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Alumni News is the regular magazine for graduates and friends of the University of Tasmania. It is prepared for the Development and Alumni Office by the Communications and Media Office.

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Photograph: Lisa Gipton
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**Time for celebrations**

MARKING milestones, recognising achievements and celebrating anniversaries are an important part of life at UTAS. During 2009 members of the wider UTAS community including graduates, students and staff, past and present, celebrated a number of significant anniversaries for Schools, Centres and Institutes.

In September, the School of Engineering marked 50 years on the Sandy Bay campus with a large celebration involving many UTAS Engineering graduates who travelled from all over Australia to attend, including graduates from the 1950s and 1960s.

A highlight of the celebrations was the unveiling of an honours board with the names of Rhodes Scholars and University Medallists from the School, as well as a stunning new mosaic mural by the Tasmanian artist Tom Samek. The new mural features the names of staff and students who have been involved with the School and the names of well-known engineers and adds to the original mural created by Tom in 1977. The anniversary was also an opportunity for graduates and staff to remember projects and events in the history of the School.

In November, the Schools of Plant Science and Zoology recognised the 100 year anniversary of Professor T T Flynn commencing the teaching of biology at UTAS. To celebrate this significant milestone, the Schools presented an evening of lectures on the history of biology at UTAS, the Tasmanian devil and Tasmanian eucalyptus.

The year 2009 also marked the 20th anniversary of CODES (ARC Centre of Excellence in Ore Deposits) as a research centre at UTAS. In December the Centre celebrated this important milestone with a series of events including social functions, a symposium entitled ‘CODES The First 20 Years’ and a field trip to Western Tasmania.

In December, I attended the Menzies Research Institute 21 year anniversary Symposium with a series of speakers including the Premier, David Bartlett, Professor Simon Foote and a number of highly regarded scientists, all associated with the Menzies in some way.

Next year, the Australian Maritime College will celebrate its 30th anniversary. Since 1980, AMC has grown from its base at Beauty Point, to an expansive part of the University at Newnham. 2010 will be a significant year for our national maritime training and research provider and I look forward to the celebrations.

The importance of these sorts of celebrations cannot be underestimated – they allow us to connect with our past and plan for what lies ahead. The links we have with our graduates are vital to the future of UTAS and I look forward to celebrating more anniversaries and important milestones with you in 2010.

**Professor Daryl Le Grew**
Vice-Chancellor, University of Tasmania

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**Strong reach of UTAS alumni**

GRADUATES from the University of Tasmania populate public service, business and industry locally, nationally and internationally.

Alumni of UTAS do so at a consistently high level of expertise, having come from an institution where the culture and environment of the state fundamentally influence the shaping of our alumni.

Some of the best returns for the University from our plethora of graduates are the kudos, acumen and reputation that flow from your continuing achievements and your contribution to society.

Retired business leader and University Council member Brian Hartnett eloquently points out in this issue of *Alumni News*, that much like our graduates, Tasmanian businesses and industries are only limited by their imagination when it comes to their impact on a world-scale. Many or most of these businesses and industries benefit from the graduates of UTAS.

His former company, Tasmanian Alkaloids has supported a range of scholarships in chemistry, agricultural science, computing and music and more recently introduced the science teacher scholarship to support development of future scientists.

All around us, Mr Hartnett says in the article, are examples of Tasmanian industries, companies and businesses achieving remarkable initiatives on a world scale – most if not all would be doing so with the input and expertise of graduates from UTAS.

I would like to offer UTAS Alumni the opportunity to find out more about the importance of the work of the University Foundation in working with donors to fund scholarships and major fundraising initiatives, such as the Bisdee Tier telescope.

I would also like to give a commitment that the Alumni Committee will continue to communicate the achievements and excellence of graduates and will endeavour to build the family of Alumni even more during the next 12 months. In this way, we will work together to help raise the profile and reputation of UTAS.

**Elizabeth Daly**
Chair, University of Tasmania Alumni
100 years of biology at UTAS

By Kathy Grube

1. Preserved specimens from the School of Zoology Collections.
2. School of Plant Science Distinguished Professor Jim Reid has dug up some interesting facts and stories about the teaching of biology at the University of Tasmania.
3. Zoology staff with the Biology Car during the 1960s.
4. The University of Tasmania’s first botany lecturer, Leonard Rodway, was originally a dentist from London.
5. Botany students enjoying a summer field trip during the 1970s.
6. Old Army huts at the Sandy Bay campus became home to Biology at the University of Tasmania for more than 20 years from 1946.
SOCIETY was still coming to grips with Charles Darwin's theory of evolution when the University of Tasmania introduced biology as a study discipline in 1909.

And as such, the newly formed Biology department played a central role in the collection and labelling of Tasmania's native flora and fauna in its early years, before forging an international reputation in genetics, ecology and reproductive biology.

Biology was first housed at the university’s original campus on the Queens Domain in Hobart, but was moved in 1946 to old wooden army huts at the Sandy Bay campus, which was once the site of an old rifle range. The huts were still used into the 1970s, even after a new building was constructed in 1965, with much ground-breaking research being conducted in the humble rooms.

UTAS School of Plant Science’s Distinguished Professor Jim Reid, who delved into the historical records for the biology centenary celebration lecture series, said today’s research at the UTAS Schools of Zoology and Plant Science reflected its origins.

