PM views our $58m baby

BY MOYA FYFYE

UTAS Vice-Chancellor Professor Daryl Le Grew welcomed Prime Minister Kevin Rudd to the architecturally-stunning $58 million Medical Science 1 building in Hobart last month.

The building is the first stage of the new UTAS Medical Science Precinct in Hobart's CBD.

Prof. Le Grew said the new Medical Science Precinct is an important development not just for the university but also for Hobart and the state as a whole.

“This is a state-of-the-art development that puts Tasmania in the lead in terms of providing facilities for medical research and education,” he said.

“It is the new base for the Menzies Research Institute and the Faculty of Health Science’s School of Medicine.

“For the first time we are co-locating our medical research and education, which will enable the highest levels of collaboration between our health professionals.”

Prof. Le Grew said the new building will soon be augmented by stage two of the development, which will see the $90 million Medical Science 2 building erected by the end of 2012.

Prof. Le Grew said neither development would be possible without the support and financial contribution of the Australian Government, the State Government and the US-based Atlantic Philanthropies.

“For this first stage, UTAS has received funding support of $23.5 million from the Australian Government, $9 million from the State Government and $7.5 million from the US-based Atlantic Philanthropies,” he said.

“Along with the commitment from UTAS, the second stage has also been strongly supported with $44.7 million from the Australian Government’s Health and Hospitals Fund, $15 million from the State Government and a further $15 million from Atlantic Philanthropies.”

Menzies Director Professor Simon Foote said the Institute was strongly committed to building capacity in medical research in Tasmania for the benefit of all.

“There is no doubt that having facilities for researchers such as offered by the new building will help deliver that commitment and allow research to be undertaken at the highest level,” he said.

“Over the past two decades Tasmanians have been able to see the benefits of having a world-class institute such as Menzies operating in the state.

“Faculty of Health Science Dean Professor Allan Carmichael also praised the new building saying its role in health education in Tasmania is critical.

“It is very important for the state’s university to be able to provide medical professionals who are trained to the highest of standards to provide the highest standard of health care in our communities,” he said.

“This new building’s facilities clearly allow us to do that.”

A Dev’lishly generous brew

BY MICHELLE GRIMA

Tasmanians’ love of coffee has added more than $14,000 in donations for research into the Devil Facial Tumour Disease (DFTD) through collections by Hobart’s appropriately-named Dev’lish Espresso café.

The donation is in addition to an $8000 personal contribution by café owner, Annie Parminter, to the Save the Tasmanian Devil Appeal.

Dev’lish has donated 10 cents from every cup of organic free-trade coffee from its Macquarie Street outlet and its base at the Australian Broadcasting Corporation Centre, and 50 cents per kilo of coffee sold by Wallah-gong-based supplier, Delaroma – all up, about $200 each week in donations.

The café is now selling groovy tote bags featuring the devil for $15 with 100 per cent of proceeds going directly to the appeal.

Ms Parminter, a celebrated Australian chef now living in Hobart, said she inspired to support the research and management appeal because of the devastating reality for the island if the devil became extinct.

“I moved to Tasmania to retire but I missed cooking,” Ms Parminter said.

“I’ve been seriously blessed in my industry and I wanted to give something back so I opened Dev’lish café with the aim of raising funds for this iconic animal.

“It would be too terrible for Tasmania to lose this important identity.”

The funds will directly support projects under the Save the Tasmanian Devil Appeal, the formal fundraising arm of the Save the Tasmanian Devil program. The aim of the program is to maintain the devil as an ecologically functional species in the wild.

Appeal Committee Chair, David Rowell, said the ongoing contribution by a small business would make a big impact on supporting research into the contagious cancer.

“Donations to the Appeal are critical in supporting DFTD investigations and the ongoing support from Dev’lish will considerably help this cause,” Mr Rowell said.

“This is yet another example of the enormous generosity of the Tasmanian business community.”

DFTD is a transmissible cancer that affects only Tasmanian devils and is spread by biting. It is characterised by large facial tumours which often spread to internal organs. The disease has decimated populations on the east coast where the disease was first detected in 1996.

Dev’lish donation: (left to right) Rosie Derrick, Marco Genaris and Annie Parminter from Dev’lish café create the perfect brew to help fund research into the disease impacting on Tasmanian devils.

Save the Tasmanian devil >> www.tassiedevil.com.au
Our people

Marie Sierra
Professor Sierra has taken up her appointment as head of the School of Visual and Performing Arts at the Inveresk campus in Launceston.

Until recently she was head of sculpture and spatial practice at the Victorian College of the Arts, Melbourne University, where she was also graduate research coordinator for the School of Art and Associate Dean of Research for the Faculty of VCA and Music.

Professor Sierra has held many solo exhibitions in Australia; her most recent awards were an Australia Council grant to visit the 2007 Venice biennale and a graduate research coordinator for the school of art and Australia; her most recent awards were an Australia Council grant to visit the 2007 Venice biennale and a graduate research coordinator for the School of Art and Australia; her most recent awards were an Australia Council grant to visit the 2007 Venice biennale and a graduate research coordinator for the School of Art and

Don Chalmers
Distinguished Professor Don Chalmers has been awarded the 2010 National Health and Medical Research Council Ethics Award.

Professor Chalmers was one of 15 researchers to receive an award at a ceremony in Canberra. The Ethics Award recognises outstanding contribution to the achievement of high ethical standards in health and medical research.

Professor Chalmers is also a Foundation Fellow of the Australian Academy of Law and is Chair of the Gene Technology Ethics and Community Consultative Committee.

Margaret Britz
Professor Britz has taken up her appointment as the UTAS Dean of Science, Engineering and Technology.

An internationally recognised microbiologist, Professor Britz has come to UTAS from BiolIndustry Partners Pty Ltd where she has been a director since 2008. She plans to keep her hand in solving real-life problems in microbiology and food science at UTAS’s Food Safety Centre and rekindle her earlier research in biotfuels and microbial products from renewable resources.

Professor Britz has held a variety of significant senior university, public sector and research appointments.

She was also the first principal advisor for Science and Engineering Policy for the Victorian Government, implementing the state’s innovation policy.

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

Tassie’s most advanced gym re-opens

Hobart Unigym has re-opened after a year of extensive refurbishments.

The renovations give UTAS some of the most advanced fitness options in the state.

The renovations include upgrades to the existing sport and recreation site, new state-of-the-art equipment in the weights and cardio facility and a more holistic and contemporary fitness environment catering for all fitness and wellbeing needs.

