In a complex world
Arts has a niche, says new Dean

BY SHARON WEBB

E nployers are increasingly recognising the high-level skills Bachelor of Arts graduates have to offer, says the University of Tasmania’s Dean of Arts and Professor of Philosophy, Sue Dodds.

In a world where long-term workplace trends seemingly favoured scientists and mathematicians, Prof. Dodds believes the tide has turned.

“The UK Guardian has been reporting on employers’ increasing demand for arts graduates recently,” she said.

“Arts graduates, especially philosophers, have the capacity to look to the circumstances they’re living in.”

The issue of climate change is an example.

“Yes, understanding the impact on the environment relies on complex scientific information,” Prof. Dodds said.

“But once the evidence is in, then to work out the appropriate responses we will need to see it not as scientific or technological but as first and foremost a social problem requiring social, political and cultural change.

“Making this point salient to people demands a range of disciplinary approaches.”

Many professional or vocational degrees, she says, give students considerable technical skills that are applicable to a relatively narrow context.

“If that context changes – such as in the recent financial crisis – those graduates aren’t able necessarily to adapt,” Prof. Dodds said.

And neither is the aim entirely about employment.

“It’s also about the value of education for society: that is, becoming educated to be able to participate effectively as a citizen in a democracy.”

Since arriving from Wollongong University Prof. Dodds has spent a year understanding the UTAS Faculty of Arts and considering where its growth and challenges lie.

Her committee’s review of the UTAS BA, together with the University’s new common degree structure, she says, has given the faculty a reason to examine every arts major and what each achieves for students.

Prof. Dodds believes Arts can be strengthened through greater collaboration across schools.

And she sees substantial opportunities for her Arts colleagues on all three UTAS campuses: the possibility of growing the arts profile at the Cradle Coast campus, expanding the face-to-face experience for students and increasing the range of flexible course options.

Prof. Dodds also recognises the number of UTAS Arts academics who have national and international standing who are achieving substantially through their research.

“The challenge is that across Australia more than 40 per cent of humanities, arts and social science academics are over the age of 50,” she said.

“We need to plan for the next 15 years for growth in academics because academics who were first employed in the earlier phase of mass education in Australia in the 1970s and 1980s are starting to retire at a faster rate than universities are replacing them.”

Dive right in, the water’s fine at UTAS

BY CHERIE COOPER

UTAS is one of the biggest diving organisations in Australia, completing more than 2000 research and training dives each year to prepare scientific divers for a lifetime of investigative work in almost any water conditions.

“Scientific diving is an important part of marine science at UTAS because researchers can directly observe what’s going on under the water,” University Diving Officer Simon Talbot said.

“Diving in the Derwent River is not the nicest experience but it’s a great training site and tests the students.”

“It’s dark and it’s gloomy but the people finishing the course are generally capable and able to dive in most conditions.”

With help from Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies technical and diving officers, UTAS conducts more diving science than most other Australian organisations.

UTAS was the first Australian university to run a scientific diving course also accredited by the Australian Diver Accreditation Scheme (ADAS).

The University of Queensland is the only other ADAS training facility in the higher education sector.

“We started running intensive three-week scientific diver training courses in 2004,” Mr Talbot said.

“Most participants are UTAS students and staff but occasionally we take external people.”

The course is run twice a year as a UTAS unit. Students study diving theory and complete up to 20 dives over three weeks. Rescue training familiarisation is also part of the course.

It attracts individuals from many marine science fields, with people from chemistry and plant science, as well as marine archaeologists and individuals from mainland research organisations and consultancies taking part.

To find out more about the UTAS Scientific Diving Course, see the Courses and Units page of the UTAS website http://www.utas.edu.au

Human movement volunteers wanted ➤ see CrossMove page 6
diploma in 1980, chaired the Visual and Performing
arts Degree board for four years and since 2004 has been
acidiﬁcation in Australian and Southern Ocean waters.

and head of physiology for 21 years at UTAS.

He was Foundation Professor of Physiology

in Hobart last year at the
age of 89.

He joined the UTAS
Tasmanian

in 1980, and chaired the Visual and Performing
Arts Degree Board for four years and since 2004 has been
Associate Dean (Teaching & Learning) in the Faculty of Arts.

Mr Cobold, who narrowly
Survivors of the
Tasmanian

...and head of physiology for 21 years at UTAS.

He is credited with establishing and consolidating the
Musical Theatre program.

as a Discipline Scholar for the creative
and performing arts discipline

in the Northern Territory, the term
Nganakarrawa means ‘those
who move about, all seeing, all knowing, knowledgeable
and well regarded’.

and head of physiology for 21 years at UTAS.

His research relates to ocean

Mr Cobold, who

the reputation of the University of Tasmania’s School of
Medicine, he was Foundation Professor of Physiology and
head of physiology for 21 years at UTAS.

in the Northern Territory, the term
Nganakarrawa means ‘those
who move about, all seeing, all knowing, knowledgeable
and well regarded’.

...Professor Cranston from the UTAS
Faculty of Education.

who come to study and live in
Tasmania, a survey has found.

to inform effective work
force planning in Tasmania and
contribute signiﬁcantly to building
a national allied health work-
force proﬁle.

For more information see www.
ruralhealth.utas.edu.au

Anyone for a snag? The 2010 Tasmanian Creative Arts Summer School in Launceston
was a serious business – except for the welcoming barbecue served up by its director,
Peter Hammond.
Summer music on the road to a degree

**BY SHARON WEBB**

Glynis Martin knows what it is to gain a university degree the hard way.

After her six children are in bed, the Ulverstone volunteer teacher aide faces long night hours of learning at a solitary computer screen: no classmates to share concerns over a coffee in the campus cafeteria, no-one with whom to check an assignment question at a computer in the library.

In the final year of her degree now, she says it’s been a really long road.

“I want to be a classroom teacher in religious education; that’s where my heart is. But studying online can be very lonely.”

But this summer, Glynis and 20 of her online classmates got together with Dr Bill Baker at the UTAS Newnham campus to learn about music in the classroom – and they had a ball.

They combined their online music teaching theory with the practical application of it in the classroom; they composed, they performed – and most of them couldn’t play a musical note before the two-week summer school.

Teacher aides Jacqui Koerber from Burnie and Emily Oliver from Victoria enthused about the experiences, made so much more meaningful by the face-to-face interaction.

“I just can’t wait to get into the classroom to try out what I’ve learnt,” said Jacqui, who is also on the final log of her degree studies and works with special needs students.

To make anything work in the classroom you need the passion – and it’s hard to get it online! This summer school has given me a much broader perspective; to interact with other people and have instant feedback on what you’re doing is fantastic.”

To these people, getting their Bachelor of Education degree is much more than merely the next step in their education.

They yearn to get the degree and make their own professional decisions in the classroom. And they and their families have made the short-term sacrifices to reach that long-term goal.

Glynis travelled to Launceston and back to Ulverstone every day of the two-week summer school; her loyal husband drove, she said, “because he knew I was tired”.

“Up early each day, kids packed in the car. I got off at university and my husband took the kids to MacDonalds for breakfast before driving back home. Then he came to collect me when my day was finished.”

“I just loved being there every day of the two weeks.”

