SHANE GOULD
At home in the water

MY OLYMPICS
Dreams, persistence – and medals

(Special feature pages 3-13)
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Alumni News is the regular magazine for graduates and friends of the University of Tasmania. UTAS alumni include graduates and diplomates of UTAS, TCAE/TSIT and AMC. Alumni News is prepared by the Communications and Media Office for the Advancement Office.

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Cover: Shane Gould was 15 when she won five individual Olympic medals at the 1972 Munich Olympics. She is the only swimmer ever, female or male, to hold every freestyle world record simultaneously – and today, we’re proud to say that she’s one of ours! Shane is one of seven UTAS alumni Olympians who have graciously shared their memories of the Games in this issue of Alumni News. Photo by Chris Crerar.
WELCOME

Supporting the next generation of thinkers

The journey towards achievement, excellence and personal best was one of the insights that most impressed me as I read the reflections and ambitions of our alumni Olympians, featured in this issue of Alumni News. Simon Hollingsworth’s pursuit of balance, Shane Gould’s commitment to community, Scott Brennan’s stubborn refusal of mediocrity and Melissa Carlton’s powerful self-belief – just to highlight a few – provide blueprints for success that we can apply to any field of endeavour.

And that includes universities. Our mission at the University of Tasmania is the creation, preservation, communication and application of knowledge. This too, responds to the commitment, focus and perseverance exemplified by these and other alumni.

Since I wrote in the December issue of Alumni News, the University has celebrated more than 3,000 graduations. Several months later we welcomed the arrival of new and returning students for the 2012 academic year, invigorating our community with the aspirations of another generation. May we always remember that sense of optimism, passion and hunger.

I thank our Olympic champions for sharing their memories in our Alumni News special feature and I wish every success to those select few Australians who are taking part in the London Olympics next month.

To the rest of us, may we continue to pursue ‘gold-medal’ excellence in all of life’s endeavours.

Warm regards,
Professor Peter Rathjen
Vice-Chancellor, University of Tasmania

Supporting the next generation of thinkers

P E O P L E  A R E  E X T R E M E L Y  G E N E R O U S when it comes to helping others. We’ve seen that recently with support flowing to help Australians in need following floods in Queensland and bushfires in Victoria, as well as in Japan following the tsunami. We dig deep and lend a hand.

So why don’t we show similar support for our universities? I think it may be a historical issue. Many Australians think that support for universities is a government problem, and all the responsibility lies with politicians and the purses they oversee. Then there are the fees that students pay. I remember HECS well as these fees were first introduced while I was at uni in the late 1980s. What about the extra fees that overseas students pay – doesn’t some of that flow on to help out a system in need? What most of us fail to realise is that dollars from all sources are being stretched further than ever before – building maintenance, new research and teaching programs, attracting and keeping top-class staff, student scholarships – just to name a few. There simply aren’t enough unmarked funds to support everything that a great university aspires to do.

And that’s where we can help. The UTAS Annual Appeal is an opportunity for all graduates and friends of the University to give something back. Think of what could be achieved if all UTAS living graduates (55,000) each gave $50 once per year. Think bigger, and amazing possibilities really start to emerge. The education and training provided by the University of Tasmania and its antecedent institutions have enriched each of our lives in so many ways. Please consider joining with me in making a contribution to the UTAS Annual Appeal. More details are provided on page 22. Of course, helping UTAS is not just about dollars. Please consider offering your support in other ways through mentoring programs, assisting us to reconnect with ‘lost alumni’ or attending UTAS events. All are equally valuable. No matter how you can help, your contribution will support UTAS and will play an important role in providing opportunities for the development and training of the next generation of leaders and thinkers.

With my very best wishes,
Dr Ashley Townsend
Chair, University of Tasmania Alumni
Balancing the Rhodes and the Olympics

Simon Hollingsworth (BCom-LLB (Hons) 1996) was the recipient of the 1997 Rhodes Scholarship and also represented Australia in the men’s 400 metre hurdles at both the 1992 Barcelona Olympics and the 1996 Atlanta Olympics. Last year Simon became the chief executive of the Australian Sports Commission and we recently celebrated his achievements by naming him co-winner of the 2012 UTAS Foundation Graduate Award (see page 23).

By Simon Hollingsworth*

In Australia, if people hear that I’m a former Rhodes Scholar and an Olympian, then most seem more impressed by my sporting achievements than the academic honour. I think this reflects just how important sport is in the Australian psyche. Both were equally hard to achieve, but what makes me most proud is that I was able to maintain a balance in my life.

The need for balance was always instilled in me by my family as well as my coach Kevin Prendergast, who was actually the person who encouraged me to go for the Rhodes. I still think it was amazing of him to do that because the Rhodes and the Olympics both require such consuming levels of application that they can easily detract from the other. Kevin was very selfless. The trade-off between study and training is something I continually had to work at because it’s hard to maintain a high standard of academic success when you’re competing overseas for eight weeks in the middle of each year.

It was during one of these mid-year competitions in Europe that I was told that I’d made the Australian team for the Barcelona Olympics. I remember an interesting moment when I first walked into my room in the Olympic village. I dropped my kit on the bed and looked out the window at the enormous village – that’s when it hit me. I knew that regardless of how I performed in the hurdles, this experience would be with me for the rest of my life. My mind was wide open and the world was ahead of me! My wonderment at the extraordinary international flavour of the Olympics was even greater at the opening ceremony: Germany was competing as one nation for the first time since WWII; South Africa had returned to the Olympics for the first time in 32 years after the end of apartheid and the collapse of the Soviet Union created 12 new countries. I was only 20 but I realised even then that something bigger than sport was going on.

The other side of the Olympics is that you can feel strangely alone – it’s an emotion that I distinctly remember whenever I watch athletes line up at the start of their event. You walk out to the lane marker, put your tracksuit in the small bucket behind you, then a whistle blows and an official carries away your clothes. All that’s left is you, your lane and a feeling of anticipation and focus. There’s a realisation that your destiny is now completely up to you. Unfortunately I was injured in the lead-up to the Atlanta Olympics and I wasn’t able to recapture the anticipation that I’d felt in Barcelona. But I returned home to be awarded the Rhodes and I went on to study a Master of Politics and Philosophy at Oxford. I was ready to do something different.

I often joke that I’m an example of what happens to an athlete when they don’t win an Olympic medal – today I’m a bureaucrat, and a happy one at that. What I love most about elite sport, and I think I appreciate this even more now I’m a parent, is that it encourages individuals to compete at their best level. There’s value in that for the nation because we can all draw inspiration from seeing our fellow Australians pursue and achieve excellence (whether it be in sport or any other field). At the Australian Sports Commission I’m glad for the opportunity to help other sports men and women achieve their dreams on the world stage – and possibly go a bit further than I did.

*As told to Janette Brennan.
Dancing with the Shane Gould legend

Shane Gould (MEnvMgmt 2010) won five individual Olympic swimming medals at the 1972 Munich Olympic Games: three gold (200 m individual medley, 200 m freestyle, 400 m freestyle), one silver (800 m freestyle), and one bronze (100 m freestyle). She is the only swimmer ever, female or male, to hold every freestyle world record simultaneously (the 100 m, 200 m, 400 m, 800 m and the 1500 m) and was the first female swimmer to win three Olympic gold medals in world-record time. Shane’s numerous awards include: the Australian Sports Hall of Fame (1977); an MBE (1981); an Olympic Order (1994); the Legend of Australian Sport (1995); Living National Treasure (1998); a Centenary Medal for contribution to Australian society (2003); and induction into the International Women’s Sports Hall of Fame (2006). In 2000, we rightfully celebrated Shane as one of our finest and best-loved sportswomen when she was chosen as a torch-bearer for the opening ceremony of the Sydney Olympic Games.

By Shane Gould*

There are a few seconds after the end of a swimming race when your fingers have touched the wall, you’re waiting in the water and you look around to check your time on the scoreboard. In that moment a million things flash through your mind – and it’s then that you feel the release. The race is history and you can’t do anything to change the result. If it’s the outcome you wanted, then you celebrate. If it’s not the result you hoped for, then you have to deal with the disappointment. Either way it’s a huge release, and I get choked up when I think about it. A race is such an extreme physical effort – sometimes it’s a near-death experience as you voluntarily push yourself beyond the limit that your brain says is reasonable. But it’s also an emotional investment. Many years of effort and time and energy pour into those few seconds. I watch for this post-race release when swimmers compete today and it still moves me. People’s lives change in that moment.

Mine certainly did. I was 15 when I went to the 1972 Munich Olympics and my most vivid memories are of colours and festivity. The water in the pool was very blue, the tiles were yellow and a brass band played for the medal presentations. And then outside, in the Olympic village, there were the flags of the nations – more colour!

I felt like I was part of a drama that was being performed on the world stage, and my medal presentations were part of the event’s theatre. A gold medal is like a stamp of achievement, but it’s not the achievement in itself. What I feel most proud of is the process that got me to that point: the blocking out of distractions; the keeping on task; learning time management; and being adaptive. These are all life skills that people learn in many different ways as they work towards a high achievement, such as a university degree or raising a family. It’s just that winning Olympic gold medals seems to get a whole lot more attention.

