Delivering more than ever

Providing mail room solutions for the University of Tasmania.
As we reach the crest of the year, we find ourselves in challenging education waters.

But UTAS has never been one to shy from a challenge. And we head into this uncharted territory with two new captains at the State and Federal education helms.

Distinctiveness in the Education sector has become a federal catchcry, and in this regard we at UTAS are following a similar agenda to our new Federal minister, the Hon Julie Bishop. We continue to hone in on our strengths and the distinguishing features that make this university unique.

At the State level, the Hon David Bartlett, was re-elected and elevated into the cabinet as the state’s new education champion. David is ‘one of our own’ – he majored in science at UTAS – and it seems fitting to have one of our graduates take on Education in Tasmania. He has been a constant friend and supporter of the University, and we look forward to taking the State Government Partnership to new levels with him.

Research is reshaping the priorities of the entire tertiary education sector. At UTAS, we are well-placed to respond to the confronting research environment that is just round the corner. We are among the top ten research universities in Australia, and have had our research favourably examined by national and international experts.

Our leading separation scientist, Professor Paul Haddad, has just been awarded the highest research accolade in the country – a Federation Fellowship. This is a richly deserved acknowledgement of Paul’s long history of world-class research.

Professor Andrew Glenn, our Pro Vice-Chancellor for Research, has fostered this atmosphere of research excellence, and it is with reluctance that we will farewell him when he retires later this year.

We are also charting our way through a new period of academic planning. Informed by consultation with the wider University community, this is a process of dialogue that will consolidate our priorities. We will continue to refine the direction in which we are headed and streamline the opportunities we offer.

The dialogue we have with the wider community of course includes YOU, our Alumni. We turn to you not only for financial support in our Annual Appeal, but also for your valued support as our champions and advocates. Many of our new ventures spring from the relationship we have with past graduates. So keep in touch. You are an important part of the UTAS family, and your support is warmly appreciated.

And spread the word that UTAS – your institution – is going places.

Warm regards,
Daryl Le Grew

Alumni News is the regular magazine for graduates of the University of Tasmania. It is prepared in the Public Relations and University Extension Unit (PRUE).

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Cover photo: Aerial photo of Arthur’s Lake - Stewart Wells

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As the Foundation continues to support excellence, and you, our Alumni, continue to support the Foundation, we are both celebrating your past and endowing the future.

SUPPORT THE 2006 ANNUAL APPEAL

The Annual Appeal is a vital part of UTAS’ fundraising activities. It enables our Alumni to offer support in an immediate and effective way.

Graduates often express a desire for the opportunity to give something back to their alma mater and to assist in areas where the need is greatest. Many appreciate the fact that they can do this simply, through the Annual Appeal.

Two key areas are supported through the 2006 Annual Appeal; the Annual Appeal Scholarship and the Development Fund.

THE ANNUAL APPEAL SCHOLARSHIP

You can make a direct and positive contribution to a deserving new student at UTAS by donating to the 2006 Annual Appeal. Each Alumni Annual Appeal Scholar receives $3000 annually for four years to assist with their study costs. The Annual Appeal fund currently distributes $12,000 each year in scholarships.

Every dollar you give secures and grows this scholarship fund, helping to guarantee the ongoing support of students in any course. Your contribution is an immediate and valuable investment in young people.

THE DEVELOPMENT FUND

The UTAS Development Fund provides a flexible mechanism for the Foundation to give support to the University in areas where it is most needed.

One example is the Conservatorium of Music’s Southern Gospel Choir, who approached the Foundation for an assisting loan to complete production of its recent debut CD *Great Day*. The choir holds a special place in the musical life of Tasmanians, performing to packed houses and critical acclaim as one of the most requested ensembles on ABC radio.

With assistance from the Development Fund the choir finished their CD, which went on to be nominated for the Best World Music Album in the 2005 Aria Awards.
The Foundation has experienced exceptional success in building the Tasmania Scholarships program. It now awards 430 donor-sponsored scholarships a year, making this one of the most successful programs of this kind in the nation.

MORE FOR YOUR MONEY
UTAS fully funds the administrative operations of the University Foundation. This means that every dollar you give is allocated entirely to the program you nominate.

ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION
The University of Tasmania Foundation is the major fundraising arm of the University. It plays an integral role in developing scholarships, bursaries, research and research facilities. The Foundation also accepts contributions to the cultural and intellectual capital of the University through gifts of artworks, books and artifacts.

Our success is achieved through the generosity of donors and sponsors whose support is building a momentum that will allow UTAS to thrive. This commitment is a visionary investment in UTAS and Tasmania’s future.

The Foundation has experienced exceptional success in building the Tasmania Scholarships program. It now awards 430 donor-sponsored scholarships a year, making this one of the most successful programs of this kind in the nation.

The Foundation has Australian Taxation Office endorsement as an income tax exempt charity and a deductible gift recipient. All donations and gifts to the Foundation are applied in full to the purposes for which they are given.

The Foundation continues to expand its activities, building support in other areas including research and providing critical support to the work of UTAS, including managing bequests and raising research capital for the Tasmanian Devil Facial Tumour Disease Appeal.

2006 will also see the launch of the University of Tasmania Foundation USA; creating stronger links with UTAS graduates, friends and business contacts in the United States and supporting the University’s mission of reaching outward to the world.

The University recognises the ongoing generosity of Alumni contributors to the University Annual Appeal and thanks all donors from 2005.

Thank you to our previous Annual Appeal donors

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Darlene Sheehan

Darlene Sheehan, the first Alumni Annual Appeal Scholar, graduated from UTAS with a Social Work degree in December 2005.

DID THIS SCHOLARSHIP REALLY MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

“I would not have been able to go to university without my scholarship. It was so amazing. I feel very grateful. I was able to focus on my studies and do well without stressing about the financial pressures.

“I would like to take this opportunity to thank every single person who contributes to the Alumni Annual Appeal Scholarship. Your support was unbelievable as I would not have been able to complete my degree without it!

“Now, I'm doing what I always wanted to do: working with children and young people. How wonderful it was to have the support of the UTAS Alumni so I could fulfil my dreams. I hope my hard work and my contribution to the community now in a sense ‘pays back’ some of that generosity shown to me.”

WHAT DOES THE ALUMNI SUPPORT MEAN TO YOU?

“Some people just don’t have the ability to fund their way but they have such a passion for their given area. It is about giving people opportunities to learn, gain knowledge and then contribute to the betterment of society. I think that in itself is one of the greatest gifts you can give somebody, as it keeps giving over and over.”

WAS YOUR GRADUATION DAY SPECIAL?

“I graduated in Launceston. My graduation was extra special because my foster mother graduated in Education on the same day! She had been doing her degree via distance education for the last six years. My husband, his parents, my foster parents and my brother were there to see me.”

Elinor Hortle

Your 2006 Alumni Annual Appeal Scholar

Elinor Hortle is the 2006 Alumni Annual Appeal Scholar. Taking some time out from writing an essay on the Australian Constitution, Elinor says, “The real value of my scholarship is the enormous difference it made to the opportunities I could pursue.”

Receiving the Alumni Annual Appeal scholarship has let Elinor come straight to UTAS without having to work for a year to raise money to study. This means she can continue study in Indonesian, without a large break impacting on her fluency.

“I would have had to start the language all over again” she says, and offers big thanks to everyone who has supported the Annual Appeal Fund.

Elinor says the move from Preservation Bay, near Penguin in Tasmania’s north-west to Hobart was HUGE in terms of finance and emotion. But she is nonetheless finding university life exciting and fun. One of those lucky people whose abilities straddle both science and humanities, Elinor is enrolled in a combined Arts and Science degree and loves all her subjects.

She’s also the lead singer in indie rock band Nassology and composes music for the award-winning band. With half of Nassology still in Burnie Elinor straddles the State, heading home for holidays and music making.
The University of Tasmania's Rural Clinical School (RCS) was officially opened by the Minister for Health and Ageing, the Hon Tony Abbott, in February of this year.

The opening provided the Cradle Coast region of Tasmania with an opportunity to celebrate another milestone in the development of medical education in the State.

The Vice-Chancellor was represented at the opening by Professor Gail Hart, Pro Vice-Chancellor for Learning and Teaching and Professor Allan Carmichael, Dean of the Faculty of Health Science. Professor Hart joined the celebrations by way of a video-conference link from the Hobart campus.

The opening of the building marked the progression of the School from its establishment and developmental phase into its consolidation phase. Guests were invited to walk through the building, located between the North West Private Hospital and the North West Regional Hospital, and to join the Minister in a celebratory toast to the RCS, while admiring the magnificent view over Bass Strait to Table Cape in the distance.

