The University Council met at the Cradle Coast Campus, Burnie on Friday 29 June 2012, starting at 9am. While in Burnie, Council attended the University Dinner. This was a combined dinner between Council, Foundation and the Cradle Coast Campus. Approximately 72 guests attended.

Agenda items included-

**AMC Ordinance**
Council made the Australian Maritime College (AMC) Ordinance (Ordinance 15), replacing the existing Ordinance 15, and resolved that it is to be sealed.

**TUU Constitution**
Council received the Tasmania University Union Inc. (TUU) Constitution.

**Vice-Chancellor Portfolio Report**

**$5 million for new UTAS centres**
Australian Government funding of $5 million was announced on 1 June 2012 to support the establishment of a national future forest industries centre and an experimental aquaculture facility at the University to help drive research and innovation in the forestry and aquaculture industries. Industry support will be sought for the proposals and funding will be matched by partner contributions. The research to be undertaken by the two new centres will help the development of these industries which are worth more than $25 billion to the Australian economy.

**Launch of SenseT**
The Minister for Regional Australia, Regional Development and Local Government Simon Crean and the Premier Lara Giddings formally launched the SenseT project at the Stanley Burbury Theatre of the Sandy Bay campus on 14 June 2012. Guests included partners and collaborators such as the Director, Australian Centre for Broadband Innovation, CSIRO, Colin Griffith, and the Director of IBM Research and Development - Australia and Chief Technologist for IBM Australia, Glenn Wightwick.

**Launch of Open to Talent**
The three styles of the *Open to Talent* strategic plan, the full version, *Strategies* and the *Snapshot* were released to staff via email on 6 June 2012. Stakeholder launches have also been held and/or scheduled across the State.

**Minister for Mental Health and Ageing visit to MS1 and Wicking**
The Minister for Mental Health and Ageing, Mark Butler visited the Medical Sciences 1 building on 16 May 2012. During the visit, the University of Tasmania’s Wicking Dementia Research and Education Centre showcased its innovative program to increase the role of nurse practitioners in the care of the elderly.
The Tasmanian Government’s review of public VET providers
The Minister for Education and Skills, Nick McKim, announced the outcomes of the Tasmanian Government’s review of VET providers on 5 June 2012. Through its acceptance of specific recommendations, the Government will commit the new single public VET provider TasTAFE to a close relationship with the University including through establishment of a forum to facilitate the formation of a strategic partnership which it is hoped will become a national model for cross-sector collaboration.

Falls Music and Arts Festival partnership
Philanthropist and businessman Graeme Wood has provided sponsorship for this year’s Falls Music and Arts Festival in December at Marion Bay in the state’s south. The deal includes a partnership between the University and the Festival. Two spots will be reserved exclusively for UTAS artists. Conservatorium of Music students from the Faculty of Arts will share the bill and be promoted worldwide alongside leading local national and international acts.

Queen’s Birthday Honours list
Of the 15 Tasmanians who received accolades in the 2012 Queen’s Birthday Honours list, six were UTAS alumni, recognised for their contributions in fields across a very wide spectrum. Graeme Murphy AM has been made an Officer (AO) in the General Division, Dr Carey Denholm (a former Dean of UTAS Graduate Research), Dr Nicholas Hope (B SC 1965), Dr Glen Kile (B Ag Sci with First Class Honours 1968, PhD 1973), and Mr Don Wing (LIB 1962) were recognised as Members (AM) in the General Division and Dr Louise Gilfedder (M Sc 1993) has received a Medal (OAM) in the General Division.

New Town Bay rowing facility
The Australian Government has provided $2.5 million for new boatsheds, a gym and clubrooms at the New Town Bay rowing facility. The Tasmanian University Boat Club along with a number of other clubs will all benefit from the new facility which will replace three existing facilities that have fallen into disrepair.