“Current research in marsupial reproduction, lizard biology, and eucalypt and pea genetics can all be traced back to UTAS biology research pioneers from the early 1900s,” Prof Reid said.

“Our current research is broad, and now it also focuses on wildlife biology, developmental genetics, response to climate change and marine biology.

“The Schools of Zoology and Plant Science have come a long way since the university’s first biology lecturer Theodore Thomson Flynn began teaching his handful of students.

“We generate more than $7 million in research income each year and employ about 150 staff and PhD students.

“The major high over the last 100 years has been the success of our staff and students who have gone on to become international leaders in their professional lives and research areas.”

The first example of this research expertise was Theodore Thomson Flynn, father of Hollywood movie legend Errol Flynn.

Flynn was the first lecturer employed by UTAS to teach biology in 1909 and went on to develop an international reputation in marsupial and echidna embryology.

Flynn’s appointment was only made possible through a trust fund set-up by Tasmanian grazier, John Ralston. The Ralston Trust paid for a lectureship in biology and was responsible for focusing the Biology Department on research, with the Trust specifying world leading research be undertaken with the funds. The Ralston Trust still funds undergraduate prizes in Zoology.

As the sole biology lecturer, Flynn had to teach across the broad topics of biology, including botany and zoology, which he did for 13 years until a part-time botany lecturer was appointed in 1922.

Flynn, who had just a handful of students studying biology, gained a reputation as a bit of a rascal, fond of a tipple, playing pranks on his colleagues and driving the university’s biology car faster than recommended on field trips.

Nicknamed “T. T.” by his students (but never to his face), Flynn also conducted important early research into the Tasmanian devil and wrote a paper to help dispel the common public myth that kangaroos were born on the nipple in their mother’s pouch.

The university’s first botany lecturer Leonard Rodway, was Tasmania’s state botanist. He wrote the first full Flora of Tasmania which became a standard reference for 40 years, was the Director of the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens and founder of the Tasmanian Herbarium and yet he was never formally trained in botany and was actually a dentist.

Other eminent UTAS scientists in biology included botanist Winifred Curtis (appointed 1939) and Tasmanian tiger and Tasmanian devil expert Eric Guiler (appointed 1947).

Winifred Curtis, originally from England, wrote the Students Flora of Tasmania and the Endemic Flora of Tasmania and was highly respected for her work in botanic taxonomy.

“She also wrote the Biology textbook that was used in Tasmanian high schools for more than 20 years,” Prof Reid said.

“Despite her important work and research contribution, Winifred Curtis had to fight for equal pay when there was a decision by the university to pay women less than their male colleagues.

“She vigorously opposed plans to drop her pay and won and then went on to be appointed the university’s first female Reader and Head of the School.”

At a time when many marsupials were considered pests, Dr Guiler launched scientific research into them.

In later years he lead searches for evidence that the thylacine still existed in Tasmania’s bushland, collecting paw prints, scats and hair.

With an intense love of the Tasmanian wilderness that they studied, many biology academics also campaigned for its conservation, including fighting to save Lake Pedder. Senior lecturer in Botany, Dr Richard Jones, initiated and was the leader of the world’s first green political party, the United Tasmania Group.

Prof Reid said the UTAS Schools of Zoology and Plant Science were strengthened with the formation of strong links with government agencies, including CSIRO, the State Government and the Forestry CRC and its partners.

“We also interact with many community organisations, for example, Greening Australia funds a position in the School of Plant Science.”

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MENTION the name ‘Flynn’ and people automatically think of the famous son, Errol.

But from a UTAS viewpoint it’s the father, Theodore Thomson (1883-1968), who deserves to hit the headlines.

He held the first chair in biology at UTAS from 1911, having arrived as a lecturer from a teaching post in Sydney two years before.

It’s easy to imagine: a Sydney teacher with an interest in natural sciences, appointed to a lecturing position in Tasmania, marries his pregnant girlfriend Lily Young (a descendent of one of the Bounty mutineers) in Balmain, before embarking on the journey to far-flung Tasmania.

Son Errol was born in June 1909 but that’s another story – except that Tasmania celebrated 100 years since his birth in June this year and UTAS’ Morris Miller library in Sandy Bay this year ran an exhibition celebrating the lives of both father and son.

Theodore became the Ralston Professor of Biology and was paid the Australian equivalent of US$500 a year, according to David Owen and David Pemberton in their book, *Tasmanian Devil: A Unique and Threatened Animal, (2005)*.

But Owen and Pemberton also make two claims which bring Theodore Flynn fairly and squarely into 2009.

The first is that “Flynn is credited with being one of the first scientists to warn of the thylacine’s impending extinction”.

The second is that some of his most important research involved the Tasmanian devil.

His first paper on the anatomy of the Tasmanian devil was written in 1910 from a specimen given to him by Colonel JEC Lord; Flynn was particularly interested in Tasmanian marsupials because he feared for their survival.

Nowadays he is credited with having written the standard Tasmanian devil text, and during his 20 years in Tasmania he became famous for his work on the embryology of marsupials and echidnas. As he left Tasmania for London in 1930 he published a paper on the reproduction of the Tasmanian bettong that summarised 10-15 years of work.

The descriptions of Theodore Flynn’s personality and appearance are contradictory.