Professor Allan Carmichael said the opening was a tremendous occasion for the University and the region.

“This marks that point where the School progresses from its establishment and developmental phase into its consolidation phase.”

The RCS is set to increase the number of medical students in the region from the current 22 to a total of over 50 by 2010, and will also continue to build its large team of teaching clinicians. Medical students living in the region full-time are undertaking their studies at various health agencies, including general practices and hospitals, from Sheffield through to King Island as well as on the West Coast.

UTAS medical students can now undertake the final years of their training at either of the Hobart Clinical School, Launceston Clinical School or Rural Clinical School, and research indicates that those who choose a rural setting for some of their training are more likely to return to such a setting as fully qualified professionals. Feedback from RCS students indicates they find regional communities to be very friendly environments for living and learning, with a great deal of practical experience on offer and high quality one-on-one clinical supervision.

Professor Judi Walker, Chief Executive of the Rural Clinical School, said,

“As a potential working location for health professionals, the Cradle Coast region has shown that it can provide a quality working environment, substantial and ongoing support in education and professional development, and opportunities for important research projects.

“Our work in the delivery of the undergraduate program of the MBBS is an important building block in attracting and retaining health professionals in the Cradle Coast region.

“This, along with our work in rural health, medical research and postgraduate medical education, ensures that the Rural Clinical School will be a leader in the federation of Rural Clinical Schools located across Australia.”

UTAS has opened a new Rural Clinical School in the north-west.

“This marks that point where the School progresses from its establishment and developmental phase into its consolidation phase.”
The Minister for Education, Science and Training the Hon Julie Bishop MP recently awarded Australian Research Council Fellowships to 25 world-class researchers. The University of Tasmania’s Professor Paul Haddad was named one of the prestigious Federation Fellows.

JOLLY GOOD FELLOWSHIP

Professor Haddad is the Research Leader of the UTAS node of the Australian Centre for Research on Separation Science, founder of the Australian Research Network for Analytical Science and Deputy Head of the School of Chemistry.

Through his research program, Professor Haddad will aim to generate fundamental advances in separation science. Separation science involves the study of fundamental processes and materials for the separation and subsequent measurement of specific molecules, usually when these are present in very complex mixtures.

This technology will have wide applications, including developing new methods of detecting explosives and identifying types of explosives – technology which has relevance for counter-terrorism, medical sciences, forensics, energy generation, monitoring the environment, and quality control in the food industry.

“This $41.5 million investment over five years will enable Australia to maintain and build its international reputation as a leading research nation,” the Hon Julie Bishop said.

The ARC’s Federation Fellowships are highly prestigious awards designed to develop and retain Australian skills; assist with the development of stronger links between researchers, industry and the international research community; and provide opportunities for outstanding Australian researchers to return to, or remain in, key positions in Australia.
At the December graduation ceremonies an honorary doctorate was conferred upon the Governor of Tasmania, His Excellency the Hon Mr William Cox. The following is taken from his citation, which was read by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Daryl Le Grew.

HONOURING IMPACT

His Excellency the Hon Mr WJE Cox, AC, RFD, ED, BA, LLB, HonLLD

“Our society is anchored on the contribution of men and women who work quietly, honourably, and with energy, courage, dignity and conviction for the good of their fellow human beings. Without their contribution we lack the cohesion that makes us a true community and would be without the benchmarks that provide the criteria for our actions and interpersonal relations.

“His Excellency the Honourable William Cox, is one such person. He has had a significant impact on the Tasmanian community as a lawyer, judicial officer, private citizen, and most recently as Governor of Tasmania in which role he restored to that office, tactfully and with quiet application, the dignity and community leadership that should be its hallmarks.

“Through senior public appointments as Crown Advocate, Magistrate, Justice and Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Tasmania, His Excellency has made distinguished contributions to the administration of justice. In addition, as a Justice and Chief Justice he delivered many leading and highly regarded judgments, particularly in Criminal Law. He was respected as a Judge, both within the State and nationally.

“His Excellency, during his judicial career, was recognised for his fine legal knowledge, impeccable fairness and courteous manner in court. As Chief Justice, he spoke with dignity and humanity in the sentencing of Martin Bryant for the Port Arthur killings. This appalling incident left deep scars on the Tasmanian community that were healed in a small way by the compassionate sense of justice demonstrated throughout the trial process.

“The University particularly valued his contribution to the Faculty of Law from the mid 1980s for a period of over ten years during which time the Faculty underwent major changes in its curriculum, staff, number of undergraduate and postgraduate students, and administrative structures. As a long standing Chair and member of the Board of Legal Education, His Excellency ensured that the overall legal education in this State was held in high regard by the admitting authorities of the other States and Territories.

“At a personal level, His Excellency has long been actively involved in organisations based in the community where his leadership and example have been deeply appreciated and have provided inspiration for many people – both young and old.

“He enlisted in the Active Citizen Military Forces in 1954, rising to the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel in 1973 and to the post of Commanding Officer, 6 Field Regiment RAA in 1975. While holding this post he was recognised as an extremely effective Regimental Commander of a dispersed regiment. Subsequent to retiring from the ACMF in 1986 he continued to make a very significant contribution to the Defence Force as Deputy President of the Defence Force Appeals Tribunal from 1988 to 1995.

“His Excellency has also held State and national office in The Winston Churchill Memorial Trust and has been active in the Order of St John being made a Knight of Grace in that Order in 2002.

“The University recognises the abiding impact that His Excellency has had on the State and people of Tasmania and the esteem and regard in which he is held, and is pleased to honour his contribution by the award of the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws.”
Dr Robert Banks BAgSci (Hons), PhD (UNE)

Animal geneticist Dr Robert Banks has spent his brilliant career making Australian agriculture thrive.

Now one of the world’s most successful genetic scientists working in agriculture, Dr Banks has spent the last two decades researching, developing, commercialising and achieving widespread industry adoption of one of the world’s most highly regarded genetic analysis services.

LAMBPLAN changed the face of the industry. This innovative software tracks the genetic, physical traits of young rams and ewes from breeders and produces highly accurate predictions of their young. Over the past decade, since LAMBPLAN was launched, lamb has ranked second only to wine as an Australian agricultural success story. It is now a $2 billion market, with 100,000 tonnes exported annually, including new marketplaces in the previously inaccessible US and throughout Europe – much of which is thanks to Dr Banks’ expertise, innovation and hard work.

Dr Banks’ achievements have generated fundamental changes to the livestock industry by a combination of focused, practical but innovative science and extensive networking and communication. Often battling against the resistance of an industry steeped in tradition, Dr Banks has made an outstanding contribution to one of our nation’s most important commodities. At both national and international industry levels he is widely recognised for his competent, determined and inspirational leadership for breeders and producers.

Robert Banks completed his Bachelor’s degree in Agricultural Science at the University of Tasmania, graduating with first-class honours. His honours studies involved developing a simulation model of Tasmanian sheep enterprises, which was then used to evaluate management decisions. His PhD (at UNE) took this idea of refining industry processes further, and linked evolutionary, population, and animal breeding genetics utilising all the important theoretical and practical concepts across the discipline of genetics.

After university, as Program Leader (Breeding Programs) for the Tasmanian Department of Agriculture, his research covered a range of species. He developed, for commercial use, innovative software for on-farm and central management and performance recording, as well as innovative indexing software for the dairy industry.
As the National Coordinator for the Meat Research Corporation’s LAMBPLAN, Dr Banks not only supervised the extension, research and technical development of his system, but also the personnel training, and project planning and management that would enable its national commercialisation. Farmers and breeders all over Australia are now using his techniques to conquer the world market.

In 2005 Dr Banks was awarded the celebrated Clunies-Ross Award, which recognises excellence in the application of science and technology. The award is the highest form of recognition for those working in a scientific field, and is designed to make known those people who have, often against difficulties and always with persistent commitment, made important contributions to science in its application for the economic, social or environmental benefit of Australia.

He is now Manager of the MLA On-Farm R&D portfolio for southern Australia, taking in beef and sheep productivity, environment, animal health and welfare, strategic science, supply chain efficiency, and communications and adoption. This large-scale collaborative portfolio involves some $20 million of research funding annually.

Continuing to inspire and be involved with the next generation of agricultural scientists at UTAS, Dr Robert Banks is a graduate who has changed – and continues to change – our world.

**Dr Roger Chung, BSc(Hons), PhD**

The name Dr Roger Chung has become synonymous with Tasmanian neuroscience – with breakthrough, innovation and collaboration.

At the age of just 28 – less than two years after finishing his PhD – Dr Chung has been published in 12 international journals, won three major fellowships and attracted more than half a million dollars worth of research funding.