Gina Poulton, State Manager of Unigym, said gym members are appreciating the new spacious layout of the Sandy Bay campus gym and the extensive health, fitness and wellbeing opportunities now available.

“While the majority of the new equipment is updated versions of what the gym previously offered, the revolutionary new pieces, such as the free motion cable cross-over and extreme bike, allow clients to train in virtually any movement pattern with minimal adjustments required,” she said.

All current Hobart Unigym members will be shown the new pieces of equipment by a personal trainer through an induction process while new members will be taken through the entire range of equipment and advised of a fitness program tailored to suit their abilities.

Her extension aims to cater for the growing University community as well as showing the wider community they can access the facilities,” Ms Poulton said.

To celebrate the official opening, a family fun and fitness activity day was held, supporting Surf Life Saving Tasmania.

Three-time Olympian and beach volleyball gold medallist Kerri Purbhoo and Fitness Australia’s 2009 exercise professional of the year Christine Atkins also attended.

As well as the Hobart Unigym, the University runs Unigyms at the Launceston and Burnie campuses.

The new Unigym building works were part of a $2.7 million Voluntary Student Unionism transitional funding distribution from the Australian Government in 2007.

Hobart Unigym refurbished: Team leader Nadia Roulias helps Charlie Law use the new seated leg press machine.

Campus comparison

BY MERIAN ELLIS

Australia’s smaller university campuses are generating great ideas to boost student participation according to the results of a benchmarking study under way at the UTAS Cradle Coast campuses.

Over the past six months the Cradle Coast campus has undertaken a participatory study of 13 regional campuses with less than 1600 enrolled students.

Dayna Brown graduated from the Bachelor of Regional Resource Management last year and began work on the project in September.

“The aim was to draw comparisons between the campuses in areas of education; skills and pathways; sustainability; research and development; media and regional awareness; and workforce planning,” Dayna explained.

She said one of the interesting outcomes is that most of the campuses in the study are working hard to attract and provide support to non-traditional groups of students.

“A plethora of exciting programs are encouraging participation in university,” she said.

“One example is a campus servicing more remote areas of SA, NSW and Victoria. To help meet the needs of potential students, the campus has developed a cultural ‘edge’ of the outback’ art and photography ‘experiential’ learning program.”

On campus

Back to school time: Three students are weighed down by their bags of new textbooks from the Sandy Bay UTAS campus Co-op bookstore.
Young architects envisage city’s future

‘The two graduates have used Gehl’s idea of 12 kinds of city spaces … to transform the diagrams of the Sullivans Cove master plan into three-dimensional visuals of how people could better use current spaces such as car parks, vacant areas between buildings and transport hubs.’

I n the Macquarie St office of Tasmania’s state architect, two recent graduates of the UTAS School of Architecture and Design have spent the summer thinking outside the square. Alysia Bennett and Adam Dyason were invited to work for five weeks with newly-appointed Peter Poulet to do what architects surely must enjoy most: envisage the ideal built environment of the future.

Essentially they took the draft master plan prepared for Hobart’s Sullivans Cove and brought it to life with suggestions for the use of a number of areas around the cove. They based their work on the theory and techniques of Danish architect Jan Gehl, whose company is currently advising the Hobart and Launceston city councils on future urban development.

“We asked Alysia and Adam to drill down into the master plan and investigate propositions for real projects – speculative ideas for how spaces could be improved,” Peter Poulet said.

“It’s been a breath of fresh air to work with two young people who have the latest architectural skills and who are inquiring and committed to doing good work.”

“My office straddles the public and private business worlds; it needs the fresh thinking available from recent graduates to raise the design bar and serve it back to a profession which sometimes has other agendas.”

The two graduates have used Gehl’s idea of 12 kinds of city spaces – such as civic space, waterfront city, waterfront city, water-front aquatic, transport hubs and urban stroll ways – to transform the diagrams of the Sullivans Cove master plan into three-dimensional visuals of how people could better use current spaces such as car parks, vacant areas between buildings and transport hubs.

“The experience helps you network within the architectural community, see how state and local government politics are involved in a document like the Sullivans Cove plan and to work on a real project with a broad brief,” said Adam, who is currently working on Jan Gehl’s Hobart City Council team.

Alysia believes the development of projects like this one which involve young graduates could be a catalyst to keep young architects in Tasmania.

“The majority of architects graduate to mainland states and if Tasmanian projects come up there’s no-one to do them. UTAS produces intelligent thoughtful design people and to lose them is a loss to Tasmania,” she said.

The two graduates have used Gehl’s idea of 12 kinds of city spaces … to transform the diagrams of the Sullivans Cove master plan into three-dimensional visuals of how people could better use current spaces such as car parks, vacant areas between buildings and transport hubs.”

For the students the advantage is two-fold.

UTAS has consistently performed well in providing access to students from a wide range of backgrounds, some privileged and others from disadvantaged backgrounds. In the Good Universities Guide, UTAS is listed as a five-star provider for a range of equity groups, not just for opening our doors to disadvantaged students, but also for our capacity to successfully graduate them.

In 2009 UTAS, as a result of our success, received more than $8 million in equity funding to target students with performance risks, students with disabilities and students from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, as well as to support indigenous students and recipients of Commonwealth education costs and accommodation scholarships. This is well above the sector average and reflects the fact that access and equity have been long-term priorities for UTAS.

Clearly UTAS has grown considerably in the past six or seven years. Much of the growth has been directed at internationalising the University and that is evident to all. However, a considerable proportion of the growth is attributable to UTAS attracting more Tasmanians into university study. More school leavers and mature age students than ever before are on our campuses.

As we grow in this way we reach further into equity groups, especially into those from low socioeconomic status (SES) backgrounds. While I don’t like the mechanistic nature of the terminology, the reality is that there are many Tasmanians from humble backgrounds who now see UTAS as part of their future and not merely as some ethereal institution for the privileged few.

The upshot of this is that UTAS has among the highest access rate for low SES students in the country at 31 per cent of our profile. This is more than twice the average rate of all Australia’s universities.

The Deputy Prime Minister’s new targets for our sector will soon be upon us. The 20/40 policy – 20 per cent of low SES students enrolled and 40 per cent of the 25–34 age cohort with at least a bachelor degree. This is the new driving force in the sector.

How will UTAS fare? Very well, in the sense that we already exceed the low SES target, with over 30 per cent of our profile – but because of the SES distribution of the Tasmanian population we will be asked to do more.