Amputations in Vietnam prepare rural doctor

**BY ROSALIE MAYNARD**

UTAS Rural Clinical School student Telena Eastley has been everywhere to experience medicine – Kenya, the Northern Territory, Vietnam, and most recently King Island.

In the final year of her Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery, the lifestyle of rural Australia with its opportunity to practise hands-on medicine is what attracts her to the regional areas.

“My family is from King Island and my dad and uncles used to make up half the foody team,” the Devonport student said. “I’m likely to be related to half the island.”

But Telena’s experiences in Vietnam at the end of last year, where she was supported by a Hoc Mai Medical Exchange Foundation/RCS student bursary, were a real eye-opener.

“My placement was at Viet Duc Hospital in the centre of Hanoi, the country’s largest surgical hospital with almost every specialty you can think of,” she said. “But two or three people to a bed was common.”

“Trauma surgery because of motor bike accidents was a real learning experience because we were doing six amputations a day – in the face of graphic posters warning about the dangers of motorbikes, the number of scooter accidents per day was phenomenal.”

“We had full surgery lists every day and people waited up to a week at times for surgery on fractured bones.”

“We were doing the amputations because of wound infections and direct trauma. Local neurosurgeons told me that new laws stating motorbike riders must wear helmets have made little difference to the injuries they were seeing.”

More recently on King Island, Telena was involved in a project investigating the (lack of) first aid training among local people and the impact this had on outcomes for accident victims.

She is the first of 12 medical students to spend time on King Island this year.

“I’ve removed skin cancers, given injections and visited patients in the aged care facility,” she said.

“It really is a challenge convincing a farmer with a hernia that he can’t do any heavy lifting for a while, or advising pregnant women to avoid farm animals and unpasteurised milk in this strong farming community.”
Tourism limits discussed

BY MICHELLE NICHOLS

Inappropriate tourism can get locals angry and affect the delicate environmental balance of remote areas.

At the recent 2010 Council for Australian Universities Tourism and Hospitality Education (CAUTHE) conference held in Hobart and hosted by the UTAS School of Management, the focus was on the question of limits for tourism.

More than 230 delegates from 14 countries attended the conference, which aims to promote the development of tourism and hospitality education and research in Australia.

The question of tourism limits was the focus of the keynote speakers, Dr Claire Ellis from Tourism Tasmania and Professor Margaret Deere from Victoria University.

Prof. Deere believes it is important for tourism authorities to understand how residents feel about tourists in their community.

“We looked at the impact of tourist influxes on services, including on medical services and traffic,” she said.

“Those things can cause antagonism among locals. It is important to listen to the community – to ask what residents want from the place where they live and how viable a tourism destination is if the residents are angry about tourists coming into it.”

“We need to understand tourism growth if we are to encourage discussion of issues across sessions and papers. The network was welcomed with an address from Ryls Edwards, Secretary of Premier and Cabinet, and heard from keynote speakers Professor Rod Rhodes from UTAS and Professor Michael Howlett from Simon Fraser University.

Public policy focus

A conference focusing on the challenge of maintaining integrity in public policy-making was timely with state and federal elections due this year, according to Associate Professor Kate Crowley, head of the UTAS School of Government.

The school hosted the 2010 National Public Policy Network conference in Hobart recently and conference convenor Prof. Deery believes it is a well-tuned reality check on policy capacity.

“The academic community is more focused than ever on scrutinising public policy to ensure that it is effective, accountable and capable of achieving real goals. The more academic reflection on these issues the better,” she said.

The Public Policy Network is an informal network of Australian public policy scholars who meet annually to discuss public policy research, teaching and related issues. Conferences are run in workshop style as a single stream to promote the development of tourism and hospitality education and research in Australia.

Tourism limits discussed: Professor Malcolm Wells and Dr Dirk Reiser from UTAS School of Management at the 2010 CAUTHE conference in Hobart.

Tassie move a doddle for new Dean

BY SHARON WEBB

Professor Sue Dodds sees herself as Canadian, American and Australian – and well-equipped to face the rigours of Tasmanian winters.

After 19 years at the University of Wollongong, a change for herself and her partner was in order. Her partner went to the Australian Research Council and Prof. Dodds took up her position as Dean of Arts at UTAS.

A house at Kettering, four Wollongong goats and two dogs seemed a recipe for a promising change.

“Tasmania was the easy bit of the decision. It’s beautiful, there’s sailing, walking and wildlife – and coming from Canada, winter here didn’t scare me a bit,” she said.

To her, the UTAS Arts Faculty’s broader range of disciplines (including visual and performing arts) in comparison with Wollongong’s was an attraction and she was familiar with the many “good bits of research” that made it an interesting place to be.

A philosopher, Prof. Dodds headed up the School of English Literature, Philosophy and Languages at Wollongong; she came to Australia in 1985 from the University of Toronto.

“I knew I could stay comfortably at Wollongong but I’d feel I’d barely been there if I’d stayed. I know I’d feel I was repeating rather than doing new things.”

Prof. Dodds is looking forward to exercising some skills at UTAS which she used successfully in Wollongong to develop both the size and the research reputation of her faculty.

“By looking beyond the usual disciplinary boundaries of research collaboration and postgraduate research, the faculty and university can develop even more,” she said.

“The faculty has perhaps been under-recognised for its research ability; the latest ARC grant round (in which UTAS Arts academics gained five ARC Discovery Grants) shows that it is certainly as strong a research faculty as the top faculties on the mainland, but it achieves these results without the same resources.”
Beyond keyboard, screen and mouse – DIGI art

By Cherrie Cooper

Viewers of Brad Allen’s artwork can expect to be transported to surreal dreamscapes.

In the exhibition DIGI at the NEW gallery at the UTAS Newnham campus, Mr Allen uses the latest augmented and virtual reality techniques to create coastlines, mountains and the microscopic inner space of the body.

“Brad has used cutting-edge technology to develop this emerging aesthetic, giving the viewer insight into the bright potential of the new world of digital art,” gallery curator Louise Reid-Davies said.

A Tasmanian trained in pre-press graphic art, Brad opened Scarab, his own commercial and new media design house, in Launceston in 1999.

“My fascination with creating imaginary worlds has been a lifelong passion,” he said.

Brad’s artwork was brought to life in collaboration with UTAS’ Human Interface Technology Laboratory (HITLab Au).

The director of HITLab Au, Associate Professor Aaron Quigley, said DIGI is exemplary of the type of new media activity fostered and supported by the HITLab.

The exhibition runs until 26 March 2010.

‘Brad has used cutting-edge technology to develop this emerging aesthetic, giving the viewer insight into the bright potential of the new world of digital art.’
The recent launch of the My School website by the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) provoked considerable comment. The aim in this article is to review this debate and put it in some form of context.

The website provides information about all schools in Australia. For each school there is a statement describing the school: information about enrolments, broken down by gender, as well as the proportion of Indigenous students; full-time teaching and non-teaching staff; attendance rate; and an Index of Community Socio-Economic Advantage (ICSEA). This index has been specially constructed for the My School website and provides a way of identifying like schools on the basis of the characteristics of the student enrolment.

The most controversial aspect of My School is the inclusion of results from the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN). This program tests all students in Grades 3, 5, 7 and 9 on reading, writing, spelling, grammar, punctuation and numeracy using tests that can provide a single scale across all grades. The results are reported as mean scores, without any indication of the spread of the results such as the standard deviation.