Dr Chung’s research in the NeuroRepair Group at the University of Tasmania has found new ways for the brain to heal itself after an injury, or after neurodegenerative diseases like motor neurone disease take hold. In particular, he is investigating how astrocytes, a supportive cell within the brain, respond to brain injury and the role that these cells play in neural recovery.

Thanks to his research, one day a damaged spine might be treatable instead of terrifying.

Dr Chung’s first position at the University of Tasmania was as a postdoctoral research fellow in the NeuroRepair Group, part of the School of Medicine. In 2004 he was awarded the prestigious Bill Gole Fellowship from the Motor Neurone Disease Research Institute of Australia.

He also received an ARC Postdoctoral Fellowship and is now the University’s inaugural Peter Doherty Research Fellow; a grant awarded by the National Health and Medical Research Council.

In addition, Dr Chung is a named inventor on an international patent which arose from his PhD studies in the NeuroRepair Group. This has formed the basis for a productive commercial collaboration outside Tasmania, and will soon form the nucleus for a biotechnology-related company.

Deliberately bucking the trend of young UTAS medical graduates leaving the State, Dr Chung has made a conscious decision to stay in Tasmania.
KEYED UP

Silicone Valley: a collaborative sculptural installation at a Hobart High School has got fingers tapping.

Sculpture that deals with a massive number of pieces is difficult to do well. It is easy to gain a reaction, but if the viewer’s time is simply spent wondering about the labour, then there’s no body beyond the headline.

By Judith Abell. Photography by Ray Joyce

This article was originally published in Artichoke magazine (Issue 14). Published by Architecture Media www.archmedia.com.au Reprinted with permission.

I’m going to assume that you’ve used a computer keyboard today. I don’t mean to unnerve you, but in doing so, you’ve undoubtedly left some residue on the concave keys – tiny flakes of DNA, evidence of a communications interaction. There is something equally creepy and affirming about this. Despite the impersonal nature of the ubiquitous keyboard, it is a gathering device for touch and connection – a record of routine data entry, a search for an answer or a heartfelt email of love.

At Rose Bay High School on Hobart’s eastern shore, John Vella, lecturer and Acting Head of Sculpture at the UTAS School of Art, has transformed the residue of many thousands of touches into a sculptural installation that coats either side of an existing stairwell with a blanket of computer keys embedded in silicone. Entitled Silicone Valley, the sculpture was commissioned under the Art for Public Buildings Scheme. Vella conceived of the work as an expression of the continual intersection of information that happens globally, within the school and in spaces like the selected stairwell. As repositories of information exchange, the keys are a perfect medium.

From the beginning Vella’s proposal was controversial. The process for selecting commissions for public projects like schools can result in art that is heavy and unbreakable – the assumption being that the students will wreck anything less. Vella’s work breaks this mould – it isn’t a traditionally hung work, it isn’t a mural and it isn’t a piece of outdoor furniture. In fact the question was raised about whether it was art at all. Not surprisingly, there were concerns about the likelihood of its destruction by bored fingers, so while John solved the practical concerns, the “is it art?” debate, thankfully, was handed over to the students, who voted that it was “sick”. Work began.

Sculpture that deals with a massive number of pieces is difficult to do well. It is easy to gain a reaction, but if the viewer’s time is simply spent wondering about the labour, then there’s no body beyond the headline.
spent wondering about the labour, then there’s no body beyond the headline. *Silicone Valley*’s 300,000 computer keys create a desire to stop and study. There is a compulsion to touch. The instinct to find pattern is activated. Continually scanning the work, I began to identify subtle colour differences or similarities and to map the indentations against raised areas. I can imagine seeing more in the work over a period of time. One of my favourite aspects is the way in which the blanket of keys wraps tightly around the existing architectural features to enhance the sense that it is part of the building, rendering these handrails, exit signs and cornices as landmarks rising above the surface. Subtle shifts in the keys indicate the way Vella has choreographed the making to build these relationships.

Spatially, the strength of *Silicone Valley* is the way it captures the light. Like an abstract timekeeper, over a million “faces” reflect the changing atmosphere throughout the day. This is a quality that Vella returns to throughout our conversation. He had expected light to animate the work, but was surprised by the intensity of the effect in the final installation. In an interesting twist on the requirement for longevity, light will create permanent changes as the variously aged plastics intensify rather than fade over time.

In concert with the idea of gathering touch, *Silicone Valley* is the result of a successful collaboration. Success in this context is about a strong idea carried through to completion by a large group of contributors. Acting as a kind of artistic director, Vella guided the process. This involved two generous sponsors, 50 Rose Bay High School students (who flicked the keys off the keyboards), six UTAS Tasmanian School of Art students, [Troy John Emery, Joybelle Frasson, Alicia King, Fiona Lee, Georgie Lee and Lucia Usmiani] (with whom Vella did the sticking of the keys) and a builder who ensured a seamless installation on site. To mark this process, a letter of thanks was keyed into one of the panels, naming each person involved.

Through the eleven month process Vella has become a part of the furniture at the school. As we stood in the stairwell our conversation was regularly punctuated by passing “hellos” and “well dones” and “it’s looking good”. The work continues to gather material as students are not discouraged from touching the surface. Some keys have strayed, but the structured chaos hides irregularities and repairs make the work stronger.

*Silicone Valley* is successful on many fronts. It is a sensuous, spatially dynamic piece of public sculpture that is widely accepted and has the potential for longevity. Vella must be congratulated for working hard to secure the resources and additional sponsorship required to retain the strength, scale and integrity of his original idea. Continuing to collect the touch of passing students, the work also seems to have been embedded with the spirit of collaboration and generosity that allowed for its making.
In 1999, Stewart Wells was offered a “sea-change,” in the form of a redundancy package from Hobart Ports.

Then 35, Wells had been working in Human Resources and as a deckhand, but he was bored. For two years, he’d been trying to work out how he could afford to go to university, to study photography and graphic design.

“I had two young children, a wife and a mortgage,” says Wells. “It was a big risk to throw in a job and go to university – there was a lot to lose.”

Being made redundant forced his hand, and Wells enrolled full-time in a three-year Fine Arts degree at the University of Tasmania.

Within eight years, the 43-year-old had completed two degrees: a Bachelor of Fine Arts, and a Masters of Art Design and Environment; and established a successful aerial photography, photography tours and graphic design business in Hobart.

He was awarded the prestigious $5000 Claudio Alcorso Foundation Environment Prize in 2005, for his Masters project – an aerial photographic essay of the impact of humanity on the Tasmanian landscape.

“Photography was always a passion. I had been photographing the wilderness for 20 years but I never thought it would make money,” he says.

However, becoming a student and going to art school was challenging, says Wells.

Wells’ family had to survive on Austudy for three years, while he completed his undergraduate degree, and he had to adjust his photography style in response to criticism from his peers and lecturers.

“I came in [to art school] with a portfolio of images which I felt worked and they said, ‘Explain them’ and I couldn’t. You have to go to art school with more than just a bunch of nice images.

“I found that was a big hurdle. I wanted to take images that worked for me, but they weren’t working for anyone else. I had to change my style; I had to do more than just take images, I had to create a story line. For the first two years, I was learning how to justify what I was doing.”

The three-year experience also opened Wells’ eyes to a strange new world.

“I consider myself a fairly conservative person, and art school was on the extreme side – it was out there. The whole school was a little bit left of centre. It was great fun.”

By Penny McLeod
Photography by Stewart Wells

“The VIEW FROM ABOVE

“Photography was always a passion. I had been photographing the wilderness for 20 years but I never thought it would make money.”
Wells says he went to art school to justify his talent, and he came out with better photography and design skills, a degree, and a three-year life experience.

His work was at exhibition-level and he was able to apply for grants and compete for awards and jobs; the first of which came shortly after he finished university.

While he says this first job – a six-month contract producing high altitude topographical maps of places around Australia – wasn’t thrilling, it did inspire his Masters project and the future course of his work: aerial photography.

For his Masters, Wells documented the effects of man on the Tasmanian landscape in a portfolio of more than 8000 (reduced to 80 for his final project) aerial images.

In his images of mine sites, remote beaches and wilderness areas, the evidence of man is often subtle but clear. Sometimes it’s in the shape of a walking track winding through the landscape; other times, it’s a patchwork of clearfells.

“My work shows that we have been everywhere,” says Wells. “It was a means to document, in an artistic form, something that can tell a story.”

Wells says his work isn’t political, and he doesn’t identify with the Greens movement. However, he clearly has a social and environmental conscience. Wells says he’d never work for some Tasmanian businesses, for environmental reasons.

“My work shows that we have been everywhere,” says Wells.

“It was a means to document, in an artistic form, something that can tell a story.”