But the real test for us is in the second component, where the proportion of Tasmanians in the 25–34 age bracket is only around 22 per cent, compared with the 40 per cent target. We have real work to do here.

So growth is firmly planted in UTAS’ strategic future and the upshot will be excellent for both the university and for Tasmania. What we have demonstrated is that growth in the student base does not come at the expense of excellence.

Warm regards

Daryl Le Grew

Vice-Chancellor

www.utas.edu.au/vc
Website supports off-campus housing

IY MICHELLE NICHOLS

UTAS students searching for accommodation this semester are embracing a new website directly linking them to property owners and managers across the state. The UTAS Off-Campus Housing property website lists places for students studying in Hobart or Launceston. The website went live in January and now lists more than 90 properties across the two cities.

“The properties range from fully catered rooms in family homes to flats, units and houses,” said UTAS Accommodation Services’ director Jacinta Young. With the growth in student numbers in recent years, an estimated 7500 students leave home annually to study at UTAS. More than half of these students come from overseas and interstate.

Mary Windsor has travelled to Tasmania from Balarat to study her honours year with IMAS in Antarctic studies. She contacted the Off-Campus Housing service earlier this year and quickly snapped up the offer of accommodation in Sandy Bay not far from the university campus.

“This is a lovely home away from home, perfect for study and a convenient location for everything I need,” Mary said.

Jacinta believes many students are seeking assistance to find a new home where they can be happy and concentrate on their studies.

Linda Luther
University Librarian

Favourite time of the day
I like mornings best. The hardest part of the day is about four or five o’clock; I kind of start wilting.

Passionate about
I think that information is so important and so bringing in a library and having an opportunity to enable people who need information to get it is what’s really important.

Time at UTAS
I started in 2003 and before that I was at the University of South Australia. It is cooler here!

Top Tasmanian holiday spot
A couple of years ago we went to Stanley and stayed in the caravan park for a week and had an absolute ball. When I first was here, the idea of travelling for five hours and not falling off the island was really novel!

Secret delight
Learning to play the piano again. I took lessons as a child and then last year my husband gave me a piano for Christmas and I thought if you have a piano you can’t just fiddle around, you need to be a bit more directed so I started lessons again.

Unwind by...
We have a property at Richmond (about 30 acres) and most of my weekend is spent outside digging in the garden, planting trees, landscaping, doing big, physical activities. I also like walking through the city in Launceston in the early morning.

Most important person
My husband Martin is very important to me. His hobby is amateur radio and I have a licence too because I think it is important to relate to something he is so passionate about. Some of our time on the weekend is spent putting up antennas on our property and many friends who come to visit from interstate and overseas are people we have spoken to on the radio.

Pleasure at work
The growth of staff in the library through staff development and the opportunities we have had for staff to develop and grow. There has also been a change in the culture of study in the library in the electronic age. The students really love the learning hubs, and this year we have got improved spaces in the law library and science library as well.

Going green in the rental market

IY CHERIE COOPER

Australian households are going green.

People are installing solar panels on their rooftops, insulating, giving up their generous showerheads and replacing their lawn with native grasses.

Dr Michelle Gabriel, Research Fellow in the Housing and Community Research Unit, in the UTAS School of Sociology and Social Work, is studying ways to encourage the uptake of energy and water saving measures in private rental housing.

As part of this study she will interview both landlords who have adopted green measures in their rental properties and those who have not.

“Those leading the way with ‘green’ households are home owners in Australia’s more affluent neighbourhoods,” Dr Gabriel said. “Not only do these home owners have the disposable income to buy into the green revolution, but they also have ready access to government subsidies and incentives.”

Dr Gabriel said early policy initiatives in Australia have been heavily weighted towards new owner-builders and established home owners, even though about a quarter of Australian families live in private and public rental housing.

“Of central concern is the ‘split incentive’ problem; while the landlord is generally responsible for purchasing the energy-using facilities, the tenant is generally responsible for the payment of energy bills,” Dr Gabriel said.

Consequently, incentives to adapt a property are weaker for landlords compared with home owners.

Measures yet to be trailed in Australia include:

• the use of taxation incentives to encourage greater uptake of energy- and water-efficient technologies;
• the strengthening of housing health and safety minimal standards;
• the introduction of Green Landlord Awards; and
• the implementation of an Energy Performance Certifi-
cation scheme which requires that landlords provide potential tenants with information on the energy efficiency of a property.

If you would like to take part in this research, please contact Dr Gabriel on (03) 6226 2361 or email Michelle.gabriel@utas.edu.au

AAA Accommodation Services certified

Reaching for the stars:
Magy Evans (centre) from AAA Tourism presents an AAA Star Rating Certificate to Boyd Griggs, Accommodation Services Facilities and Planning Manager; and Fiona McGough, Accommodation Services Launceston Customer Services Officer.

Sites in Hobart and Launceston were recently assessed for the first time by AAA Tourism under their star rating system and Accommodation Services is more than pleased by the result.

The sites were assessed under two categories – self-catered and backpackers (or hostel) accommodation. All self-catering and hostel type accommodation on the Hobart campus received a 3.5 star rating, while Launceston received three stars.

Jacinta Young from UTAS Accommodation Services says the team is proud to achieve these ratings and pleased that students are now provided with a variety of choices to suit their individual accommodation needs.

Accommodation Services is the UTAS statewide umbrella organisation for Christ College, John Fisher College, the University Apartments and Mount Nelson Villas on the Hobart campus and Kerleake Hall, Leprena and Investigator Hall in Launceston.

S student accommodation at UTAS is now starred.

AAA Accommodation Services is now providing a new option to students when searching for on-campus accommodation. This latest option complements the on-campus housing currently offered by Accommodation Services and other organisations affiliated with UTAS.

The off-campus housing service is provided free of charge and landlords can register properties directly online. Properties are inspected to ensure they are suitable for student accommodation before they are allowed to be listed.

For more information visit www.accommodation.utas.edu.au/off-campus or call Accommodation Services on (03) 6226 6408.

“Parents of new students are also looking for assurance that their children will have safe and comfortable accommodation,” Jacinta said.

Accommodation Services traditionally only provided on-campus accommodation but UTAS serves a diverse range of students and many are looking for a more independent lifestyle. This latest option complements the housing currently offered by Accommodation Services and other organisations affiliated with UTAS.
In Mooving On, a recent exhibition of paintings by Sarah Jessup at Inveresk’s Blue Café, the humour and quirkiness of a tumultuous period of life are revealed. The exhibition is a metaphor with many titles, representing a challenging 12 months in my life,” Sarah said.