A sense of place: My husband Milt and I are working on research to define what people mean when they say they feel ‘at home’ in the water. Swimming and autism are the most specific focus. Photo by Chris Crerar.
And for a long time I really felt quite embarrassed about that attention. But as I became an adult I began to understand that swimming at the Olympics is more than an individual achievement. I had been representing my nation. This understanding made me feel grateful, even responsible, for my success, and I’ve since tried to use my medals for good. They open doors for me to meet amazing people and, hopefully, to influence organisations for change. Today I promote causes such as drowning prevention, living with a smaller environmental footprint, taking care of your local environment, having humility and an ‘attitude of gratitude’, as well as all of the other qualities that make us good citizens.

If people thought I swam like a fish in Munich, I felt like I floated on air when I took part in the opening ceremony of the 2000 Sydney Olympics. Sydney was me taking control of my life. I was coming out of a divorce and hadn’t been living a lifestyle that was involved in competitive sport (I had raised my family in Western Australia and been part of the early environmental movement Back to the Land). But in Sydney 2000, I felt like the world had opened up new opportunities for me. And while I was saying goodbye to many things, I was also affirming that I had embraced this person ‘Shane Gould’, as well as her achievements. It was a special transition because I’d always had a continual dance with this identity of Shane Gould, Olympic swimmer, while at the same time being a real, other person who is changing continually.

With the wisdom of years I can say that there are definite cycles in life, just as there are in nature. It’s lovely to enjoy each season, but you also have to recognise when it’s time to go through transition to the next. And that’s where I feel I am today. After leaving Western Australia I hung around Sydney for a while. I love cities, but only for short periods. So my husband Milt and I decided we’d try Tasmania. I had always paid attention to the writers, artists and the many good-thinking people who are in this state, and I thought I’d like to be part of that community. I chose to study a Master of Environmental Management at UTAS to get some academic rigour behind my public comments – and one of the projects that Milt and I are now working on is research collaboration with the Swedish Centre for Aquatic Research in Lund. We’re hoping to define what people mean when they say they feel ‘at home’ in the water. It’s a bit philosophical but primarily it’s about a sense of place, an engagement with nature – paying attention to what matters in that moment (which, in the water, is mostly being able to take your next breath).

Swimming and autism are the most specific focus. I’m also completing an MCA in photomedia at Acadarts in Launceston to help me see more and express my understanding visually.

Will I watch the London Olympics? It’s quite difficult to do that because I need to filter out the commercialism – the imposition of the Olympic brand (and all its sponsors) coming to town for a big party. But if I can filter that out and simply see the amazing athletes and their wonderful performances, then I can enjoy the Olympics as a gladiatorial event.

You see there truly is something delightful about the experience of competing at an elite level, and it’s not the extrinsic: the glory, the medals or the money. All of the motivation is intrinsic. You have to love to try, love to perform, love to compete, love to be disciplined and love the physical exertion. Most of all, it’s the love of being good at what you do.

*As told to Janette Brennan.*
I think it was impossible to imagine what winning an Olympic gold medal would be like. So much time was spent toiling and aspiring towards that moment that I never stopped to think about the details of living that reality. Perhaps to do so would have been a distraction. But when the moment arrived for me in Beijing – and David Crawshay and I stood on the podium and sang the national anthem together – I realised how incredible it is to take years of work and sacrifice, and to risk it all in one tiny window of opportunity, an Olympic final. It’s an intimidating gamble to commit to a single moment years into the future. But we gave our heart and soul for that moment and, in return, it flooded me with a feeling of intense elation, gratitude and satisfaction.

By Dr Scott Brennan*

“Successful people zero in on their weaknesses and mercilessly work towards making them strengths. And they do this day after day, year after year, through incredible highs and the deepest of lows.”

I had dreamed of winning a gold medal since I was nine. I can remember watching Stephen Hawkins win a rowing gold at the Barcelona Olympics (1992) and it opened my eyes. Stephen grew up in the same suburb as me and, with the typical precociousness of youth, I thought that if he could do it, then I could too. I didn’t get a chance to try rowing until three years later and I wasn’t all that good at it when I started. But that memory of how the Olympics looked when I saw Stephen on TV triggered something deep within me that I couldn’t understand at the time. It was a vague mixture of restlessness and hopeful excitement that only much later I came to grasp as the fundamental power the Olympics holds over us: its ability to show us what we could be, if only we would dare. I was in the thrall of that power from the moment I first picked up an oar.

Refusing mediocrity: I believe that success lies not in the exceptional but the mundane. It rests in the approach taken to the smallest of tasks, every single day.

*By Dr Scott Brennan

My Olympics – SPECIAL FEATURE

Chasing a moment of perfection

Rowing Scyll Brennan (MBBS 2007) won gold in the men’s double scull at the 2008 Beijing Olympics and represented Australia in the men’s quad scull at the 2004 Athens Olympics. In London this year Scott and Victorian David Crawshay hope to become the first double sculls crew in the modern era to defend an Olympic gold medal.
It’s a mistake to look at successful people and believe that they’re somehow superhuman – as if they have some sort of mystic secret, a magical formula going on. I believe the difference for them lies not in the exceptional, but the mundane. It lies in the approach taken to the smallest of tasks, every single day – a stubbornness that refuses mediocrity even when they know nobody else will notice except for themselves.

Combined with a brutal self-honesty and a rage to master, successful people zero in on their weaknesses and mercilessly work towards making them strengths. And they do this day after day, year after year, through incredible highs and the deepest of lows. It’s not easy, but it’s not magic either.

One of the many lessons I have learnt from sport is dealing with challenges. It taught me to not think of a mountain as a huge obstacle, but to instead see it as a pile of stones (albeit a very large pile) that can be broken down one by one. There’s no shortage of metaphors on this topic but this one worked well for me, probably because of my own obsession with Hobart’s Mt Wellington. I’ve lost count of the number of times I’ve looked sceptically up at the snowy summit and thought ‘I have to run up there?’ before focusing on putting one foot in front of the other until I eventually stood looking out over the city. There were times at uni when I found it tough to hold on to this mindset, such as when I was in the middle of exams and international competitions were only a few weeks away. There were times when the pressure felt so great that I could hardly breathe. But the realisation that fundamentally the tasks never changed – learn the material, take the next stroke, look for a better way – meant that I could find refuge within the tasks themselves. We saddle ourselves with all sorts of expectations that work to distract us from our goal. Those difficult moments forced me to look at things and realise that if I wanted to indulge in time spent worrying about outcomes, then I would fail.

But with medicine and rowing being such consuming passions, I think I realised early on that there was a potential I could lead quite an inwardly focused, selfish life. I made the choice to sign up with Camp Quality (the children’s family cancer charity). I used to think that combining rowing with medicine was hard, but Camp Quality partnered me with a fantastic young man who had lost his leg at the age of 14. As far as I saw it, he knew a lot more about what hard was than I did. And to see the way that he approached life – his positive attitude and his ability to have a hell of a lot of fun – was a reminder for me to not take myself too seriously and to value the opportunities that I had. Following this I no longer saw my choices as hard, I saw them as challenging. While ostensibly I was a mentor to him, he taught me so much more. We had a lot of great times too, which was really the point of the whole endeavour.

And that’s the philosophy I will take to London this July when Dave and I attempt to become the first double sculls crew in the modern era to defend an Olympic gold medal. Medals are tangible evidence that you’re going in the right direction, but they are not the sole factor of motivation. That motivation comes from asking ‘What can I achieve? Where can I take this? What can I be, if only I would dare?’ We’re always chasing a moment of perfection and David and I found a good portion of that in those few seconds after we crossed the line in Beijing. Pure elation – a sublime moment when everything is in perfect harmony and all your hard work comes to fruition. It’s incredibly addictive. A lifetime’s effort for a few seconds of perfection? Sounds like a raw deal! But that moment is worth all the sacrifices, a thousand times over, and I’d give anything to experience that feeling again.

*As told to Janette Brennan.
Swimming for equality, confidence – and gold!

Melissa Paula Carlton (BEd 2004) won gold medals in the women’s 400 m freestyle S9 and the 4x100 m freestyle S7-10 swimming events at the 1996 Atlanta Paralympics, as well as two silver medals (100 m butterfly S9 and the 100 m freestyle S9) and a bronze (100 m backstroke S9). In Sydney 2000 Melissa won silver medals in the women’s 400 m freestyle S9 and the 100 m freestyle S9 event, as well as bronze medals in the 4x100 m freestyle 34 pts and the 4x100 m medley 34 pts events. Melissa is a recipient of a Medal of the Order of Australia.

By Melissa Paula Carlton*

I N UTERO THE UMBILICAL CORD MUST have been wrapped around my leg, and somehow my fingers were trapped too. It’s the kind of thing that’s often picked up these days before a baby is born, but in my case I was born with most of my right leg missing and the ends of my right hand stunted. It’s nothing genetic – my two younger sisters and brother don’t have any disfigurements. It’s a congenital disorder that was no doubt a shock to my parents at the time.

I had the perfect childhood growing up in South Africa, and never for a minute was my disability treated as an impediment to what I wanted to do. And what I particularly wanted to do was to swim! The schools had a strong swimming emphasis and my grandfather had a dam that we loved to play in on hot days.

My family moved to Australia in 1986 and I went to Beechworth Primary School in Victoria. That’s where my path to competitive swimming began. The school held an ‘iron man’ competition that included a short obstacle course with some swimming in the shallow pool. But I won.