“Not being involved in the [human] impact on the environment is something that’s important to me. There’s certainly some places I won’t go to now, like Lake Rohna. It’s a magnificent spot, but each time you come out, you’ve left a little bit of you.

“With aerial photography, my impact is non-existent.”

In addition to his photography business, Wells works part-time at the Menzies Research Institute, as a finance project officer, to supplement his income.

His plan, though, is to grow Stewart Wells Photography into a full-time enterprise. At present, his clients include local businesses, such as real estate agents, and the Tasmanian Department of Education.

He also offers wilderness photographic tours to places like the south-west Forests, graphic design services and corporate photography.

Although he tries to charter a plane once a week to take photographs, there are still places in Tasmania he hasn’t photographed, such as Flinders and King Island.

“Each time you go up [in the air], the awe factor is never lost. There’s always something new… If you have a passion, there’s no point spending the next 20 years doing something you don’t enjoy,” he says.
“Having fun has really been one of the main things in my life...I never felt destined that I was going to do anything. I never planned anything. I just took opportunities.”

By Penny McLeod

Helene Chung Martin’s joie de vivre is palpable. Not even her polished broadcaster’s vowels can suppress her delight at the life she’s lived so far.

Born in 1945 in Hobart, Martin was the first non-white reporter on ABC TV, the first woman posted overseas (to Beijing) by the ABC, and the first journalist to scoop a radio interview with Princess Anne.

“Having fun has really been one of the main things in my life,” she says over the phone from her home in Melbourne. “I never felt destined that I was going to do anything. I never planned anything. I just took opportunities.”

University was one such opportunity – to have a fun life experience, and join the Old Nick theatre group at the University of Tasmania as an actor and producer.

“I wanted to join the Old Nick because the principal of my Catholic school [St Mary’s] had warned us against it,” Martin says.

“It lived up to my expectations. I spent more time at the Old Nick than on my studies. It was the group that had the most fun; it was considered a bit outrageous.”

Although she says study came second, Martin was offered a scholarship to complete a Masters degree, and she graduated with honours and a Master of Arts in history.

She tried to find humour in everything she did. Her honours thesis was on Oscar Wilde, whose wit she loved, and she tried to use the satirical magazine, *Punch* as the central text of her Masters thesis – “Punch and Judaism”.

Unable to find enough material in *Punch* to sustain a Masters thesis, Martin was forced to settle on a topic (Parliament, Press and Prejudice: a Jewish Question in Britain, 1890-1905) that would ultimately lead her to the ABC.

“I had to go through all these dusty tomes of Hansard,” says Martin. “Doing that really put me off an academic career but that’s how I got into the ABC.

“Whilst I was doing it [researching Hansard], I thought life has got to be more interesting than this, and I saw an advertisement for a job at the ABC.”
Martin applied for the job, but was knocked back. It was the first of many rejections by the ABC, but each setback was followed by unexpected opportunities.

On the back of this first rejection letter, Martin’s stepfather, Egyptologist Lesley Greener, helped her into the ABC through a side-door – “I have not once waltzed through Aunty’s front door” – by phoning a contact: the ABC’s station manager.

Martin made the most of the lucky break. Her first interview, with a Hobart butcher who claimed to have seen a Tasmanian tiger, was broadcast on the ABC radio program AM.

She continued to freelance for the ABC while she completed her Masters degree, until her first full-time job with Radio Australia in 1970. Another opportunity arose at the end of the year, this time to travel. Then 25, Martin bought a pacesetter air fare (available to Australians 25 and under) to London.

“It was my last opportunity,” she says.

During the three years that followed, Martin refined her skills as a reporter, freelancing for the BBC, Radio Hong Kong, and the ABC. However, it was her experience with Radio Hong Kong that secured her an interview with Princess Anne, who was due to travel to Hong Kong unaccompanied.

Says Martin: “It was the first radio interview ever granted by Princess Anne, and it made the front page of The Times newspaper.”

One question, about women’s liberation, didn’t make the final cut – the palace vetted Martin’s questions before the interview – and Princess Anne’s comments about disliking yoghurt were removed before it was played on air. “If Princess Anne said she didn’t like yoghurt, then sales of yogurt would have plummeted.”

Martin’s career with the ABC began in earnest when she returned to Australia and joined This Day Tonight (a precursor to The 7.30 Report) in 1974. She became the ABC’s Beijing correspondent in 1983.

Her one regret, she says, is having too easily accepted the orders of her superiors.

Life experience has shown her that it’s important to pick yourself up after each setback. “Don’t put your head in the oven. What you need is persistence – take the opportunities as they come.”

As a reporter on This Day Tonight, Martin was told to go in hard on the poet Clive Samson, who’d been given an Australia Council literary grant to write his memoir.

“The producer said, ‘Why should the taxpayer fund this?’ So I got poor Clive Samson and I hoed into him and I really am sorry about that.

“It’s too late now, but although I had a reputation for being a fearless interviewer, when it came to authority, I reverted to my timid, convent-girl self.”

Martin, who no longer works for the ABC, has written several books – one about her life partner, former university classmate John Martin, who died from cancer in 1993. She is currently working on a childhood memoir.

Life experience has shown her that it’s important to pick yourself up after each setback. “Don’t put your head in the oven. What you need is persistence – take the opportunities as they come.”

From left front: Anne Spencer, Elizabeth Burnett, Helene Chung, Sylvia Hodgkinson; back: John Hensby, Rowland Harrison, John Craig, David Ryder-Turner

Helene Chung-Martin at the 2005 UTAS Graduation Ceremonies
“It’s a great day for Hobart’s Muslim community.
I’d like to thank everybody who has taken part in making this dream come true,” he said. 

A sacred celebration

UTAS joined in the celebrations at the recent opening of Hobart’s first mosque.

Datuk Effendi Norwawi and Stalie Mulok (above) joined with members of Hobart’s Muslim Community to celebrate the opening of the new Mosque.
The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Daryl Le Grew and his wife Jo were among the special guests at the official opening ceremony of Tasmania’s new mosque in West Hobart.

About 300 people including overseas guests, politicians, police and representatives from other religions joined to celebrate the finishing touches to the mosque, built with the support of Hobart’s non-Muslim community and Dr Effendi Norwawi.

UTAS graduates played a large part in completing the mosque. Dr Norwawi, a graduate of UTAS, is the Special Envoy for Higher Education to the Prime Minister of Malaysia. Dr Norwawi, who was Malaysia’s Minister for Agriculture from 2000 to 2004, was conferred with an honorary Doctorate of Laws by UTAS in 1998.

The mosque’s spiritual leader Imam Sabri Samson, also a UTAS graduate, said the mosque’s completion was a special occasion.

“It’s a great day for Hobart’s Muslim community. I’d like to thank everybody who has taken part in making this dream come true,” he said.

Dr Norwawi thanked the Hobart community and the University for the support in realising the project.

“The mosque is very important, not just as a place of worship, but also as a place to get together and discuss issues such as how they, as a Muslim community, can integrate better into the community around them.

Professor Le Grew said the University was proud to be associated with the project. “UTAS has built its reputation on teaching and learning and knowledge creation. This is a great opportunity for the people of Tasmania to learn about other cultures and ideas. We are pleased the Muslim community of Tasmania now has a unique space in which to pray and learn.”

The mimbar (the rostrum or pulpit from which the imam, or leader, delivers the Friday prayers) was designed by another graduate, furniture maker Peter Costello and built by Peter and Pat Williams.

The University of Tasmania’s Foundation also played a part in the mimbar’s development, contributing financially to the project.

Hobart people show true inter-faith tolerance

A letter from Datuk Effendi Norwawi, Special Envoy for Higher Education to the Prime Minister of Malaysia.

The non-Muslim Tasmanian community is showing its support and trust in the Muslim community there, they know and believe that true Islam stands for peace, love, and brotherhood.

While Muslims today are being misconstrued and misunderstood, what I witnessed when I was invited to open the first mosque in the Australian city of Hobart, Tasmania, recently should give us hope. I must admit my apprehension at the thought of opening a mosque in a country whose citizens have been the target of “Muslims terrorist”.

But what ensued was a feel-good, warm lesson in life. The occasion became more than just the launching of the mosque itself — to me it was more an event in which the community of Hobart demonstrated a model spirit the world can learn from.

I heard touching stories of how the mosque became a reality. It was designed by an Australian architect who spent long hours with the committee throughout the project development. The non-Muslim architect provided his full professional service without charge — he wanted his service to be a contribution to the mosque. The mosque has a beautifully designed mimbar — generously donated by the University of Tasmania, much to the personal support of the Vice-Chancellor and some senior members of the University administration.