In addition, a comparison is presented against a group of statistically “like schools” based on the ICSEA score. The percentage of students in each band of any particular scale is provided compared with all Australian schools and a group of like schools.

All of this information is detailed and clearly explained including a graphic about reading the data and a glossary to explain terms.

Generally, supporters of the site have argued that parents have a right to know about the performance of their students in their child’s school so that they can compare this performance with that of other students in different schools. Such information, it is argued, assists parents to select a school for their children.

The risk is that non-educators will attempt to draw invalid inferences about classes, teachers and individual students, or parents will assume that their child will perform as well as or better than other students in the chosen school.

In addition, those students in schools that perform below ‘average’ will be identified and so receive extra funding.

Critics of the site maintain that the site will lead to inequitable ‘league tables’ of schools that do not take account of broader aspects of school life and the complexity of the learning process. The tests themselves have psychometric validity but the errors of measurement and standard deviations are not reported so that it is difficult to make valid comparisons.

One aspect of testing and reporting that has received scant coverage is that many research studies have shown that there is more variability within schools than between schools. All schools have a wide range of students. The site provides information about the distribution of students within the school against the ICSEA measure but this does not necessarily reflect the activities of the school.

The site also does not yet provide any indication of students’ rate of learning, which requires at least two measures of the same student cohort. It is intended that some form of ‘value-added’ measure will be developed in the future as more data become available. Having information about the value added by a school is likely to change the arguments for and against the site.

Many parents will be overwhelmed at the amount and statistical nature of the data provided. They can see data from local schools, government and non-government, for five different scales across up to four grades.

Parents, however, need more information than statistics alone in order to make choices for their children.

A school that suits one child may not suit another, and a child that thrives in one educational environment may not do so well in a different school, however good that school appears. The My School website should be regarded as an initial opportunity for parents to shortlist possible schools. The data may provide a basis for a discussion with the school principal but no amount of information can replace a personal visit to the school.

The site provides aggregated school-level data, and this is a limitation. If these data are used appropriately, the site will be a useful addition to the information currently available on school websites.

The risk is that non-educators will attempt to draw invalid inferences about classes, teachers and individual students, or parents will assume that their child will perform as well as or better than other students in the chosen school.

For researchers, however, the site will provide valuable data. For the first time information about every school in Australia is collected together in one place.

Some school science

Fifteen-year-old Jonah Smith, homeschooled, examines some slime created in the UTAS chemistry labs by students during the annual Science Experience.

More than 50 Grade 10 students from 20 different schools around the state conducted their own experiments and learnt about the world of science and engineering as part of the Science Experience, which ran for three days over the summer.

The Science Experience gives students an opportunity to engage in a wide range of fascinating science activities. The program also provides information about science, engineering and technology to encourage students to continue study in these areas.

A simple CrossMove could help kids’ brain development

BY CHERIE COOPER

Human movement specialist Dr Scott Pedersen has a pretty good idea of how kids move.

He has been using modern gaming technology to investigate ways of improving motor skills, which could lead to more rewarding participation in sport for some children.

Dr Pedersen joined the UTAS Faculty of Education in 2009 as a human movement lecturer, specialising in analysing the motor control of children of all abilities.

Over years of teaching young children, he noticed that children with general physical awkwardness and children with developmental disabilities had trouble reaching their right hand across their body to pick up an object on their right side.

To investigate, Dr Pedersen started Project CrossMove at the Skill Acquisition Laboratory on the Launceston UTAS campus.

Moving well: Project CrossMove uses modern gaming technology to help kids move better (Photo: Stock Xchange).

For more information see http://www.educ.utas.edu.au/ProjectCrossMove

Children aged 7 to 13 should phone Dr Pedersen at the Newnham campus on (03) 6324 3554.

One aspect of testing and reporting that has received scant coverage is that many research studies have shown that there is more variability within schools than between schools. All schools have a wide range of students. The site provides information about the distribution of students within the school against the ICSEA measure but this does not necessarily reflect the activities of the school.

The site also does not yet provide any indication of students’ rate of learning, which requires at least two measures of the same student cohort. It is intended that some form of ‘value-added’ measure will be developed in the future as more data become available. Having information about the value added by a school is likely to change the arguments for and against the site.

Many parents will be overwhelmed at the amount and statistical nature of the data provided. They can see data from local schools, government and non-government, for five different scales across up to four grades.

Parents, however, need more information than statistics alone in order to make choices for their children.

A school that suits one child may not suit another, and a child that thrives in one educational environment may not do so well in a different school, however good that school appears. The My School website should be regarded as an initial opportunity for parents to shortlist possible schools. The data may provide a basis for a discussion with the school principal but no amount of information can replace a personal visit to the school.

The site provides aggregated school-level data, and this is a limitation. If these data are used appropriately, the site will be a useful addition to the information currently available on school websites.

The risk is that non-educators will attempt to draw invalid inferences about classes, teachers and individual students, or parents will assume that their child will perform as well as or better than other students in the chosen school.

For researchers, however, the site will provide valuable data. For the first time information about every school in Australia is collected together in one place.

Summer school science

Fifteen-year-old Jonah Smith, homeschooled, examines some slime created in the UTAS chemistry labs by students during the annual Science Experience.

More than 50 Grade 10 students from 20 different schools around the state conducted their own experiments and learnt about the world of science and engineering as part of the Science Experience, which ran for three days over the summer.

The Science Experience gives students an opportunity to engage in a wide range of fascinating science activities. The program also provides information about science, engineering and technology to encourage students to continue study in these areas.

A simple CrossMove could help kids’ brain development

BY CHERIE COOPER

Human movement specialist Dr Scott Pedersen has a pretty good idea of how kids move.

He has been using modern gaming technology to investigate ways of improving motor skills, which could lead to more rewarding participation in sport for some children.

Dr Pedersen joined the UTAS Faculty of Education in 2009 as a human movement lecturer, specialising in analysing the motor control of children of all abilities.

Over years of teaching young children, he noticed that children with general physical awkwardness and children with developmental disabilities had trouble reaching their right hand across their body to pick up an object on their right side.

To investigate, Dr Pedersen started Project CrossMove at the Skill Acquisition Laboratory on the Launceston UTAS campus.

Moving well: Project CrossMove uses modern gaming technology to help kids move better (Photo: Stock Xchange).

For more information see http://www.educa.utas.edu.au/ProjectCrossMove

Children aged 7 to 13 should phone Dr Pedersen at the Newnham campus on (03) 6324 3554.

One aspect of testing and reporting that has received scant coverage is that many research studies have shown that there is more variability within schools than between schools. All schools have a wide range of students. The site provides information about the distribution of students within the school against the ICSEA measure but this does not necessarily reflect the activities of the school.

The site also does not yet provide any indication of students’ rate of learning, which requires at least two measures of the same student cohort. It is intended that some form of ‘value-added’ measure will be developed in the future as more data become available. Having information about the value added by a school is likely to change the arguments for and against the site.

Many parents will be overwhelmed at the amount and statistical nature of the data provided. They can see data from local schools, government and non-government, for five different scales across up to four grades.

Parents, however, need more information than statistics alone in order to make choices for their children.