By grade 6, I had progressed from regional to state championships so my parents, who could see how much I loved the competition, joined me up with the closest swimming club at Albury-Wodonga. That was a 100 km round trip to the pool. My sisters were also good swimmers and we were the most competitive siblings you would ever find. I reckon it was my determination to keep up with them that made me a better swimmer – along with moving to Tasmania in 1990 and joining the City of Glenorchy Swimming Club under coach Chris Wedd.

In 1992 I remember watching the Barcelona Paralympics, which was the first-ever televised event since the Paralympics began in 1960. It really opened my eyes to what was possible, as it must have for everyone who saw it. I set my sights on making the 1996 Atlanta Paralympics (a competition that gets its name because it is held in parallel to the Olympics – nothing to do with paraplegics). To compete as a Paralympian, athletes are classified on a scale of S1-S10 for physical ability. I was ranked as an S9, which is at the ‘mild disability’ end of the scale.

I brought home two gold medals, two silver and one bronze from Atlanta, and a feeling that I could do anything. But it was during the 2000 Sydney Games that I truly enjoyed a feeling of being parallel, or equal, to the world’s best swimmers. Around 600,000 spectators were expected to attend the Paralympics but more than double that number turned up.

After winning two silver and two bronze medals in Sydney and having the time of my life, I announced my retirement. I got a job at the Hobart Aquatic Centre and continued to work towards my Bachelor of Education. I did eventually graduate from uni but the more I worked at the aquatic centre, the more I realised that I must have chlorine in my blood. Today I manage the Launceston Aquatic Centre and I love it.

*By Melissa Paula Carlton

Waterworld: I’ve been retired from competitive swimming for 12 years but I’ll still keep a close eye on London 2012. Photo by Lana Best.
I’ve now been retired from competitive swimming for 12 years, but I’ll still keep a close eye on London 2012. These Games will be significant for the Paralympic movement because the whole idea started in the UK (Mandeville State Hospital decided to hold an event for WWII veterans who had sustained an injury or physical disability as a result of their service). This hospital recognised the value of sport and competition in building esteem and confidence.

Looking back, it’s funny for me to think of the day when, along with my family, I became an Australian citizen. As part of that ceremony my siblings and I were asked to choose a middle name because we didn’t have one, and I chose Paula. I had no idea that my name would one day be so well known – and while it doesn’t sit comfortably with me to be known as an elite athlete, I feel privileged that my swimming has allowed me to do a lot of good things for Paralympic sport in Tasmania.

It’s ironic that someone like me, who has only ever wanted to be like everyone else, has ended up standing out!

*As told to Lana Best.

Gold: I brought home two gold medals from Atlanta 1996, along with a feeling that I could do anything.
From goalkeeper to ‘gold keeper’

By Maree Fish*

Gratitude: I’m the person who gets to look after the gold medal, but it belongs to everyone who helped me along the way. Photo courtesy of Rose Bay High School.

I was chosen for the national team in 1985 and, after several years of international competition, the Australian women’s hockey team went into the ’88 Olympics as one of the top teams (although The Netherlands was definitely the team to beat). We met the Dutch in the semi – and we ended up beating them! It was then that we all knew that we were going to win the gold. Why were we so sure? I don’t know. It was just one of those moments in life when you know you’re on the edge of your dream. Despite this belief, we were still a bit shell-shocked when we went on to win the final against Korea, the host nation. I can still see the disbelief on our faces when I watch the video today. And when the medal was put around our necks, we all held onto it. That was partly because we were surprised at how heavy it was, but also because we were struggling to understand what it all meant.

And what did that medal mean? Well, for a while it meant a break from training. But the more I reflected on the achievement, the more grateful I became. Hockey had been my life. Since then, whenever I talk to groups about the Olympics, I take the medal with me because everyone wants to see it. I tell people that while I’m the person who gets to look after it, the gold medal belongs to everyone who helped me along the way – and there were so many.

Today, as a senior constable with Tasmania Police, I sometimes deal with death, alcohol abuse and violence. There can be a lot of heartache in the world and police officers see the extreme end of that pain. Is this a long way from the Olympics? Yes, at times they feel they’re at the opposite ends of the world. But what I do believe is that we all need role models – even heroes. The Olympic Games (and sport in general) are a reminder to us all that it’s powerful to dream.

*As told to Janette Brennan.

Maree Fish (MEd 2002) was a member of the Australian women’s hockey team that won gold at the 1988 Seoul Olympics. It was the first gold medal won by an Australian hockey team and Maree was the first Tasmanian woman to bring home Olympic gold.
The last line of defence: I used to be quite a shy person but as I grew in my role as goalkeeper (and after many trips away with state and national teams) I had a much broader view of the world. Photo courtesy of Maree Fish and Hockey Tasmania.
Enjoying the ‘getting there’

By Dana Faletic*

Dana Faletic (BEc 2000) won a bronze medal at the 2004 Athens Olympics in the women’s quad sculls. After a five-year break from rowing, she was recently selected (along with Kerry Hore, opposite page) to represent Australia in the quad sculls at the 2012 London Olympics.

Six years ago I walked away from rowing. The decision didn’t have anything to do with a lack of achievement because I’d been part of a crew that won bronze in Athens a couple of years before. But we experienced some crew issues at the end of the World Championships in 2006 and that was part of the reason I decided to have a break. For me, rowing has always been as much about the journey as it is the end result. I knew that if I wasn’t enjoying the ‘getting there’, then it wasn’t worth doing.

For a while I didn’t even think of rowing. I took up cycling to stay fit and, when I was given the opportunity to race at a competitive level, I took it on. It was another opportunity to test what I could do. Then, soon after, I had my son Harry. At that time I doubted that I would ever row again. But when Harry was about two years old, I began to entertain the thought that perhaps I could get back into rowing. What I missed about the sport was physically doing it. The decision had nothing to do with the fact that it was a year before the London Olympics, although that deadline made it clear what I had to do to get back into the Australian team. All of the other girls had been training for the past five years. It was a long shot!

So in August last year I got back in the boat. By late September I was doing reasonably well and by October I was able to keep up with the other rowers. I knew that my training had been compromised because, being a mother, I can’t train as much as the other girls but I can train hard. My experience has given me the knowledge of what is the right amount of training at the right time.

But the biggest challenge is the time I spend away from Harry. At the beginning it wasn’t too much, although not seeing him for a week is a big deal for me. In the lead-up to London the Australian rowing team will spend three months training and competing in Europe, mostly at the Australian Institute of Sport European Training Centre in Italy. My mum is bringing Harry over for one month of that time.

The Olympics come around only once every four years. The regatta is just like any other world championship but with fewer competitors (only a limited number of boats can qualify) and there’s more hype. On a personal level it’s an opportunity for me to show how good I can be at something and to share that experience with people like Kerry Hore, who is one of my best friends. We’ve had success together over the years and there’s a trust between us (and we’re both very patriotic about Tassie). But rowing is only one thing that I do and this is just another year in the story of my life. The sport has helped me develop skills such as resolving conflict, prioritising and motivating others, but mostly it has taught me what’s important in life. For me, that’s my family and friends, as well as being honest with myself to make sure I’m enjoying whatever it is that I’m doing.

*As told to Janette Brennan.
There’s something about being out on the water in the morning that I love – it grabs me. But I didn’t think I wanted to take my rowing to the next level until the end of high school when, while training on the Huon River, I got to watch the Australian men’s lightweight fours prepare for the Sydney Olympics. Seeing what those men did to achieve excellence made me aspire to be like them.

That crew, which included Tasmanians Darren Balmforth and Simon Burgess, had an acronym – OGMA. It stood for the Olympic Gold Medal Approach. It reinforced to them that in everything they did, from going to the gym to training on the water, they would strive to do it as well as they possibly could. The lightweight fours went on to win silver at the 2000 Olympics and I have never forgotten their example.

Whether it’s training for elite sport or when I was studying for my pharmacy degree, I’ve tried to embrace a philosophy of hard work and attention to detail.

Around the time that I enrolled at uni, I also set rowing goals: the national under 23 team by 2002; the senior team by 2003 and then the Olympics in 2004. It took a lot of discipline to combine study and sport, that’s for sure. Study and rowing tended to detract from each other because I often felt so exhausted. When I made the under 23 team, for instance, a normal day involved training in the morning, uni during the day, training again in the afternoon and then part-time work at night. I guess it taught me to be organised, to make the most of every moment and to look after myself (although at times I just wanted to go out with my friends or sit in front of the TV).

But it got me to Athens in 2004. Winning the bronze in the quad sculls at that Olympics was a bit unconventional because we finished fourth in the final, but a couple of days later it was revealed that the team that originally placed third had returned a positive drug test. We went from the crushing low of not getting a medal to the elation of learning that we actually had. That emotional rollercoaster made me appreciate what it means to win an Olympic medal, and the huge leap it is between the Olympics and any other world championship. Everyone steps up in an Olympic year.

But in 2004 and again in 2008, it was the Olympic village that made the biggest impression on me, along with the other athletes. One of my highlights would come after the finish of my event and we’d get to watch fellow Australians compete in different sports. I think I just appreciate what they’d done to get there and the pride they felt when they walked into their arena.

In recent months there have been times when a third Olympics has seemed a long way off for me. In November last year I had operations on the muscles in both of my arms and, while everyone else was preparing for London, I was pedalling away on a stationary bike. We all experience the same doubts and fears, but elite sport has taught me to deal with those sorts of setbacks and to somehow find an inner belief.