This mimbar was personally designed by Peter Costello, one of Hobart’s most renowned furniture designers. All of these generous contributors are non-Muslims.

According to the mosque imam, my good friend Sabri, when he submitted the mosque plan to the city council, the officials couldn’t be more helpful. The approval was given expeditiously and they even gave simultaneous approval to a car park project adjacent to the mosque, which will allow the mosque to generate income for its maintenance (how is that for a proactive local government body?).

The event itself was such a glorious day for human-kind. There might have been 100 to 300 people at the function that afternoon, about half of them non-Muslims.

The Tasmanian community was represented by no less than the leader of the Government in the Legislative Council, Michael Aird, who read an inspiring and warm message from the Premier.

Other prominent guests were the deputy mayor, senior police officers — and get this — leaders of
the churches and the Jewish community. It was a day the world
can feel good about.

And it didn’t end there. The next day, a small group of us were
hosted to a dinner by the Vice-Chancellor and some of his senior
colleagues.

The Vice-Chancellor took my friend Sabri by complete surprise
when he asked Sabri to read the prayer before dinner.

So there is hope in this world that the better of us can prevail.
The Hobart community demonstrates that the spirit of inter-faith
tolerance and understanding can be very much alive – it is all up
to the community.

I know that the Muslim community will honour and live up to this
trust, after all, this is the true teaching of Islam.

Doesn’t that show how the world can be different if there’s faith
and trust?

I know many of us who are championing this inter-faith interaction
in Malaysia. Let’s give them all the support to succeed.

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Distinguished Scholars

Distinguished Scholars project with the aim of establishing
an endowment to support a program into the future.

Distinguished scholars will bring ideas and intellectual wealth
from all disciplines and from all parts of the world to inspire
and support our culture of research, teaching and learning.

Seed funded in 2005, the project was launched with the visit to
UTAS by Nobel Laureate winning author and critic JM Coetzee.
Coetzee travelled Tasmania and gave readings from his
latest book Slow Man on the Burnie, Launceston and Hobart
campuses. Coetzee was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature
in 2003 and is the only author to have won the Booker Prize
twice; in 1984 for his novel The Life and Times of Michael K, and
again for Disgrace in 1999. He emigrated to Australia from
South Africa in 2002.

Our next Distinguished Scholar will be Professor Henk ten
Have, the Director of the Division of Ethics of Science and
Technology, UNESCO, based in Paris. Professor ten Have will
be in Tasmania in early December 2006.

Henk ten Have holds a doctorate in Medicine and a PhD in
Philosophy from the University of Leiden and has a teaching
career throughout Europe and the UK, spanning philosophy,
religion, medical ethics, and the history of medicine. His
research on ethical issues relating to the bio-molecular life
sciences and end-of-life care is widely respected.

We are looking forward to challenging the community
through this series of public lectures.
Friends’ School Hobart is a pre-K to 12 co-educational school with residential facilities. Our students and staff live and work in Tasmania’s quiet, clean and natural environment.

Established by Quakers in 1887, Friends’ has a reputation for academic excellence. In 2004, 98% of our final year students qualified for university entrance.

Academic Excellence
At Friends’, we believe in providing the widest possible range of educational opportunities. That’s why we offer our Year 11 and 12 students the choice of the International Baccalaureate, the Tasmanian Certificate of Education (TCE) and Vocational Education and Training.

We’d like to tell you more about Friends’ School. For a copy of our prospectus or to arrange a visit, please contact us.
“I learnt to say, ‘No, it should be this way,’ you have to learn to articulate your ideas, and communicate them to other people, like lecturers and classmates. That’s important for client relationships too, when you’re trying to impose your ideas on other people.”

By Penny McLeod

“I have never designed a single home, just a tree house,” says University of Tasmania Architecture graduate, Adam Walker.

The said tree house, though, was no ordinary structure. Perched in a tree in his parent’s backyard, it comprised two tonnes of plaster and a curvy, Brett-Whiteley-style white room. It was a group effort – the result of a working bee with friends.

Walker decided on an architecture degree because he wasn’t “entirely sure” what he wanted to do, but he was able to draw on the skills he learned during his four-year honours degree to establish a 3D animation and film business in Hobart in 2001.

“I learnt to say, ‘No, it should be this way,’ he says. "You have to learn to articulate your ideas, and communicate them to other people, like lecturers and classmate. That’s important for relationship too, when you’re trying to impose your ideas on other people.”

A self-confessed nerd, Walker also broadened his social horizons. “I went to The Hutchins School [for boys] so I discovered girls and a social life at University. You can’t really exist in isolation at University because you have to do group projects.”

The 29-year-old is both practically-minded and creative, and his business is thriving as a result. Earlier this year, Adam Walker Film took out two top awards at the prestigious Japanese One-Minute Animation Festival for its trilogy, The Gardener, which was shown on ABC TV Gardening Australia and at film festivals in Hobart and overseas.

He employs three full-time animators – all under 30 with high level computer skills – in his Salamanca studio, and various contractors for sound, music and illustrations. He hopes to engage more on a full-time basis as the business evolves. Most of his clients are based in Sydney, Melbourne and overseas – though the local client-base is growing.

While Adam Walker Film’s focus is 3D animation for broadcast and DVD, it also creates animated characters for websites.
“There are financial benefits to working in Tasmania,” says Walker. “We’re comparatively cheap because of our low overheads, and because we can offer different pricing structures.”

Walker was inspired to set up business in Hobart after working for several production design companies in Sydney in 2000.

Though he made a lot of money and had a good time, Walker found Sydney stifling.

“I’m a small town boy; the hobnobbing and networking wasn’t for me.”

The apprentice system also clashed with his independent and ambitious nature.

“You had to stick around and wait your turn, and ultimately I didn’t want to stick around… In Sydney, I got an introduction to what was possible. What jaded me about film was that it’s very infrastructure heavy, whereas you can approach animation from an independent angle.”

Walker has a strong design aesthetic, possibly nurtured by his father, renowned sculptor Stephen Walker, and his most ambitious project to date – a 15-minute animated fairytale, Sam and Piccolo – is testament to this.

The project has been partially funded by Screen Tasmania, and is due to wrap in mid-August. It is a right-of-passage film, shot in a realistic style and illuminated by stunning imagery.

Sam is almost lifelike, while Piccolo – a pet with special powers – is an unusual, but strangely beautiful other-worldly character. The film explores their relationship, and Piccolo’s own journey. The natural environment – luminous trees and landscapes – also plays an important part in the film.

“We are now dealing with the technical issues, for example, how to grow a tree,” says Walker.

“This is by far the biggest project we have done. I’ve learnt a lot about project management – how to manage a project to make it happen.

“A film like this will bring in more work of this kind, and enable us to go to private investors and say, ‘We can do a project of this calibre.’”

Walker’s dream is to produce a full-length feature film, and possibly a TV series.

He’d also like to work with puppetry.
By Alison Andrews

This article was originally printed in The Examiner newspaper

Tasmania’s newest University chief dabbled with the idea of taking up an academic career as a school leaver, but chose a more hands-on occupation because she couldn’t imagine herself as a teacher.

Three decades later, Denise Fassett has accomplished what she couldn’t imagine and more.

She is not just any old teacher - she has become the UTAS School of Nursing’s Teaching and Learning director and has just taken over as head of the Northern-based school.

Associate Professor Fassett became a nurse 30 years ago. “I couldn’t imagine myself as a teacher but I could imagine myself as a health professional at the Royal Hobart Hospital,” she said, as she settled into her new office at the Newnham campus this week.

The reluctant teacher replaces Gerry Farrell following Mr Farrell’s resignation late last year to take over as head of nursing and midwifery at Victoria’s La Trobe University.

It was after she had worked part-time for a number of years while her three children were growing up that Dr Fassett realised she had more than her share of academic as well as nursing bones in her body.
“A nursing career is something that is international... we are not just preparing nurses for working in Tasmania.”

“I decided that I really wanted to do some tertiary education so I did a Bachelor of Health Science at what was then the Tasmanian State Institute of Technology and then a Graduate Diploma in Aged Care and worked primarily as an acute care nurse while I was studying,” she said.

So the new Nursing School chief is an impressive mix of both kinds of skills needed for the job.

She has worked as a nurse in areas like rehabilitation, acute and aged care at each of Tasmania’s three major public hospitals and started at the University of Tasmania as a clinical teacher more than 10 years ago after gaining her PhD with a research paper on rehabilitation and nursing.

The experience has made her determined to come up with the best possible training timetable for the State’s student nurses from both an academic and a lifestyle point of view.

“We need to attract students from throughout the State, not just the north, so we look at making the timetable – with the use of technology – as flexible as we can,” she said.

“We use online support for students and offer face-to-face contact at other campuses.”