Recognition

- Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture plant pathologist Associate Professor Calum Wilson was presented with the Bayer CropScience Researcher of the Year award at the Ausveg National Awards for Excellence on 12 May 2012. Dr Wilson has worked in the area of vegetable plant diseases for more than 20 years, and his research has had tangible benefits for industry. His recent work in developing potato varieties resistant to common scab has been particularly significant.

- A team from the ARC Centre of Excellence in Ore Deposits (CODES), led by Professors David Cooke and Bruce Gemmell, received the inaugural AMIRA International Award for Geoscience Research Excellence (AMIRA International Ltd is an independent association of minerals companies which develops, brokers and facilitates collaborative research projects). The team won the AMIRA award for its research into enhancing the ability of exploration geologists to identify productive ore zones in porphyry-related mineral districts. The research was conducted in collaboration with a number of international universities.

- Oceanographer Dr Seve Rintoul of the ACE CRC and CSIRO’s Wealth from Oceans Research Flagship has been awarded the prestigious Martha T Muse Prize for Science and Policy in Antarctica 2012 for his outstanding research on the Southern Ocean. This 100,000 unrestricted prize is awarded to an individual who has demonstrated excellence in Antarctic science or
policy and who shows clear potential for sustained major and significant contributions that will enhance the understanding of Antarctica.

- A team headed by Professor Ross Large and Dr Stuart Bull from CODES and Professor Valeriy Maslennikov from the Russian Academy of Science has been awarded the gold medal for best scientific paper of the year by the Society of Economic Geologists. The paper outlines a new theory on the processes by which gold is concentrated in sedimentary basins and subsequently upgraded to form major ore deposits.

- Professor Jan McDonald, New Star Environmental Law Professor and expert in Climate Change, has been appointed as a member of the Tasmanian Climate Action Council, which was established under legislation to provide high-level, independent advice on Tasmania’s response to climate change.

- Menzies PhD student Nicholas Blackburn won the 2012 Australian Society for Medical Research (ASMR) student award (Tasmania) in May for his work in cancer genetics. ASMR is the peak professional society representing Australian health and medical research. Menzies PhD student Katherine Southam was announced runner-up for her work on motor neurone disease.

- Dr Seana Gall, Menzies Research Institute Tasmania, was appointed to the board of Cancer Council Tasmania in May. This not-for-profit organisation works to minimise the impact of cancer on Tasmanians through advocacy, raising awareness of cancer prevention and offering advice and support for those living with cancer and their carers.

- Parliamentary Secretary for Health and Ageing, Catherine King, presented Dr Juanita Westbury, Professor Greg Peterson, Dr Shan Jackson (all UTAS school of Pharmacy) and Prof Andrew Robinson (UTAS Wicking Dementia Research and Education Centre and Faculty of Health Science) with a National MedicineWise Award for the RedUSE (Reducing Use of Sedatives) Program on 24 May 2012. RedUSE uses research on the way psychotropic medicines are prescribed in the aged care setting to reduce the use of sedatives in Aged Care homes. The awards, organised by NPS, recognise programs that build medicinewise skills and involve consumer and community participation.

- Professor Barbara Nowak (NCMCRS) was appointed by the ARC as a member of the Biological and Biotechnological Sciences Research Evaluation Committee for ERA 2012.

- Dr Maria Grenfell, Senior Lecturer and Co-ordinator of Composition, was re-elected to the Board of Directors of the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra for her second three-year term.

- Prof Chris Carter of IMAS together with colleagues from the Australian Institute of Marine Science, CSIRO and Deakin University won the Aquaculture Science Research Award at the inaugural Australasian Aquaculture Awards in May 2012. The award was for their work “Fish Oil Replacement in Australian Aquafeed”, assisting Australian aquaculturists plan for a more economically and environmentally secure future by reducing dependence on imported fish oil as an ingredient in aquafeed.