There are several members of the UTAS Alumni who will be hoping for Olympic rowing medals in London next month, including Kate Hornsey (BA-BCom 2008), who has been chosen in the women’s coxless pair. But the real desire to compete, for me, comes back to the OGMA philosophy and striving to be the best that I can be. All Olympians dream of having their best-ever performance in the final. Some people talk about the need to prove themselves to others, but I just want to prove to myself that I can be up there with the best.

*As told to Janette Brennan.
The promise of a new dawn: The Tasmanian Land Conservancy raises funds from the public to protect irreplaceable sites, endangered species’ habitats and rare ecosystems by buying and managing private land. Skullbone Plains (pictured) in central Tasmania is a 1,600 hectare property of exquisite open valleys, old-growth forests, native grasslands, cushion plants and rare, endangered sphagnum moss beds, providing critical wild habitat for a species of endangered fish, the Clarence galaxias. Photo by Matthew Newton.
The nature of investment

By Sarah Nicolson

A $50 donation sparked the beginnings of a private, not-for-profit organisation that in the past 11 years has grown to become Tasmania’s second-biggest private landowner.

The Tasmanian Land Conservancy (TLC) owns more than 30,000 hectares of land, protecting 51 threatened plant and animal species. The growth in the area of habitat that they have been able to permanently protect has been amazing, said one of the TLC’s co-founders and Conservation Programs Officer, Jim Mulcahy (BSc 1990, GradDipEnvSt 2000). At the time Jim was working with the Australian Bush Heritage Fund (a similar organisation to the TLC) along with other TLC co-founders Nathan Males and Greg Blake.

“We had a strong gut feeling that there was a need for an organisation like this and it’s been very satisfying that the TLC has been so effective in protecting significant areas of land in Tasmania,” he said.

As well as permanent reserves, the TLC runs revolving funds projects buying properties and selling them to like-minded people. There are now 21 employees and almost 350 volunteers within the organisation, an impressive growth from humble beginnings in 2001.

“It was the first time Nathan and I had worked in the field of conservation on private land,” Jim said. “I think we were both amazed at how the Australian Bush Heritage Fund worked and how people reacted to its simple message – ‘we don’t beat around the bush, we buy it.’”

But with Bush Heritage rapidly achieving its ambitions of being a national organisation addressing national priorities, many worthwhile conservation projects in Tasmania were not being pursued.

“Somewhere along the line we started talking about there being a need for a similar organisation focused only on Tasmania,” Jim said.

Around this time Jim mentioned this idea to a landowner who thought it was such a great idea that she gave him a $50 donation on the spot and, with the addition of matching funds from the founding members, the TLC was born.

A little over a year later, the TLC had the funds to purchase its first reserve, Long Point at Moulting Lagoon. Money had been raised through a grant from the Commonwealth Government, a single large donation and a lot of grassroots fundraising (brochures were distributed through stalls at Salamanca market, personal networks were explored and mailing lists were established for supportive businesses and community groups).

“We were also very lucky that the previous owner of the land was so supportive of the project and gave us plenty of time to raise the money,” Jim said.

After the success of Long Point, the TLC continued to target properties with significant nature conservation values throughout Tasmania, with some purchase discussions taking many years to reach fruition. Along the way, the TLC has managed to develop and maintain strong relationships with government, landholders, the general public and key institutions such as UTAS.
“Tasmania is a great place to do this sort of work because people have strong personal networks and very strong connections with the place, with Tassie,” Jim said.

But there is still a lot of hard work to be done. The current reserves need constant maintenance and the need for fundraising is ongoing. While grateful for the large donations of the wealthy, the TLC relies on regular, small donations from the general public to fund its operations.

“Every dollar we receive goes into protecting important nature conservation values in Tasmania and everyone’s contribution is important and significant,” Jim said.

As for the future, it looks bright for the TLC with a number of big projects planned. One such project is to raise funds from the general public for its 11th permanent reserve, located in the Blue Tier. This 85-hectare property in Tasmania’s north-east is a glacial refugia of rainforests, delicate mosses and fungi which provides habitat for carnivorous marsupials, reptiles and frogs.

Another strategic project is close to the heart of CEO Jane Hutchinson (BSc-LLB 1998, GradCertLegalPrac 2000).

“As part of our vision for Tasmania to be a global leader in nature conservation and sustainability, we hope to create a conservation research, planning and education institute of a world-class level,” Jane said. “We feel there is a real opportunity to foster excellence in conservation management.

“We could share this knowledge all around the world – and, in particular, Australasia.”

The project is gaining momentum and discussions have been held with other organisations, including UTAS.

The TLC would also like to develop a complete world-class reserve system, with functioning ecosystems of each type around Tasmania.

“We think we’re really close to achieving that and that’s really exciting because we would be one of the first places in the world to achieve such a complete system of reserves,” Jane said.

Jim said that the TLC is well placed to achieve these goals, with the support of the community.

“We provide people with an opportunity to make a direct, personal and lasting contribution to conservation in Tasmania,” he said.

“I think people will continue to respond to that opportunity and that the TLC will continue to protect important areas of Tasmania for the benefit of future generations.”

For more information on the TLC, go to: www.tasland.org.au
Andrew has designed countless concepts, which tend to have a strong environmental or social justice aspect to them. As a result he was named Best Young Architect at TreeHugger’s Best of Green awards in the United States in 2010. Andrew’s personal favourite design was the Styx Valley Protest Shelter, designed to enable protesters to sit comfortably in the forest for a long time.

“This project is a type of mourning for Tassie’s forests, but also a celebration of those who are willing to actively pursue the protection of Tassie’s wilderness,” he said.

Andrew also designed a prefab house as a possible solution to the affordable housing shortage. These houses are quick and cheap to build.

“Architects have marginalised themselves by designing only for the upper end of town,” he said. “Affordability, sustainability and great design should be the right of all, not just the privilege of a few.”

Other successful projects have included: the Ilma Grove House, which recently received a commendation at the 2012 World Architectural Forum in Barcelona; the Design Pod mobile workstation, which won both the Australia/New Zealand regional award and the overall Grand Prize in the Asia Pacific Design Awards; and the CV08 ‘suburb-eating robot’.

While Andrew admitted that these awards are nice, he said he’s more excited about the opportunity that owning his own business gives him to focus on design.

“I always have had difficulty following orders and dealing with the expectations of others,” he said. “I like to hide away and draw. The only real option was to work for myself and make my own rules.”

There are currently five people working at AMA. Andrew is currently working on a table he has nicknamed the ‘Zero Waste Table’.

“As the name suggests, no part of the materials used is left without a purpose,” he said. “No part of the materials used ends up in the bin.”

As to the future? He’s happy to take it as it comes.

“I have decided that life’s too short to try to conquer the world,” he said. “In the end it’s you that will be conquered. So I’m chilling out and enjoying the ride.”

Thinking outside the block

By Sarah Nicol

By Sarah Nicol

Architect Andrew Maynard explores the creation of more than just bricks and mortar.

Architect Andrew Maynard (BEnvDes 1997, BArch Hons 1998) is pushing the boundaries of traditional design and reaping the rewards.

Running his own business, Andrew Maynard Architects, he has explored the design of more than just bricks and mortar – looking at furniture, robots and space-saving devices as well as buildings and houses. A large proportion of his work is conceptual and often is never built.

“Paid projects will always demand the majority of my time,” he said.

“However the concepts/polemics are fundamental to how I understand the world. I need to do them to force myself to be objective.

“There is a long history of architects designing outside the discipline of architecture. Creating a building takes a very long time and I constantly need to do a small project quickly.”
"I’ll go wherever...": Managing the earthquake relief in Pakistan through a tough winter was a ‘moment of impact’ for a then-bearded Andrew MacLeod.

A PUBLIC LECTURE DURING HIS second year at UTAS inspired Andrew MacLeod (BA-LLB 1993) to begin an extraordinary career of humanitarian operations.

The lecture was on constitutional law and it was being given by the then Minister for Justice, Michael Tate. At one point during the talk Mr Tate interrupted his lecture to urge students to “use their skills for the betterment of other people”.

Andrew decided then and there that he wanted to work for the International Committee of the Red Cross and United Nations High Commission for Refugees – and he’s since done both.

Melbourne-raised Andrew arrived at UTAS after being kicked out of Monash.

“I failed to hand in a single piece of paper,” he said. “At 18/19 I was a lost little kid, not ready for university.”

The move to Tasmania offered him a range of opportunities. During his time in Tasmania (1988 to 1992) Andrew held the positions of President of the Student Sports Council, Vice-President of the Student Union, manager of the Student Housing Scheme – and ‘bouncer’ at the Uni Bar.

“I see university as a learning experience, not just education,” he said. “What you can do in Tasmania, but not Melbourne or Sydney, is experience eight or nine different things and see what you like.

“When I look back at the sort of activities I did in Tasmania I realise I couldn’t have done them on major campuses. I have very fond memories.”

Since his graduation, Andrew’s career has taken him to some of the most troubled places in the world – the former Yugoslavia, Rwanda, the Democratic Republic of Congo, East Timor, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, the Philippines and bushfire-ravaged Victoria.

“I’ll go wherever in the world,” he said. “I’m not particularly fussed – wherever I’m useful. It’s about what you can do in a place, it’s about the impact. Wherever in the world I happen to be is home.”