“Creating these artworks was a cathartic experience for me; they represent my past, and I’ve now moved on through the stormy weather into calmer waters.”

The 26 works on show were all painted at a place close to Sarah’s heart – Low Head on Tasmania’s north coast. Naive and sometimes funny, they use many media, with wool stitching dominant.

Sarah is completing the final year of her Bachelor of Contemporary Arts degree while working as an art aide at Launceston Church Grammar School’s junior campus.

She has a strong curiosity to explore and work across many disciplines, often exploring her art through textiles, which links with five years spent in Byron Bay running a successful hand-painted soft furnishing business.

‘Creating these artworks was a cathartic experience for me; they represent my past, and I’ve now moved on through the stormy weather into calmer waters.’ – Sarah Jessup
BY SHARON WEBB

Megan Cavanagh-Russell has a vision of a Marine Conservation with 1000 to 1500 students and a place within UTAS much like any other regional campus in Australia.

“To succeed, Cradle Coast really needs to hold onto its sense of relating to the community while maintaining the standards of the academy,” she said.

Awarded an honorary Doctor of Letters degree at the inaugural Cradle Coast graduation ceremony in December last year, Megan has now retired from a hugely varied teaching and academic career. But her guiding principle, community involvement, still exists in her retirement activities in the Sassafras community where she and husband David have a farming property and she still has a keen interest in the UTAS campus she helped create.

Megan is well known in Tasmania as a trainer of music teachers, a leader of teacher educators and a contributor to arts bodies and local development boards. In 1988 she was appointed senior lecturer and manager at the Tasmanian State Institute of Technology (North West Centre) in recognition of her acute understanding of regional communities and her passion for increasing access to education in these communities.

Megan was eventually appointed director of the Cradle Coast campus; responsible for leadership and management and ensuring that strong links were maintained between the University and the regional community, she was singularly successful. But amazingly, at the same time she was acting dean of the Education Faculty after events had left it with other areas of the state.”

“Megan is an excellent example of the type of person the University needed to hold onto its sense of relating to the community while maintaining the standards of the academy,” said Dr Megan Cavanagh-Russell.

As she sat in a La Trobe café recently and pondered a long career, Megan listed three highlights of her working life: the creation of a Launceston-based centre for music studies over 10 years; the establishment of a UTAS north-west campus; and the reconstruction of the UTAS Education Faculty.

All three involved considerable interaction with relevant communities.

From 2000 Megan was founding chair and convener of the Creative Pathways Project steering committee involving Burnie City Council and most of the education forces in the area, aiming to initiate and develop the establishment of the Mooresetown Road education precinct in Burnie.

“One example of my sense of satisfaction came when the University decided that what we were doing in Burnie could be called a ‘campus’,” she said.

“I realised that potentially changed the way the organisation saw our work – it was equal in value and quality to that offered in other areas of the state.”

The 2006 National Carrick Award for the University Preparation Program designed by Megan and her colleagues for mature-age students seeking entry to university, is an indication of the significant progress she made in Burnie.

“The origins of this, Megan maintains, are with the attitude of former UTAS Registrar, Chris Chapman, who she says believed that the only source of new university students for UTAS was the North-West Coast, where there was low retention.”

“His view was that all those people who finished school at Year 10 must want to get more education at some stage, so, far from the pool of potential students drying up, every year we recreated the pool in the north-west.

“We matched the University’s needs to the community’s needs: it was difficult to attract the people we needed to grow the region so we needed to educate the people who were already there,” she said.

During Megan Cavanagh-Russell’s time, the region’s fledging study centre evolved into the Cradle Coast’s own nationally recognised campus.

Now home to more than 700 students and over 60 staff the campus has continued to grow its regional presence and to respond to regional demand.

A significant career recognised

TO succeed, Cradle Coast really needs to hold onto its sense of relating to the community while maintaining the standards of the academy,”

Megan Cavanagh-Russell

Marine expert recognised

Dr Beth Fulton, science leader at CSIRO in Hobart, has been awarded a 2010 Pew Fellowship in Marine Conservation for her work in developing models that address the full impact of environmental threats on species diversity within an ecosystem.

The Pew Fellowship in Marine Conservation is a prestigious program giving recipients US$150,000 for a three-year scientific research or conservation project designed to address critical challenges facing our oceans.

Dr Fulton will use this fellowship to work with select fish and plankton data to develop scientific models that show how shifts in the number of species affect the broader ocean ecosystem and, by extension, the marine resources available to humans.

Dr Fulton holds an undergraduate degree in mathematics and marine biology from James Cook University and a PhD from the University of Tasmania. Dr Fulton is also an honorary associate at the Centre for Marine Science, University of Tasmania.

UTAS alumnus to advise International Criminal Court

Leading international law expert Professor Tim McCormack has been appointed special adviser on international humanitarian law to the International Criminal Court in The Hague.

Until recently, Prof. McCormack was Foundation Australian Red Cross Professor of International Humanitarian Law at the University of Melbourne Law School; he is a graduate of the UTAS Law School (1982) and is currently Adjunct Professor of Law at UTAS.

In his new position Prof. McCormack will focus on the application and interpretation of international humanitarian law in relation to crimes within the jurisdiction of the court, as well as on general principles of criminal law and legal issues related to military structures.

The International Criminal Court is an independent permanent court that investigates and prosecutes people accused of the most serious crimes of international concern: genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes.

Professor Tim McCormack.

He acted as amicus curiae on international law matters before the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia for the trial of Slobodan Milosevic and provided expert Law of War advice for the defence of David Hicks before the US Military Commission in Guantanamo Bay.

‘He acted as amicus curiae on international law matters before the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia for the trial of Slobodan Milosevic.’

Professor Tim McCormack has a worldwide reputation for his scholarship and expertise in this area.

“He combines a deep knowledge of the law with how it has been applied in military operations,” he said.

“Will advise my office on complex legal issues such as indiscriminate attack, proportionality and command responsibility.”

For the past decade Prof. McCormack has worked closely with the Australian Red Cross and the Australian Defence Force; he was involved in establishing the Asia Pacific Centre for Military Law at the University of Melbourne.