In her unassuming style, Dr Fassett cites the opportunity to see projects planned with other staff through to fruition as one of the most rewarding aspects of her latest appointment.

She doesn’t mention that she has led most of the more innovative programs that have seen the small Tasmanian nursing school become one of the most internationalised in the country.

The University of Tasmania School already has an exchange program operating with Sweden for both students and lecturers and Dr Fassett has just signed off on developing a similar collaboration with Denmark.

“We have already had four (university) deans visit from Denmark and we had a group of 20 deans in April,” she said.

Dr Fassett said that these international exchanges were of enormous benefit to students.

“A nursing career is something that is international,” she said.

“We are not just preparing nurses for working in Tasmania so that exchange programmes like this give students a new perspective on the profession.”

In addition, the School has just opened a campus in Sydney, which Dr Fassett says will also broaden opportunities for students.

She doesn’t see this as jeopardising Tasmania’s efforts to cope with an identified shortage of trained nurses.

“This School of Nursing can still grow within Tasmania, but our graduate nurses are exceptional and sought after,” she said.

“We have to accept that some will leave the State but many of them return with enormous experience.”

Dr Fassett is also determined as the new school head to provide more of the kinds of experiences that encouraged her to continue down the academic nursing trail.

“I’m committed to building our capacity in research so that there’s a concentration on postgraduate as well as undergraduate work,” she said.

The School will launch two new postgraduate streams this year in aged care and acute care. It already offers postgraduate studies in mental health, midwifery and child and family services.
Improving home energy efficiency AND YOUR LIFE

In Tasmania 32 per cent of homes are timber-framed, by far the highest proportion in the nation. Tasmania also has the oldest building stock, and these two factors mean that there are many people living here in draughty, poorly-insulated homes, often with dampness problems and much of the energy put into heating them is wasted.

By Tony Weaver

After completing a Graduate Diploma in Environmental Studies at UTAS in 2001, I was inspired to find a way to continue studying by the address at the graduation ceremony, which was delivered by Professor Roger Fay, Head of the School of Architecture.

He spoke of the enormous improvements to home energy efficiency which are possible, citing the example of a house built in Surrey, England which has no external energy inputs at all for heating or electricity, all being catered for in good building design and on-site renewable energy generation. This was a subject close to my heart, having lived in some cold older houses, and having once stayed briefly in Surrey in winter, I knew how challenging it would be to heat a house by good design alone.

While I pondered how to finance my studies, and what sort of topic I might consider doing, I was lucky enough to be awarded the one-off Tim Monks Environmental Scholarship, kindly provided by the parents of the late Tim Monks, a former graduate of UTAS. At the same time one of my former lecturers, Dr Elaine Stratford, alerted me to an offer by the Hobart City Council of an occupied house and a budget of $5000 to conduct research on it into some aspect of energy efficiency. Soon I was focused on the topic of Retrofitting Conventional Houses Inexpensively to Improve Energy Efficiency, with Dr Stratford as my supervisor and Professor Fay as my co-supervisor.
In June 2002 I commenced monitoring the temperature in four rooms of the 1870s heritage-listed home huddling under 25-metre high Macrocarpa cypress pines in Taroona. Financial constraints forced me to continue studies part-time, which actually enhanced the project because I decided to monitor the house for a year, make modifications to the house in June 2003 based on my research, and continue monitoring for a further year. In November 2002 I also commenced measuring outdoor temperatures at the property, to have a better understanding of local conditions.

In Tasmania 32 per cent of homes are timber-framed, by far the highest proportion in the nation. Tasmania also has the oldest building stock, and these two factors mean that there are many people living here in draughty, poorly-insulated homes, often with dampness problems and much of the energy put into heating them is wasted. Even in the relatively well-sealed homes of the United States it is estimated that on average draughts are equivalent to leaving a small window open all year. The Taroona home was ideal for the project, being 130 years old with many gaps in the lining, no insulation, having two chimneys venting warm air from three rooms into the winter nights, and very flimsy curtains allowing house and body heat to radiate out into the night.

The options for retrofitting a house, in increasing order of expense and complexity, are draught-proofing, insulating, increasing solar gain, and adding thermal mass (masonry). The latter two involve structural change to a house, putting more or bigger windows in the north wall to let more of the sun’s radiation in, and adding masonry (concrete, bricks) inside the house where that radiation lands to absorb it in the daytime and release it at night. Neither was an option with the heritage-listed project home, and on the budget provided. Furthermore, my focus was on making the cheapest possible retrofit.

In Tasmania, 42 per cent of people have income support as their primary source of income. The most disadvantaged people live in the poorest quality housing, and one of the measures of poverty used by care organisations is the inability to raise $2000 for an emergency. I wanted to conduct a retrofit which might be within the means of such people. The retrofit conducted on the project home in the first week of June 2003 involved draught-proofing the external windows and doors with sealing strips available at hardware stores, closing off one chimney at the top with a steel plate and flashing, and an unused fireplace with a steel plate at the bottom of the other chimney, and closing gaps in skirting boards and cupboard kickboards. A door was fitted to enable the kitchen to be closed off from a large cold passageway. Insulation of the entire ceiling with R3.8 batts was then done, and insulation with R1.5 batts was placed under the high exposed floor and held in place with heavy-duty aluminium sisalation foil stapled under the floor joists. Finally, to retain heat at night, heavy curtains with pelmets were fitted to all windows from the ‘curtain library’ set up at the Tasmania University Union with help from the Cool Communities project, to hire curtains to students in rental accommodation.

Ten days later I visited the tenants to check that everything was satisfactory. I suggested that they had probably not noticed any changes yet, but the lady said her chilblains had gone, the child with the cold had got rid of it and they were not breathing ‘steam’ any more when they spoke. As the monitoring results came in, I could see that all of the rooms were warmer. After the monitoring ended and the tenants had been through two complete winters, I interviewed them and they confirmed that the initial benefits mentioned had persisted. The lady, who normally had chilblains from May to September, had not had them again. The three children had only had a few sniffles, instead of having colds repeatedly through winter. Where previously mould had developed on clothes in the washing basket, this no longer happened. Their electricity bill was just slightly higher, but they had stopped buying firewood altogether for both winters, saving much money and improving the health of the child who suffered from asthma. Now they only ran a small fan-heater for thirty minutes at a time. They all felt better about living in the house.

While I could see the improvement in room temperatures, these qualitative results in health areas changed the focus of my research. In the United States and Europe for up to thirty years there have been federal government assistance programs to reduce draughts and improve insulation in homes of the disadvantaged. The cost savings in reduced burden on the health system are recognised. Such programs have not been established in Australia. The concept of fuel poverty is not used in Australia, but in the UK it is defined as applying to people who use more than 10 per cent of their income on heating. There would be a considerable number of such people in Tasmania, who would benefit greatly in terms of health, personal comfort and sense of wellbeing, if their homes could be upgraded in this way. Many of them live in rental accommodation and the assistance could be directed to landlords. The cost of the retrofit to the Taroona house was $2942, but not all homes need underfloor insulation or chimneys blocked off. The lives of many people, and the straining health system would benefit from improving poor housing.
It is difficult to do justice to the spirit of our great club in these few words. This article covers a few highlights, but in order to tell a fuller story the TUFC is producing an official history for their 70th year. In it they will look at not only the on field exploits but the great off field characters and events which have passed into TUFC folklore.

If one thing has come from our research thus far it is that there exists amongst the players, coaches and supporters from as far back as the 1930s, a unique spirit and camaraderie that makes each generation feel at ease with the other when they talk about their days on the paddock at University. It is the club's hope that in some small way this book will capture and commemorate that sentiment.

In April 1936 the Tasmanian University Football Club (TUFC) was officially admitted to the Queenborough League, which consisted of Claremont (Cadburys), Blundstones, Sandy Bay, OHA, University and Long Beach. Itinerant games against those teams go back as far as 1926, if not further.

As a great stalwart of the club, Jeffery Colman QC recalls those early days in the 1940s:

"We had no cars or petrol so we travelled by public transport. We took the train to Claremont, the bus to Lindisfarne and froze on the top of the double decker trams swaying down Sandy Bay Road past the rifle range (which is now the University) with the snow on Mount Wellington."

A source of enormous pride to both current and past players is the number of returned serviceman who came back to resume their careers. Taking pride of place in the current clubrooms is a jumper encased in glass that was worn by an ex-serviceman player during his time as a POW at Changi.

Des Jackson was held in several Japanese POW camps, including Hintok Mountain. Though somewhat fragile physically, he earned the nickname Demon and was deadly within 40 yards of the goal. Jeff Bushby (whose grandson is a former 'Best and Fairest' winner) also returned and made his mark as a class player.

