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AUSTRALIA POST
In 2005, we celebrate the tenth anniversary of a program that has touched every faculty within the University. Over the past 10 years the Tasmania Scholarships program has grown twelve-fold. This year alone, we will distribute around $3 million in scholarship and bursary support to the budding minds who are this State’s future. Around 10 per cent of all domestic students at UTAS receive some sort of scholarship or financial assistance. Currently over 130 businesses, including state and local governments, generous individuals and endowments provide this significant scholarship support.

The development and growth of this initiative into one of the most successful sponsored programs in the country is exceptional by any standards. But its existence would not be possible without the generous and visionary support of the hundreds of sponsors over the decade. We thank you for your commitment and the solid investment you are making in our State’s most valuable resource – an educated and skilled community. It is your vision that helps us continue to grow and support excellence in Tasmania.

By celebrating our scholarships and our scholars, we celebrate our University, which continues to make far-reaching educational, cultural and economic contributions to Tasmania and beyond.

Daryl Le Grew
Vice-Chancellor
Dr Vivian Barlow — An unexpected gift

People across the community recognise the influence and positive impact of UTAS even when they haven’t studied here.

Dr Vivian Barlow was a ninety-two-year-old retired medical practitioner. The University Foundation recently received the bequest of his estate to establish accommodation support for medical students. His significant gift demonstrates how Tasmania and the University can touch and inspire a person to make a contribution.

Dr Vivian Neville Barlow was born in 1912. His father was British and his mother a colonial Indian. He had two brothers.

Dr Barlow studied medicine in the UK and then practised in India. He served as a major in the British Army during World War II, and then transferred to the British Navy from 1942 to 1945, as he thought he would be of more benefit there.

He also lived in Zimbabwe for many years, working as a government medical practitioner. While in Africa he provided illustrations for the Central African Journal of Medicine.

In 1983 Dr Barlow arrived in Tasmania, spending a year at Port Arthur. He lived for a period at Dodges Ferry and spent the last years of his life in Mount Nelson. He did a lot of painting around the lookout area. He never married. He was a small man, who took no medication and cooked for himself.

Described as “a perfect gentleman”, Dr Barlow kept meticulous diaries of his day-to-day life and produced hundreds of observant and quirky sketches of the people he crossed paths with. These records, as well as other medical books and historical oddities, were among the contents he left to UTAS, Hobart College and the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery.

The sale of his estate has created a significant fund that will provide four $3,000 scholarships each year to medical students at UTAS. A passionate art lover, he kept a large catalogued library of art books and included the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, Hobart College and the Salvation Army in his will.

(With thanks to Mr Doug Reid for his recollections of Dr Barlow)
Ten years ago the Tasmania Scholarships program was launched. Its aim was to attract talented students, both locally and nationally, as well as try and counteract the ‘brain drain’ from students choosing to study interstate.

The number of scholarships offered in the program has increased steadily over the years; the introduction of equity-based Commonwealth Learning Scholarships has almost doubled the scholarships pool over the past year.

The State Government has been a valuable supporter of the program since its inception, providing three of the most valuable awards every year through the Premier of Tasmania’s National Undergraduate Scholarships.

Over the past 10 years there has been substantial growth in corporate support; industry contributions now make up the backbone of the Tasmania Scholarships program. Eoin Breen has managed the scholarships program since its inception, and has had a major impact on all the scholars through his kindness, his wise advice and his tenacity in getting each new group of scholars through their UTAS experience. Graeme Foster, who developed the program initially, continues to work tirelessly at sourcing funding support for the program across the State.

The success of the program mirrors the success of the University of Tasmania Foundation, which commenced its operations in 1994. The Foundation has been instrumental in building and supporting the Tasmania Scholarships program from the start.

The Foundation has become an important cornerstone of the University. Its success is best demonstrated in the growth over the past 10 years of the scholarship funds it manages, from virtually nothing in 1994 to more than $16 million by the end of 2004.

The Foundation also owes much to the contribution of two key people – Nick Cretan and Ian Roberts. Nick was the inaugural Foundation Board Chairman from 1994 to 1998 and established the solid basis for its growth during what was a challenging period. Ian took over from Nick as chairman and under his visionary and dynamic leadership the Foundation has been set on a firm course.

Continuing to enhance this legacy, David Rowell took over as Foundation Chairman in 2005.
Alumni generosity currently assists four talented Alumni Annual Appeal scholars at UTAS. Importantly, the Alumni Annual Appeal Scholarship is about recognising and supporting excellence as well as offering practical assistance. The current recipients are all well on their way to success with the help of the UTAS Alumni.

One new scholarship is awarded each year to a capable student selected from over 1,000 applicants according to academic ability and financial need. The award provides recipients with $3,000 per year for the duration of their course. Funding for the Alumni Annual Appeal Scholarship, as its name suggests, is drawn entirely from donations received through the University Annual Appeal.

The inaugural Alumni Scholar, Darlene Sheehan, is due to graduate with a degree in social work at the end of 2005. Never an under-achiever, Darlene has not only realised her goal of studying social work but also made a much-coveted appearance on the Dean’s Roll of Excellence for the Faculty of Arts.

She reiterates, “I would have really struggled without the scholarship. I have been able to focus more fully on my degree and on doing my best without some of the financial pressures.”

Darlene has always known her passion was social work. Through the Alumni News, donors have been able to watch her realise her goals. She explained just what the assistance through the annual appeal means to her, even after three years.

“The Alumni Annual Appeal Scholarship has really helped me in so many ways. Without it I still believe my transition to university would have been much more difficult and I really would not be where I am.”

Third-year medical student Thanuja Dharmadasa says the generosity of Alumni Scholarship support “strengthens her will to pursue the education provided through UTAS”. Thanuja has also been honoured on the Dean’s Roll of Excellence, in the Faculty of Health Science, in recognition of her efforts.

Scholarship assistance is not purely financial. It also links recipients to a successful cohort of other scholars, providing mentoring and inspiration across the disciplines, establishing new friendships and opportunities to share experiences.

With that in mind, Thanuja volunteered at a lunch for outstanding Year 12 students during University Open Day. “It was refreshing to meet the prospective scholarship holders from the schools around the State,” she said.

Naomi Wise also believes in sharing useful tips with her peers and the value of “real person support” in encouraging new students. She is in her second year of teaching and still finds time to be an active student ambassador. She says the value of her scholarship is not just about knowing it’s there to meet her expenses.

“It’s a privilege every time I use the money. I’m reminded not only about my achievements but people’s commitment to helping me stay at uni,” she says.

Rosalind Woodworth joins this talented group as the 2005 Alumni Annual Appeal Scholar. With the inaugural Alumni Scholar preparing to graduate, it is apparent that the small but committed investment each alumnus makes when donating to the annual appeal is realising a remarkable and long-term return.
Rosalind Woodworth is cooking up another Alumni success as the fourth and newest Alumni Annual Appeal Scholar. One of just five students to gain a place in the new Bachelor of Psychology degree, Rosy is ecstatic to have the support of the University Alumni and grateful at being recognised for her efforts at school. “It’s nice to know people are aware you are in a difficult situation and have a willingness to help you out,” she says.

As a bright mind choosing to stay in Tasmania to study, Rosy found herself facing a problem at the start of this year. With her family moving out of Tasmania, she worried about how she would pay rent in Hobart while she studied. Her scholarship is of immense value. “It’s very difficult to be independent,” she says. She wanted to follow her family in their move to Canberra and considered a university closer to them, but the offer of the Alumni Annual Appeal Scholarship, coupled with the ease of making friends at a people-sized university like UTAS, swayed her decision.

Rosy knows she made a good decision to study in Tasmania. “At UTAS the lecturers want to help. They are inviting and willing to engage...everyone wants you to do your best and get the best marks you can.”

After a semester at UTAS she is testing out the water, making good friends and getting to know lots of people. Rosy is finding her first year rigorous, challenging and hugely enjoyable.

“In like it a lot more than school,” she says.

In her first year Rosy is studying psychology, sociology, human biology and community medicine. At the end of her four-year degree she aims to move into clinical psychology or perhaps further research.

While Rosy’s family is now interstate, her mother is returning to Tasmania to cook for Rosy during exam week. When asked about cooking Rosy laughs. “Oh, my cooking… well, I do pasta because it’s easy…” While she likes to invite friends over, often her guests do the cooking! Despite her self-confessed lack of culinary prowess Rosy certainly excelled at school and she seems certain to follow the recipe of excellence supported each year by Alumni through the Annual Appeal Scholarship.
Marie Edwards holds a unique place in the contemporary Tasmanian art scene. As a committed painter on the ascent in the 1970s she was one of very few women artists from the State seriously working in the area of abstraction.

In late 2003 Marie donated a significant body of her work to the University Foundation for the purpose of establishing scholarships in fine arts at the Tasmanian School of Art.

On a cold night in December 2004 over 80 enthusiastic collectors attended the opening of the Marie Edwards Art Gift Exhibition at the Plimsoll Gallery and joined a dinner auction at the Henry Jones Art Hotel. Four lots were sold at auction and more than half the exhibition sold during the week-long hanging, raising $33,000 for scholarships.