He acted as amicus curiae on international law matters before the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia for the trial of Slobodan Milosevic and provided expert Law of War advice for the defence of David Hicks before the US Military Commission in Guantanamo Bay.

‘He acted as amicus curiae on international law matters before the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia for the trial of Slobodan Milosevic.’

Professor Tim McCormack.
2010 Fulbright winners

Two Tasmanian researchers will head to the United States to study marine protected areas and renewable energy technology, as the 2010 winners of the Fulbright Tasmania Scholarship.

Associate Professor Graham Edgar, a marine ecologist at the Tasmanian Aquaculture and Fisheries Institute, will research the effectiveness of marine protected areas as a tool for biodiversity conservation.

Simon Gamble, Manager of Technology and Commercialisation at Hydro Tasmania, will study the application of renewable energy technology in modern power systems. Assoc. Prof. Edgar will spend four months at the Centre for Applied Biodiversity Science (Conservation International) in Washington, DC, and also work with researchers at the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary and Californian Channel Islands Marine Park.

"The aim of the project is to improve marine conservation planning through the development of models that accurately predict ecological benefits arising from one important tool available to managers, the declaration of marine protected areas, including their value protecting populations of threatened species," Assoc. Prof. Edgar said.

"The project will also look at cost-effective ways of monitoring the inshore marine environment through information provided by volunteer divers trained in scientific survey techniques."

"Ecological data provided by keen recreational divers can, in effect, allow researchers to remotely sense the marine environment at scales of time and space much larger than possible for scientific dive teams."

Mr Gamble will spend four months with the US National Renewable Energy Laboratory and will use the information gained to support the development of a renewable energy power system and research facility for the Bass Strait Islands.

"In recent years, Hydro Tasmania has undertaken several renewable energy developments on King Island with the aim to reduce dependence on diesel, reduce cost and greenhouse gas emissions," Mr Gamble said.

His Fulbright Scholarship will also create relationships to assist building the UTAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Power Systems.

The Fulbright Commission annually awards up to 25 Fulbright Scholarships for Australians to study in the United States.

For more information about the Fulbright Scholarships, visit www.fulbright.com.au

Law students argue their way to greatness

A team of UTAS Law students has recently ranked ninth in the Australian National Rounds of the Jessup International Law Mooting Competition.

Lucy Bastick, Caitlyn Dwyer, Zoe Lippis and Madeleine Summers represented UTAS at the competition in Canberra, which saw more than 500 teams from 90 different countries compete.

Lucy is currently completing her legal practice course after finishing fifth-year Law last year, while Zoe, Madeleine and Caitlyn are all in the final year of their Arts/Law degrees this year.

The team was required to prepare submissions on fictitious facts relating to controversial issues in international law, including sovereignty and international investment law.

"Our greatest thanks go to our highly committed, patient and enthusiastic coach, Mr Peter Lawrence, senior lecturer in the UTAS Faculty of Law. Without Peter’s dedication to our team we could not have secured such a successful result within this competition."

Zoe said participation in the Jessup Competition is also highly regarded amongst potential employers including legal firms, graduate programs and government departments.

Keeping in touch with alumni

UTAS alumni are interested in gaining more education from their former university, a recent survey has shown.

UTAS Alumni and Development Manager Melanie Roome said that 661 responses to a survey distributed in the December 2009 edition of Alumni News magazine had been received.

Analysis of the responses showed that alumni are interested in getting information on professional development, short courses and post-graduate opportunities.

“They suggested that they do not receive much information from their former faculties and therefore wish to continue receiving Alumni News, which we currently publish twice a year.”

The survey forms part of a UTAS initiative to revitalise the alumni and Governor of Tasmania, wants graduates to be proud of their connection with UTAS and to wish to remain connected.

As a tempter for alumni to answer the survey, a prize of an iPod touch was offered. This was won by teacher Wendy Bowen of Lindisfarne.

“They suggested that they do not receive much information from their former faculties and therefore wish to continue receiving Alumni News, which we currently publish twice a year.”

Alumni survey prize winner: Wendy Bowen of Lindisfarne received her prize from UTAS Director of Development and Alumni Communications Mark Bennett.

‘The team was required to prepare submissions on fictitious facts relating to controversial issues in international law, including sovereignty and international investment law.’
Organic food SOURCE opens for business

BY MICHELLE NICHOLS

A UTAS-based co-op is hoping fresh garlic grown in a community garden and sold on-site will be included in hundreds of pasta dishes, soups and stir-fries prepared across Hobart this autumn.

After five years from conception to construction, the SOURCE Wholefoods Cooperative is up and running, to give locals more opportunity to source and use organic wholefoods.

SOURCE Committee member Jenny Calder says it’s heartening to see the project come to fruition.

“It’s been a lot of work but it is worth it to see the range of options now available and the enthusiasm from locals who are keen to buy and learn more about wholefoods.”

The site was officially opened in mid-March and included a ceremonial planting of a lime tree in the community garden.

Situated behind the Tasmanian University Building in French Street, Sandy Bay, the shop offers a range of wholefoods, along with volunteers to explain what’s on offer and how to use it.

“There is never any shortage of volunteers and we actually had to cap the number at 40 because the response has been so positive.”

The shop sits next door to the community garden which along with the garlic is currently growing lettuce, broccoli, cabbage, silver beet, spinach, tomatoes and various herbs.

“The garden has been developed and run by volunteers,” Jenny says. “Down the track we hope to set up weekly after-work pottering sessions during daylight savings, and a monthly working bee.

“The philosophy is about getting together to socialise and learn while gardening. We are also planning to run tours of the garden to get more people cooking with wholefoods.”

The SOURCE is open four days a week from 11am Wednesday to Saturday.

Customers are encouraged to bring their own clean containers and bags for their shopping.

To join the volunteering after-work pottering sessions, or join the mailing list, send an email to source.wholefoods@gmail.com

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Law research provides right of way

BY MICHELLE GRIMA

Conflict between neighbours over easements could be reduced with the Resource Management and Planning Appeals Tribunal having the power to hear disputes, a Tasmanian Law Reform Institute report has recommended.

A change to dispute resolution procedures is one of 14 recommendations contained in the final report, Law of Easements in Tasmania, aimed at simplifying the law of easements in Tasmania, particularly rights of way.

TLRI Senior Lecturer Lynden Griggs said the report’s recommenda-

tions clarified the uncertainty over easements, while providing cheaper, easier and simpler processes to resolve disputes, particularly among neighbours.