Lily, who perhaps could be described as flighty, but certainly beautiful and vivacious, took off for Europe with their two year-old daughter Rosemary in 1920, according to Thomas McNulty’s *Errol Flynn*, bored by cold Tasmania and perhaps with her academic husband.

Owen and Pemberton describe him as “a tall handsome man, patient with Errol, over-fond of alcohol, somewhat shabby for a distinguished professor (and) as a contrast to his wife, so full of life and gaiety, Professor Flynn was often moody and looked ill-at-ease in the company of others …”

But colleague Professor Eric Guiler described Theodore as “full of pranks”, “charming and witty” and “a flamboyant teacher” with “a stronger character than most” of his successors.

Perhaps Errol saw both sides of his dad, having described him in *My Wicked Wicked Ways* as “full of charm” but with “a certain professorial quietness”.

In any event, in 1931 Theodore eventually took his Irish good looks – described so by Errol in terms of “red bushy eyebrows, black hair” – off to Ireland to take up the chair of zoology at Queen’s University, Belfast.

He was awarded an MBE in 1945, retired to Surrey in 1948 and died in a nursing home in Hampshire in 1968.

Flynn is credited with being one of the first scientists to warn of the thylacine’s impending extinction.
It stretches the imagination to view Tassie’s bush as a laboratory but that’s how UTAS gum tree expert Brad Potts describes it.

For the latest winner of the prestigious Clarke Medal, a bushwalk to his favourite spots on the Tasman Peninsula or Bruny Island is not simply an enjoyable toddle through the trees.

“I suppose it’s the big difference between me and other people,” Professor Potts said.

“The forest is a system I know a lot about and I’m seeing well beyond the obvious eucalypt species to the hybrids and genetic diversity around me,” Prof. Potts said.

These days life’s pressures mean it’s a good week when Brad Potts gets out into the bush just once. Mostly he’s co-ordinating the fieldwork of others.

But apparently it’s not too difficult to bring the bush into the office. Dried gum leaves pile up on his Sandy Bay window sills along with intriguing fungi and interesting-looking brown packets.

This fifth-generation Australian has never been very far from the University of Tasmania.

Educated in Taroona and at UTAS, for years he’s been using the place as his base for interaction with the world, whether as a third-year plant science student with a summer job researching insects growing on eucalypts or a world-renowned professor of forest genetics, travelling to the countries which have adopted the Tassie eucalypt for their own plantations – France, Portugal, Chile and Spain.

The work for which Prof. Potts won the Clarke Medal has given us brand new information on the evolutionary processes operating in our forests, as well as the genetic control of many of their characteristics which are of ecological and economic significance.

When he talks about being awarded the Clarke Medal, there’s an appreciation of history in Prof. Potts’ tone.

He knows he is one of the few Tasmanians to have won the Clarke Medal, and joins Antarctic explorer and geologist, Sir Douglas Mawson, and botanist, Leonard Rodway, with this honour.

But he also mentions the formative work done by two former UTAS professors of botany: Newton Barbour (1947-1964) and Bill Jackson (1966-1986) - who did not win the medal.

Newton Barbour’s training at Cambridge and London in genetics and cytogenetics led him to foster an interest at UTAS in evolution, ecological genetics and physiological genetics.

Bill Jackson made a major contribution to the understanding of fire in maintaining Tasmanian plant communities and the patterns of variation in the genus Eucalyptus.

It’s fair to say that if they were able, these men would join Brad Potts in regarding the Tasmanian bush as their laboratory – and loudly applaud his Clarke Medal.

“I’m seeing well beyond the obvious eucalypt species to the hybrids and genetic diversity around me.”
1. Renewable energy: Opening the solar research facility at the School of Engineering was Acting Education Minister, Lisa Singh, Aurora Energy chief executive Peter Davis, Head of School of Engineering Chris Letchford and former Dean of Science Jim Reid. Picture: Cherie Cooper.

A NEW world-class laboratory for research into renewable energy systems along with a new solar research facility were opened this year at the University of Tasmania as part of the celebrations for the 50th anniversary of the School of Engineering being on the Sandy Bay campus.

The Renewable Energy Laboratory in the UTAS School of Engineering’s Centre for Renewable Energy and Power Systems (CREPS) will be used for teaching and experimental research in the area of renewable energy systems.

The Engineering Building was the first permanent academic building to be built in 1959 when the University moved from the Queens Domain to Sandy Bay.

The Renewable Energy Laboratory contains examples of equipment that will form the basis of the renewable energy industry in years to come.

Head of the School of Engineering, Professor Chris Letchford, said the new solar research facility, which includes solar panels on the roof, was built as a result of a donation from Aurora Energy.

“Solar energy is intermittent and of variable output so managing that through storage and integrating with other energy sources will be important for electricity suppliers into the future,” he said.

The new Samek artwork was unveiled in September by His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, the Hon Ewan Crawford. The work complements the mural Samek painted for the School’s foyer in 1977.

The new artwork is a large, metallic piece, its surface covered with a mosaic of letters spelling out names of notable engineers and engineering graduates.
UTAS Foundation board director Brian Hartnett had a special reason for congratulating Rachael Thomas of Gravelly Beach on her Bachelor of Teaching award at the Launceston graduation ceremony in August.

As the now retired former managing director of Tasmanian Alkaloids at Westbury, Mr Hartnett is a passionate supporter of the university. His pharmaceutical company sponsored Rachael through her Bachelor of Teaching to support her as a future science teacher.