A school that suits one child may not suit another, and a child that thrives in one educational environment may not do so well in a different school, however good that school appears. The My School website should be regarded as an initial opportunity for parents to shortlist possible schools. The data may provide a basis for a discussion with the school principal but no amount of information can replace a personal visit to the school.

The site provides aggregated school-level data, and this is a limitation. If these data are used appropriately, the site will be a useful addition to the information currently available on school websites.

The risk is that non-educators will attempt to draw invalid inferences about classes, teachers and individual students, or parents will assume that their child will perform as well as or better than other students in the chosen school.

For researchers, however, the site will provide valuable data. For the first time information about every school in Australia is collected together in one place.

Summer school science

Fifteen-year-old Jonah Smith, homeschooled, examines some slime created in the UTAS chemistry labs by students during the annual Science Experience.

More than 50 Grade 10 students from 20 different schools around the state conducted their own experiments and learnt about the world of science and engineering as part of the Science Experience, which ran for three days over the summer.

The Science Experience gives students an opportunity to engage in a wide range of fascinating science activities. The program also provides information about science, engineering and technology to encourage students to continue study in these areas.
Honorary degrees for marine geoscientist and engineer

Two University of Tasmania graduates recently received honorary Doctor of Science degrees in recognition of their esteemed careers and outstanding public service.

UTAS engineering graduate Koesmarihati Sugondo and internationally renowned marine geoscientist Philip Symonds have both made enormous contributions not only in their specialist fields but also to society.

Ms Sugondo was a Colombo Plan scholar and one of the University of Tasmania’s first two female engineering graduates in 1966.

Now retired, she spent her professional life working in the telecommunications industry and rose through the ranks to become a director of PT Telkom, one of the biggest state-owned telecommunications companies, and the largest cellular mobile phone provider, in Indonesia.

A former president of the Australian Alumni Association in Indonesia, Ms Sugondo worked untringly as an ambassador for Australian universities – helping Australian universities to achieve a high profile in Indonesia.

Philip Symonds gained a Bachelor of Science degree with first class honours in geophysics from the University of Tasmania in 1971.

Dr Symonds’ research into the morphology of the sea floor, sediment thickness and tectonic history has had a major impact on the Australian economy through, for example, offshore oil exploration, delineation of shipping routes and the nomination of marine protected areas.

His work on the geology and geophysics of Australia’s continental margin constituted the basis of Australia’s recent successful claim for 3.4 million km$^2$ of the sea floor under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

As she received her honorary doctorate Dr Koesmarihati Sugondo reflected on the significance of UTAS alumni around the world …

Being awarded this honorary degree is not about achievement alone. There is a deeper meaning than that. This is about lifelong friendship and the people-to-people links between Australia and Indonesia which have been formed.

My time in Australia, specifically in Hobart, was a turning point in my life. I was not sure of what I would become and in what way I could serve the people of Indonesia, who do not have the welfare and education you have here.

After graduation I had the opportunity to work at the Hydro Electric Commission in Hobart and the Postmaster-General’s Department in Melbourne; this gave me a solid foundation to start work as a professional engineer in Indonesia.

Telecommunications is my life. I have worked passionately, knowing that my work could contribute to the welfare of my country. The foundations in both education and work which I gained in Australia changed my life beyond imagination.

Australian university alumni have an important role to play in this society. I know the personal ongoing network and friendships I made while studying in Australia created people-to-people links between Australia and Indonesia which strengthened the relationship between the two nations.

– From Ms Sugondo’s acceptance speech

Ms Sugondo was a Colombo Plan scholar and one of the University of Tasmania’s first two female engineering graduates in 1966.

Law of the sea expert: Philip Symonds also received an honorary doctorate for his work.

Honorary degree: Koesmarihati Sugondo after she received her award from the UTAS Vice Chancellor Professor Daryl Le Grew (right) and the Head of the School of Engineering Professor Chris Letschard.

By Merian Ellis

Determination, attention to detail and a thrill of pursuit are worthy attributes for a top-line lawyer – or a super-competitive road cyclist.

UTAS graduate Kirsty Broun has balanced these two passions over the past few years but now she’s taking a break from law to pursue her dream of cycling in the 2012 London Olympics.

Kirsty’s cycling career started as a 16-year-old in North-West Tasmania when her coaches predicted that she would compete in the 2000 Sydney Olympics.

Disappointingly, glandular fever and a knee operation put that idea out of her reach; she spent her early twenties focused on her other dream of becoming a lawyer, graduating in law at UTAS before moving to Bundaberg in Queensland to work in commercial litigation.

‘It is great to have my career under my belt so I can give racing my best shot and know that I can come back to something I love when I finish my cycling career.’

But the balmy Bundaberg weather proved too much of a lure to leave her bike in the shed and Kirsty soon found herself back in the saddle competing in local club competition.

A big win in a road race in Brisbane put her talents in the spotlight and a year ago Kirsty was offered a place in the Australian road cycling team to race in Qatar.

She spent the rest of 2009 seeing the back roads of the US and Europe from her bike saddle and competed as part of the Australian team in the women’s equivalent of the Tour De France – the Route De France.

“It was a fantastic experience,” she said.

“My whole family came to France and travelled around with me.

“The competition was intense but it was wonderful to travel through such beautiful countryside and it was fun because the Australian team was big in the news here as well. Partly because we won one of the stages.”

At 30 years of age, Kirsty is just reaching the peak age for road racing, but beyond her Olympic dream she is happy to see her future focus on law.

“It is great to have my career under my belt so I can give racing my best shot and know that I can come back to something I love when I finish my cycling career,” she said.

London gold is the goal

Off to the London Olympics: UTAS alumnus Kirsty Broun has swapped law for cycling – for the time being.

Alumni
Graduations & Awards

Cradle Coast campus welcomed into graduation fold

The University of Tasmania held graduation ceremonies statewide for the first time in 2009 when the inaugural North-West Coast graduation ceremony was held in Burnie.

Almost 2300 University of Tasmania students donned caps and gowns to attend graduations over two weeks in December in Launceston, Hobart and Burnie.

In 13 ceremonies, University of Tasmania Chancellor Mr Damien Bugg AM, QC, Deputy Chancellor Yvonne Rundle and Vice-Chancellor Professor Daryl Le Grew conferred awards and degrees on 59 graduates in Burnie, 1422 graduates in Hobart and 799 graduates in Launceston.

In Burnie there was a special atmosphere as the graduates from Education, Business, Science, Engineering and Technology, Arts and Health Science crossed the stage on their own turf, watched by around 250 guests. Formerly these students would have graduated in ceremonies held in Hobart or Launceston.

The Burnie ceremony was followed by a function for graduates and their families at the Cradle Coast campus.

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Le Grew, said the North-West graduation was an important milestone for the UTAS Cradle Coast campus.

“The majority of the graduates took advantage of the great learning opportunities on offer at the university’s Cradle Coast campus.”

UTAS staff members who made an outstanding contribution in community engagement were recognised in the Vice-Chancellor’s 2009 Awards for Exceptional Performance. The four awards were presented to:

**Professor Rob White, School of Sociology and Social Work**, nominated for consistent and outstanding levels of engagement with the community.

Prof. White is an exceptional leader in his field and has encouraged numerous students to study at UTAS.