Frank “Hookey” McGrath played League with Cananore. Due to a serious leg injury sustained during World War Two he took on coaching responsibilities, guiding us to our first premiership flag in 1949 (as Jeff relates, a “cracker” of a game where we the underdogs beat long-time rivals Hutchins!).

These ‘golden years’ in the 1940s included the start of the great tradition of inter-varsity football.

It was around this time that a lanky lad by the name of Graeme Foster turned up at training, fresh off the bus from Ulverstone. Graeme went on to become undoubtedly the best ruckman in the TAFL. He represented the South in every North vs South match, won several ‘Best and Fairest’, including the Association’s Howard Trophy and represented Tasmania in the Interstate football carnival in 1948.

The club is enormously indebted to Graeme, Jeff and the late Ric Southee for their dedication, particularly in regard to the foundation of our Scholarship program.
The TUFC was competitive during the early to mid 1950s and went through an extended ‘team building’ phase. Coaches were honorary until the 1959 appointment of Vic Barling as the club’s first professional coach – for the princely sum of 100 pounds. Vic stayed for seven years.

A new jumper was designed with the tricolour red, yellow and black players still wear. But the club was still known as “the Blues” until around 1970 when the name “Rainbows” became official (usually prefixed by “Rampant”).

The current oval wasn’t available until 1959 – many players will recall training at New Town and playing home games at the TCA.

The on field highlight of the 1960s were three reserve premierships. However, in 1967 the entire culture of the club changed with the appointment of Brian Eade to the senior coaching role. As TUFC legend Rodders Radford writes:

“Brian’s benevolent paternalism and ‘tough love’ approach seemed to strike a chord with the generation of players who came to the club in the mid to late 60s. He worked extremely hard and was relentless in fulfilling his obligations – one year, the committee worked out that the time he devoted to the club meant he was being paid just a few cents per hour. Brian helped create a culture of teamwork and acceptance of individual differences – it is hard to imagine anyone else effectively managing characters as diverse as Razz Simpson, Baldy Alexander and Boss Hayes. Reputations meant nothing – players started in the 3rds or 4ths and worked their way up. Bernie Hoggett and Norm Day started in the 4ths one year and the next were in the State amateur side. Brian’s endeavours bore fruit in the resounding victories in the premierships of 1970 and 1971. These teams were amongst the very best amateur sides Tasmania has ever seen.

After Brian club fortunes were mixed. The appointment of Ron Mawbey, a highly respected player from North Hobart, was an astute one, as he took the club to the senior southern and State premierships in 1977 and was instrumental in regenerating a new sense of club spirit.

The Eighties saw the introduction of high profile TFL players as coaches and the beginning of a new professionalism. Club legend Brad Willis writes:

“Steve Avery hailed from the successful Sandy Bay sides of the 70s and was a fantastic on-ground leader. Mark “The Boss” Johnson was a successful player at Glenorchy and North Hobart and was the first to really introduce a level of the new professionalism to the club in terms of tactics and training regimes. He resurrected the fortunes of the club culminating in the 1985 premiership and runners-Up (against all odds) in 1986.”

Brad Willis assumed the coach’s role himself which culminated in the 1992 premiership, a great year for the club as the reserves and thirds also won flags.

The TUFC has won senior and reserve flags in 1993, a reserve flag in 1994 and 1995 as well as a thirds premiership in 1995. The reserves broke a long drought in 2005 with a victory against DOSA by some ten goals in a remarkable game which the late Ric Southee called the greatest game of team football he had seen in his fifty year association with the club. That victory was a great boost, and with a new coach, Ziggy Harezma, combined with a some new recruits and a more battle-hardened list, the club is confident of great things for 2006.

The 70-year history of the TUFC: Blood, Sweat & Cheers, will be launched at a formal Official Legends Dinner in September – if you are interested in attending please contact Mick for further details. Mick Bailey is also looking for more written and visual contributions from past players and supporters.

At over 60 pages, with eight pages of colour inserts, it will retail for $35 plus postage. The TUFC is taking advance orders; send a cheque or money order marked TUFC Footy Book to:

Mick Bailey
101 Bass St Warrane Tas 7018.
Mick can be contacted by email on michealbailey32@hotmail.com or by phone on 03 6244 2059. 📝
At the December 2005 Graduation, Professor Dickey gave the following address.

It is a pleasure and a great honour to be speaking to you today. The honour comes primarily from you, the graduating students, and even more from you, their parents, siblings, spouses and close friends, who have made it possible for them to get to this point.

Most cultures and religions celebrate rites of passage, that is, public affirmation of a person’s progress through the stages of life, like weddings, bar mitzvahs, or vision quests. In our post-modern, secular society this ceremony is about as good as it gets. Going to university has a lot in common with a vision quest. You perform before the elders of the tribe, which we call “tutes”, you show your skill at hunting and gathering, which we call “pracs”, and then you go into the sweat lodge, which for us is upstairs at the student Union. Through it all you must answer to your secret, ritual name. This ceremony is for those whose secret names begin with 03, 04, and 05. If you can survive all that for three years, you are, by this ceremony, initiated into the hierarchy of tribal power and status, which we call the job market.

The real objective of a vision quest is to find a dream. I hope you have found something like that during your years here. I particularly hope that your dream includes the land and people of Tasmania. Education makes us citizens of the world, and the whole world is open to you, but I hope you

VisioN QuESt

Professor John Dickey joined the UTAS School of Maths and Physics in July 2004. Professor Dickey was born and raised near Philadelphia in the State of Pennsylvania.

He says that astronomy is a strange profession – one that is known and yet unknown at the same time.

“To begin to imagine yourself as an astronomer, you have to know what astronomy is. And the thing is, that it’s really almost a spiritual study – we’re studying what’s out there, billions of light years away, but that same stuff that makes up the stars is what makes us.”
The real objective of a vision quest is to find a dream. I hope you have found something like that during your years here. I particularly hope that your dream includes the land and people of Tasmania.

They say that nothing correlates so well with educational level as one's time horizon. Astronomers and geologists are trained to have extremely long time horizons, but I'd guess that all of you can now think forward and backward many decades if not centuries. If you had stopped your education before coming to university, on average your time horizon would be only a few years or even months. This is part of the reason that higher education gives people an advantage in life, you can see where things are leading, and make adjustments. This is helpful for an individual, but it is indispensable for a state.

The strength of a community does not come ultimately from its weapons or its wealth, it comes from the skill and vision of its people. The mission of the University of Tasmania is not only to help you grow and attain your goals, but to help the State grow, and advance, and lead the rest of the nation and the world. We are not many people here, and each one of you can have a huge impact on the future of this place. So let your dream and your vision be of Tasmania, with yourself in it.

Getting back to this ceremony, we are here to celebrate two achievements. The first is that of the students, who have survived the ordeal, and more, you have mastered the challenges of a university education. I know how hard this is, because I struggled through difficult times of self-doubt when I was an undergraduate, and I have had long, serious conversations with some of you, and with some of your classmates who are unfortunately not here, because the difficulties were too much for them. Usually it's not the subject matter alone that stops students, but it's all the other challenges that go with getting an education. For young adults everywhere these years are an emotional roller-coaster, and finding the patience and motivation to stick to a long course of study is not easy. For older, non-traditional students there is the problem of not seeing your spouse or children for 14 weeks at a time. Money is a problem for everybody. And most of all, there is the fear that you may be inadequate, that everybody else is smarter than you and this subject is just too hard for you to understand.

There is no shame in academic failure. The only shame is in not trying, for fear of failure. But there is honour in coming back from defeat, in working through those moments of panic and self-doubt that afflict all students occasionally, and most students frequently, particularly when you first read through those final exam questions. If this ceremony celebrates anything, it celebrates your victory over self-doubt and self-defeating habits, and your growing self-confidence and self-respect. Self-respect does not mean arrogance or superiority, it is the opposite of those things. It means perseverance and courage.

I said that this ceremony marks two achievements, and that is one of them. The greater one is the accomplishment of your families, in getting you to this point. Nothing affirms good parenting as much as a university degree. For your family, this has not been a three year effort, but a twenty year struggle! Whatever may be your relationship right now, it is the sum total of all that they have done for you that we celebrate today. So if I may give you one last assignment, it is simply that the next time you stand with your family, your partner, your parents and siblings, you thank them, seriously and from the bottom of your heart, for all they gave you. We don't do this sort of thing very often, and there is the danger that we might go through life and never do it at all. That's why cultures have rites of passage, to give us a cue to do these slightly embarrassing, easy-to-postpone things. So for most of you it will be in about three minutes, because I am finishing now and then the Chancellor will lead us in the recession. For others it may be in days or weeks. But I hope that, the very next time you stand with them, you will thank your parents, and whoever else has helped to bring you here. And I thank them, too.
Alumni Committee positions available

Seven Alumni Committee positions fall vacant at the Annual General Meeting in November 2006. The positions are:

Chair
One General Representative
Two Faculty of Arts representatives
Faculty of Law representative
Faculty of Health Science representative
Faculty of Science, Technology and Engineering representative

Nominations for the above positions should be submitted to the Alumni Office, University of Tasmania, Locked Bag 1350, Launceston, TAS 7250, by 5.00pm on Friday 1 September 2006. Current members are eligible for nomination.