Tasmanian Alkaloids is a global company which employs around 40 UTAS graduates. After emigrating to Australia from England, Mr Hartnett worked at the company for 32 years including 12 years as managing director. Over 95% of production from the company is exported and helps to relieve pain and suffering around the world.

Mr Hartnett’s passion for research and science started at an early age and saw him complete his own studies in chemistry and business management. His enthusiasm for supporting university graduates grew from that interest as he says he always gained great pleasure from witnessing innovative research and development programs.

“Many UTAS graduates are now in senior positions; the growth of TasAlk to be the leading global opiates supplier would not have been possible without UTAS graduates,” he said.

“The company has supported a range of scholarships in chemistry, agricultural science, computing and music and recently we introduced the science teacher scholarship to support development of future scientists.

“We enjoy the scholarships and are pleased and proud to be able to assist so many fine young students.”

Mr Hartnett gave the keynote address at the graduation ceremony, in which he pointed to his own experience managing a company which continues to have a large impact internationally.

“Tasmanian Alkaloids has transformed a world industry, and has been able to do so from a base in Tasmania – it has been an incredibly inspiring journey which is still evolving,” he said.

Mr Hartnett is looking forward to spending more time in his work as a member of the UTAS Council and a director on the UTAS Foundation.

His message to graduates to be bold, be outrageous and be leaders of change could, he says, apply just as well to other Tasmanian companies looking to make a difference to this state and the world in general.

“We are all only limited by our imagination. All around us are examples of Tasmanian industries, companies and businesses achieving remarkable initiatives on a world scale – most, if not all, would be doing so with the input and expertise of graduates from UTAS.”

Mr Hartnett also emphasised the importance of holding core values and trying to live up to them.

The company decided to continue with the scholarship for a science teacher as a perpetual tribute to Mr Hartnett on his retirement.
Beaut memories of 30 years at the Australian Maritime College

By Patrick Cranny

DIFFERENT people have very different student experiences to look back on.

When Ross Nicholls recalls his study days, he sees a 17-year-old dressed in uniform on the parade ground, living under the watchful eye of disciplinarian Nobby Clark.

“I was not quite 18 and it was all a pretty big experience for me – leaving home, going into a foreign environment, which was going to sea on ships, and not completely knowing what to expect but interestingly I met 25 other people and we all got on pretty well.

“We were all the same age and we thought it was initially an opportunity for young men, out of the watchful eye of their parents to behave badly, but in saying that, the reality was it was more paramilitary. We had to wear uniforms and we were expected to go on parade. There was a flag-raising ceremony each day and we had quite a strict taskmaster, the warden at Beauty Point, a man named Nobby Clark. He ruled the place with an iron fist. At first we wondered what we’d get ourselves into,” said Ross, now a marine pilot in Brisbane.

It may seem a far cry from university life, but then that’s pretty much what the Australian Maritime College was in 1980. Based almost exclusively at Beauty Point, with only a couple of small administrative buildings at its now expansive Newnham campus, AMC was a fledgling national training provider for seafarers – exactly what Ross and his fellow students were - and 2010 is a significant year for all concerned.

“We were the first intake for the Diploma of Applied Science (Nautical Science). There were 25 of us, 26 of us were due to start but one person didn’t turn up. It was a guy called Mulligan so we used to play on it a fair bit – we were always expecting Mulligan to turn up and anyone who was missing was always Mulligan,” said Ross.

What Ross and his former classmates didn’t know when they were planning a 30th reunion for January 2010 was that AMC was also getting planning underway. In 2010 AMC will launch its own Alumni program and Ross and his mates have unwittingly become the first event on a calendar full of activities.

Over the past 30 years, AMC has expanded well past its original brief of seafarer training. The 2010 alumni ranks will include naval architects and other types of maritime engineers, fisheries experts, marine conservationists, port managers and logistics specialists, climate change researchers, the list goes on. It’s a diverse and geographically dispersed group. Graduates can be found in Darwin to Dubai and Denmark to Devonport.

AMC’s alumni officer Ash Rao appreciates she has the job in front of her to not only orchestrate a year of events but also to track down as many former students as possible.

“It’s quite a task. We’re lucky in the sense a lot of our alumni have their own professional networks that keep them in touch, but that’s not to say the job will be easy. There is 30 years worth of professionals working around the world,” she said.

From his own experience, Ross Nicholls agrees.

“As a group, we’re scattered pretty far and wide. About 30-40% of us are marine pilots, one became a priest, one’s an educator at UQ, one’s the CEO of a towage company in Hong Kong and four or five are involved in marine surveying work...a lot of us had filtered off overseas and have now returned to live and work across Australia.”

Ash said an important part of 2010 was to establish a strong organisational foundation for alumni into the future.

“We want 2010 to be a memorable year and we will be hosting and supporting a number of events here and overseas, but we are mindful that it also has to be about laying a strong foundation for the alumni program to grow into the future.”

Global innovation role for AMC Alumni

By Patrick Cranny

WHAT started as a simple love of the sea has taken Stephen to the forefront of global innovation - and he’s not alone.

Stephen is one of a number of maritime experts working in natural resources and shipping. The former bow from now works from Singapore as general manager of Thome LNG & LPG Fleets and is part of a growing cache of Australian-trained expertise that oversees unique international projects.