Andrew has received many accolades for his work including the Humanitarian Overseas Medal for his actions in the Balkans, the Red Cross Silver Medal for Humanity in Montenegro and the Australian Defence Medal. He also ran for the Australian Labour Party in the 1992 and 2001 elections in the seats of Franklin and McEwan respectively, won a silver medal in the 200 metres butterfly in the World Masters Games in 2002, wrote two novels, contributed to one non-fiction book and has won prizes for his photography.

He said he did not have highlights in his career but ‘moments of impact’ such as the moment he entered Ntarama Church in Rwanda to see 5,000 rotting human bodies.

“It’s something that never leaves you,” he said.

Another moment of impact was when Andrew met Maria, a refugee girl at an orphanage in Bosnia, who had for a long time been unable to cry or laugh – but when she saw Andrew, Maria put her head on his shoulder and cried.
Managing the earthquake relief in Pakistan through the tough winter was another such time. Humanitarian services managed to keep 3.5 million people alive.

Andrew has seriously feared for his life three times. One occasion was while working in Rwanda. Australian Steve Pratt was accused in the media of spying under the cover of humanitarian work in Yugoslavia. The Rwandan militants heard of this and began interrogating Australian humanitarians in Rwanda.

“I had an AK47 put against my head and some tough questions,” he said.

Andrew has been back to Tasmania only a few times since graduation, but it is not from lack of want. In reality, he has spent little of his career in Australia.

Today Andrew is working in Melbourne trying to ‘reconnect with his culture’. His role as CEO of the Committee for Melbourne involves finding ways to best make Melbourne more liveable. The current population of the city is four million but projections state it will be eight million by 2060.

While it is remarkably different to his previous work, there are some similarities. “To effectively deliver humanitarian assistance in disaster zones, you have to build partnerships, and the Committee for Melbourne is about building partnerships but in a very different context,” he said.

He is enjoying his time back in Australia, particularly seeing the 2010 Collingwood Premiership Grand Final; however, he plans to head overseas again in the near future. He said the world of humanitarian assistance was changing and the private sector was becoming more important.

“At the end of the day the best solution is not a handout, the best solution is a job,” he said.

Andrew said Australia was the best place in the world to live, but many did not realise this.

“This is as good as life gets,” he said. “But the whole focus of politics is really negative. We’d be a much better country if we were saying to each other, ‘this is pretty good’.”

Andrew’s philosophy on life is to fulfil a ‘day before you die list’ and ensure you have done more good than harm.

“I’ve done alright,” he said. “On balance I’m pretty happy with what I’ve done.”

Bubbles: Andrew’s creative talents were celebrated when his photograph won the DEEP Indonesia International Underwater Photo Competition 2009.
Melbourne Designer Alexi Freeman (BFA 2004) has been making waves in the fashion world for a while and a new collaboration with The Australian Ballet is letting him stretch his wings even further. Alexi is designing costumes for choreographer Gideon Obarzanek’s There’s Definitely a Prince Involved, one of three world premieres in The Australian Ballet’s Infinity season.

Despite focusing on couture, Alexi is no stranger to costume design.

“I did some work as a costume designer late last century,” he said. “I did lots of costumes for dancers and singers and actors, etc. back in the 90s, before I started my fashion label.

“Designing for The Australian Ballet has been a delight,” he said. “The choreographer I worked with on this piece (Gideon Obarzanek – former Artistic Director of Chunky Move) has been creating ground-breaking dance work for near on 20 years.

“Gideon’s vision, and the personality that he imbues into all of his works, is what has attracted me to working with him.”

Alexi’s innovative fashion designs have proved a good pairing with Obarzanek’s vision for There’s Definitely a Prince Involved. The costumes are definitely non-traditional, just like Obarzanek’s ballet, which is a modern reworking based around the much-loved classical ballet Swan Lake.

“The costumes explored notions of duality, good versus evil, virginity versus lasciviousness, light versus dark,” Alexi said.

“It was all based around the story of Swan Lake so there was no shortage of inspiration for this project.”

Alexi’s involvement with the project began with conversations with Obarzanek nine months ago about what the piece might be. Alexi attended rehearsals of the ballet in both Melbourne and the Sydney Opera House to get a feel for where the ballet was going.

“I also worked closely with The Australian Ballet’s in-house costume department to realise the production of the costumes,” he said. “I loved working directly with Gideon and the dancers, and it was a welcome relief from producing two fashion collections a year.

“It was a dream come true to see my work performed in the world premiere of an Obarzanek piece commissioned for the 50th anniversary of The Australian Ballet. I felt very privileged to be a part of such a momentous occasion.”

The harmony of human rights

From winning a prestigious scholarship to volunteering internationally, being mentored by musician John Butler and practising as a human rights lawyer, Anita George (BA-LLB Hons 2000) has done it all.

Anita is the first Tasmanian recipient of the Sir John Monash Award for Australian postgraduate students – an award that enables outstanding Australian graduates to study at the world’s best universities. This scholarship is taking Anita to Paris to study a Master of Public Policy at the acclaimed Institut d’Etudes Politiques (more commonly known as Sciences Po).

“The award is a huge honour,” she said. “While the funding associated with the award will obviously be of assistance, the prestigious nature of the scholarship will open up so many opportunities, and that is what is invaluable.”

The course starts this September and will continue for two years, with opportunities for internships with international organisations such as the OECD. Anita was also awarded an internal scholarship from Sciences Po.

Anita’s long-term goals are to work in migration policy, firstly in Europe then later returning to Australia. Although she was born, raised and educated in Tasmania, she is the daughter of Indian migrants.

Anita’s legal career began in corporate law before she made the switch to human rights.

“I was always passionate about human rights but somehow found myself on the corporate law track after graduation,” she said. “Soon after becoming admitted as a lawyer, I became determined to pursue my original dream of being a human rights lawyer.”

Anita then spent six years working for the Human Rights and Civil Law Section of Victoria Legal Aid. She described her years of working there as some of the most interesting, rewarding and challenging of her life. Her clients included asylum seekers and people with a mental illness.

In her spare time, Anita organised benefit gigs to raise funds for asylum seekers in the community and she received the Connections Uniting Care Anti-Poverty Awards in 2006 for young Australians contributing to the eradication of poverty. Her latest position has been as team leader for the Australian Red Cross in the Community Detention program.

But it hasn’t been all work and no play. Anita is also a talented musician and has travelled around Australia, Canada, Europe, South America and Africa with her guitar.

“It’s good to have that balance between the academic and creative side of life,” she said. She played at the Falls Festival and has been mentored by Australian singer and activist John Butler.

“That was a great opportunity,” she said. “I was always a big fan of his and I learnt a lot about the music industry from him and his team.”

Anita has previously studied jazz guitar in Paris, a course taught completely in French, and hopes to continue playing jazz during her upcoming time in France.
HE CENTENARY OF THE BIRTH AND the work of Professor S. Warren Carey AO, FAA, DSc (1911-2002), one of UTAS’ most internationally recognised senior academics, has been honoured with a new memorial in the School of Earth Sciences.

Two sculptures situated in the foyer of the Geology and Geography Building on the Sandy Bay campus were unveiled at a ceremony in February this year – a bust by the renowned sculptor Stephen Walker and a globe created by UTAS’ Dr Tony Sprent AM (PhD 1984), commissioned by the Alumni for the School of Earth Sciences. Tony, since retiring as Senior Lecturer in Surveying and Spatial Sciences in the School of Geography and Environmental Studies in 2003, has been closely involved with designing technical aids for people with disabilities and with the new UTAS $1.3 million optical telescope at Bisdee Tier. However, he has always had an interest in sculpture and in 2004 created the Transit of Venus Sundial situated in Valentine’s Park, Campbell Town.

In his speech at the unveiling of the globe, Tony recalled that several years ago he was having lunch at the University Club with the celebrated scientist Professor Pat Quilty AM (PhD 1969), who mentioned a red granite sphere purchased by the Alumni for a proposed sculpture for Professor Carey. After some discussion a theme was developed for the sculpture and Tony agreed to take on the project. He was pleased to do this as Prof Carey had been a colleague of his father and, later, one of his lecturers. Tony, then teaching surveying at the TCAE, enrolled in a PhD in the Geology Department at UTAS to investigate loading and crustal deformation due to the flooding of Lake Gordon. In order to increase his knowledge of geology, Tony was required to attend various undergraduate units.

“I remember one particular lecture on isostasy and global tectonics when Prof Carey leapt into the lecture theatre, hurled a ball of silly putty across the lecture theatre, caught it on the rebound, sat it on the top of an empty beer bottle – and at the end of his lecture, after it had flowed down the sides – finally rolled the putty up into a ball and smashed it to pieces with a hammer,” Tony said. “Unlike most lectures I attended – or, for that matter, have given – I’ll never forget that one!”

The globe was to become a labour of love. Having brought the dolerite boulder down from the side of Mt Wellington, kindly donated by the Hobart City Council, it sat outside Tony’s workshop for at least two years, growing lichen and moss while he wondered what on earth he was going to do with it. The final form took considerable time to develop but Tony said that he hopes the end result, after about 500 hours of work over a period of four years, offers an insight into Carey’s ideas.
Scholarship directs gifts to scholarship

The 2011 Annual Appeal has now wrapped up with more than 260 donors giving almost 400 gifts. The total exceeded $80,000, more than half of which was directed to the Annual Appeal Scholarship. The Annual Appeal Scholarship is awarded each year to a deserving student who can demonstrate financial need and community involvement. In 2012 the recipient is Georgina Hall. Georgina is studying a Bachelor of Environmental Design (Architecture) at the Inveresk campus in Launceston.