**Public outreach**

- The UTAS Radio Astronomy Group played a major role in tracking the Dragon spacecraft, the first rocket constructed by a private company, SpaceX, which has the capability of transporting
supplies and personnel to the International Space Station. Launched on 22 May 2012, the group picked up the signal about 45 minutes after launch, and tracked the Dragon through some 25 passes over the following week. This tracking is performed under a three year contract with the SpaceX Corporation.

- The Faculty of Business hosted “Year in Review” breakfasts on each campus in each region of the state to meet and engage with Faculty stakeholders including the business community, staff and students and highlight the activities and achievements of the Faculty over the past year. The three breakfasts attracted over 140 attendees and will form part of the Faculty’s annual engagement calendar.

- The Tasmanian Law Reform Institute released the *Issues Paper on Sexual Offences Against Young People* in May. This project was referred to the Institute by the Attorney-General following criticism of the law in relation to the defence of mistake as to age for sexual offences against young people. The paper was prepared by Institute Director, Professor Kate Warner. The closing date for responses is 29 June 2012.

- Dr Richard Herr served as a Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) Resource Person for the 23rd CPA Seminar in Apia, Samoa from 24-30 May 2012. It was the longest seminar in the history of this professional development programme for the CPA membership and included MPs from Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, North America and Oceania. Dr Herr has also been instrumental in securing Australian Government funding of $900,000 over a three-year program towards implementing the recommendations of a legislative needs assessment he provided of the Parliament of Samoa.

- The Law Faculty was contracted by the Tasmanian Integrity Commission to design and deliver a half day integrity training workshop to members of Parliament in April 2012. Twenty five members of the houses of Parliament attended. Feedback from participants indicated the course was well received. Negotiations are continuing with the Integrity Commission for future training programs.

- Two visiting academics to the Conservatorium of Music from the Stephen F. Austin State University (Texas) conducted a concert of the Derwent Valley Concert Band in May. As part of an exchange agreement with the Conservatorium, Professors Stephen Lias and Fred Allen also visited Hobart to teach at the Conservatorium, promote the exchange program to students and participate in band rehearsals.

- Professor Peter Shergold, the Macquarie Group Foundation Professor at the Centre for Social Impact at UNSW, and Chancellor of the University of Western Sydney, participated in a round table discussion on social finance and innovation at the Cradle Coast Campus in early May. This event was hosted by Cradle Coast Campus Director Professor Janelle Allison and the Institute for Regional Development (IRD), with the Campus also sponsoring Prof Shergold’s keynote address to the regional service providers’ *Linking Up* Conference in partnership with Burnie City Council.

**Publications**

- An article by Jonathan Holmes (Faculty of Arts), Susan Jones and Brian Yates (both Faculty of SET) of the Tasmanian Institute of Learning and Teaching which was published in *Campus Review* in June describes how UTAS is using nationally agreed standards in learning and teaching to develop and map its degree programs against high-level course learning outcomes.
This builds upon the work that was done by these ALTC Discipline Scholars in 2010-2011, and is being driven and supported by Professor David Sadler as part of LTAS@UTAS.

- Distinguished Professor Don Chalmers is one of the authors on a paper by Jane Kaye et al in *Science* titled ‘ELSI 2.0: A New International Collaboratory for Genomics and Society Research,’ (11 May 2012: vol 336 no. 6082 pp. 673-674). This paper proposes an initiative designed to catalyze international collaboration in ELSI (ethical, legal, social issues) genomics.

- Prof David Bowman (Plant Science) and colleagues had two research papers summarized in the prestigious journal *Nature* (as a ‘Nature highlight’) in March and April. Both papers were initially published in international journals of high standing and attracted considerable media interest nationally and internationally:
  - ‘Not an ancient relic: the endemic Livistona palms of arid central Australia could have been introduced by humans’. *Proceedings of the Royal Society B*. Published online March 7, 2012. Also published in *Nature* 483, 248 ‘Outback palms were planted’ (published online 14 March 2012). This work provided molecular evidence that the Livistonia palms in Palm Valley, central Australia, were introduced by Aborigines around 15,000 years ago. It is the product of a decade long collaboration between Bowman and Professor Yuji Isagi (Kyoto University, Japan).
  - ‘Tree cover–fire interactions promote the persistence of a fire-sensitive conifer in a highly flammable savanna.’ Published in *Journal of Ecology*. Published online: 4 April 2012. Also published in *Nature* 484, 418, ‘Savannah trees resist fires’ (published online 25 April 2012). This work stems from a 15-year research program undertaken by Bowman in central Arnhem Land studying Aboriginal fire usage. The study explains how a fire sensitive plant can exist in a frequently burnt savanna.