He can easily reel off the names and high-profile positions of countless other Singapore-based Australians, a majority of whom are Alumni friends from their time in Tasmania at the Australian Maritime College. The old school ties have remained intact and they now represent a highly successful cross section in the world of natural resources and transport.

Though rarely back in Australia, aside from the annual trip to see family, Stephen does return to AMC as a commercial client of the Centre for Maritime Simulations. He has come a long way since his days as a Bachelor
of Technology (Marine Engineering) student who arrived in Tasmania to study in 1991, but Stephen believes Australia prepared him and his peers well for an international career.

“It was a different mentality back then. But I think what we’re seeing is that generation from the early 80s to the mid 90s, all those people have reached quite high level positions in the maritime industry,” he said.

“We’ve achieved things in our industry because we were given the right chance from here. This place has given me the tools to go on with things. I’ve got on with things, but it all comes from having the right roots. If you have the right roots you can do well in life and I think that’s what the AMC has given me personally and other people will say the same thing.”

Mr Patrick (Paddy) Dalton –
School of Plant Science
For continued commitment to applied student learning, individual enquiry and establishment of peer mentoring in plant science.

Dr Angela Martin –
School of Management
The creation of curricula and multimedia resources that develop interpersonal skills and psychological capital in current and future managers.

Dr Melissa Nursey-Bray -
National Centre for Marine Conservation & Resource Sustainability
For sustained commitment to developing inter disciplinary understanding and critical thinking skills of students working in the field of environmental sustainability.
Outstanding UTAS staff

THE 2009 UTAS Vice-Chancellor’s Awards for Outstanding Contributions to Teaching and Learning were awarded to academic and general staff who have demonstrated a major contribution to teaching and learning excellence at the University of Tasmania. The awards are given in three categories:

- Citations for outstanding contributions to student learning: a maximum of ten recipients per year receiving $1,000 in prize money;
- Awards for programs that enhance learning: a maximum of two recipients per year receiving $5,000 in prize money;
- Awards for teaching excellence: a maximum of eight recipients per year receiving $10,000 in prize money for team awards, or $5,000 for individual awards.

Prof. Le Grew said applying for an award, grant or fellowship provides staff with an opportunity to reflect on the principles and scholarship that underpins their practice.

All 2009 UTAS award recipients will be encouraged to submit a national application in the Australian Learning & Teaching Council’s suite of awards in the 2010 funding round.

“It also affords supervisors with the opportunity to provide targeted support and professional development opportunities,” he said.

“Receiving an award, grant or fellowship is a highly valued form of recognition that will assist in career advancement and is acknowledged in the University’s academic staff promotion criteria.

“It also enhances the reputation of the School/Section, Faculty/Division and the Institution.”

Awarded to academic and general staff who have demonstrated a major contribution to teaching and learning excellence.

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Dr Christopher Chin:
Citation for outstanding contribution to teaching and learning.

Dr Chin works at the National Centre for Maritime Engineering and Hydrodynamics. His award is for creating innovative methodologies and on-line resource materials for cross-faculty first year mathematics that encourage independent learning and improve learning outcomes.

He has been a lecturer in mathematics at the Australian Maritime College for the past five years and is primarily responsible for the teaching of Engineering Mathematics and Marine Mathematics for students studying the Bachelor of Engineering (Naval Architecture, Ocean Engineering and Marine and Offshore Systems) and Advanced Diploma of Marine Engineering.

Susan Salter:
Citation for outstanding contribution to teaching and learning.

Ms Salter works in the School of Human Life Sciences, specialising in microbiology. Her award is for engaging students by challenging them to make connections with their growing knowledge and to do this fearlessly by asking questions of themselves and others.

She has taught and examined across eleven degrees in three faculties in twelve units and has been instrumental in the development of curricula and materials in a range of units, including some in Malaysia.

Ms Salter has been awarded two teaching development grants in recent years and has recently completed her Graduate Certificate in Teaching and Learning at University. She is currently enrolled in a Masters of Education.

Dr Kerry Howells:
Award for teaching excellence.

This is Dr Howells’ fifth UTAS Award and she has also received two national awards from the Australian Learning & Teaching Council. Dr Howells works in the Faculty of Education as a lecturer, supervisor and unit coordinator for the Bachelor of Teaching. The Sub-Committee described Dr Howells’ statement for nomination as ‘truly motivational, creative and innovative’ and that they wish to commend her on her ‘demonstrated mastery in her field’.

Dr Howells began her teaching career at the University of Tasmania in 2006. Dr Howells’ sustained and outstanding contribution to student learning has already brought her university and national recognition.
Jane Skalicky:  
Award for programs that enhance learning.  
Ms Skalicky is a lecturer in learning and teaching in the Centre for Advancement of Learning & Teaching (CALT). Her award is for her Peer Assisted Study Sessions (PASS) Program.  
The PASS Program is a non-remedial academic support program that aims to increase student academic outcomes, learning experiences, and overall student engagement and retention.  
A nationally accredited PASS supervisor, Jane has extensive teaching and learning experience, and coordinates, implements and evaluates the PASS Program, together with recruiting, training and supervising the PASS Leaders.