“Financial support through the Annual Appeal Scholarship has made my transition from Hobart to Launceston easier,” Georgina said.

“I have been able to focus on my studies and enrich my learning experience by being able to purchase the textbooks and materials that I need. Receiving the Annual Appeal Scholarship means I am able to live and study in Launceston with the financial stability I need in order to concentrate on excelling at university. “I would like to thank all those who donated to the Annual Appeal Scholarship for their generosity. I am very grateful to them for providing me with the opportunity to further my education.”

In January, the UTAS Foundation also awarded the inaugural Adrian La Palombara Annual Appeal Scholarship in Accounting and the Adrian La Palombara Annual Appeal Honours Scholarship in Physics. The deserving recipients were Hollie Gamble and Ellen Manning (respectively).

Ellen said that this year she is doing honours in physics, specifically astrophysics, and her project involves attempting to determine the driving force/s behind the observed periodicity of a specific short-term variable maser source.

“I am very grateful to Mitchel Martin-Weber for funding my Adrian La Palombara Annual Appeal Honours Scholarship,” she said.

“The financial assistance means so much to me as I don’t have to work as much to support myself and can concentrate fully on my studies. Mitchel has also offered me advice and support when I need it and I am very appreciative of this.

Ellen Manning

Mitchel Martin-Weber (BCom 1988) established the Adrian La Palombara Annual Appeal Scholarships to honour his friend, who was also a UTAS alumnus (BA 1993, GradDipLib Hons 1996), and provide the opportunity for students to be successful in their studies and their future careers.

Hobart and Launceston high schools centenary

2013 marks the centenary of state secondary education in Tasmania. Hobart High School and Launceston High School enrolled their first students in 1913 and to celebrate the educational milestone both colleges are keen to engage with as many former students and staff of the institutions (up to the present) as possible.

Launceston College plans a number of functions for former students and staff on Monday and Saturday 15-16 March 2013, and Monday 18 March 2013. Information is available from Frank Sernaggia at Launceston College, Paterson St Launceston 7250 or via email: Frank.Sernaggia@education.tas.gov.au.

There is also a Launceston College Centenary Facebook page and a website will be launched shortly.

The Old Hobartian Association (OHA), in conjunction with Hobart College, will hold its celebrations the following week, 22-25 March 2013. For details of the Hobart events contact the Secretary of the OHA, Greg Jackson, at 4 Kent Street, Lindisfarne 7015 or via email: grjacbj@internode.on.net. You can find the OHA website at: www.oldhobartianassociation.org.

Among the planned events will be the launch of the Hobart High centenary history book, which has a working title, Revolution in State Education – Hobart High to Hobart College 1913-2013.

The OHA is working with UTAS to establish perpetual scholarships for graduating students from Hobart College to attend UTAS. It is hoped to present the inaugural scholarship at an event next March. The Association launched the scholarship appeal at a function at Hobart College last month.

Ellen Manning

Georgina Hall

The UTAS Foundation and the University of Tasmania and its students would like to thank each and every donor to the Annual Appeal for their generous contribution. Scholarships to students are life-changing and every gift makes a difference.

The 2012 Annual Appeal is aiming to raise an ambitious target of $132,500 towards the Annual Appeal Scholarship. Raising this amount would endow the scholarship fund, ensuring the giving of our alumni and friends endures in perpetuity. Donations are also encouraged for the Advancement Fund, which aims to reach an ambitious goal of $3 million over the next few years so that it can act as an annual endowed fund. Expenditure from this fund will reflect the University’s teaching and research priorities, and will support projects identified as areas of greatest need.

We look forward to your continued support.

For more information or to support the 2012 Annual Appeal visit www.utas.edu.au/annual-appeal.
THREE DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS OF the UTAS alumni family were celebrated at annual UTAS Foundation dinners held recently in Hobart and Launceston.

Professor Rupert Maclean was named the recipient of the Distinguished Alumni Award, while UTAS Foundation Graduate Awards were presented to Brodie Neill and Simon Hollingsworth.

Rupert Maclean was acknowledged for his significant contribution to education internationally. He gained his PhD at UTAS in 1998 and then embarked on a distinguished, 20-year career with UNESCO, where his roles were linked by a common purpose of improving education, particularly in developing countries. His work included the creation of training models for former Afghani and Liberian child soldiers and improving the education of girls and women in rural areas of China.

Meanwhile UTAS Foundation Graduate Award winner Brodie Neill (BFA 2001) has carved out a career as a furniture designer with inventiveness, rigour and masterful production, successfully integrating digital technologies with the sensitivities of the hand-made. He proved his conviction to these ideas in the fiercely competitive markets of New York, London, Milan, Paris and Holland, working for prestigious clients and receiving high acclaim through exhibition and authoritative design journal coverage such as Time, Esquire, Vogue and Harper’s Bazaar.

UTAS Foundation Graduate Award co-winner Simon Hollingsworth (BCom-LLB (Hons) 1996) is a former Rhodes Scholar and dual Olympian, a former Australian national and international ice hockey player, a former Australian junior hockey player, and a recipient of the Australian Institute of Sport?s Young Australian Athlete of the Year award in 1999.

UTAS ACADEMIC AND PHD STUDENT Gwen Nettlefold died suddenly in 2001. Gwen was born and educated in Hobart. She trained as a nurse, a naturopath and completed a Bachelor of Communications in Sydney before embarking on her doctorate in philosophy at UTAS.

Her ability as a philosopher rapidly became apparent and she made a significant contribution to the School of Philosophy as a member of staff, a colleague and undergraduate tutor. Her doctoral thesis was virtually complete when a brain aneurysm tragically ended her life in November 2001. The University awarded her doctorate posthumously in December 2002.

Family, friends and colleagues initially made generous gifts to establish a scholarship in Gwen’s memory – to encourage mature-aged women to undertake research in any arts discipline, with a preference for philosophy. To those who loved Gwen, it’s an important memoriam that celebrates her commitment to learning.

The Nettlefold family recently provided a further $100,000, with a matching contribution from UTAS through the UTAS Foundation, to increase the scholarship significantly to a prestigious elite research scholarship – the Dr Gwen Nettlefold Memorial Elite Research Scholarship.

With an annual stipend contributed by UTAS and the additional $7,500 provided by donations, the scholarship now provides an annual $30,000 stipend.

On 22 March 2011, the first Dr Gwen Nettlefold Memorial Elite Research Scholarship was awarded to Bonnie Britton, who is carrying out philosophical research examining motherhood. Bonnie said that the purpose of her PhD work is to answer the identity question ‘who am I’ as well as looking into the role that the transition from woman to mother has on a woman’s identity.

A strong track record in public administration, combined with his experience in the sporting arena, led to Simon being appointed, in September 2011, as Chief Executive of the Australian Sports Commission, which oversees the Australian Institute of Sport. University of Tasmania Vice-Chancellor Professor Peter Rathjen said recognising the achievement of alumni is important for universities as it is the success of the graduates that adds to the history, reputation and prestige of the institution.

“IT is a welcome opportunity to acknowledge the significant contribution of Rupert, Brodie and Simon, who have taken very different paths to careers of national and international standing,” he said.
EARLY ALL OF US LOVE CHEESE and consumers are constantly pushing producers for a greater range of flavours. Part of this demand focuses on unpasteurised (or raw milk) cheeses, which many believe have an unparalleled depth of flavour. Unpasteurised cheese is also seen as being more diverse in character, allowing cheese makers to make it unique to their region – and to create lucrative niche markets.

Roquefort cheese made from raw milk can be found in Australian markets but is imported from France and produced under very strict processing controls. However, Australian and New Zealand food regulations currently prevent the production of almost all unpasteurised cheese because raw milk can contain harmful or ‘pathogenic’ bacteria, which can cause illness, even life-threatening illness. While this is very uncommon, milk is made safe through the heating process of pasteurisation.

Associate Professor Tom Ross, from the Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture’s Food Safety Centre, is leading a study on the production of softer-style raw milk cheeses to determine how safe they actually are in comparison with pasteurised cheeses. This study has the potential to enable cheese makers to begin safely producing a wider range of raw milk cheeses.

“We’re looking to determine what are inherently safe cheese styles,” Tom said. “We will define a set of cheeses that are relatively safe to make with raw milk, and conversely those that aren’t.”

The research team will initially study the survival of pathogenic bacteria in a simplified laboratory system that simulates cheese but, with a bit of guidance from a qualified cheese maker, will also make a variety of cheeses from milk deliberately contaminated with pathogens to measure the time taken to kill those pathogens. The research will observe and measure how the pathogens respond to the conditions in cheeses as they ferment and mature.

A complementary study led by Associate Professor John Bowman, also of the Food Safety Centre, will study the responses of the pathogens at a molecular level. Together, the two projects aim to work out whether some cheeses are safer than others, and why, and whether small changes in cheese processes could make the cheeses safer.

Say cheese: PhD student Jay Kocha unrchitt (left) and Associate Professor Tom Ross from the Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture Food Safety Centre are trying to determine the safety of raw milk cheeses, which consumers believe have a greater depth of flavour than their pasteurised counterparts. Photo by Peter Mathew.
As easy as ABC: decoding the sounds of reading

EDUCATION A new iPad app called Prof’s Phonics, being sold worldwide through iTunes, is designed to help early readers decode the sounds of the letters in the alphabet. The app was developed by a team from the Faculty of Education, led by Professor Ian Hay and Associate Professor Ruth Fielding-Barnsley.