Professor Noel Frankham, Head of the UTAS School of Art, describes Marie Edwards' work as “notable and worthy of continued recognition. Her abstracts are intuitive and vital while her drawings are exuberant and expressive in their line and imagery”.

Edwards' career has spanned four decades, establishing a considerable catalogue of paintings and drawings. Diagnosed with Parkinson's disease in 1981 she continues to create and exhibit. Her exquisite watercolours were among lots sold at the exhibition and Marie attended the opening with her family, thrilled at the reaction to her work and gift.

Drawing influence from artists including Kandinsky, Pollock and Rothko, and from her teachers, notably Anton Holzner, Edwards is described as “a woman of great single mindedness”. “She committed herself to painting in an international style at a time when it was neither a common or a fashionable pursuit for a woman artist,” wrote Victoria Hammond in her essay for a major retrospective of Marie Edwards’ work in Hobart in 1995.

Born in 1925 in Stanley, Tasmania, Marie lived briefly in Sydney after marrying, then returned to Hobart with her family and studied fashion drawing and...
design at Hobart Technical College. She first studied art under Jack Carington Smith and Dorothy Stoner in the early sixties. This was followed by an intensive summer school with John Olsen in New South Wales.

In 1973 Marie was awarded a Diploma of Fine Art from the School of Art at the Tasmanian College of Advanced Education, where she studied under Anton Holzner, Dusan Marek and Udo Selback. Her artistic cohort included Bunty Houston, David Nash and Peter Stephenson.

Based in studios firstly in Risdon Cove and later Geilston Bay, Edwards also travelled widely, including undertaking a number of focused study tours to Europe, the Americas and the Pacific during her career, which inspired the idea of a scholarship. Her donation to the Foundation includes the remainder of work from her studio.

Celebrated painter John Olsen describes art as being about character, explaining “It’s what you are, the qualities of the person”. Marie (who studied with Olsen briefly) embodies art in all its facets; her passion, her life’s purpose, is her painting. While she has always eschewed publicity and her illness has further limited her public profile this generous gift further demonstrates Marie’s commitment to Tasmania’s creative community.

Edwards’ works are held by the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery, the University of Tasmania Fine Arts Collection and a number of private collections throughout Australia and overseas. Alumni interested in purchasing Maire Edwards’ work should contact the University of Tasmania Foundation on (03) 6226 7521.
Aryana Haribawa, or Andre, graduated with high distinction from UTAS in 1995 with a degree in computer systems engineering. He went on to gain a masters with distinction in software system engineering from the University of Melbourne in 2001.

The price of democracy is expensive – and who would know better than Aryana Haribawa. His integrity, reputation, work ethics and personal safety were challenged when he was chosen to be part of the IT expert team and General Election Committee (KPU) for Indonesia’s 2004 general election.

He was first involved in the project in January 2003 as an IT expert and is still involved with the team, helping with the financial audit conducted by the National Financial Auditor Agency. He is also helping the KPU with the electronic vote counting system of the direct elections of the Head of Provinces and Head of Districts in Indonesia this year.

Andre recalls the challenging role of an allrounder with the IT expert team for the KPU, saying the biggest challenges in getting the project done were time, bureaucracy, bribery and threats, among other things.

In the beginning, Andre’s team was consulted to give a second opinion on the initial design and to give approval to the best supplier for the technology. This supplier would be able to provide the best price and quality within the shortest time frame. In late August 2003, he and his team were assigned to redesign the system and re-evaluate its costs within a month. They had to set the system up from scratch and have it running properly in less than seven months.

Andre received a death threat via SMS for refusing to budge on persuasions for appointing a certain supplier for the project. “I did not tell my family about this until sometime later in 2004. I realised how many people were so displeased with my action for cutting off the budget for this project.

“I am so happy that, for once in my life, I helped conduct possibly the cleanest government procurement process ever. “(We) had to do project management jobs such as supervising the installation and testing of infrastructures, budget management and coordination of system operators,” he said.

Initially, the estimated cost of the system’s infrastructure (hardware and software) was approximately 1.2 trillion rupiahs (more than A$136 million), while the cost of operating the system for the three election rounds all over Indonesia was approximately 375 billion rupiahs (around A$50 million).

“My calculation showed that the cost of infrastructure could be brought down to as low as 152 billion rupiahs, while the operation cost for all the rounds was only 78 billion rupiahs. So it was then used as a budget,” Andre said.

Andre’s team managed to bring down the initial infrastructure and operating costs from more than 1.5 trillion rupiahs to just about 250 billion rupiahs.

It was only in the very late stages of the design process that his team was informed that the national telecommunication company, PT Telekom, could only cover 3,005 out of 4,985 sub-districts. “We had to appoint a satellite telephone provider to cover the rest,” he said. “We also found that some 700 sub-districts (Kalimantan, Sulawesi and Papua) were not equipped with power.”
With about 150,000,000 eligible voters and more than 500,000 polling stations, Indonesia’s elections are the largest single-day elections in the world.

“Compared to the 1999 election, when vote counting results were obtainable only 68 days after the general election, I would say that our system worked very well in providing a fast and accurate vote counting information,” he said.

And fast it was. Andre said it took just 30 minutes for the results to be transmitted after the voting ended. All in all, Andre felt that Indonesia is headed for a better future, politically and economically. “The general election has been successful…no clashes between supporters, no social unrest, no dissatisfaction from participating parties or candidates of the President and Vice-President,” he said.

Andre resides in Jakarta with his family and is an IT director to Lowe Indonesia and Initiative Indonesia, subsidiaries of Lowe Worldwide (a member of Inter Public Group).

The then president Megawati Sukarnoputri awarded him a medal in honour of the success of the voting system – a moment when Andre felt happy, confused, proud and worried all at the same time.

“I’m happy to know that my work is acknowledged by someone, and that someone was the former president herself…and worried because the award has caused jealousy among other members of the team and could be read as my personal preference towards a presidential candidate,” he said.

“Regardless of what I felt, the medallion means a lot to me, because this is the first, and maybe the last, national award I will ever have received in my whole life.”

Altium Limited, a leading developer of Windows-based electronics design software, is generously donating software, hardware and support worth $158,000 to the University of Tasmania Foundation.

The three-year donation will fund two projects – a radio transient detector and a high-bandwidth interferometer – in advanced radio astronomy research being undertaken at the UTAS School of Mathematics and Physics.

The donation was presented by David Warren, who completed honours in physics at the University of Tasmania in 1980 and went on to work in the physics and physiology departments.

David is now non-executive director of Altium Limited, a global developer and supplier of electronics design software for Microsoft Windows.

Altium’s donation to UTAS includes a cash contribution, software and a ‘NanoBoard’, as well as technical support and training.

Radio transient detector

This project, led by Professor John Dickey, involves the search to identify transient, giant bursts (pulses) of radio energy. There are numerous sources of pulses in the sky, like collapsed stars and cosmic rays. Using the radio telescope located at the University, the detector will enhance the ability for researchers to find those sources and detect the pulses.

High-bandwidth interferometer

Led by Professor Peter McCulloch, this project will enable the UTAS research team to prove that a class of variable radio sources are giant black holes at the centres of distant galaxies. The interferometer (which combines two telescopes to use as one) will bring signals from two antennas and merge them in different ways. Professor McCulloch and his team will use these data to monitor the variable sources that are suspected of being giant black holes.

“The nature of computations required in the projects results in immense data analysis tasks,” said Larry Forbes, Head of the School of Mathematics and Physics at UTAS. “Both projects need to crunch data in real time, but the technology up until now has not been available to do it. It was Altium’s technology that met our design needs. We are excited to collaborate with Altium in an effort to advance discovery in the field of radio astronomy.

“Altium technology is outstanding in its ability to integrate software tools and, in particular, to simulate programs in real time before actually building the devices,” said Forbes.

“This donation demonstrates Altium’s ongoing commitment to supporting and equipping the next generation of electronic designers and engineers,” said Nick Martin, founder and CEO of Altium.

“We are pleased to be part of the University of Tasmania’s research in radio astronomy, and provide the technology necessary for its advancement.”
Last year when a Swedish newspaper proclaimed Tasmania as “the world’s best-kept secret”, Richard Rowe allowed himself a knowing smile. He already knew!

He read the feature in his office at the Australian Embassy high above the busy city streets of central Stockholm. The article catalogued Tasmania’s natural and varied beauty and Australia’s Ambassador to Sweden knew it would appeal to the thousands of Swedes who have a deep affinity with nature. Sure enough, there was increased interest and enquiries at the Embassy about the island state.

Richard Rowe, Australia’s Ambassador to Sweden, Estonia, Finland, Latvia and Lithuania, is from Hobart. He was born there, spent his school days at Hutchins, studied law at the University of Tasmania and was admitted as a barrister and solicitor of the Supreme Court of Tasmania. He joined the then Department of External Affairs in 1970.

And from time to time he gets back to Tasmania. This time he is in Hobart on a one-day visit during what is known in diplomatic circles as mid-term consultations – halfway through his three-year posting to Sweden.