CHAIR AND GENERAL REPRESENTATIVE

Any member of the Alumni with an award from any faculty can be a candidate or can nominate any other member for these positions.

FACULTY REPRESENTATIVES

Faculty representatives, by definition, represent those members of the Alumni who have gained an award from a particular faculty. Candidates for faculty representative positions and the persons nominating them must have gained an award from the faculty concerned.

NOMINATION FORMS

Nomination forms may be obtained from the Alumni Office, University of Tasmania, Locked Bag 1350, Launceston, TAS 7250: phone (03) 6324 3052.

Distinguished Alumni Awards

Nominations are sought for the 2006 Distinguished Alumni Awards. The awards are available in two categories – Support for the University and for Service to the Community. The awards were established by the Alumni to recognise and honour the outstanding achievements of our Alumni.

Application forms for the award can be accessed via the Alumni website at www.alumni.utas.edu.au or may be obtained from the Alumni Office, University of Tasmania, Locked Bag 1350, Launceston, TAS 7250.

The closing date for nominations is 1 September 2006.

Australian Universities International Alumni Convention 2006

The Australian Universities International Alumni Convention (AUIAC) is a bi-annual conference which brings together Australian Alumni from around the world.

The conference provides opportunities to network and hear some dynamic speakers focusing on the challenges and opportunities in today’s global environment. It also provides a unique opportunity for delegates to develop business and personal connections and to capitalise on the experience and knowledge of the vast network of Australians and Australian Alumni in their region.


The Alumni Committee

The Alumni Committee oversees Alumni activities at the University of Tasmania. Committee members serve two year terms and are eligible to stand for re-election. Half the elected members retire each year at the Annual General Meeting. Current members are listed below with the year their term expires in brackets.

ELECTED POSITIONS

Chair – Mrs Elizabeth Daly (06)
Deputy Chair/General Representative Mr Mark Carrington (07)
General Representatives
Dr Heather Smigiel (07)
Ms Derris Wood (06)
Faculty Representatives
Arts – Ms Kim Boyer (06)
Commerce – Mr Malcom White (07)
Law – Mr John Perry (06)
Education – Mrs Caryl McQuestin (07)
Health Science – Assoc. Prof. Geraldine MacCarrick (07)
Miss Heather Wilkinson (06)
Science, Engineering & Technology – Dr Ashley Townsend (06)
Ms Pru Bonham (07)
VACANT
Geoffrey Lancaster

A bright Tasmanian Economics graduate, Mr Geoffrey Lancaster passed away on 24 April 2006 after battling cancer for several months. At the time of his death, Geoffrey Lancaster was enrolled as a PhD student in the School of Economics and Finance and worked as a full-time research assistant in the School of Economics and Finance on an ARC Discovery Grant project.

Geoffrey held Bachelor of Economics and Bachelor of Economics (Honours) degrees from the University of Tasmania, and a Masters degree from the University of New England. He has been associated with the then Department of Economics at UTAS, subsequently renamed the School of Economics and Finance, continuously for well over a decade. During this period, until the end came on 24 April, Geoffrey has enriched the School of Economics and Finance through his research and the assistance that he provided to me on successive ARC funded research projects and those funded by the International Labour Organisation. It is fair to say that Geoffrey played a crucial part in maintaining the research record of the School throughout the past decade, through his own research and publications and by the assistance that he provided to numerous staff and students.

A proud Alumni member of the University of Tasmania, Geoffrey had all the ideal qualities that a university looks for in its graduates. An incredibly friendly individual, ever willing to help, generous with his time and effort, never seeking recognition, Geoffrey possessed an intellect that stood out amongst his peers. He was one of the most well read individuals that I have come across, with a breadth and depth of knowledge in fields that extended far beyond the contours of his own discipline. Within Economics, he was widely known, having published in some of the leading national and international journals in the discipline.

One with a progressive mind and a truly international outlook, Geoffrey Lancaster possessed all the core values that UTAS emphasises. A delightful lad, with every reason to live, is sadly no more.

Professor Ranjan Ray, School of Economics and Finance, University of Tasmania.
Paul Bathurst Edwards (1915-2005)

The second son of Frank Bathurst and Jessie Madge Archer Edwards, Paul was born in Burnie on October 10, 1915. He was educated in Burnie and Ulverstone State Schools, Devonport High School and the Hutchins School in Hobart where he was dux of the school in 1932 and senior prefect in 1933.

Mr Edwards attended the University of Tasmania majoring in chemistry and applied mathematics. He graduated with a Bachelor of Science. In 1937 he began research work under Professor MacAuley until May of that year and then joined Associated Pulp and Paper Makers Limited in June as a research chemist.

Mr Edwards enlisted in June 1940, in the 2/8th Field Regiment, went overseas in November 1940, and saw active service in the Western Desert in 1941, El Alamein in 1942 and Brunei Bay in 1945. When he was discharged in December, 1945, he held the rank of captain.

In January 1946, he returned to APPM Ltd. In 1949 Mr Edwards transferred to what was later named Papermakers Limited as technical assistant to the mill manager. In 1955 he was appointed assistant superintendent of Papermakers Limited and in 1958 was appointed as its superintendent. In 1965 he was appointed superintendent of the Wesley Vale Project and in 1969 was appointed superintendent of the Wesley Vale Division, covering the pulp and paper mill and the particle board mill. He travelled extensively overseas on behalf of the company and was away for 10 months on one trip.

In December 1971 Mr Edwards left APPM and set himself up as a business consultant, continuing in this role until 1980.

In 1943 he married Kate Cresswell, of Deloraine. They had a family of four daughters and a son, to which has been added 13 grandchildren and four great grandchildren. Mr Edwards was a member of the RSLA, Launceston Legacy Club, was chairman of the Burnie group for four years and the Devonport Group for two years. He was an active member of Legacy until the mid ’90s. Mr Edwards was a member of many groups including the now defunct Burnie section of the National Rose Society of Tasmania, the Burnie Advisory Committee on Secondary Education, the Seabrook Golf Club, Rotary Clubs of Burnie, Devonport and Devonport South-East, and honorary secretary of the Melaleuca Home for the Aged in Devonport 1979-83. Mr Edwards was a keen Tasmanian postal historian and had many articles published. He was a past president and member of the Probus Club of Mersey and used to play veterans golf at the Port Sorell Golf Club. He loved researching family history, was a foundation member of The Archer Foundation and wrote numerous articles on his ancestors – Anthony Fenn-Kemp and Governor William Sorell.

Mr Edwards won the Genealogy Society of Tasmania Family History Award in 1996. He had a great wit and wrote many limericks and regularly quoted Shakespeare while entertaining family and friends. He was active up until a week before his death when he suffered a stroke. Mr Edwards is survived by daughters Mary, Kathryn and Ruth and son Paul.

TASMANIAN CREATIVE ARTS SUMMER SCHOOL 10-19 JANUARY 2007

We are pleased to announce that the UTAS Academy of the Arts in Launceston will hold the inaugural Tasmanian Creative Arts Summer School from 10-19 January 2007. The Summer School will be presented by the University of Tasmania in partnership with the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery (QVMAG), TAFE Tasmania, Launceston City Council, and Tourism Tasmania.

The Summer School will provide a creative environment in which to experience the arts within a relaxed, summer atmosphere. Participants will meet experts in the field, make new friends, and establish professional networks. The School will also offer new and existing UTAS students the opportunity to gain credit towards a UTAS course of study.

Units to be offered cover a wide spectrum of the visual and performing arts. In addition to the usual favourites, there are units on culinary design, professional presentation, Asian theatre and performance, and music making within one of three graded ensembles. For those who seek to make a foray outside of their usual boundaries there is a snake handling workshop being offered by the QVMAG! A list of the units available may be found at http://fcms.its.utas.edu.au/arts/perform/

Alumni and members of the general public are warmly welcomed to experience the Academy’s creative environment and receive direct professional academic arts tuition. If you are interested in receiving further information and registration details for the Tasmanian Creative Arts Summer School program please email Ellissa.Nolan@utas.edu.au
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