“This app works on phonemic awareness, which is one of the early stages of learning to read,” Professor Hay said. “It helps early readers match sounds to letters.”

Professor Fielding-Barnsley added that phonics was sometimes seen as an uninteresting part of learning to read.

“We’ve overcome this by having a professional artist work with the app developers so that images and sounds are highly correlated to provide stimulating and motivating activities for children,” she said.

AMC A Tasmanian company that creates high-end LED lighting systems has teamed up with researchers at the Australian Maritime College in a bid to substantially reduce the capture of unwanted fish in prawn trawls. Hobart-based Energy Options International has entered into a collaborative research agreement to further develop technology that exploits a fish’s response to light. Prawn trawling is done at night and fish react to artificial lights. In the three trials to date, the AMC’s Team Bycatch has used custom underwater lights adapted to a trawl net. In the first two trials, bycatch was reduced by 30% and 20% and prawn catch increased by 30% and 5.5% respectively.

ARTS Haunted by the memories of Christmases past and scarred by years of loneliness, bereaved Calvin decides he can’t take it anymore… This is the plot of a new full-length zombie feature film titled Christmas with the Dead. The UTAS Conservatorium of Music’s Music Technology and Audio departments collaborated with the Stephen F. Austin University in Texas to create the film’s audio post-production, Foley (everyday sounds) and orchestral underscore. The Conservatorium’s Tasmania Discovery Orchestra (TDO), with a post-production, Foley (everyday sounds) and orchestral underscore. The Conservatorium’s Tasmania Discovery Orchestra (TDO), with a

HEALTH SCIENCE A new technique first used this year at UTAS to educate young doctors in patient communication skills has had amazing results so far, according to the deputy head of the School of Medicine, Professor Richard Turner. Student doctors at UTAS’ Hobart Clinical School are involved in the Simulated Patient Program, where regular community members role-play as patients. “Of course our medical students need a solid grasp of the clinical sciences but the fact remains that most of the complaints they receive as future doctors will be as a result of poor communication with their patients,” Professor Turner said.

IMAS Dr Cedric Simon from the Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies has received top honours at the prestigious 2012 Science and Innovation Awards for Young People in Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry. His research into innovative assessment methods of the nutritional condition of rock lobsters recently earned him two awards at the Canberra ceremony. Dr Simon is investigating a number of issues relating to seafood security.

MENZIES Worldwide, smoke from landscape fires contributed to an average of 339,000 deaths per year between 1997 and 2006, according to research recently published in Environmental Health Perspectives. Chief Investigator on the paper, Dr Fay Johnston, a research fellow from Menzies Research Institute Tasmania, said that sub-Saharan Africa and South-East Asia were the hardest hit by fire-smoke deaths, with an estimated annual average of 157,000 and 110,000 deaths, respectively attributable to landscape fire-smoke exposure. “It’s time to look at deforestation impacts on fires, which in turn affect human health.” Dr Johnston said. “These are avoidable deaths. There’s an opportunity here for us to save lives.”

SET New research published in Science magazine has shed light on the mysterious extinction of Australia’s remarkable collection of megafauna. Professor Chris Johnson, from the School of Zoology, said Australia was once home to an extraordinary collection of very large animals: rhino-sized wombat-like marsupials called diprotodons, giant kangaroos, a goanna bigger than the living Komodo dragon, a giant goose twice the size of the emu and many others. All of these species became extinct about 40,000 years ago and until recently it has been unclear why. Now it appears the extinction was caused by the arrival of early man.
2000s

Jonathan Adamczewski (BComp Hons 2004, PhD 2011) is moving to Los Angeles for a position as a software engineer with Insomniac Games. This position builds on his PhD work.

Tristan Andrewartha (BE (Nav Arch) 2007) has been awarded an international prize by the Royal Institution of Naval Architects (RINA). Tristan, who works for the Danish Naval Architect firm Knud E. Hansen A/S, won the Samuel Baxter Prize, which is awarded annually for the best paper published in the *International Journal of Maritime Engineering* (IJME) on the subject of safety (by a RINA member under 30). Tristan said the paper that he co-authored, titled *Ship motions during replenishment at sea operations in head seas*, was based on research he started while he was a student at AMC.

Donna Lougher (BTeach 2007) has been selected under the Arts Tasmania 2012 Grants and Loans program for the King Island Artist Residency Program. The work created from the residency will be exhibited at Colville Gallery, Hobart in 2013.

Cameron Phillips (BPharm 2004) has recently been awarded an NHMRC Translating Research into Practice Fellowship (TRIP) to undertake a research project to improve the use of the antibiotic vancomycin. Cameron is currently a specialist pharmacist at the Flinders Medical Centre in South Australia.

Pete Saunders (BVC 2008, MVC 2010) is a member of a group of UTAS graduates who have formed Undercoat.net, an online community for creative students to share their work, gain exposure and meet like-minded people. The website acts on an open-submission format (moderated for content) with students providing examples of work, a brief artist statement, a link to their portfolio and a link to their place of study.

1990s

Emmanuel Ezekiel-Hart (AdvDipMarineEng 1999, LLB 2002) is running his small law firm in Canberra, Niger Delta Lawyers & Maritime Services. He heads the criminal law section of another firm and is also the legal adviser to the High Commission of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. Emmanuel is also contesting in the ACT Legislative Assembly pre-selection under the platform of the ACT Greens, and pursuing a doctorate degree in legal science at University of Canberra.

Paul Koerbin (BA 1990, GradDipLib 1991) was recently awarded a PhD from the University of Western Sydney. His thesis was a study of Turkish Alevi expressive culture titled ‘I am Pir Sultan Abdaäl’: a hermeneutical study of the self-naming tradition (mahlas) in Turkish Alevi lyric song (deyi). Paul currently works as the manager of Web Archiving at the National Library of Australia.

Julie Diana Lawless (BSc Hons 1998, BA 2005) recently completed a Diploma of Disability at the Skills Institute of Tasmania. This was made possible by her current employer, Star Tasmania Inc., where she works as a residential disability support worker. “I love my job, which involves providing support to people living with disability, mainly because we have a lot of fun,” Julie said.

Ben Lee (BBus 1998) is working as a guide with Nature Trekker in Singapore. “If you need assistance in seeing some of Singapore’s nature, I am happy to provide a two-to-three-hour nature appreciation and exploratory walk in Singapore,” he told *Alumni News*. For more information, go to: www.naturetrekker.org. Cassandra Newbold (BA 1998) recently returned to Australia after teaching English in Moscow for a year. Cassandra now offers a free referral service to university graduates (Teaching/Education an advantage, but not essential) who are interested in securing English teaching nanny, governor and governess positions in Russia (Moscow and St Petersburg), Ukraine (Kiev), Kazakhstan (Almaty) and other locations. To find out more, contact Cassandra at: tassiecassy@hotmail.com.
Bagpipes and 100 jelly cakes were part of the festivities when Nancy Holds (nee McPhee) recently celebrated her centenary with her sons Herbert and Alexander, her many friends, and her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Nancy, who graduated Bachelor of Laws in May 1934, was the first woman to be admitted to the Bar of the Tasmanian Supreme Court. The daughter of the late Sir John Cameron McPhee, the 27th premier of Tasmania, Nancy attended St Michael’s Collegiate and was recognised by the school in 2007 when it named a sporting house (McPhee House) in her honour.

Nancy today lives in South Australia. Her family is putting together a book on her life, a copy of which will be provided to UTAS for safe keeping in the Archives or Law School.
**KEEPING IN TOUCH**

**1970s**

**Joy Elizabeth** told *Alumni News* that as a BEd graduate from TCAE in Launceston back in 1975, she really never thought she would go near a tertiary institute again. “However, just before my 67th birthday I’ve accepted an offer to study for my MA in creative writing,” she said. “Although I’ve been writing on and off for some time, this is a huge leap for me, and I only hope I am up to it.” Joy said she is also hoping to participate in the research into the effect of university study on memory, which is being conducted through UTAS.

**Peter Heyward** (BA 1979) has been chosen to be Australia’s next High Commissioner to Pakistan, taking up his appointment this month. Peter was previously a senior career officer with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and was until recently Assistant Secretary Africa Branch, a position he held from June 2011. Prior to this Peter served as Australia’s Ambassador to East Timor and also Ambassador to Brazil.

**Anne Nicholls** (DipA Vis Art 1977, BA 2005) recently completed a Graduate Certificate of Professional Writing at Deakin University and is, at present, learning bookbinding and gold manuscript illumination work as part of creating Artists’ Books. In recent years she has travelled in Vancouver, Victoria and Vernon in British Columbia and is looking forward to more travels in Canada and Norway.

**Peter Wolnizer** (BEd 1973) has been appointed chair of the International Accounting Education Standards Board (IAESB), which is an independent standard-setting board supported by the International Federation of Accountants. As chair, Peter will lead the IAESB as it develops the professional knowledge, skills, values, ethics and attitudes of the accountancy profession by promoting the adoption and implementation of the International Education Standards.

**1960s**

**Koesmarihati Sugondo** (BE 1966, DEng honoris causa 2009) sits on the supervisory board of the USF implementing agency within the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology in Indonesia. She is also a board member of the Indonesian Infocom Society, to advise and push the Government to accelerate the development of the broadband network in Indonesia.