He has back-to-back meetings in Hobart with business and community leaders, representatives of various government departments, the honorary consuls of Sweden, Finland, Estonia and Lithuania and the University’s Vice-Chancellor, Daryl Le Grew (the education relationship between Australia and Sweden is strong and growing – and a priority area for the embassy in Stockholm).

“That was the entrance to the Law School,” he says, waving an arm towards what is now the School of Engineering, while on a quick tour of the campus. “And those lights around the oval – those were a major project for the Sports Council nearly 40 years ago – it is good to see them still standing!”

Richard is a senior career officer with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and prior to taking up his current appointment in Sweden in January 2003 he was the department’s senior legal adviser, the first appointee to this newly created position. His career in law began when he enrolled at the University of Tasmania in 1964.

Law, he said, was seen as a solid qualification and he was in good company. At Law School with him were John Upcher, who is still a close friend and partner in the Hobart law firm Dobson, Mitchell and Allport; the Reverend Professor Michael Tate, a former federal government minister and Australian Ambassador to the Hague; Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions Damian Bugg; Tasmanian Supreme Court judge Justice Peter Evans; senior Tasmanian lawyer Peter Griffiths and former magistrate Philip Wright among others. Also at University at the time were people like University of Tasmania Chancellor Michael Vertigan, Dr Ashton Calvert, a former ambassador to Japan and secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and Oxford academic and author Peter Conrad.

It is quite an honour roll but Richard isn’t surprised at the high level of achievement.

“I don’t think it was an exceptional period. There have been many graduates over many years who have made a distinct contribution in their chosen field. I believe this comes from the excellent all-round education provided by the University of Tasmania,” Richard said.
“In my case the degree was an important objective but there were the other learning opportunities which university life provided through participation in student representative bodies and particularly in sport.”

Richard was president of the Sports Council for three years and also president of the Law Students’ Society.

He played on the forward line for the University Firsts hockey team for several years and coached what was then known as Uni Three (the women’s hockey side) to a premiership. Dr Marion Myhill, who is now a lecturer with the UTAS School of Education, was one of the teenagers in that victorious team. (In December last year, Dr Myhill was a member of a university delegation that visited Scandinavia to strengthen ties and make new links with institutions there. A highlight was a meeting in Stockholm with Richard and a joint embassy/university visit to the Swedish Royal Institute of Technology.)

Aside from sport there have been other long-lasting influences from his university days. Richard can trace his interest in international affairs to Professor Peter Boyce, who was then Reader in Political Science. Although outside the Law Faculty, Professor Boyce encouraged the then 18-year-old to consider a diplomatic career.

Under the degree structure in the 1960s, students studied law full-time for two years before being articled to a law firm while studying part-time for a further three. Richard went to work with the Macquarie Street firm of Nettlefold and Jennings. He was articulated to the late Roger Jennings QC (who subsequently became Solicitor-General) and Robert Nettlefold (who became a Tasmanian Supreme Court judge).

“I had tremendous respect for both mentors, who were highly gifted lawyers. Under their guidance I learned invaluable lessons in advocacy, analysis and probity.

“My memories of that time are of long hours in the office, the Law Library and in lively discussions in the Ref. There was tremendous camaraderie – we were a small and close group in our year and then there was the sporting fraternity as well.”

Richard says his law degree provided a solid background on which to build his career. Notably, he says, he has been able to develop his knowledge of international law through involvement over many years in negotiations on treaties and conventions at the United Nations in New York and Geneva.


He has been an Australian representative at numerous international conferences including as Head of Australian Delegations to the International Criminal Court negotiations (and chair of the “Like-Minded Group”) and to Antarctic Treaty consultative meetings. He has also been coordinator for the United Nations Comprehensive Convention against Terrorism.

In 2001 Richard was awarded an Australian Public Service Centenary Medal by the Institute of Public Administration for his work on international legal issues. In the 2003 Australia Day Honours he was awarded the Commonwealth Public Service Medal “for outstanding public service through sustained contributions to advancing Australia’s interests in complex areas of international law, including the Law of the Sea, Antarctic issues and the International Criminal Court”.

A professional highlight was being closely involved in the negotiations that culminated in the adoption of the International Criminal Court Statute in 1998. The court, which is now in existence in The Hague, complements national jurisdictions and ensures that no individual who commits genocide, crimes against humanity or war crimes will escape impunity.

“The establishment of the court was,” he says, “a tremendously significant advance in the development and codification of international law.”

As a diplomat in Stockholm, Richard deals daily with a wide range of issues and activities relating to Australia’s relations with the five countries for which the embassy has responsibility. In addition to conveying Australia’s position on current international subjects to the governments, he is heavily involved in promoting trade, investment and education interests. But above all, he says, the most important responsibility of the embassy is to provide services and assistance to Australian citizens.

“That,” he says, “is our number one priority.” And as for the world’s best-kept secret, Richard has, in fact, been sharing it with many people for many years, in many countries.
Max O'Toole's red socks are falling down and his old sneakers have walked a few kilometres. His neat blue, very short, umpires' shorts and well-washed rugby top are not the gear of a modern-day, elite athletics coach. But who cares? Max doesn't. There are northern Tasmanians from 14 to 90 years old, including state and national champions, who would turn somersaults down Brisbane Street if Max told them to.

The trust is not engendered by the high-fashion cut of the gruff-speaking physical education teacher's tracksuit bottoms. It's his big heart that gets everybody in.

By rights, Launceston's Police and Citizens Youth Club (PCYC) gym and weights room is the last place that you should find Max. He should be home resting or at least wandering peacefully in his Rosevears garden. But Max, being Max, has managed to almost ignore that he is supposed to be suffering from chronic fatigue syndrome, which forced him out of full-time teaching more than 10 years ago and which leaves most people severely debilitated.

He started going to PCYC to work out and lift weights to give himself an excuse to sleep soon after he was diagnosed with chronic fatigue syndrome. "I thought that I'd do something to be tired for, that if I went to the gym and gave myself a pasting then it would be all right to sleep the next day," he said.

The chronic fatigue diagnosis must have been devastating to a man like Max, who has always lived and breathed sport. "I lived just down the road (from PCYC) when I was a boy, Mum's still down there," he says. "It's all we did – played footy, cricket, swam."

Max was a Newstead boy and he and his nine brothers and sisters prided themselves on knowing the best local swimming holes. "There was a really good swimming spot right down there near Hoblers Bridge where you'd never go now and another at the bottom of Queechy Hill, not quite to Scotch (Scotch Oakburn College Senior School)," Max said.

As the surname suggests, the O'Tooles, of Newstead, were a staunch Catholic family. So young Max went off to St Patrick's College.
He took sick leave and then some long-service leave, always thinking that he would be back teaching before he had time to get bored.

Instead, a whole new life evolved for Max O’Toole for which many of northern Tasmania’s top athletes will be forever grateful. He decided that he would beat chronic fatigue by becoming super fit and he collected a community of people along the way.

He started walking every day with his wife Christine. They still walk together most days. He gradually extended his gym sessions as his body became less dependent on sleep. And he started coaching, he adds nonchalantly.

Translated from Max-speak, that means that anybody who took an interest in what Max was doing – whatever their age, gender or skill level – was invited to join in.

“I have never really gone out looking for talent,” says the successful coach. “If they want to work, I say, ‘let’s go and work’, whoever they are.” He admits that he has coached probably hundreds of young sportsmen and sportswomen in the past decade – all for free. Max reckons it would spoil the experience if he was paid for his labour of love.

There is another big bunch of young athletes who train under Max’s watchful eye, at Newstead Harriers. “They are a talented group of young fellows. There would be up to 20 at a time in the bunch, I suppose,” he said. “They have won many gold medals and represented in state teams,” he adds proudly, as though he had nothing to do with it.

These days, the chronic fatigue sufferer’s days are full. He is at PCYC at least six times a week – three of the sessions are supposedly for his own exercise but it usually becomes merged with a coaching session for someone who has asked his advice.

One of Max’s talented young stable is weightlifter Adam Pinkard, who holds the title of the strongest man in Australia. “He’s a big young man. There’s about 180 kilos of him,” says Max.

Last year, when Max took the 24-year-old to Cape Town for the world power-lifting championships, was the only time that he has accepted money for his athletes. Max was preparing to finance his own trip when the PCYC stepped in and made a donation to help with travel expenses.

But Max, being Max, gets as much enjoyment out of a couple of weekly classes that were his mother’s idea as from the kudos of turning out elite athletes.

“It started with my mother seven or eight years ago,” said Max. “I used to walk with my mum everywhere and, one day, as we were walking past here, I suggested we should do some work in there.”

Max’s mum liked working out and invited her older friends and family along. Soon young Max O’Toole had a couple of weekly classes of up to 50 each of 40 to 89-year-olds lifting weights and doing stretches.

“My aim is to make them stronger and more flexible whereas all they want to do initially is lose their tummies or make their bottoms tighter,” said Max. “But I love it how they all like being involved. I see the satisfaction of the older people in being able to do things that they haven’t been able to do for years and it is absolutely exciting for them and for me.”