Mr Griggs said the report, funded by a Law Foundation of Tasmanian grant, highlights that reform was necessary as access to justice was expensive and untimely.

“To address these concerns, the report recommends that the parties involved in disputes about the creation and use of easements, be directed to participate in alternate dispute resolution, specifically mediation, before commencing proceedings in the court system.”

Mr Griggs said.

“Where appropriate, the Tribunal can also adjust the property rights of parties and award compensation in cases where mediation is not effective.”

The final report was delivered following feedback from the public after the release of last year’s issue paper. Concerns were raised over costly legal battles, unresolved disputes, confusion about easement laws, and frustration over the lack of reform.

“Good neighbourly relations can be destroyed if the expectation of the dominant and servient owner in respect to easement use differs greatly,” Mr Griggs said.

“It is hoped that a clearer delineation of when and how an easement can be used will eliminate many of the disputes that currently occur.”

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A GROWING NUMBER of volunteers are currently out and about on the peninsula looking at ways to make the university more sustainable – and a call has gone out for more to join in.

Last year UTAS recruited more than 70 staff and students as volunteers with the aim to promote and provide feedback and ideas on sustainability actions to help improve UTAS’s environmental performance.

Thanks to the sustainability representatives, UTAS recently implemented an energy reduction campaign and will now set its sights on the development and roll-out of a waste reduction campaign.

“The size and complexity of the university mean that a whole-of-organisation approach from the bottom up is crucial to improving UTAS’s environmental performance,” said UTAS Sustainability Manager Kamal Singh.

“That’s where the role of sustainability reps comes in. We give each rep an update on what the university is doing on sustainability and encourage and support them to take sustainability actions within their building,” Kamal said.

“Universities across Australia have a significant role in developing practical solutions to the environmental issues of our time and through their practice can offer the wider community an integrated model of sustainability.”

UTAS’s commitment to sustainability in practice includes being one of 360 universities across the world to sign the Tullane Declaration. The declaration provides UTAS with a framework to reaffirm its environmental values by connecting operational and academic interests around a cost-effective sustainability objective.

In 2008 UTAS adopted the Sustainable Built Environment Design Policy, which mandates that all new building projects above $5 million must be designed to meet at least a 5-Star Green Start Rating and projects under $5 million designed in accordance with ESD principles.

A benchmark tool for the Australian Commercial Sector, a 5-Star Green Star Certified Rating, signifies Australian Excellence in terms of sustainability performance and design.

For more information on how to become a Sustainability Representative visit www.env.utas.edu.au/sustainability-rep.htm
Albatross youth stray into foreign waters

BY KATHY GRUBE

The issue of why almost half of all Albatross do not survive long enough to breed is being revealed by UTAS research which tracks the birds’ teenage escapades.

Shy Albatross (Thalassarch cauta), listed as vulnerable and breeding only on three islands off the coast of Tasmania, fly halfway around the world during the first four years of their lives before returning to their natal colony (birthplace) to breed.

The young birds, which are foraging much farther than their elders, are at more risk of being caught in hooks and the lines of fishing vessels operating in international waters.

Rachael Alderman is analysing satellite tracking of 48 fledglings as part of her UTAS-CSIRO joint PhD program in Quantitative Marine Science (QMS). The joint QMS program was established to help fill the international shortage of marine scientists with highly developed quantitative skills.

“While adult breeding-age albatross have a 90% survival rate from year to year, less than half of the fledglings will survive the three to four years at sea to return to their colony to breed,” Ms Alderman said.

This study provided evidence that the majority of juvenile mortality occurs soon after fledgling.

“Being able to successfully locate and catch food soon after leaving the nest is likely to be vital for the fledglings’ survival and this can be influenced by how quickly naive birds learn to forage, as well as the availability of prey such as small pelagic fish and squid,” Ms Alderman said.

Up to 16,000 pairs of Shy Albatross live on the three rocky islands off the coast of Tasmania – Albatross Island off the north-west coast of Tasmania and two remote islands off southern Tasmania, The Mewstone and Pedra Branca.

The research shows that fledglings from each of the three islands have unique foraging regions, placing some colonies more at risk than those that do not venture so far from Australia’s coastline.

Of the three populations, Albatross Island shows the most restricted foraging range and the highest survival rate, with juveniles from this population foraging mainly in Bass Strait and the nearby highly productive shelf waters off the coast of South Australia.

Birds from the two southern populations, Pedra Branca and The Mewstone, also forage in the waters off South Australia. However, they have further to travel to get to these productive waters and, as a result, they appear to have lower chances of surviving through the first few weeks post fledgling than do Albatross Island birds.

The juveniles from these two islands are also more likely to venture into international waters.

“One individual from the Mewstone was tracked flying west across the Indian Ocean to forage in waters off South Africa – travelling 10,000 km in less than one month,” Ms Alderman said.

“Band return information suggests this is relatively common behaviour.”

Ms Alderman said rates of seabird bycatch in South African waters are alarmingly high. Identifying new albatross foraging ranges will help educate international fishing vessels to introduce measures to reduce the risk of hooking albatross.

New 3-D teaching aid for science students

New 3-D rotational online technology is allowing Australian science students to see molecules in a whole new light.

The 3-D online teaching and CD resource for secondary biology and chemistry students has been developed by the UTAS School of Agricultural Science in collaboration with the Primary Industry Centre for Science Education (PICSE).

PICSE is a national program delivered in regional and metropolitan centres and universities throughout Australia to attract talented students to study science.

PICSE National Director David Russell said the new resource will provide classroom-ready activities to engage students and teachers.

“The focus is on Australian science and the development is a direct response to a demand from science teachers,” Associate Professor Russell said.

“The online resource uses a 3-D rotational technology program called the MoleculeVisualiser.

“Students simply enter the name of a molecule and hit submit. The program will bring up the molecule’s physical properties, its 2-D and 3-D image which is fully rotatable plus practical information on how this molecule is relevant and used in the primary industries sector.”

Up until now, the technology used in the MoleculeVisualiser has only been used by working research scientists and PhD students. The technology has now been transformed into a suitable format for secondary school students and teachers.

Assoc. Prof. Russell said the MoleculeVisualiser will allow students to make the links between fundamental science knowledge and vital industries, such as the poppy processing company Tas Alkaloids.

“The MoleculeVisualiser allows students to investigate derivative chemicals in poppies and their implications for human health, in cheese making; alkaloid chemicals in almonds; fermentation in beer; and pesticides used by the cotton sector,” he said.