**Richard Tallboys** (BCom 1961) recently published a memoir of some of his diplomatic experiences under the title *Encounter of a Diplomatic Kind*. Richard was British Ambassador to Vietnam from 1985 to 1987. During his 20 years in the British diplomatic service he was made OBE in 1973 and CMG in 1980. After retiring from his diplomatic career, Richard had another international career serving for five years as the first CEO of the World Coal Institute. He was also an Alderman of the City of Hobart from 1958 to 1962.

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In August this year Dr Johanna Wadsley (BMus Hons 1995) and Dr Duika Burges Watson (BA 1998, PhD 2005) will take part in a unique sea-kayaking research expedition in the Coral Triangle called *Hugging the Coast*. Johanna and Duika are pretty sure the journey has not been undertaken before, but that’s not the only thing that makes the project unusual.

As part of an international team of six female social scientists and professional sea kayakers, Duika and Johanna will paddle from Manado to Pulau Sangihe (North Sulawesi, Indonesia), and document seaweed farming and the women who farm it in the region’s ‘liminal’ zones. Given that the main consumer of products derived from farmed seaweed is the global processed food industry, *Hugging the Coast* aims to render visible the relationships between globalised commodities, the lives of Indonesian seaweed farmers, development agendas and international efforts to protect the Coral Triangle.
Enjoy a Tassie weekend

A key event on our calendar is the annual Alumni 50+ Club Lunch, held in Hobart each November for those who graduated at least 50 years ago. We will be holding the 2012 lunch at the lovely University Club on Dobson Road.

Alumni are encouraged to rally others from their peer group in good time. Contact the Alumni Office if you need help locating them. We will be displaying photographs of the era, so please ferret out any old shots that we can all enjoy. All photos will be returned. If you have an email address, please let us know at Alumni.office@utas.edu.au.

Elgar’s Cello Concerto and Dvořák’s Symphony No. 7 is on the TSO calendar for the evening of 23 November and alumni attending the lunch may book gold tickets at a discounted price.

**Dates for your diary**

**Friday 23 November 2012**
UTAS Alumni 50+ Club Lunch  
University Club  
Dobson Road, Sandy Bay

**Saturday 24 November 2012**
John Fisher College Alumni Dinner  
Pepperz Café Bar Restaurant  
College Road, Sandy Bay

Please send your news via email to: Alumni.Office@utas.edu.au
You can also post your entries to the UTAS Advancement Office, Locked Bag 1350, Launceston, Tasmania, 7250.

http://www.facebook.com/UTASAlumni
When Sir John Franklin, polar hero and explorer, succeeded George Arthur as the governor of Van Diemen’s Land in January 1837, there was an expectation among some of the colonists that the old bureaucracy would be replaced by a more liberal regime. Franklin, however, was inexperienced in penal and colonial affairs. Naturally enough, he could not easily evade the advice of Arthur’s close officials, or the “faction” as they were known by their critics.

Against a backdrop that ranges from London to Hobart, Craig Joel (BA Hons 1998, MA 2005, GradCertPoliceSt 2010) tells how a civil servant came to usurp Franklin’s authority in his desire to curry favour with British ministers, and in the process profoundly affected the political development of the colony.

Discussions in Science: Promoting conceptual understanding in the middle school years
By Tim Sprod (ACER, 2011)

Encourage your students to go beyond learning scientific facts and skills to an in-depth collaborative inquiry into scientific concepts, the nature of science, the ethical implications of science and the links between science and their everyday lives. The first section of this text explains the theoretical basis for the approach used, while the second section presents a wide range of purpose-written stories to read with your class and discuss.

Dr Tim Sprod (BSc1972, PhD 1999) has taught science and philosophy in secondary schools in Australia, Papua New Guinea, the Bahamas and the United Kingdom. He is Chair of the Association for Philosophy in Tasmanian Schools.

Looking at Landscape: Through the lens of the Glover Prize
By Jane Deeth (The John Glover Society, 2011)

Looking at Landscape examines the different ways landscape can be expressed and understood, through the eyes of colonial artist John Glover (1767–1849) and artists who have entered the Glover Prize for landscape painting over the past eight years.

“What artists have chosen to depict in landscape painting has shifted over time,” said the author, Jane Deeth (BASocWork 1976, BAEnvDes 1984, MFAD 2000, PhD 2009). “Today, the landscape category of art-making is not only about representing the natural world as we see it, but also about how we construct and understand the world we live in.”

Mawson’s Forgotten Men: The 1911-1913 Antarctic Diary of Charles Turnbull Harrisson
Edited by Heather Rossiter (Murdoch Books, 2011)

This book by Heather Rossiter (BSc 1965) is more than a record of cold and courage; it is a 520-page love letter from Charles Turnbull Harrisson to his wife Carrie. Harrisson (1867-1914) was the only Tasmanian member of Douglas Mawson’s legendary Australasian Antarctic Expedition 1911-14.

Appointed biologist and artist to the expedition, Harrisson records the challenges that faced the eight-man Western Base party landed on a glacier 2000 km west of the Main Base, and their heroic achievements in Queen Mary Land.

Tasmania Over Five Generations: Return to Van Diemen’s Land?
By John Biggs (40° South Publishing, 2011)

Here are stories about people, time and place. The people are father-son descendants of Abraham Biggs, the great-great-grandfather of the author, and the place is Tasmania. The stories of the five individuals are told against the social and political backdrop of the Tasmania in which they lived. The stories are told with the aim of creating a picture of Tasmania’s developing polity.
VALE

Emeritus Professor Phillip Hughes AO

Died 12 October 2011, aged 85 years.

PHILLIP HUGHES WAS TASMANIAN Rhodes Scholar for 1947 and committed his career to education, both in Australia and abroad. He was acknowledge by Vice-Chancellor Professor Peter Rathjen as a “truly distinguished Tasmanian and an outstanding graduate of UTAS”.

Prof Hughes’ intention at Oxford University had been to become a nuclear physicist, a career choice that was soon replaced when he decided to follow the profession of teaching. He was the first principal of the Hobart Teachers College before his appointment, in 1965, as deputy head of the Tasmanian Department of Education. Five years later Prof Hughes took up the position of foundation head of the Education Faculty of the Canberra College of Education. In 1973 Prof Hughes became the inaugural Chair of the ACT Education Teacher Authority and in 1981 returned to UTAS when he accepted the post of Professor of Teacher Education, a position he held until 1991 when retirement beckoned. Prof Hughes then went on to supervise the curriculum review that led to the re-accreditation of UTAS’ School of Medicine. In 1993 he worked for the OECD in Paris analysing and reporting on curriculum trends, and also for UNESCO as a consultant on the Asia and Pacific region. From 1996 to 1997 he was the foundation CEO of the Australian Principals Centre. His work was recognised by the awarding of honorary doctorates from UTAS and the University of Canberra. In 1991 he was made an Officer of the Order of Australia. Prof Hughes is remembered as an inspiration and a mentor who held the affection and respect from his colleagues and friends across the education community. He was the author of more than 30 books and over 200 major papers, and was esteemed as an unwavering champion for the principle of ‘education for all’.

Marshall Hughes

Died 26 January 2012, aged 69 years.

UTAS PROFESSIONAL SCIENTIST Marshall Hughes had a long and dedicated career in science, serving as a member of UTAS staff for more than 28 years.

Marshall joined Professor Frank Larkins in 1983 on his appointment as the Chair in Chemistry. Prior to this he was responsible for the operation and management of the major scientific instruments at Monash Chemistry including the newly acquired photoelectron spectrometer – the first in Australia. Frank needed a person with high level scientific instrumental skills and invited Marshall to join his group at UTAS to continue his role with this spectrometer, because of his outstanding record at Monash. Marshall, with his wife and children, made the decision to relocate, much to UTAS’ benefit. He and his wife Bernadette assisted Frank in the first few months in reestablishing his research group at UTAS.

It was not long before the whole department recognised that Marshall had very special talents when it came to scientific instrumentation. He became a dedicated member of staff widely acknowledged for this professional competence and willingness to assist all.

In the mid 1990s Marshall’s responsibilities expanded to include both the School of Chemistry and the Central Science Laboratory where he was the only other person ever entrusted to fully operate the large magnetic sector mass spectrometer, a role he undertook with distinction. One of his major tasks was to undertake the mass spectrometry service work for many other universities around Australia and even overseas; in this role he generated a very valuable income stream for the CSL and UTAS. He was always delighted when a large parcel of samples arrived.

Marshall was an outstanding example of a professional staff member who dedicated his considerable talents at the highest level of competence to advance the mission of the University in research and research training. He gained the respect of all those that were fortunate enough to work with him because of his unassuming character, his love of science and his genuine concern for students and staff.

Truly distinguished: Emeritus Professor Phillip Hughes was Tasmanian Rhodes Scholar for 1947.
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The University of Tasmania Foundation wishes to thank everyone who generously supported our 2011 Annual Appeal. Your gifts make a real contribution to developing excellence at UTAS and provide thoroughly appreciated assistance to our students.

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For a report about the 2011 Annual Appeal, please go to page 22. We encourage alumni to support the 2012 Appeal and our current generation of students by donating online at www.utas.edu.au/foundation/donations-and-support/current-appeals
I had such great, supportive, inspirational teachers who believed in every one of us and made sure we were equipped to achieve what we wanted in later life. All of my friends from Fahan have gone on to achieve their goals and are very happy.

Rhea Longley, Rhodes Scholar

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