Home away from home: Max O’Toole in Launceston’s Police and Citizens Youth Club gym.
Every vibrant community needs the ability to look at itself, to take stock, and to accept or reject what it sees. In this way we act, review, learn and grow. Our visual arts and craftspeople have a pivotal role to play in this process. Their work mirrors who and what we are and provides a window through which we can ponder and reflect on our lives and actions.

The work of Patrick Hall, one of our foremost furniture designers and visual artists, is the very epitome of this process. Not only does he provide us with beautiful and prized objects, but through his work he reflects on who and what we are. To quote art critic and writer Peter Timms, Patrick “is a wry interpreter of the human condition in the tradition of the best satirists. He has a keen eye for the absurd, for the foibles of human behaviour, which he observes with a sharp eye”.

And to quote Peter again, “His constructions are carefully considered and meticulously constructed…the quality of his workmanship cannot be faulted. Far from deadening the humour and singularity of his vision, the sense we get of patient labour adds to it, for it conveys, in itself, his delight and his love”.

Patrick has established a significant national and international reputation. A measure of the regard in which he is held is his selection as the first Tasmanian artist to receive recognition as a ‘Treasured Tasmanian’ in the first of the Tasmanian Monograph series celebrating Tasmania’s diverse arts community. He was selected for this honour from several thousand practising artists in Tasmania by the Tasmanian Arts Advisory Board and its specialist advisory panels.

The criteria required outstanding achievement in the areas of creativity, innovation, originality and professionalism. The artist must have achieved national significance with substantial international recognition, created a substantial body of work and undertaken a significant amount of their creative output in Tasmania.

Patrick gained a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the University of Tasmania in 1987. He has had 12 solo exhibitions and has been included in numerous group exhibitions in Australia, Japan and the United States of America. He has undertaken major public art commissions in Tasmania and his work is represented in the collections of the Powerhouse Museum, Sydney, in the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, and in various regional galleries and institutional and private collections in Australia and overseas.

The University Foundation acknowledges Patrick Hall as an outstanding graduate of the University of Tasmania and is proud to present the first visual artist with a Foundation Graduate Award.

The University of Tasmania Foundation Graduate Awards recognise the outstanding qualities and achievements of UTAS graduates who are emerging as leaders in their professions and the community. They are an inspiration to us all.
Robert Mensah graduated from the University of Tasmania in 1990 with a PhD in agriculture, having come to this university as an international student. His first degree, an honours degree in agriculture with a major in crop protection, is from the University of Science and Technology in Ghana.

In the space of 14 years Robert has established an international reputation as an expert in integrated pest management and is now one of Australia’s leading scientists in this area. He successfully developed management programs for the Australian cotton industry, and a natural enemy food attractant called Envirofeast. He successfully introduced methods of using food sprays against agricultural pests and developed a strip-cropping system that has been adopted in the Australian cotton industry to conserve beneficial insects and manage cotton pests. He introduced and assisted in the commercialisation of UV-protected petroleum spray oils as a pest management tool, and is developing a commercial product that can deter oviposition and feeding of a cotton parasite and a fungal isolate that will assist in managing cotton pests.

There has been considerable industrial uptake of his work, which has resulted in a world-wide patent on food sprays and methods of using food sprays against agricultural pests. The adoption of his integrated management program for the Australian cotton industry has reduced synthetic insecticide use by 40 to 50% since 1998 – the year in which he was named Australian Cotton Industry Researcher of the Year.

Robert currently heads an extensive research team working in an area that is vital to the wellbeing of agriculture world-wide and to the health of the environment. His work has impacted on agricultural programs throughout the world. As an example, the uptake of integrated pest management in the cotton industry in Xianjiang Province, China, has increased from 20% in 2001 to a staggering 85% in 2003 as a direct result of Robert’s involvement. This, in turn, has resulted in a further World Bank consultancy to supervise an IPM project on citrus and vines in Sichuan Province, China.

To quote his nominator for this award, “the University of Tasmania can take great pride in Robert Mensah, who is clearly shaping the future in his chosen field.”

Dr Bronwyn Fredericks has been appointed as the new chief executive officer of the Bidgerdii Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Health Service Central Queensland Region. Bidgerdii has three primary healthcare clinics that operate in Rockhampton, Gracemere and Blackwater along with a regional training centre for social and emotional wellbeing that services central Queensland. Bronwyn was previously employed in the Nutrition Program with Public Health Services, Queensland Health, as an area manager with Anglicare Central Queensland and as a lecturer in health sciences with Central Queensland University.

Bronwyn is the chairperson of the Rockhampton District Indigenous Health Forum and the treasurer of the Queensland Aboriginal and Islander Health Forum, which represents about 20 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled health services in Queensland. Bronwyn is additionally a member of the Rockhampton District Health Council, the Central Queensland Health Research Alliance Committee and a board member of Anglicare Central Queensland. For over 20 years she has been a volunteer in community-based organisations, adding to the collective efforts of improving health and human service outcomes for people, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and vulnerable non-Indigenous people.

Bronwyn completed a Diploma of Teaching at the BCAE Kelvin Grove (Qld) in 1989. She also completed a Bachelor of Education at QUT, a Master of Education (Leadership) at QUT, a Master of Education at UTAS and a PhD in Health Science at CQU.

“T}
Rex Hobcroft

Rex Hobcroft has made a seminal contribution to the arts in Australia, as a musician, educator and administrator. He is well known as a performer and, as well as being recognised as a fine teacher and mentor, has been the driving force behind the development of several conservatoria of music.

Most importantly, Rex has striven to make a place for Australian performers and composers and foster the development of an Australian idiom in music. In this way he has always understood, most perceptively, that music is an integral part of a community – that it reflects the life and values of that community, and that new forms must be explored and encouraged as a community grows and finds its sense of identity.

We know Rex well in Tasmania for the hugely successful role he played advancing music education and performance in this State. In 1961, as a newly appointed lecturer at the University of Tasmania, he found himself on the Domain in an office that was a partly converted garage and with equipment that consisted of an upright piano, an old record player; a few recordings and a very small collection of music books. He could have been forgiven for finding the task ahead of him just too daunting.

He knew, however, how to motivate support in the community – by bringing together enthusiasts, stakeholders and performers, by giving performances, by setting up ensembles – to consolidate the many parts of the whole into a vision for music and music education in this State. He gave, for instance, weekly performances with commentary, working through the complete Beethoven cycle of piano sonatas – the first such presentation in Australia by an Australian pianist. He instituted weekly lunch-hour concerts, the first of which featured Sculthorpe’s Sonata for Viola and Percussion. He organised, in Hobart in 1963, the First Australian Composers’ Seminar, and he showcased the work of contemporary Australian composers. The 1963 gathering, which attracted many of Australia’s recognised composers, is remembered as a watershed in Australian composition.

His vision was for Hobart to become the ‘Salzburg of Australia’ but he recognised for this to happen every section of the community had to contribute.

In March 1964 Rex, as honorary director, had the pleasant task of welcoming the initial seven students to the newly established UTAS awarded two honorary doctorates at graduation ceremonies in December last year.
Tasmanian School of Music. The School, housed in the music block of the Hobart Matriculation College, offered two three-year diploma courses. Such was the standard of teaching at the new institution that the programs were recognised as being as comprehensive and demanding as those provided by conservatoria of music in other states. To bring the School into line with those institutions the name was changed, by the end of the second year of operation, to the Tasmanian Conservatorium of Music.

Tasmania owes Rex Hobcroft a great debt for his vision for the Tasmanian Conservatorium of Music. Today it is a school that lends great distinction to the University and is well regarded in the community through its various concerts, recitals, master classes and outreach activities.

In 1972 Rex succeeded Joseph Post as director of the New South Wales State Conservatorium of Music. He held this post for a decade and later, on retirement in Perth, chaired the Western Australian Government’s Conservatorium Committee, which led to the establishment of that State’s conservatorium in 1985.

During his directorship, the New South Wales State Conservatorium took on the educational profile that can be recognised today. Mr Hobcroft articulated and, in the climate of funding largesse of the early 70s, substantially realised a vision of the Conservatorium as a ‘music university’ in which a range of specialised musical disciplines – performance (both classical and jazz), music education, composition and musicology – enriched each other.

Rex is also well regarded as an international adjudicator in piano performance and has served on countless panels for the adjudication of prestigious international piano prizes. He co-founded the now world-renowned Sydney International Piano Competition, a competition that has launched and enhanced the careers of scores of internationally active concert pianists.

Rex Hobcroft has dedicated his life to music and music education, and UTAS honours him for the extraordinary influence he has brought to bear on music education and performance in Australia.

Janet Mansfield

Janet Mansfield has an energy to be admired. She is the author of numerous books, publishes two significant international magazines, curates exhibitions, judges competitions, and attends the most significant gatherings relating to ceramics around the world. In so doing, Janet Mansfield has been supporting and promoting Tasmania’s ceramic artists and potters for over 30 years.

Her two magazines provide the only professional platform from which to launch dialogue and debates about ceramics on an international scale. Without such publications Tasmania’s fledgling artists would be unable to demonstrate the track record required for grant applications.

