greater industry collaboration was also critical to success.

“Manufacturing is the largest driver of high value services but these services demand specialised skills,” Prof Roos said.

The Cradle Coast campus is currently undertaking research to map innovation, research and skills needs in the local manufacturing sector in partnership with Enterprise Connect and through a related research project funded by the Regional and Rural Research and Development Grant Program.

The Manufacturing Tasmania events were supported by Enterprise Connect’s Workshops, Industry Intelligence and Networking initiative.

EXHIBITIONS

24 OCTOBER

Art of Christmas 2012
An art auction/sale to support medical research in Tasmania
Venue: Academy Gallery, University of Tasmania, Inveresk campus

PUBLIC LECTURE

26 OCTOBER

Physical inactivity: The 21st Century’s biggest public health problem: Launceston
Professor Steven Blair, Dept of Exercise Science, University of South Carolina
Time: 8:15am–12:15pm
Venue: Keith Millingen Lecture Theatre, UTAS Clinical School, 43 Collins St, Hobart

30 OCTOBER

2012 James Martineau Memorial Lecture
Does the Scientific Study of Religion Cast Doubt on Belief in God?
Venue: Hobart Town Hall, Macquarie St, Hobart

31 OCTOBER

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ALUMNI

27 OCTOBER

Alumni Dinner: Canberra
A chance to catchup with UTAS Alumni in Canberra
Venue: The Boat House by the Lake, Greenvale Park, Multiple Drive, Barton
Time: 6:30–9:30pm

23 NOVEMBER

2012 UTAS Alumni 50+ Club Lunch
Venue: University Club, Dobson Rd, Sandy Bay campus
Time: 12:30–2:30pm

SEMINAR/FORUM

6 NOVEMBER

Philosophy Cafe
Show some respect!
Venue: The Royal Oak Hotel, Brisbane St, Launceston
Time: 6–7:30pm

CONFERENCE

28 NOVEMBER

The Hobart City Council Kids4Kids Conference 2012
Kids4Kids is an annual forum for the celebration of schools’ sustainability programs.
Venue: The Hotel, 256 Sandy Bay Road, Sandy Bay
Time: 9:45am–2:20pm

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