For more information about the new online teaching resource visit www.picse.net

Enhancing health service provision in the Meander Valley community

UTAS research project aiming to enhance health service provision in the Meander Valley community is also giving insights into health needs in more remote communities.

The research project is supported by the UTAS Institutional Research Grant Scheme and collaboratively conducted by Dr Quynh Lê, Stuart Auckland and Andrew Harris of the University Department of Rural Health and health service providers in the Meander Valley municipality.

Chief investigator Dr Lê says local residents have been asked to complete a questionnaire that will help the researchers gain an understanding of the physical health and wellbeing of the Meander Valley population and investigate access issues for different localities and communities.

“Two workshops also have been conducted to engage communities in the data collection process and to review survey administration for future reference,” he said.

“The initial findings show that locality affects the quality of the health services provided.

“Residents in remote and socio-economically disadvantaged areas said they had less support in terms of services availability and accessibility.

“The findings offer valuable information for policymakers and health professionals in formulating strategies to improve rural health service provision.”

Dr Lê will present the research outcomes at the 5th All Together Better Health International Interprofessional Conference in Sydney in April.

The findings of this research will complement the outcomes of the Meander Valley Health and Wellbeing Survey conducted in 2006–2007, which supported a number of initiatives, such as the development of a fenced playground at the Deloraine Train Park, a tennis court at Hadspen, bike/walking trails at Hadspen and Hadspen Primary School, and a Meander Valley community safety and a number of new local services.

For more information contact Dr Lê on (03) 5324 4053 or by email: qle@utas.edu.au

News
Home-grown paramedic course

New paramedics: CEO of Ambulance Tasmania Dominic Morgan and Professor Judi Walker, UTAS
Deputy Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences, meet paramedic graduate Madeline Symons and Paramedic Practice student Angie Van Eik to talk about the new paramedic degree course at UTAS.

BY ANN HUNT

Tasmania’s ambulance service is set to reap the benefits of directly employing home-grown degree-qualified paramedics for the first time.

CEO of Ambulance Tasmania Dominic Morgan joined Professor Judi Walker, Deputy Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences at the University of Tasmania, recently to meet some of the first undergraduates to undertake the new Paramedic Practice degree course offered at UTAS.

Prof. Walker said the new Paramedic Practice degree had been developed in partnership with Ambulance Tasmania to best meet the state’s paramedic workforce and service needs.

“UTAS has a long history of collaboration with Tasmania’s ambulance service in tertiary education across the health sciences spectrum,” she said.

“However more recently, with the focus on tertiary rather than on-the-job training, we have developed more specifically targeted programs, including the Associate Degree in Paramedic Studies and now the full, fast-track Paramedic Practice course.”

Mr Morgan said the new degree program was a welcome extension to an already successful training partnership between Ambulance Tasmania and the university.

“Direct tertiary recruitment is the new way of paramedic employment for Tasmania, and this is a tremendous step forward in our ability to attract top-quality, degree-qualified Tasmanian recruits,” Mr Morgan said.

“These new employees will be mentored closely by our expert pre-hospital clinicians for a year following recruitment to ensure they have just the right balance of academic and practical knowledge.

“The new fast-track course means that for the first time the ambulance service and Tasmanians needing emergency medical care will benefit from the skills and expertise of local degree-qualified paramedics.”

Mr Morgan said that historically Tasmania had recruited and trained paramedics in a combined model of employment with on-the-job training and study at university.

Many had to leave the state entirely to undertake full-time university study which, until now, was not offered in Tasmania.

“It means that Tasmanians seeking to pursue this exciting and rewarding career won’t have to go ‘offshore’ to study.

“In two years’ time, subject to all the normal recruitment processes, we will have a group of Tasmanian tertiary-qualified staff who will then join a graduate program on-the-road.”

Prof. Walker said that Tasmania’s ambulance service was one of the most decentralised in the country and the new course recognised those special medical emergency response needs.

“It has a particular flavour that recognises the rural and regional nature of Tasmanian services while equipping graduates for employment as paramedics throughout Australia.”

B Y MICHELLE GRIMA

New research into the Devil Facial Tumour Disease (DFTD) has found that 20 per cent of north-west Tasmanian devils are genetically different and potentially resistant to the fatal contagious cancer.

The discovery by a team of researchers from the University of Sydney and the University of Tasmania will have major implications for future efforts to save the endangered devil which has suffered a 70 per cent decline since the first diagnosis in 1996.

Results from the collaboration have been published in the journal Proceedings of the Royal Society B and describe levels of diversity in key immune genes in Tasmanian devils.

University of Sydney lead author Associate Professor Kathy Belov said the identification of a small number of genetically different devils in the north-west population opened exciting new research opportunities.

“The majority of devils in Tasmania are immunological clones and therefore susceptible to DFTD. This study has identified a group of devils that are genetically different. We think these devils may be able to see the cancer cells as foreign and mount an immune response against them,” Assoc. Prof. Belov said.

“We think more animals might survive in the wild than we initially thought.”

DFTD is a transmissible cancer that affects only Tasmanian devils and is spread by biting. It is characterised by large facial tumours that often spread to internal organs. The disease has decimated populations on the east coast, where the disease was first detected, because of a lack of genetic diversity at key immune genes.

Assoc. Prof. Belov said with the identification of the small proportion of genetically special devils, there was now potential to breed resistant devils in captivity for release into the wild.

She said the long-term aim of the breeding program, however, should still be to maintain as much genetic diversity as possible for future generations and that the long-term goal was for both east and west Tasmanian devils to co-exist.

“This project has been funded by the Australian Research Council, the Save the Tasmanian Devil Program, an Eric Gaiser grant, the Veterinary Science Foundation and the Elizabeth Gahler Charitable Trust.

My PhD

Christopher Rayner

Education

Video help for autistic students

During my Bachelor of Teaching degree I developed an interest in the use of visuals for learning and teaching. I was also keen to explore effective ways of teaching individuals with developmental disabilities.

These two interests combined harmoniously to form the focus of my doctoral research, with the thesis currently titled Videomodelling for individuals with autism.

Specialised educational approaches are needed to help individuals with autism experience success at school, at home and in the community. Strengths in visual processing skills are often possessed by individuals with autism who are harnessed by video modelling, which is seen as a modern extension of observational learning theory.

Video modelling involves showing the student video footage of a particular skill or behaviour, and then providing them with the opportunity to perform it themselves.