Janet Mansfield has also been a strong advocate of funding for Tasmanian artists to travel overseas – supporting them with features in her magazines and by commissioning Tasmanian artists to write for them.

In her publications she has placed Tasmanian ceramic artists within a national and international arena, and a number of Tasmanian artists have regularly featured in the many books that Mansfield has written over the years.

Currently, Janet Mansfield is assisting our State’s reputation for the arts by developing a touring exhibition of Tasmanian ceramics, which is to be shown at four prestigious venues across Australia. A number of the participants in the exhibition are staff or students from the University of Tasmania. The exhibition will be a special feature in one of her magazines and, with the assistance of UTAS researcher Penny Smith, the works are also being featured in a separate catalogue.

In her early career Janet Mansfield informed Australia’s young artists about the world by leading from overseas. Today she brings the world to Australia by hosting international events from which Tasmanians have benefited.

She is always open to project ideas. Her approach reflects a dynamic and youthful passion for ceramics within Australia and for which Tasmania, and often those attached to the University of Tasmania, have received a proportionally large coverage.

Professor Noel Frankham, Head of the UTAS School of Art, said, “The benefit of Janet’s contribution to Tasmania has been extraordinarily far reaching. The fact that since the 1970s Tasmania has become known nationally and internationally for the strength of its ceramics is in no small measure due to Janet Mansfield’s irrepressible advocacy and representation on our behalf.”

UTAS honours Janet Mansfield for her outstanding contribution to art and her passion for Tasmania.
Flatulence is not usually a topic for polite society. But one UTAS researcher is happily singing “Beans, beans, good for the heart!” Jane Pittaway is currently completing her masters at the School of Human Life Sciences, expanding on her honours research on the health benefits of legumes. She’s examining the effects of chickpeas on heart disease risk factors such as blood cholesterol, as well as looking at bowel health and satiety, or feeling full.

“These days obesity is a real health problem so we are looking at ways where we can help people reduce their energy intake as well as their cholesterol,” Jane says. Being high in dietary fibre, legumes give the feeling of fullness that helps reduce the amount people eat.

Jane says another objective of the research is to minimise the stereotype of legumes as a ‘poor person’s food’. “I think people just don’t think about them, because for such a long time we were very Anglo-Saxon in our food, because that was our history,” she says.

“Baked beans have been around for a long time and lots of people eat them. That’s probably how many people would consume legumes.”

Jane says that expecting people to eat four cans of chickpeas a week for 12 weeks was a challenge. Along with the health benefits of chickpeas come the rather antisocial side effects most commonly associated with the humble baked bean.

“For some people who aren’t used to eating chickpeas, it can be a real challenge to do it,” Jane says. “It’s got to do with legumes being bulkier than the standard Australian diet. A lot of people had a little bit of discomfort for the first couple of weeks, which then settled down,” Jane says. “A couple of them got halfway through the 12 weeks and they said, ‘I just can’t anymore!’ but the majority adapted really well.”

“It’s the insoluble dietary fibre. Once it gets into your large intestine, the microbes that live there ferment the fibre and break it down. It’s the fermentation process that causes flatulence.”

Microbes aside, Jane believes her research is vital in a society where obesity is becoming critical. She says both she and her husband come from families where weight is an issue. “I think my research is an extension of my own interest anyway,” she says, adding that she has always been careful about what her children eat. “I think these days people are making an effort to look after themselves.

“The thing is, people are very set in their dietary habits, they tend to eat what they ate as kids, unless they have reason for changing. There have been some contradictory statements made in the media in the past but as more research takes place, we learn more about the link between eating and a healthy lifestyle, and the ultimate aim is to help people choose a healthier diet.”

Jane’s interest in nutrition followed a return to UTAS after a long period in the Tasmanian health system. Originally from Victoria, Jane arrived in Tasmania in 1977 to study at the University of Tasmania, at that time the Tasmanian College of Advanced Education. She studied to become a medical scientist (what is now known as a biomedical scientist).

After her graduation, she worked at the Launceston General Hospital for 16 years.

“I was accepted as a trainee in the Pathology Department and that’s where I stayed,” she recalls. Jane worked until 1993 when she accepted a redundancy package that gave her six years at home to look after her expanding family.

“I went back to work in 1999 as a part-time research assistant for the Menzies Centre, acting as their northern research assistant in a study into potential genetic and environmental factors associated with developing multiple sclerosis,” she says. “My part in the study (coordinated by Ingrid van der Mei), finished after two-and-a-half years, and I enjoyed it so much that I sent an open letter of application to anywhere that I could think that might need the services of a research assistant.”

Head of Human Life Sciences at UTAS Professor Madeleine Ball offered her a position as a research assistant and invited her to study for her honours at the same time in 2001. “As my qualifications were almost 20 years old, I took the opportunity to update them and study in the area of nutrition, which has long been of interest to me.”
UTAS researcher Tracey Dickson is being helped to fight Parkinson’s through a bequest from one of the disease’s prominent victims.

Tasmanian business identity Bevis ‘Snow’ Thomas died from Parkinson’s disease in 1991, frustrated by how little doctors knew about his disease. His generous bequest means that Tracey has been awarded more than $135,000 – the largest single grant the Royal Hobart Hospital Research Foundation has ever given. It will enable Tracey to spend two years studying the world’s second most common neuro-degenerative disease.

Parkinson’s disease symptoms include muscle rigidity and tremors and eventually communicating difficulties. “It can be a source of massive frustration,” says Dr Dickson.

Dr Dickson’s team will try to find the point at which brain cells start to die in Parkinson’s sufferers. “My work will focus on the part of the brain where dopamine-producing neurons, or nerve cells, are found,” she says. “We’re trying to determine why the nerve cells that produce dopamine, the neurotransmitter which allows us to walk and move freely, start to die.”

She says that one of the team’s theories was that the cells had an abnormal regenerative response. “A lot of people across the world are working on Parkinson’s disease and everybody’s trying to find a cure. But this is a unique angle that we’re taking, to try to make our contribution to the global effort. My hope is that this work will maybe help someone else make a final step in finding that cure.”

Bevis was the uncle of Tasmanian Chamber of Commerce and Industries chief executive Damon Thomas, who said his uncle was devoted to finding out as much as he could about the disease. “He’d have been delighted to be celebrating this significant step with Dr Dickson’s research,” Mr Thomas said.

Tracey grew up in Burnie, in the State’s north-west. She completed a BSc(Hons) and PhD at UTAS. She returned to Tasmania in 2003, from postdoctoral studies at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York, to complete the final two years of her NH&MRC CJ Martin Fellowship in the laboratory of Associate Professor James Vickers. She is now based at the University of Tasmania Clinical School.
As a small child Sapphire McMullan-Fisher went mushrooming in the wet season. She remembers the village women calling for her before dawn and the excitement of emerging from the woodland hours later with baskets brimming.

The women were the wives of the workers who lived near Kitwe, a big mining centre in the heart of a copper-production area in central northern Zambia, and Sapphire was the granddaughter of the local surgeon and doctor, who lived on a farm beyond the town.

"It’s something I looked forward to each wet season. The African women still had their traditional knowledge passed on through the generations about where to go and what was edible and what wasn’t.

“If only we had a culture like that… with the understanding of nature, fungi particularly, still intact.”

Sapphire came with her family to Australia in 1979 via a couple of years in New Zealand. She didn’t go mushrooming again until 1995 during the third year of her biology degree at La Trobe University, which rekindled her interest. These days she goes mushrooming but in very different climes. The cool, green Tasmanian wilderness is now her hunting ground and she no longer does it just for fun.

The University of Tasmania PhD student is studying the fungi and moss communities in the alpine, wet forest, coastal heath and grassy woodland around Hobart, with an eye to conservation.

“No-one worries about the poor old mushroom,” she said. “In the past decade much information has been
synthesised on the topics of biodiversity and conservation.

“Many conservation and management decisions are now being made at the level of broad vascular plant communities, like cool temperate rainforests or grassy woodlands.

“However, cryptogams (algae, fungi, mosses and lichens) are also important parts of ecosystems. The ecology of the cryptogams is poorly understood but they may be good indicators of ecosystem health and function.

“What we don’t know is that if we only manage for the vascular plants, will the cryptogams be adequately conserved? I hope my PhD research will begin to answer this broad question.”

Sapphire chose Hobart for her work because of the close proximity of the University of Tasmania to natural vegetation.

“In Hobart, Mt Wellington is on your doorstep and you can spend more time in the bush, not in the car,” she said. “It is such a jewel from autumn to winter, the place comes to life.”
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“Take any of the walks and take it slow and you will see the most remarkable things. Carpets of moss and, once you’ve got your eye in, you will see the fungi everywhere.”

At a guess, she says there must be between four and five hundred different species on the mountain and they are the ones you can see! That doesn’t include the micro-fungi beavering away in the soil and recycling processes.

Surprisingly little is known about the fungus flora in Australia. Researchers, like Sapphire, say the work is at least a hundred years behind that of other native flora and fauna.

“We are missing out on a whole kingdom,” she said.