**Dr Bernardo Leon de la Barra, School of Engineering**, nominated for outstanding dedication and commitment in managing innovative and creative partnership programs which engage with the Tasmanian educational community. Dr Leon de la Barra’s programs have ensured that the School of Engineering and the University of Tasmania have strong, ongoing links with Tasmanian schools.

**Lucy Marshall, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Students & Education) Division**, nominated for an outstanding example of significant community engagement. Her ability to provide unwavering dedication to the Active Launceston Project and her passion to see lasting outcomes in the community has been influential in the overall success of the program in the northern Tasmanian community.

**Maritime Engineering Maths in Schools Program Team**, nominated as an outstanding example of significant community engagement.

Dr Giles Thomas, Dr Irene Penteis, Art Shrimpton, Associate Professor Dev Ramathugala and Sally McKenzie’s dedication to the Maritime Engineering Maths in Schools Program from the initial concept through to successful implementation, has been exemplary.

**UTAS general staff who made an outstanding contribution to the university were recognised in the Vice-Chancellor’s Awards for Exceptional Performance late last year.**

The three awards were given to:

- **Mr Robert Wrigley, National Centre for Maritime Engineering and Hydrodynamics**.
- **School of Medicine/IMR**.
- **The Co-Location Project**.

The Co-Location Project, Dr Alan Champion; Jeanette Muskett, Manager Administrative Services, School of Medicine; Tim Albion, IT Systems Manager Menzies Research Institute; and Kathy Thomson, Administration Manager, Menzies Research Institute, wholeheartedly supported senior management, peers and academic staff as required.

**The School of Earth Sciences/CODES Finance Team**, nominated for outstanding dedication and commitment in providing the highest level of expert support to both SES and CODES for almost 20 years. Christine Higgins, finance manager, and Helen Scott, Di Steffens (retired October 2009) and Karen Molliross, all finance officers, are always professional, happy and willing to go the extra mile.

**How does a graduation ceremony feel to a city that’s never experienced one? UTAS Cradle Coast campus student CHRISTINE ANGEL describes the atmosphere at the Burnie Civic Centre.**

I arrived well before the starting time to find the venue bursting at the seams with family and friends of the 60 graduands.

I just managed to find a seat near the back while other ticket-holders were arranging themselves and their children into optimum viewing positions.

There was a sense of excitement that I felt as well, even though I am a veteran of my own graduation ceremonies.

But the shuffling of programs and adjusting of mortarboards ceased when the procession entered and the sceptre was carried onto the stage.

There was a sense of awe, probably mixed with surprise and curiosity at the ceremony’s formality, and then respectful silence for the speeches and musical entertainment.

As graduands walked onto the stage to be introduced to the Vice-Chancellor and handed their certificates, the audience’s mood changed to one of eager anticipation.

After the formalities, there were smiles, hugs and tears as the new graduates found family and friends, celebrating their achievement in reaching this special day.

Vice-Chancellor’s Awards 2009

Maritime Engineering Maths in Schools Program Team, nominated as an outstanding example of significant community engagement.

Dr Giles Thomas, Dr Irene Penteis, Art Shrimpton, Associate Professor Dev Ramathugala and Sally McKenzie’s dedication to the Maritime Engineering Maths in Schools Program from the initial concept through to successful implementation, has been exemplary.

The Vice-Chancellor’s 2009 Awards for Exceptional Performance were presented to:

**Professor Rob White, School of Sociology and Social Work**, nominated for consistent and outstanding levels of engagement with the community.

Prof. White is an exceptional leader in his field and has encouraged numerous students to study at UTAS.

**Dr Bernardo Leon de la Barra, School of Engineering**, nominated for outstanding dedication and commitment in managing innovative and creative partnership programs which engage with the Tasmanian educational community. Dr Leon de la Barra’s programs have ensured that the School of Engineering and the University of Tasmania have strong, ongoing links with Tasmanian schools.

**Lucy Marshall, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Students & Education) Division**, nominated for an outstanding example of significant community engagement. Her ability to provide unwavering dedication to the Active Launceston Project and her passion to see lasting outcomes in the community has been influential in the overall success of the program in the northern Tasmanian community.

**Maritime Engineering Maths in Schools Program Team**, nominated as an outstanding example of significant community engagement.

Dr Giles Thomas, Dr Irene Penteis, Art Shrimpton, Associate Professor Dev Ramathugala and Sally McKenzie’s dedication to the Maritime Engineering Maths in Schools Program from the initial concept through to successful implementation, has been exemplary.

**UTAS general staff who made an outstanding contribution to the university were recognised in the Vice-Chancellor’s Awards for Exceptional Performance late last year.**

The three awards were given to:

- **Mr Robert Wrigley, National Centre for Maritime Engineering and Hydrodynamics**.
- **School of Medicine/IMR**.
- **The Co-Location Project**.

The Co-Location Project, Dr Alan Champion; Jeanette Muskett, Manager Administrative Services, School of Medicine; Tim Albion, IT Systems Manager Menzies Research Institute; and Kathy Thomson, Administration Manager, Menzies Research Institute, wholeheartedly supported senior management, peers and academic staff as required.

**The School of Earth Sciences/CODES Finance Team**, nominated for outstanding dedication and commitment in providing the highest level of expert support to both SES and CODES for almost 20 years. Christine Higgins, finance manager, and Helen Scott, Di Steffens (retired October 2009) and Karen Molliross, all finance officers, are always professional, happy and willing to go the extra mile.

**How does a graduation ceremony feel to a city that’s never experienced one? UTAS Cradle Coast campus student CHRISTINE ANGEL describes the atmosphere at the Burnie Civic Centre.**

I arrived well before the starting time to find the venue bursting at the seams with family and friends of the 60 graduands.

I just managed to find a seat near the back while other ticket-holders were arranging themselves and their children into optimum viewing positions.

There was a sense of excitement that I felt as well, even though I am a veteran of my own graduation ceremonies.

But the shuffling of programs and adjusting of mortarboards ceased when the procession entered and the sceptre was carried onto the stage.

There was a sense of awe, probably mixed with surprise and curiosity at the ceremony’s formality, and then respectful silence for the speeches and musical entertainment.

As graduands walked onto the stage to be introduced to the Vice-Chancellor and handed their certificates, the audience’s mood changed to one of eager anticipation.

After the formalities, there were smiles, hugs and tears as the new graduates found family and friends, celebrating their achievement in reaching this special day.

**Vice-Chancellor’s Awards 2009**
An Arnhem Land bunkhouse, built for an Aboriginal community and designed by the School of Architecture and Design, has won a national award. The bunkhouse, designed by a team of architects led by Associate Professor Greg Nolan, was named the winner in the sustainability category of the 2009 Australian Timber Design Awards.

Prof. Nolan said the bunkhouse scored well in that it empowered local people, allowing them to develop timber milling and building skills.

“It’s also an environmentally-friendly building which we designed in consultation with the Gumatj clan.”

The win is a triumph for Tasmanian collaboration. UTAS provided the architects, Tasmanian builders Fairbrother worked on the building process and Forestry Tasmania trained local people in setting up a sawmill for the timber used.