- Dr Matt Killingsworth (School of Government) has published *Civil Society in Communist Eastern Europe: Opposition and Dissent in Totalitarian Regimes*, (2012) European Consortium of Political Research (ECPR) Press. This exploration of dissent in communist Czechoslovakia, the GDR and Poland offers a fundamental reconceptualisation of the nature of these regimes.

- Dr Matt Killingsworth and Dr Matthew Sussex (School of Government) co-edited a Special Edition of *Global Change, Peace and Security* (Vol. 24, No. 2, 2012) commemorating the 20th anniversary of the collapse of the Soviet Union. The special edition is devoted to the global implications of the collapse of the USSR and includes papers by Sussex and Killingsworth (Sussex ‘Twenty years after the fall: continuity and change in Russian foreign and security policy’ and Killingsworth ‘Understanding order and violence in the post-Soviet space: the Chechen and Russo-Georgia wars’).

- *Australia and the Antarctic Treaty System: Fifty Years of Influence* (UNSW Press, Sydney, 2011), co-edited by Associate Professor Marcus Haward of IMAS was launched by Director, Australian Antarctic Division, Dr Tony Fleming on 11 May 2012 in Hobart.

- Dr Amanda Bates of the Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies was co-author on the paper ‘Thermal tolerance and the global redistribution of animals’ published in *Nature Climate Change* on 28 May 2012. The study, lead by Dr Jennifer Sunday of Simon Fraser University provides insights into why and how species are moving around the globe in response to climate warming.

- Dr Amanda E Bates co-authored a paper “Scientific Gear as a Vector for Non-Native Species at Deep-Sea Hydrothermal Vents” was published in *Conservation Biology* on 23 May 2012. The research explores how hardy deep sea animals survive extreme changes in pressure, as well as
exposure to air, which occur when a research submarine rises to the ocean surface and is lifted onboard a ship. The story was picked up by over 35 online news feeds including the BBC, National Geographic and Science On-line.

- Prof Timothy Skinner (Rural Clinical School) co-authored ‘Effectiveness of the diabetes education and self-management for ongoing and newly diagnosed (DESMOND) structured education programme for people with newly diagnosed type 2 diabetes mellitus: three year follow-up of a multicentre cluster randomised controlled trial in primary care’ published in *BMJ* (2012), 344. The study found that a structured group education programme for patients with newly diagnosed type 2 diabetes resulted in greater improvements in weight loss and smoking cessation and positive improvements in beliefs about illness.

**Senior appointments**

- A new Director Menzies Research Institute Tasmania has been appointed and is expected to commence in late 2012.

- Recruitment for the position of Professor of Psychology and head of School has commenced. Applications close on 30 June 2012.

- Prof Jeff Malpas (Professor, School of Philosophy) was recently awarded the title of Distinguished Professor as a result of his outstanding and sustained contribution to Philosophy and to the University of Tasmania.

- An international search to fill the Dean of Faculty of Health Science has commenced after the resignation of Professor Ray Playford in June. Professor Playford has taken up a position as Deputy Vice-Chancellor at Plymouth University in the UK.

**Academic Senate Meeting 15 June 2012**

Council received a report and the draft minutes of the Academic Senate meeting held on 15 June 2012.

**Graduation in Absentia and Conferring of Awards**

Council approved the applications for the conferring of awards on 9 people, and the Chancellor conferred degrees in absentia on them.