The distribution of even the most well-known species of Australian fungi is poorly known; there are few published distribution maps.

To address the knowledge shortfall, a national volunteer program called Fungimap has been launched to document 100 fungal species and their distribution across the country. Fungimap started nine years ago as an initiative of mycologist Tom May who, along with Head of the School of Geography and Environmental Studies Professor Jamie Kirkpatrick and Emma Pharo from the University of Tasmania, is supervising Sapphire’s research. Fungimap is just becoming an incorporated group. It enjoys the joint support of the Field Naturalists Club of Victoria and the Melbourne Royal Botanic Gardens.

Sapphire is one of several people in Tasmania contributing to the national database. And the idea is catching on with more than 700 volunteers across Australia contributing to the program. Already about 10,000 sightings of the 100 target species of fungi have been documented.

Earlier this year Tasmania hosted a national Fungimap conference that attracted amateur and professional mycologists and naturalists from throughout Australia and internationally. In the lead-up, Sapphire became the unofficial ‘voice of fungi’ in Tasmania spreading the word through regular appearances on ABC Radio. Her enthusiasm for ‘fungi spotting’ had callers ringing in from around the State with their own sightings.
But Sapphire is quick to point out that not all fungi are good fungi, as was evident during a post-conference field trip to the Tarkine in Tasmania’s north-west. There, Sapphire said they found evidence of the spread of the Northern Hemisphere ‘Fly Agaric’ (Amanita muscaria). Those storybook toadstools with the red-spotted caps are going ‘feral’ in the native forests.

The ‘Fly Agaric’ fungi was introduced to Australia with exotic conifers and pines with the first plantations in 1876 and is now marching into the native wilderness. Most plants depend on fungal partners, called mycorrhiza, in the soil to facilitate growth and survival. The ‘Fly Agaric’ is one of these mycorrhizal species.

“Now it’s spreading…it’s a weed. It’s got into our native forests on walkers’ boots, on cars and other machinery and could eventually have a drastic effect on the ecosystem. That’s why it is important that we document where it is. Ideally I would like to see a prevention and control plan developed, similar to the one for Phytophthora cinnamomi.”

Of all the fungi she has seen, Sapphire’s favourite is Cyptotrama aspratum, found in Tasmania in old-growth forests.

“It has the most fabulous colours – an orange cap with scales like little flames and the most brilliant white gills. It just loves the biggest old logs.”

Sapphire has finished the field and identification component of her study and will begin documenting her results and findings shortly.

She had hoped to have completed her PhD thesis by now but a serious accident at the turn of 2000 (she was hit by a car on Sandy Bay Road in Hobart) has delayed the work. After months of rehabilitation, in which Sapphire had to learn to walk again, she is back working part-time. Everything going to plan, she expects to complete a draft by June 2006.

Last month Sapphire and her partner Mark moved to far north Queensland for his new job, but she will return to Tasmania regularly to check in with her supervisors.

And, apart from the fungi, there’s another reason to come back. Sapphire wants to visit Government House to follow up an historic family link with the State. The 32-year-old was named after her great-grandmother, Sapphire Hanford (nee Gore Browne), who was the grand-daughter of Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Gore Browne and Harriet Louisa Gore Browne (nee Campbell). The Lieutenant Colonel was the Governor of Tasmania from 1861 to 1868.

Her grandmother, Dr Monica Fisher, was the first female doctor in Zambia. She was the niece of Sir Stewart Gore Browne, who was a member of the Legislative Council and helped shape the future of Northern Rhodesia, which became Zambia. Sir Stewart Gore Browne was Sapphire Hanford’s brother.

“Grandma’s hobbies included botanical art, which I also love. It was her and grandfather’s (Charles Fisher, surgeon) farm where I went mushrooming as a small child. Grandma showed me, through her actions, that women can do anything they want if they keep trying,” Sapphire said.
Professor Simon Foote has taken up the reins as the new director of the Menzies Research Institute. He has spent the past 10 years at the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research (WEHI). Until recently, Professor Foote was the joint head of the genetics and bioinformatics division at the WEHI. He has a strong research record in genetics and in the susceptibility to disease.

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Daryl Le Grew, said that Professor Foote was no stranger to the work of the Menzies Research Institute, having worked with their genetics staff on successful multiple sclerosis research.

The recently-appointed chair of the Institute’s board, Dr Dan Norton, said the appointment of an eminent researcher like Professor Foote was an important step for expansion.

“Our plan for the future is to deepen our research and more completely investigate disease causes. To do this, we will need to increase our recruitment and research collaborations.”

“The board is confident that Professor Foote’s track record – his experience as well as his national and international links – will lead the Menzies Research Institute in this direction,” Dr Norton said.

Medically trained at the University of Melbourne and the Royal Melbourne Hospital, Professor Foote’s PhD was on genes that control drug resistance in the malarial parasite. He completed his postdoctoral studies at the Whitehead Institute at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where he played a pivotal role in early work involving the human genome program. His research at WEHI was on how humans respond to infectious, epidemic-prone diseases such as malaria.

Professor Foote will move to Tasmania with his wife and three children.

The appointment of a new director comes after a review of the governance structure for the Menzies Research Institute. The Council of the University of Tasmania determined recently that the Institute will operate as a corporate entity established within the legal framework of the University.

Professor Le Grew said the University Council had appointed a new board to oversee the coming period of growth and development. He said the board will be responsible for vision, strategy and oversight of the Institute’s overall performance.

“The new board includes Dr Dan Norton as chairman and Mr Damon Thomas, Sir Guy Green and Dr David Boadle as directors. An eminent research scientist in health science will be appointed to the board in the near future,” Professor Le Grew said.

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The Menzies Research Institute, part of the University of Tasmania, is one of Australia’s leading population health research organisations. Through nationwide studies and international collaborations, the Menzies Institute explores the environmental and genetic causes of a range of diseases, including cancer, multiple sclerosis, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, osteoporosis, epilepsy and infant health. The Tasmanian Government proudly supports the work of the Institute as a Tasmanian icon.
Good news for general practice

Dr Mark Nelson has taken up the position of Professor of General Practice in the School of Medicine at UTAS. The Melbourne-based GP and his family have taken up residence in Hobart. As well as having extensive general practice experience, Dr Nelson has a background in public health, epidemiology and general practice-based clinical trials. In fact, Professor Nelson is an expert in epidemiology – the branch of medicine that deals with the study of the causes, distribution and control of disease in populations. He has even used statistical methods to ‘prove’ that there was no curse on Tutankhamen’s tomb!

While at Melbourne’s Baker Heart Research Institute, Dr Nelson was Victorian Regional Medical Coordinator for the Second Australian National Blood Pressure Study. This meant recruiting over 1,000 GPs and 2,500 subjects, as well as visiting more than 150 practices in order to gather the relevant data and recruit practices to be part of the research.

His PhD focused on the pharmacological management of hypertension, where he investigated medical interventions and how to predict which patients could stay off their blood pressure lowering medication. While completing this study he also gained a National Health and Medical Research Council (NH&MRC) Australian Clinical Research Fellowship.

Professor Nelson’s main focus will be on research, but he will also contribute to the undergraduate and postgraduate teaching programs that are important for the future of general practice.

Dean of the Faculty of Health Science and Head of School of Medicine, Professor Allan Carmichael, welcomed Professor Nelson’s appointment and said that it would strengthen the research and teaching activities of the School by providing a focus on general practice and community health.

Professor Nelson is currently involved in ‘ASPREE’ (ASPirin in Reducing Events in the Elderly), a NH&MRC-funded primary prevention trial for cardiovascular disease where more than 20,000 elderly Australians will be administered a low dose of aspirin or placebo and monitored for heart attack, strokes and, perhaps most importantly, dementia. The collaborative, nationwide study has been funded for more than $3.5 million and is expected to take about five years.

NEW DIRECTOR FOR RURAL HEALTH

Associate Professor Sue Kilpatrick has been appointed as the new director of the University Department of Rural Health (UDRH).

Associate Professor Kilpatrick was previously director of the Centre for Research and Learning in Regional Australia, and senior lecturer in adult and vocational education in the Faculty of Education at UTAS.

Associate Professor Kilpatrick’s particular research interest is in developing partnerships in small rural communities with local secondary schools, to help their regions prosper, to encourage school leavers to stay in the community and to provide pathways from school to work in the local area. Her interests will complement the department’s ongoing work in community engagement and rural health workforce issues.

She says strengthening the rural health research culture is a priority.

“I’m looking forward to working with the UDRH team, the Rural Clinical School and the Faculty of Health Science to build a centre for excellence in rural health. We have an excellent foundation of partnerships with the Department of Health and Human Services and other stakeholders, as well as skills and expertise in rural health research and practice. We are well placed in Tasmania to apply the best of national and international knowledge to improving health in our rural communities,” she said.

Professor Allan Carmichael, Dean of the Faculty of Health Science, paid tribute to Dr Rosalind Bull, who served as acting director following the departure in mid-2004 of the previous director, Associate Professor Ian Blue, to take up a position in Canada.
Alumni, where are you?

Alumni who graduated in Hobart in the years 1989 to 1992 and who have never bothered to pick up their graduation photos may still have an opportunity to do so.