Dr Rick Snell:  
Award for teaching excellence.  
Dr Snell is a Senior Lecturer in the Faculty of Law. Feedback from his students and colleagues highlights his passion, enthusiasm, expertise and teaching techniques and is further evidence to support his commitment to teaching and learning excellence. During Dr Snell’s 20 year academic career, his main aim has been to actively engage students in independent learning.  
Dr Snell joined the University of Tasmania in 1988. He has received many awards in recognition of his teaching excellence, including UTAS Teaching Merit Certificates in 1995 and 2007, a UTAS Teaching Excellence Award in 1996, Australian Teacher of the Year nominee in 1997 and an Australian Learning & Teaching Council citation in 2008 for ‘an outstanding capacity to inspire and encourage student learning across the undergraduate law degree from first year to final year students’.

2009 Alumni Annual Appeal Scholar Cameron Ritchie tells how the Alumni scholarship helped him, not only with meeting educational costs, but also as a connection to UTAS scholars who had gone through the same challenges he was facing in his first year at university.  
Commencing his combined Arts/Law degree in 2009 brought many more benefits and challenges than Cameron Ritchie ever expected.

As he made friends and began learning about what is involved with researching and writing at university level, he was always aware that he was not the first to sit in these first-year lectures or submit assignments.

“The true contribution the scholarship made was not initially obvious as I used it to purchase text books, journal subscriptions and to cover transport and communication costs at the beginning of the year,” Mr Ritchie said.

“The real benefit was felt during semester as I did not have to struggle financially and could focus on my studies instead of worrying about where to find money to pay for food or study resources.”

Mr Ritchie found his first semester at university was not always the smoothest ride.

“I found adapting to university level research, writing and deadline standards challenging,” he said.

“When I seemed to be receiving pressure from all angles, the scholarship reminded me that I was being supported by scholars who had already experienced the challenges of undergraduate study and were leading fulfilling lives as a result of their determination and passion for study.

“The Annual Appeal scholarship has been a reserve of enthusiasm that has refreshed me when I’ve felt unwilling or unexcited by studies and I thank each member of the alumni community for their generous contributions.”

The Alumni Annual Appeal Tasmania University Scholarship is provided by the Alumni of the university through the annual appeal to members and graduates of the University. It is available to a student commencing any undergraduate course and is valued at $3,000 per year for up to four years.
Collaborative southern marine research focus for IMAS

The international profile of Australian Antarctic, Southern Ocean and climate change expertise will be enhanced through the establishment of the University of Tasmania’s Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies (IMAS) from 1 January 2010.

Funding from the Australian Government of $45 million as part of the Nation-building Economic Stimulus Plan has been committed in this year’s Federal Budget to establish a purpose-built waterfront building in Hobart’s Sullivans Cove for IMAS.

Interim IMAS director Professor Michael Stoddart says IMAS will provide a critical mass to position the University of Tasmania as the leading institution for marine and Antarctic studies, with a special focus on Antarctica and the Southern Ocean.

“The importance of IMAS’ role in the future of Antarctic and marine science, including climate change, cannot be understated,” he said.

“Marine science underpins Australia’s sustainable management of Southern Ocean and Antarctic resources and its value to informing policy and practices is significant.”

Prof Stoddart says that while IMAS starts in 2010, it will be two to three years before the waterfront building is completed.

“Scientists at IMAS are already working collaboratively at various locations around UTAS, but the waterfront location presents an opportunity to unite this key new UTAS Institute in a single marine science precinct,” he said.

Prof Stoddart said the IMAS proximity to the CSIRO adds to the attraction of the Hobart waterfront.

Working also in partnership with the Australian and Tasmanian governments, as well as the Australian Antarctic Division, UTAS and its networks and collaborators already possess the expertise necessary to make IMAS the world leading institute with a strong and identifiable southerly focus.

IMAS will provide a boost to research, be a focus for national and international visitors interested in Antarctica and the Southern Ocean and benefit the Port of Hobart as well as the broader Tasmanian community.

IMAS will bring together 200 staff and 140 graduate students from co-locating the Tasmanian Aquaculture and Fisheries Institute, the Institute for Antarctic and Southern Ocean Studies, plus some marine and Antarctic scientists from the academic schools of UTAS, with the Antarctic Climate and Ecosystems Co-operative Research Centre (ACE CRC), the Integrated Marine Observing System, the Tasmanian Partnership in Advanced Computing and the National Centre for Marine Conservation and Resource Sustainability at the Australian Maritime College.
UNIVERSITY of Tasmania Vice-Chancellor Professor Daryl Le Grew has announced his intention to leave the University at the end of his second term next year.

Prof Le Grew said he is very happy to be able to make the decision knowing that the University is undoubtedly now firmly placed as an international higher education institution operating out of Tasmania and is in the best position it has ever been in after an extremely strong period of growth.

Prof Le Grew said he was looking forward to spending the final year of his term focussing on attracting funding to support the UTAS Masterplan, working to build the UTAS profile with philanthropic organisations and setting up strategies to help UTAS achieve the Commonwealth Government’s participation agenda.

Prof Le Grew was appointed to the University in January 2003, and initiated the development of a long-term strategic agenda based around excellence, distinctiveness, growth and engagement.

“This EDGE agenda has clearly delivered significant results and it is fitting that I will be leaving as this agenda is being fulfilled,” he said.

“UTAS has continued to nurture and improve its research excellence, attracting high quality academics locally and internationally as well as increasing numbers of international students. We have also significantly expanded off-shore, with now several bases interstate and overseas.”