While a number of studies have demonstrated the effectiveness of video modelling for individuals with autism, there are several important questions about its use for this population that have not yet been addressed by the research literature.

This research aims to help answer two main questions: What is the relationship between imitation ability and the effectiveness of video modelling? And which type of model is the most effective – an adult, a peer, the participant themselves or an animated model?

Answers to these questions will help predict who is likely to benefit from video modelling and for what behaviours, as well as inform how this intervention approach can be optimised.

The research utilises single-subject research designs, with video modelling as the independent variable and measures of success in the target behaviour (determined by parents and teachers) being the dependent variable.

One successful case study has been conducted, teaching a participant daily living skills at school, and there is still room for participants in subsequent studies. Parents and educators should feel to contact me for more information – email Christopher.Rayner@utas.edu.au
Women entrepreneurs in North-West Tasmania have strongly supported a UTAS project aimed at helping them get their produce to market.

The Make it to Market project provided free learning opportunities in all aspects of bringing a product to market, and running a market stall or small business. Information was provided on labelling, packaging, presentation, small business development and grass roots marketing.

Two hundred and thirty participants attended the project activities including the launch, tours, workshops and field trips.

The Make it to Market project was led by the Institute for Regional Development at the UTAS Cradle Coast campus in partnership with the local farmers’ markets in Burnie, Wynyard and Devonport.

Project Officer Di Hollister says the project created a strong relationship with local farmers’ markets, confirmed the existence of successful agri-food value-adding in the region, identified areas of need, and began to build a network of rural women interested in growing their agri-food-related business skills.

“There were some people who just wanted to make some money out of their backyard veggie patch or home-baked cakes, whereas others were on the verge of developing small-scale enterprises that are likely to become lucrative and sustainable small businesses,” she said.

“The project provided an opportunity for women who were currently, or may be considering, selling at one of the region’s farmers’ markets to tap into a network of resources to help build their market and develop their product.”

The Make it to Market project was funded by the Australian Government Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry, under the Australian Farming Future program.

An application has been submitted to undertake a stage two of this project, which proposes to build on the outcomes of stage one and offer rural women the opportunity to explore other market opportunities beyond farmers’ markets.

‘The project provided an opportunity for women who were currently, or may be considering, selling at one of the region’s farmers’ markets to tap into a network of resources to help build their market and develop their product.’

– Project Officer Di Hollister

(Above) Illustrations from the Make it to Market project report.
His Royal Highness Prince William of Wales visited the CSIRO aboard the Marine National Facility Southern Surveyor in Sydney on his recent Australian tour.

CSIRO scientist Dr Steve Rintoul provided Prince William with a five-minute overview of the CSIRO’s climate and ocean research, which relies heavily on observations made using high-tech robotic vehicles from the Australian Integrated Marine Observing System, which is based at UTAS.

Prince William also checked out some IMOS technology, including an argo float, an ocean glider and an autonomous underwater vehicle.

Dr Rintoul highlighted how they play a vital role in understanding climate change, associated sea-level rise and ocean acidification.

During his ship visit Prince William was also able to view samples of marine life such as coral, deep-sea fish and sea stars from the Australian Museum and the CSIRO.

The work

Ordinary houses’ secret spaces

BY CHERIE COOPER

In Magdalena Bors’ meticulously constructed photographs, magical lands grow in ordinary households.

In her work Cavern, hundreds of buttons have been spilled at the feet of a sewing woman, forming the mouth of a cave from which a light glows.

The woman’s face is out of the frame, her indifference to the mystical world opening at her feet.

The artist herself said the series of photographs, of which Cavern is a part, are informed by childhood memories of imagining magical worlds.

“I find it interesting that this childhood memory of imagining hidden worlds inside our homes seems to be part of a common psyche,” she said.

In the case of Cavern, Bors said the landscape in the image provides a means of escape from the mundane task (sewing) the woman depicted is performing.

“I like to leave some ambiguity about whether the woman has literally stitched together thousands of buttons to construct her fantasy, or whether this is just a fleeting moment of imagined sublimity we are invited to share,” she said.

“Around the time I began this series, I was photographing a lot of traditional landscapes.

“Rather than looking at other landscape photography for inspiration, I was drawn to other art forms, in particular to the work of German Romantic painter C.D. Friedrich,” she said.

“The idea to make my own landscapes was born out of a deep longing to be in the kinds of landscapes depicted in his work, and frustration of not being able to,” she said.

Bors is currently working on a new series (funded by the Australia Council) that will be initially exhibited at Gippsland Art Gallery in Victoria next year.

Magdalena Bors (b. 1976) is a photographic artist who was born in Antwerp. In 2006 she completed a Bachelor of Arts, majoring in photography at RMIT University, Melbourne. She has since been awarded a variety of art prizes and grants, including a New Work Emerging Grant from the Australia Council for the Arts for 2009. She has exhibited internationally.

A fantasy world at her feet: Magdalena Bors’ Cavern, 2007.

GOLD Book for dementia carers

At the GOLD book launch: Professor Andrew Robinson, Dr Carter, Dr Christine Stirling of the Wicking Research and Education Centre and Susie Reid, Service Manager of the Northern Aged Care Assessment Team.

Menzies’ Wicking Dementia Research and Education Centre is calling for Launceston volunteers for the next phase of a research project, after launching a new aid for carers of people with dementia.

The GOLD (Guiding Option for Life with Dementia) Book has been developed to help carers of people with dementia negotiate the complex Tasmanian community service sector.

Research Fellow Dr Christine Stirling from the Wicking Centre said The GOLD Book will greatly assist carers of people with dementia with difficult decisions such as choosing to use respite services.

“It will help carers to think through decisions about the help they need in a step-by-step manner,” she said.

“With dementia rates in Tasmania predicted to significantly soar over the next few years, this book will be an invaluable tool.”

The Wicking Centre and a team of researchers collaborated with service providers and carers of people with dementia to create the book. Collaborations include Alzheimers Australia (Launceston), Family Based Care (Launceston), Commonwealth Carelink Respite, the Department of Health and Human Services’ Launceston Community Dementia Team and Calvary Health Care.

“We were thrilled with the enthusiastic response from the carers involved in our project to date and we are now keen to prove this tool’s efficacy across the broader community through the next trial phase,” Dr Stirling said.

Carers from the Launceston community interested in participating in the next trial phase should contact Kay Thompson, the Wicking Centre on (03) 6226 6107 or 6324 6107.

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