A box of graduation photos, proofs and negatives was given to us by the photographer who covered those ceremonies. Clement Tse, Leigh Crosby, John Walker – did you decide against a memento of that happy day? If you or anyone else who graduated in those years would like to trawl through our abandoned photos you are most welcome!

We are always on the lookout for lost alumni. Let us know the addresses of other UTAS alumni known to you.

We are in the process of transferring and updating thousands of alumni records onto a new database and hope to make it as accurate as possible. As a result, you will now be registered under your original student number, instead of under a separate alumni number. Your benefits remain the same; however, for more information please feel free to contact the Alumni Office.

Please help us to stay in touch with the extended UTAS family by updating your contact details. Contact Michaela at the Alumni Office at Alumni.Office@utas.edu.au or enter your details on the Alumni website at www.alumni.utas.edu.au/changeofadd.html.

Have you seen this man?

$40 million Medical Education and Research Complex is being developed for Hobart’s Wapping 4 site, next to the historic Theatre Royal.

Launching the site, Premier Paul Lennon said the State Government was proud to be able to secure the future viability of both the Tasmanian School of Medicine and the Menzies Research Institute by supporting the project.

“This Medical Education and Research Complex will strengthen our health system in Tasmania, while at the same time securing the future viability of both the Tasmanian School of Medicine and the Menzies Research Institute,” he said.

“It will also provide a boost to the teaching capacity of the Royal Hobart Hospital, act as a beacon to attract high-quality professionals to the State and provide more opportunities for employment and professional development for medical professionals.”

The Vice-Chancellor Professor Daryl Le Grew said the new development would provide an integrated complex that would bring together the facilities of the Tasmanian School of Medicine and the Menzies Research Institute.

“This will be a unique complex that will deliver new and modern ways of teaching medicine in Tasmania, as well as providing a state-of-the-art facility for health research,” Professor Le Grew said.

“The co-location project will also include refurbishment of the University’s current medical education facilities.”

Mr Lennon said the benefits the development would bring to Tasmania could not be overstated.

“The continuing presence of a high-quality medical school is critical to the long-term future of Tasmania’s health system,” he said.

“At the same time, increasing the scientific profile of the Menzies Research Institute, a Tasmanian icon, is important to the Government’s strategic vision for this State.”

Professor Le Grew said the co-location proposal had broader significance for the State and the University of Tasmania than simply consolidating the research work of the Menzies Institute.

“It is also an indication to the Tasmanian community that UTAS has an ongoing commitment to providing a vibrant, world-class medical school for generations to come,” he said.

“We are currently exploring new ways of creating synergies and increasing levels of engagement between UTAS medical education and research and the Tasmanian medical community.

The Menzies Research Institute has also secured $7.5 million in funding for the co-location project from The Atlantic Philanthropies, an international foundation, and the Federal Government has also committed $12 million towards the project.
years in the making: the Tasmanian School of Medicine

Past and present staff and students from the Tasmanian School of Medicine recently enjoyed a trip down Tasmanian medicine’s memory lane. Psychiatrist Professor Ken Kirkby gave a presentation on the history of medical practice in Tasmania, including the establishment of the State’s only medical school in the 1960s. Former deans of the Medical School from 1970 onwards were present, including Professor Arthur Cobbold, foundation Professor of Physiology and one of the architects of the original curriculum. He described his leaving the UK for Tasmania as an exciting opportunity to shape a new medical curriculum that involved clinicians and scientists working with unity of purpose. “[I]t’s pretty well what you are trying to do today!” he said, referring to the current changes to the Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS).

Dr Geraldine Mac Carrick (Head, Medical Education Unit) said the seminar was a rare opportunity for some of the foundation academics to share their personal accounts of curriculum development with the current MBBS curriculum development team, and students of the current course 40 years later.

“The presentation reinforced that many of the challenges of curriculum development we experience today were the very same challenges faced in developing a medical curriculum 40 years ago: ensuring the curriculum is not just about imparting factual knowledge to students, but about fostering love of knowledge for its own sake, integrity and the capacity for critical and reflective thinking as well as developing a social conscience,” she said.

Professor Colin Wendell Smith, Professor of Anatomy from 1968 to 1992, described the early attempts to fashion an integrated curriculum that responded to medical education literature. Professor Lindsay McLeod, former Academic Dean Faculty of Medicine and Pharmacy, talked of the challenges of appropriate student selection, challenges still faced today. Professor Ian Lewis, foundation Professor of Child Health (1968-1988), shared some humorous anecdotes about the original demountable RAAF buildings, which accommodated the staff and students in the early days.

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Our man in Kuala Lumpur

Thank you, James Wise, University of Tasmania alumnus and Australian High Commissioner to Malaysia, for hosting a reception for University of Tasmania alumni at the residence in Kuala Lumpur in February this year.

The reception was an opportunity for old friends to meet and reminisce about their student days and for younger alumni to meet those who went before them. The event was attended by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Daryl Le Grew (and by his wife Jo), who used the occasion to tell alumni about initiatives at the University. Alumni came from as far away as Sarawak to attend the event. It is hoped that the relationships formed and renewed will provide the genesis for a Malaysia-wide Alumni branch.

The reception in Kuala Lumpur was preceded by one in Singapore at the Grand Hyatt Hotel. The reception, hosted by Vice-Chancellor Le Grew and the President of the Singapore Alumni branch, Mok Tuck Sung, attracted about 80 alumni and friends. Singapore President Mok hopes to explore alumni linkages within the region and to develop a ‘federation’ of UTAS alumni groups to widen networking opportunities.
Keep in touch with a ‘Postcard from the Edge’

Postcard from Julia Jacques:

“My job at the Australian Bureau of Statistics is both challenging and interesting. I work in International Trade and Balance of Payments. We collect and compile import and export data and are the group responsible for deriving the current account deficit/surplus.”

Are you a graduate of the University of Tasmania? Do you want to help people make an informed choice about their future?

Can you answer yes to these questions? Or do you know someone who can? If so, then we need you – or your friend/son/daughter/neighbour!

Write a postcard (in black pen) from anywhere (Tassie, Melbourne, London, New York, anywhere in the world) with a brief description of where you are working and what your job currently involves. If you can squeeze in a little bit about your career journey – all the better!

Any graduate of UTAS can send a postcard. Recent graduates are especially encouraged!

Why? You’re providing a graduate profile.

Graduate profiles are highly valued by future students. Profiles provide information on career opportunities and outcomes that provide a valuable resource for students in our school presentations, website and publications.

“There is no such thing as a career path anymore. It’s crazy paving and you lay it yourself!”

The world of work has changed and is changing. Many jobs that existed in the past are now redundant while new jobs are being created every day. It is a confusing world out there and young people need all the assistance and encouragement they can get. There’s no remuneration, just a wonderful sense of having made a difference!

So what do I need to do?

Just send a postcard to:

Viv Ride
School Liaison
University of Tasmania
Private Bag 52
Hobart TAS 7001
A Taste of Tasmania in Sydney

The Sydney branch of the University of Tasmania Alumni hosted a dinner for alumni and friends on 18 May at Tasman's Oyster Bar and Steak House. Almost 90 alumni and partners enjoyed great food, fantastic wine and excellent guest speakers.

The night featured a very entertaining talk by Dr Andrew Pirie, Tasmania’s leading wine maker, who shared his extensive experiences on the wine world. Dr Pirie also kindly contributed a dozen bottles of his fine hand-crafted Pirie label wine. Amanda Wojtowicz attended from the University, and provided an update on the many changes occurring at the University and its various Alumni initiatives.

Tasman’s is a popular new restaurant in Surry Hills. The menu was prepared especially for the Alumni evening and included many Tasmanian-sourced items, including Bruny Island mussels, Barilla Bay oysters, Tasmanian pasture-fed beef and Tasmanian Heritage Cheese.

The Alumni evening was generously supported by Brand Tasmania (www.brandtasmania.com.au), which is dedicated to having Tasmania recognised as a leader in the world of islands, with a global reputation for quality products and services. NSW-based alumni are encouraged to log onto Brand Tasmania’s website and to register as an e-friend as a means of supporting Brand Tasmania’s objectives.

Two other events are being planned for later this year. Information will be mailed out in due course. If you have suggestions for an event in Sydney, please contact Ian Green on (02) 8732 5178 or email sydney.alumni@utas.edu.au

Calling all alumni in Hong Kong

Nelson Ngai Chi Yuen, Bachelor of Information Systems 2003, has expressed interest in establishing a University of Tasmania Alumni branch in Hong Kong and has offered to coordinate efforts to start one.

A search of the database shows that we have 130 alumni in Hong Kong. The number of UTAS alumni in the region will grow substantially in the next few years as graduates of courses taught on site in China come on line.

All alumni in the region who are interested in networking and socialising through an Alumni branch are invited to contact Nelson at cyngai@postoffice.utas.edu.au Should there be sufficient interest we will call an initial meeting – hopefully at a time when a senior officer of the University is visiting.