Prof Le Grew negotiated increases in funding to support over 2,000 more student places during the Higher Education Reform process. These places generated more than $40 million per annum to the UTAS budget. Total UTAS enrolments have increased by 50% since 2000 having grown from 10,000 equivalent full-time students to over 15,000 in 2009 - already above the target originally set for 2010. The total University budget has grown from $170 million in 2000 to more than $400 million for 2010.

Prof Le Grew has also been successful in attracting substantial infrastructure funding for UTAS, with funding in this year’s Commonwealth Budget of $45 million for the Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies and $45 million for the second stage of the Menzies/Medical School development. With other funding from the State Government, Atlantic Philanthropies and UTAS these two developments alone are valued at $200 million.

Prof Le Grew said highlights during his terms include the continuing partnership agreement between the University and the State Government, which has allowed UTAS to improve participation rates across the State as well as to work together on issues of importance to all Tasmanians, especially through institutes such as the Tasmanian Aquaculture and Fisheries Institute, the Tasmania Law Reform Institute and the Tasmanian Institute of Agricultural Research.

Significant achievements include the review and restructure of the Menzies Research Institute, the integration of the Australian Maritime College, the continued expansion of the Launceston and Cradle Coast Campuses, the launch of the Australian Innovation Research Centre and the establishment of the Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies.
A young woman whose goal is to work in world health programs and who is currently working on malaria research has been awarded the Rhodes Scholarship for 2010.

Rhea Longley, 22, describes herself as “optimistic, driven and caring”; she has always been interested in health, especially diseases affecting developing countries.

Her honours project, conducted through the Menzies Research Institute, involves trying to identify a new gene involved in malaria resistance in mice.

When Miss Longley takes up her scholarship at Oxford University in the UK she plans to continue in this area of research and do a PhD in genetic research, focusing on host resistance to malaria in humans.

“\textit{I would like to use what I have learnt from my research and utilise the research of others to lead the planning and direction of programs in developing countries},” she said.

“My goal is to achieve a high leadership role within a prominent non-government organisation or the World Health Organisation to oversee the management and implementation of health programs to control and monitor infectious diseases and improve general health and well-being.”

Miss Longley achieved consistently excellent results during her Bachelor of Medical Research and completed her Bachelor of Medical Research Honours this year.

During her degree, Miss Longley was twice placed on the Dean’s Roll of Excellence for the Faculty of Health Science.

Miss Longley was also awarded the Australian Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Prize for highest achievement in her third year Biochemistry, in 2008.

But it’s not just academic achievements that wins a Rhodes Scholarship.

2009 winner

The winner of the 2009 Rhodes Scholarship, Russian-born 20-year-old Alexander Shabala, is now completing a PhD in Mathematical Biology at Oxford University.

Focussing on vascular tumour growth to better understand how cancers spread, he hopes to one day return to Tasmania and use his expertise to conduct research with the Menzies Research Institute.

One of the youngest ever recipients of the Rhodes Scholarship, Mr Shabala was selected above seven other talented applicants.

He completed a Bachelor of Science at the University of Tasmania, throughout which he achieved consistently excellent results, and graduated with First Class Honours in December 2008.

Mr Shabala was on the Dean’s Roll of Excellence for three years and also won a Tasmanian Honours Scholarship for his final year of study at UTAS.

In 2007 he was awarded the Australian Institute of Physics Prize for greatest proficiency in final year undergraduate physics and was also the recipient of the Tasmanian Scholarship in Physician Sciences.

As well as his academic pursuits, Mr Shabala is a keen rugby and cricket player and a talented musician. He was also involved in organising fundraising activities for his sports clubs and coached junior cricket.

Born in the former Soviet Union, Mr Shabala came to Australia in 1995 after his father was offered an academic position at UTAS. His father, Sergey Shabala, is currently an Associate Professor in the UTAS School of Agricultural Science.
FACULTY of Education graduates Ann and Darrel Fowler have overseen a huge change at Ntaria School at Hermannsburg in the Northern Territory.

When they arrived there in March 2008, Darrel as principal and Ann as one of the 12 teachers, around 112 children attended school – about half the time.

But that has changed.

The couple and their team of teachers have helped build school attendance to 180 children who attend school 80 percent of the time.

And there are now 65 secondary students in a community with no culture of education after primary school.

Eight of the 12 Ntaria teachers are UTAS graduates, with the rest from Queensland.

“We’ve got a good team of people with cohesive teamwork,” Darrel said.

“They’re all passionate teachers who are committed to the cause.”

Recently Darrel and Ann returned to the UTAS Faculty of Education to talk to undergraduate teachers about their experiences in teaching in outback schools – and to encourage them to think about working at Ntaria and other Aboriginal schools.

Tasmanian-trained teachers, they say, operate well there.

“It seems to be that the training process at UTAS is more general; it builds a broader skill base in teachers and makes them more flexible and adaptable to what we’re trying to do compared with teachers who have more specialised training,” Darrel said.

Darrel Fowler graduated as a mature-age student and taught social science at Brooks High in Launceston. Ann’s most recent Tasmanian teaching experience was at Cressy District High.

Like many Tasmanian teachers they initially went to the Northern Territory for the opportunity of a completely different – and temporary – teaching experience.

Ann shook her head as she remembered arriving at the first school they worked: Yuendumu, in the Tanami Desert.