The process was the inspiration of 1978 Australian of the Year, Galarrwuy Yunupingu, now Gumatj Aboriginal Corporation chairman. According to Prof. Nolan, the award is the culmination of “a nice concurrence of skill and an appreciation of what’s necessary” — especially as Australian plywood manufacturers Cartier Holt Harvey donated the plywood needed and engineering services were donated by McCracken.

“No-one is going to make money out of this project – it’s just a little ripple in addressing a big problem.”

More buildings are currently under way on the Arnhem Land site.

**UTAS books**

**Australian School Leadership Today** Edited by Neil Cranston, Faculty of Education, and Lisa Welsh, QUT (Australian Academic Press, 2009)

School leaders play a critical role in shaping learners for the future and some Australian states have begun to establish programs to develop leadership through professional development programs, strategic initiatives, support, and networking opportunities for school leaders.

This book, with its distinctively Australian flavour and substance, brings together the expertise, research and experience of 28 of the best Australian educational academics and practitioners to discuss the social, historical and cultural contexts within which educational leadership is understood and practised today.

Four sections cover major topics of: contexts and challenges facing educational leaders; leadership issues; professional learning and development for leaders; and leadership in and for successful schools.

**Climate Change and Management of Cool Season Grain Legume Crops** Edited by Shyam S. Yadav, David L. McNeil (Tasmanian Institute of Agricultural Research), Robert Redden, Sharanagouda A. Patil (Springer-Verlag, 2010)

This book analyses the production and science issues we are likely to face now and in the future.

It covers all aspects of legume production management technologies, plant ecological response, nutrients management, biological nitrogen fixation, molecular approaches, potential cultivars and biodiversity management under climate change.

Presenting the most comprehensive and up-to-date review of research on different cool season crops, it covers various aspects of production and management technology.

Legume breeders, grain producers, agronomists, scientists, academic researchers, graduates, students, traders, and farmers in the developing and the developed world will find this book valuable.

**Research for Health Policy** by Erica Bell, University Department of Rural Health (Oxford University Press, 2009)

Individuals working in health research want to use their findings to influence health policy. But frequently, research evidence remains detached from practice; there is a divide between the disciplines of research and policy.

Research for Health Policy is an introduction to the emerging genre of applied research for policy decision-making, covering the principles and examining the difficulties of translating research into application using traditional classical experimental techniques and standard qualitative methods.

This highly practical and practice-based book is relevant to both international and cross-disciplinary research; it will equip the reader with the knowledge, skills and attitudes needed to deliver policy-relevant research in health, in the government, not-for-profit, and private sectors.

**Educational Investment in Australian Schooling: Serving Public Purposes in Tasmanian Primary Schools** by Bill Mulford and Bill Edmunds, Faculty of Education (University of Tasmania, 2010)

This book’s content is the Tasmanian angle of ongoing national ARC-funded research aiming to better understand current views and the enactment of the public as opposed to private purposes of Australian schools.

It examines forces impacting upon Australian schools and some implications of these for school leaders before reviewing educational priorities in Tasmania through recent Education Department policy documents and interviews with the Education Minister, the Secretary of Education and the president of the national parent organisation.

The book looks at the role of the media in setting educational purposes; details the views of Tasmanian primary school principals; provides a rich longitudinal description of the enactment of the public purposes in one best practice Tasmanian primary school and makes significant recommendations.

**UTAS bunkhouse wins national award**

**BY SHARON WEBB**

A
n Arnhem Land bunkhouse, built for an Aboriginal community and designed by the School of Architecture and Design, has won a national award. The bunkhouse, designed by a team of architects led by Associate Professor Greg Nolan, won the sustainability category of the 2009 Australian Timber Design Awards.

Prof. Nolan said the bunkhouse scored well in that it empowered local people, allowing them to develop timber milling and building skills.

“It’s also an environmentally-friendly building which we designed in consultation with the Gumatj clan.”

The win is a triumph for Tasmanian collaboration. UTAS provided the architects, Tasmanian builders Fairbrother worked on the building process and Forestry Tasmania trained local people in setting up a sawmill for the timber used.

The process was the inspiration of 1978 Australian of the Year, Galarrwuy Yunupingu, now Gumatj Aboriginal Corporation chairman. According to Prof. Nolan, the award is the culmination of “a nice concurrence of skill and an appreciation of what’s necessary” — especially as Australian plywood manufacturers Cartier Holt Harvey donated the plywood needed and engineering services were donated by McCracken.

“No-one is going to make money out of this project – it’s just a little ripple in addressing a big problem.”

More buildings are currently under way on the Arnhem Land site.

**IN BRIEF**

Economists must look to the sea

Economists interested in marine resources are needed to join the Australian Fisheries Economics Network (FishEcon) in the hope it will contribute to the improved management of marine resources.

Head of the UTAS School of Economics and Finance, Sarah Jennings, said FishEcon will allow fisheries economists, managers, scientists and postgraduate researchers to share research ideas and results.

Australia has the world’s third-largest fishing zone and has jurisdiction over a substantial portion of the world’s marine environment and resources, Dr Jennings said.

‘Recreational fishing is a very popular activity for many Australians and yet the value of this sector to the national economy is largely unknown.’

For more information see: www.fishecon.org

**Support for legal training professionals**

Tasmania’s only professional and practical training course for law graduates will be offered to eligible students as a Commonwealth Supported Place Course, opening the door to new HECs funding.

The six-month Professional Legal Training Program is offered as a Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice.

The program prepares Australian and overseas law graduates for the conduct of legal practice, allowing them to sit the Law Society of Tasmania’s practical exams in January, as well as the ‘national’ bar exam to become registered as a legal practitioner in any Australian jurisdiction.

As with other Commonwealth-supported HECs courses, students can now receive a 20 per cent discount on upfront payments.

For more information email: plp@law.utas.edu.au

**Sign up now for Festival of Voices**

Festival of Voices brings the world of singing to Hobart in the heart of winter. The festival features more than 40 events over five days and includes workshops, concerts, social gatherings and plenty of vocal camaraderie.

A partnership with UTAS means that, by enrolling in the Major Workshop Program, participants will gain a 12.5% unit load.

Major workshops will be led by inspiring international and national guest artists, such as Grammy award-winning gospel singer and producer Myron Butler and Los Angeles-based a cappella artist and songwriter Austin Willacy.

Festival highlights include the Festival Bonfire and Big Sing in Salamanca Place, the Festival Club and the Festival Finale Concert in Hobart’s Federation Concert Hall.

For more details and enrolment forms go to: www.festivalofvoices.com or call (03) 6224 5975.

**New equipment for Central Science Laboratory**

The results of the Australian Research Council Linkage Infrastructure, Equipment and Facilities (LIEF) Scheme were recently announced and UTAS won two out of the three LIEF bids submitted. Both are for equipment to be located in the Central Science Laboratory.

The first was for an ultra-performance liquid chromatograph — a triple quadruple mass spectrometer — worth $200,000.

The second bid was for a multi-purpose Schottky field emission gun scanning electron microscope valued at $400,000.
Devil cancer culprit uncovered

**BY MICHELLE GRIMA**

T he discovery by an international team of scientists of the cells responsible for Devil Facial Tumour Disease (DFTD), will increase options for producing a vaccine and targeted therapies.

Findings published in the January edition of the prestigious journal Science revealed that DFTD originates from cells called Schwann cells, which protect peripheral nerve fibres.