Good on you, Nelson. We appreciate your commitment.
Irynej Skira’s death has brought a premature end to a remarkable and passionate relationship with nature. A softly-spoken, unassuming and unique man who was greatly admired and respected by his peers, he moved gently on the earth but left behind a huge legacy.

Dr Irynej Skira, Tasmanian scientist and naturalist, died on February 18 in Hobart after being taken ill while doing research into birdlife on the remote Snares Islands off New Zealand.

Irynej was recognised world-wide for his research on short-tailed shearwaters (muttonbirds) but his work was much broader. From whales, to seagulls, pest control on sub-Antarctic islands and a wide range of wildlife issues, there was little that Irynej didn’t have some involvement with over his almost 33 years as a scientific officer with the Tasmanian Government.

Right up to his death, Irynej was secretary to the DPIWE Animal Ethics Committee and was responsible for government management of zoos and wildlife parks in Tasmania.

Irynej was born in Launceston, the son of Ukrainian migrants. One of his first work experiences was assisting Dr R. Green, the curator of zoology at the Queen Victoria Museum in Launceston.

His science degree from the University of Tasmania led him to the position of ranger at Cradle Mountain reserve in 1972.

Irynej was offered and accepted a position on Macquarie Island in 1972 and revisited it on several occasions in the early 1970s. There he studied the ecology of rabbits and rabbit fleas, assisted in feral cat research and seal and albatross biological studies.

The scientific results have been used in numerous papers and were the basis of his MSc, which he gained in 1980. His work on Macquarie Island made him an ideal government representative for the Antarctic Animal Ethics Committee. He was also a member of the support team for the Animal Ethics Committee at UTAS, which ensures that the University meets all standards, guidelines and regulations in regard to the care and supervision of animals used in teaching and research.

Irynej was author of more than 60 papers and articles. He was involved with the Tasmanian Aboriginal community, responsible for the muttonbird management program. His good rapport with the community is borne out in his PhD, which he was awarded from UTAS in 1995.

He was hard-working and always generous with his time, sharing his wealth of knowledge with students, wildlife care groups and volunteers. He despaired as he observed the gradual disappearance of Tasmania’s native forests and therefore the loss of habitat for native fauna and flora.

He gave regular twilight talks at the Clifton Bluff shearwater colony. It was here that Irynej met his wife Suzanne in 2000. They married on his beloved Fisher Island just two months before he died.

Suzanne Skira

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The Andrew Platts Prize in Internal Medicine

Andrew Platts – Medicine, Class of 1995

Andrew was a much loved colleague of ours. He died in an avalanche on New Zealand’s Mount Tasman in December 2003. A cardiologist, he was just 31 years old. His passing away was felt by us all.

The Andrew Platts Prize will be a fitting tribute to Andrew and to his talents. It will support a University of Tasmania medical student who demonstrates proficiency in internal medicine. Andrew’s chosen specialty. The prize is intended to inspire future students to pursue the sort of high-level training in medicine that Andrew did and to ultimately return these skills to the people of Tasmania.

The launch of official fundraising for the prize will occur on Saturday 29 October 2005 at the 10-year reunion of the medical class of 1995. The prize is currently underwritten for two years so that it may be awarded in 2006 and 2007. We are seeking donations at this point in order to sustain the prize and have set a target of $20,000 to be raised by the end of 2005.

The prize has official endorsement from the Platts family. Donations (as well as further details) can be made to the Andrew Platts Prize, care of the University Foundation. All donations are tax-deductible.

University of Tasmania Foundation
Private Bag 40, Hobart TAS 7001 Australia
(03) 6226 7521
Email: university.foundation@utas.edu.au
Web: www.utas.edu.au/foundation

For further reunion details, email drallewellyn@ozemail.com.au

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SUZANNE SKIRA
An excerpt taken from the eulogy delivered by the Archbishop of Hobart, the Most Rev. Adrian L. Doyle, in December 2004.

I believe that one of the best descriptions of Father John Wall is as a ‘words person’. While the priesthood was the central focus of his life, closely linked to that vocation was an association with words, through languages, literature, translations and the liturgy.

In many ways we were very fortunate that John Wall made Tasmania his home. He was born in Melbourne and he was educated in that city, at Xavier College. After studying at Corpus Christi College, he continued on towards priesthood as a student for the Archdiocese of Hobart.

After his ordination in 1962, he gained a Doctorate in Theology and then transferred to Cambridge University to gain a Bachelor of Arts and then a Master of Arts.

For the next thirty years, he very successfully combined the two vocations of priest and academic. In all the years when he was a lecturer at the University of Tasmania, he left no one in any doubt that he was a Catholic priest. He always dressed as a priest, and I believe that he carried out his responsibilities as a lecturer with great integrity and dedication.

While occupied with his role as a lecturer at the University [of Tasmania], he contributed very significantly to the work of the International Commission for English in the Liturgy. He also assisted Archbishop D’Arcy with the editing of the English translation of the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

Monsignor Bruce Harbert, the current executive director of the secretariat of ICEL, wrote a letter of condolence in which he said: “I myself think of him as combining the roles of scholar and pastor in an unusual and exemplary manner. It was a privilege to know him, and I shall miss him”.

Father Wall travelled overseas quite regularly in those university years to pursue particular fields of study, and in response to invitations to be a visiting lecturer in a number of different universities.

On his return to Tasmania, he moved into parish ministry and continued to assist the Archdiocese in the role of Episcopal Vicar for Tertiary Education. In a letter I received following John’s death, Fr Gerard Moore, who chairs the ICEL translation team for the Masses of Ordinary Time and the Feasts of the Lord, wrote: “Over the past few years it has been a great pleasure to work with John. Many know his skill, knowledge, sharpness and rigour. I would like to add his patience, humility and devotedness”.

Tony Kearney AM 1919-2005

At its recent meeting, the Council of the University noted with regret the passing of Mr DA (Tony) Kearney AM, LLB.

Tony Kearney was born in Cork and was one of five children. He joined the University after war service and a brief spell in the Commonwealth Public Service. He became assistant to the Registrar in 1946 and went on to become Registrar in 1964 – a position he held until his retirement in 1978.

In 1979 he was awarded an AM for service to the community. After his ‘retirement’ he held a number of positions, between 1978 and 1990, in the fields of tertiary education, health, public service administration and youth affairs.

By the early 1990s, he had, in his own words “become an unemployed and unemployable human resource at the tender age of 74”. Having written during his time at the University “a multitude of agendas, letters, memoranda, minutes and reports...all couched in exquisite and exemplary English, and also all incredibly dull and boring” he decided to turn his hand to writing fiction and poetry.

Twenty-nine short stories, an e-book, twenty odes, nearly a thousand limericks and one short play resulted from this late-life career. His countless articles, essays and limericks delivered his opinion on anything and everything. Though his health and eyesight began to diminish, as long as he could type he continued to create, calling himself “a one-finger artist”. Tony is now as much remembered for his writing and his wit as he is for his contribution to higher education administration.

And as he says in The Aetiology and Physiology of Genus Vers Limericus, “to finish with a limerick about finishing makes a felicitous, fine and fitting finale!”:

That was limerick three hundred and four
And my doctor said firmly, ‘No more.
If to write further you try, You’ll get RSI.’
And with that he showed me the door.

With extracts from an article in a recent Alumni News by Katrina Haig.

Father John Wall 1937-2004

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Alumni Committee positions available

Seven Alumni Committee positions fall vacant at the Annual General Meeting in November 2005. The positions are:

- Two general representatives
- Faculty of Commerce representative
- Faculty of Education representative
- Faculty of Health Science representative
- Two Faculty of Science, Engineering and Technology representatives

Nominations for the above positions should be submitted to the Alumni Office, University of Tasmania, Locked Bag 1350, Launceston, TAS 7250. Current members are eligible for nomination.

General Representatives
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 can be obtained via the Alumni website at www.utas.edu.au/alumni or from the Alumni Office, University of Tasmania, Locked Bag 1350, Launceston, TAS 7250 or phone (03) 6324 3052.

The closing date for nominations is 5.00pm on Friday 2 September 2005.

Distinguished ALUMNI AWARDS

Nominations are sought for the 2005 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.utas.edu.au/alumni or may be obtained from the Alumni Office, University of Tasmania, Locked Bag 1350, Launceston, TAS 7250 or phone (03) 6324 3052.

The closing date for nominations is 2 September 2005.
Funding fosters growth in science and technology

In collaboration with the Royal Hobart Hospital and University of Tasmania, Marinova Pty Ltd has become the first recipient of a Science and Technology Industry Development Program (STIDP) grant. Marinova produces high-value extracts from Undaria pinnatifida, the invading seaweed that has colonised the shores of Tasmania.

Grants of up to $10,000 are available through the STIDP program. Conditions, guidelines and an application form are available via http://www.development.tas.gov.au/innovate.html or contact the Department of Economic Development on 1800 440 026 or email innovations@development.tas.gov.au
Dreams can be about escaping reality. Or making it.

It’s never too late to create the life you’ve always wanted. At islandstate we believe our members have earned the opportunity to live their dreams. That’s why we take the time to help you plan for a certain future. Come in and see us today.

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