Through the discovery, the team has now identified a genetic marker that could be used to accurately diagnose the perplexing cancer, which has seen the devil listed as endangered and facing extinction.

Lead author Dr Elizabeth Murchison from the Austral- ian National University said the Schwann cell discovery was significant as there are currently no specific diagnos- tic tests, treatments or vac- cines available for the disease. “We took biopsies from devil tumours and analysed genetic data from them,” Dr Murchison said.

Dr Tony Papenfuss from Melbourne’s Walter and Eliza Hall Institute then led the team that determined which genes were switched on in the tumours and identified their genetic signature.

“When we compared the signature of the tumours to other normal tissues, we found the tumours were most like Schwann cells,” Dr Pap- enfuss said.

Associate Professor Greg Woods from the University of Tasmania’s Menzies Research Institute said the Schwann cell find was an important step in the process to further understand the disease.

The Schwann cell research was conducted as part of the Save the Tasmanian Devil Program’s efforts to further explore DFTD. It was supported by the National Health and Medical Research Council and the University of Tasmania’s Dr Eric Guiler Tasmanian Devil Research Grant.

For more information, or to make a donation to the Save the Tasmanian Devil Appeal, visit: www.tassiedevil.com.au

The first devil doctor

**BY CHERIE COOPER**

Dr Alex Kriess said he knew he wanted to study devils the first time he saw them. Their quirky nature and unusual features fasci- nated him, as did the dev- astating disease impacting them so brutally.

The 35-year-old vet, origi- nally from Brazil, now has the distinction of being the first postgraduate student to complete a doctorate on the Devil Facial Tumour Disease (DFTD).

A postdoctoral junior research fellow at the Menzies Research Institute, Dr Kriess’s project investigated the immune system of the Tasman- ian devil and how it interacts with DFTD.

“DFTD is a cell allo- graft (like a transplant), so the immune system should kick in and reject the foreign cells,” Dr Kriess said.

“But we know this doesn’t happen, so the main aim of my PhD was to find out why.”

Dr Kriess worked as a veterinarian for six years after completing his first degree in South America.

He wanted to go abroad to learn English and com- plete a postgraduate degree and decided on Australia because “it’s similar to Brazil in many ways, with friendly people and interesting fauna”.

In 2004, while Dr Kriess was studying English, he learned about DFTD and volunteered to go out in the field with a fellow South American researcher, Chilean honours student Rodrigo Hamede, who is similarly undertaking his PhD on the devil disease.

Dr Kriess is continuing the research he started during his PhD, as there are “so many more questions we need to answer about this disease”.

“Most importantly, there is much work that needs to be done to prevent devils becoming extinct,” he said.

Your devil donations in action

**BY PAMELA MCCARTHY**

T he latest funding round of the Save the Tasmanian Devil Program will enable researchers to develop a vaccine against the Devil Facial Tumour Disease (DFTD).

Four projects have shared $75,000 allocated by the program, directly from contri- butions to the Save the Tasman- ian Devil Program Appeal.

An international collabo- ration into understanding how DFTD cells escape the immune system has received $10,000 of the $75,000 allo- cated.

Dr Hannah Siddle, from the University of Sydney, is currently conducting tests from the Pathology Depart- ment at the University of Gent.

She is working with Prof- essor Jim Kaufman from the University of Cambridge, Associate Professor Katherine Below from the University of Sydney and Professor Greg Woods and Dr Alex Kriess from the Menzies Research Institute at UTAS.

“We need to look at spe- cialised immune molecules found on the outside of the tumour cells,” Dr Siddle said.

“If there is something working with these molecules or they are absent, this would explain why the devil immune system does not respond to the tumour.”

“This study will mark- edly increase understanding of how DFTD spreads and progresses so rapidly within each devil. In addition, an understanding of molecules produced by DFTD cells may uncover potential antigens that could be used to develop a vaccine to the tumour.”

Other funded projects are:

• UTAS School of Zoology, PhD student Rodrigo Hamede – understanding the basis of variant disease dynam- ics and population impacts of DFTD in the West Pencil Pine population ($23,851), Dr Eric Guiler Grant.

• UTAS Menzies Research Institute, Dr Alex Kriess – the expansion of a research quar- antine facility ($13,800), Dr Eric Guiler Grant.

• UTAS Menzies Research Institute, PhD student Terry Pinfield – evaluation of DFTD immune re- sponse ($26,250), Qantas Tasmanian Devil Research Scholarship.

For more information, or to make a donation to the Save the Tasmanian Devil Appeal, visit: www.tassiedevil.com.au

Ocean salinity over 50 years

As humans, we’re adaptable to temperature – we can take a jumper off when it gets warmer – but we’re more sensitive to changing terrestrial water supplies.

Changes to these water supplies, due to climate change, potentially pose a more significant risk than temperature changes alone.

This project, which I’m doing jointly with the CSIRO, centres on a study of the Earth’s hydrological cycle analysing 50 years of observed ocean salinity data.

It’s of particular interest to climate modellers; in fact, the research community currently uses these complex climate models to predict changes to water supplies due to global warming.

The models already integrate the atmospheric part of the hydrological cycle (rainfall, etc.) and compare to observations reasonably well. However, we previously haven’t had a good estimate of long-term ocean salinity changes, so we haven’t been able to quantify and validate oceanic changes in these models.

The oceans represent 96 per cent of the global fresh water reserves and therefore are the major component of the global hydrological cycle.

Additionally, they cover a whopping percentage of the Earth’s surface area.

The problem here is that we don’t have data for rainfall over the oceans. If we did, we’d have a much better idea of how the global climate has changed over time.

Ocean salinity and global ocean changes are strongly linked to precipitation and ocean-atmosphere temperature transfers over the ocean surface. Researching ocean salinity changes over a long period of time is a novel way to estimate global hydrological cycle changes over time.

Current climate model best estimates capture around a third of the observed changes in the ocean arm of the global hydrological cycle over the last 50 years.

This model underestimation is a cause for concern, and may indicate that projections of changes into the 21st century are on the low side of what we’re going to be seeing in the real, climate-changed world.

My ultimate goal is to convey these results to decision-makers so that they can choose the appropriate policy paths for the global community.

I want to continue working on developing better estimates of ocean changes.

— Paul Durack is a surfer, originally from Perth, Western Australia. His passion for the waves and the weather which drives swell creation naturally guided him to oceanography.
The Tasmanian Creative Arts Summer School consolidated its place as the arts education venue to attend in January when it was held for the fourth year in a row.

Around 500 students and workshop tutors joined the buzz at the Inveresk Academy of the Arts, and also at Launceston College and Newstead Polytechnic.

Commenting on the event’s success, summer school manager Jana Harper said the UTAS School for Visual and Performing Arts is building a reputation for delivering learning opportunities with a difference.

“Significantly, many of the themes explored in our creative arts workshops are associated with Tasmania and its people,” she said.

“They include field trips to uniquely Tasmanian locations such as vineyards, a salmon farm and Launceston’s Gorge.

“These are great experiences for interstate participants especially – and the number of people from other states is growing.

“This year a couple drove from Mackay in their campervan to attend the summer school together and then travel around Tasmania together.”

The gentle atmosphere of the summer school has persuaded people that they have the capacity to do university study, and provided others with an incentive to return to tertiary studies.

Summer school director Peter Hammond said he was impressed with how the summer school appealed to all age groups.

“It was great to see teenagers having their first experience of university working alongside more seasoned students. The energy created by that mix permeated the entire 10 days,” he said.

‘Significantly, many of the themes explored in our creative arts workshops are associated with Tasmania and its people. They include field trips to uniquely Tasmanian locations such as vineyards, a salmon farm and Launceston’s Gorge.’

(Clockwise from top)

Contemporary painting practices: International student Batsheba Zlikha Arsalan on a field trip to Launceston’s Cataract Gorge.

Voice-overs and radio drama: Paul Kulla on the mike.

Studio glass: Jessica Allison displays her creation.

The art of the potter’s wheel: Ceramicist Zsolt Faludi works closely with student Susan Newcombe.

Contemporary dance: Flashmobbing in the Launceston Mall.
The work

Rising damp

Gradually infiltrating the Basin Café at Cataract Gorge in Launceston via the northern side, permeating the toilets and creeping up the café walls is Rising damp.

This site-specific installation of ink paintings pasted directly on to the walls is influenced by Sue Henderson’s knowledge of this location through the intimate and close-up physical relationship that she experiences as a rock climber.

Cracks on walls are reminiscent of those between the large dolerite boulders and cliffs outside, formed by geological forces and constantly eroded by water flow. Lacy, delicate lichen-like forms climb up the walls in spatial arrangements playing with scale, suggesting rising and falling. Each piece is intriguing in its unique configuration of flowing ink marks suggestive of movement, flow and texture.

A close view of these paintings could evoke ambiguous or multiple readings – is it a landscape within a landscape, is it a microscopic or distant view, an aerial or shifting viewpoint? What is revealed in the ink blots?

This work references histories of utilitarian and recreational usage of water and flooding on site. In October 2009, flood waters came to the tops of the swings outside the Basin Café.

Rising damp raises issues of the politics of water flow and effects of climate change on places subject to flooding. The installation evokes some of the mystery and wonder of natural processes in action and invites us to look more closely at this special place.

Sue Henderson (b. 1967) works predominantly with various media on paper. A keen rock climber, Sue’s recent work explores the installation of ink paintings to ephemeral works. Sue received a University medal in 2006, is a PhD candidate and currently teaches in the drawing practice ranges from large-scale ink paintings to ephemeral works. Sue’s recent work explores the installation of ink paintings to ephemeral works. Sue received a University medal in 2006, is a PhD candidate and currently teaches in the drawing practice ranges from large-scale ink paintings to ephemeral works.

Sue’s recent work explores the installation of ink paintings to ephemeral works. Sue received a University medal in 2006, is a PhD candidate and currently teaches in the drawing practice ranges from large-scale ink paintings to ephemeral works.

What’s on

Health & Wellbeing

Lectures / Seminars

02 February – 04 April
Attention northern staff
The Heart Foundation runs a network of free community-based walking groups throughout Tasmania to promote better health through regular walking. The Launceston Campus has established a Walking Group which departs from outside the Library at 12.30pm every Monday for a 30 minute walk. For more information please contact the Walk Coordinator or to register login to: www.heartfoundation.org.au/walking

13 March
Asian Languages and Studies Forum
First meeting of Chinese Teachers Forum in Tasmania. 9am – 2pm, School of Asian Languages and Studies, Sandy Bay campus. A forum for all teachers of Chinese language in Tasmania. Information: Romaine Bassett: (03) 6226 2790 or rebase@utas.edu.au

29 March
Plemmoll Lecture 2010
Eminent political commentator and Editor at Large for the Australian newspaper Paul Kelly will present the 2010 Plemmoll Lecture. In his lecture titled ‘The Keating-Howard Inheritance: the Strategic Foundations of Australian Foreign Policy’, Paul will look at the foreign policy inherited by the Rudd Government and examine the similarities and differences between the policies of former prime ministers Paul Keating and John Howard. The lecture will be held at the University Centre in Churchill Avenue, Sandy Bay, from 6pm to 8pm. Information: Anne McKenzie: (03) 6226 2521 RSVP to: UTAS.Evemts@utas.edu.au

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

A brainwave leads to medical books for Cambodia

Bound for Cambodia: Dr Jamie Chapman with medical textbooks donated to Cambodian medical schools.

By Michelle Nichols

A conference presentation on the lack of textbooks for medical students in Cambodia has led to a tangible donation from the UTAS Faculty of Health Science.

Late last year, Dr Jamie Chapman from the School of Medicine attended an anatomy conference in Melbourne and was fascinated by a presentation on medical teaching in Cambodia.

“It mentioned how medical schools were in desperate need of textbooks,” Jamie said.

“Many were either very old or entirely in French.”

Coincidentally, a couple of months before in discussions on the School of Medicine’s move to its new Hobart building, Jamie had raised the question of finding a charity for textbooks that might be discarded in the office clean-up.

“Throwing them away wasn’t an option for me. They are too valuable and I was sure they could be put to better use,” he said.

He sent an email asking for textbook donations for Cambodia and the response was immediate.

Imundated with more than 550 medical textbooks on anatomy, biochemistry, pathology and immunology, Jamie worried he’d bitten off more than he could chew – before spending a week collating, organising and listing the books into discipline subjects.

He sent the booklet to the initial conference presenter who passed it on to his contacts in Cambodia. They wanted not just the recent titles but all of them.

Now the books are destined for the International University in Phnom Penh and the challenge is getting them there. Jamie is busy trying to raise the funds to get them there; his target is $2500.

For transport cost donations, contact Jamie.Chapman@utas.edu.au or ph. 6226 2916.

What’s on

Foreign Policy

29 March
The Keating-Howard Inheritance: the Strategic Foundations of Australian Foreign Policy

Plimmoll Lecture 2010
Eminent political commentator and Editor at Large for the Australian newspaper Paul Kelly will present the 2010 Plimmoll Lecture. In his lecture titled ‘The Keating-Howard Inheritance: the Strategic Foundations of Australian Foreign Policy’, Paul will look at the foreign policy inherited by the Rudd Government and examine the similarities and differences between the policies of former prime ministers Paul Keating and John Howard. The lecture will be held at the University Centre in Churchill Avenue, Sandy Bay, from 6pm to 8pm. Information: Anne McKenzie: (03) 6226 2521 RSVP to: UTAS.Evemts@utas.edu.au

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

What’s on

Arts

12

What’s on

Foreign Policy

29 March
The Keating-Howard Inheritance: the Strategic Foundations of Australian Foreign Policy

Plimmoll Lecture 2010
Eminent political commentator and Editor at Large for the Australian newspaper Paul Kelly will present the 2010 Plimmoll Lecture. In his lecture titled ‘The Keating-Howard Inheritance: the Strategic Foundations of Australian Foreign Policy’, Paul will look at the foreign policy inherited by the Rudd Government and examine the similarities and differences between the policies of former prime ministers Paul Keating and John Howard. The lecture will be held at the University Centre in Churchill Avenue, Sandy Bay, from 6pm to 8pm. Information: Anne McKenzie: (03) 6226 2521 RSVP to: UTAS.Evemts@utas.edu.au

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