“It was a fantastic experience but mind-blowing. The day we drove in it was like dropping into a foreign country”, she said.

“Yuendumu is considered to be the toughest community in central Australia; they were the last of the Aboriginal warrior people to come in from the desert. It’s also 300 km out of Alice Springs on a road that’s impassable in certain weather conditions.

“On the first day assembly 15 dogs, two children and 12 teaching staff turned up; school was not high on their list of priorities.”

Darrel became acting principal there, building attendance to 60 children a day.

After that the couple worked at a school near Tennant Creek for a few months. When positions at Hermannsburg came up they could see the potential to make a difference there.

“There were lots of disengaged youth in the community but we both have a good track record in re-engaging Tasmanian kids,” Darrel said.

“When we started there were five secondary-age students; none were male.

“We rounded up more students and with a consistent approach we’ve had some success. It’s been a big shift in that community but it’s still problematic to keep them engaged because of the lack of facilities and equipment.”

Darrel said teaching in the Outback is certainly different from Tasmania, with students away from school for around 10 weeks for ‘sorry business’ when a relative dies and newly-initiated boys not being able to go into appropriate year groups because they are now ‘men’.

He said there are teaching frustrations associated with alcohol availability in a ‘dry’ community, inappropriate curriculum and assessment tools based on white communities where English is the first language and the lack of a secondary schooling culture.

But the Fowlers have made huge progress from their self-confessed naivety on arrival in the Northern Territory and are committed to making a difference in schools in indigenous communities.

They’re all passionate teachers who are committed to the cause.”

Darrel and Ann Fowler, UTAS Alumni now running the Ntaria School in the Northern Territory.
WITH the mercury approaching 40 degrees in the classroom, Purnululu Aboriginal Community Independent School principal Alex Hunter, his three teachers and 25 students are eagerly awaiting the installation of air-conditioners at their remote school in the Kimberley region of Western Australia.

He is 28 years-old and just three years out of uni, but Mr Hunter is already the principal of his first school.

And as principal of a remote indigenous school on the edge of the Great Sandy Desert with the nearest major town, Kununarra, over 240km away, Mr Hunter’s role extends past traditional school hours and tasks.

Mr Hunter graduated with a Bachelor of Education degree from UTAS in the middle of 2006, only to find all full-time teaching positions in Tasmania had been filled at the start of the school year.

Looking further afield for work, he came across a group of small independent indigenous schools in the Kimberley which were looking for staff.

“A teacher from one of the schools had left and they were desperately seeking a replacement teacher,” Mr Hunter said.

“I spoke to the principal over the phone and he basically offered me the job straight away, but wanted to fly me up so I could see what I was getting myself into.

“I had never been this far north and when I stepped off the plane in Kununurra the heat really hit me.”

Long-time support officer for the Aboriginal Independent Community Schools scattered through the Kimberley, John Hill, met Mr Hunter off the plane and drove him to the tiny community of Frog Hollow and Purnululu Aboriginal Community Independent School. The community and school border the Purnululu National Park and its famous bee hive domes of the Bungle Bungle Range.

Purnululu Aboriginal Community Independent School was established in 1991 to provide an educational service for the traditional owners of Purnululu National Park and adjacent lands. The school is located in Frog Hollow, which is a small community of 50 people living in 15 houses.

Mr Hunter took over the upper primary class when he first arrived, which included children from Grade 4 to 10. In 2008 he took over as principal and plans to stay at least until 2011.

Being such a remote community means there is little chance to access health and welfare services. This is where the school helps play a central role for the community, providing Centrelink services and organising medical practitioner visits to the community.

“One of the first things I was involved in was organising hearing and eye sight checks for all the children as the community had not been visited by a health specialist for a long time,” Mr Hunter said.

“We found out quite a few students had some level of hearing loss or poor vision.

“These results led to us reviewing our teaching methods and introducing a hearing aid system where the teacher wears a microphone and their voice is projected from speakers within the room.”

Mr Hunter has also revived the teaching of the local indigenous language, Gija, in the school and working with the community to run educational bush trips.

A priority for Mr Hunter is improving literacy levels and using an intensive scaffolding literacy
KIDS and canoes go together – especially when the temperature is hitting 46 degrees in Western Australia’s Kimberley region.

UTAS lecturer Ian Edmondson recently spent five days working with 20 Grade 5/6 students and community members at the Kulkarriya Community School on Nookanbah Station to make five plywood canoes.

Lecturer in the Education Faculty’s Indigenous Education and Teaching in Remote Locations units, Ian met up with 2007 graduate Jotham Krom, who is in his second year teaching at the school – and also did his internship there when he was studying at UTAS.

“Nookambah is a cattle station operated by indigenous people; it’s one of the oldest and most significant Aboriginal communities in the Kimberley,” Ian said.

At the school on the banks of the Fitzroy River, Ian and Jotham worked on the canoe project, aimed at strengthening school – community links.

“The opportunity was too good to refuse, linking my teaching in design technology and indigenous education,” Ian said.

“The people working on the project were learning about teamwork, building skills, construction materials and reading instructions in a way that suited the predominant learning approach of community Aboriginal children.”

The project to make the five-metre long canoes was fully funded by Kulkarriya Community School.

Ian also gathered video and audio interviews to use in his teaching back at UTAS.

Currently two UTAS graduates teach at Kulkarriya Community School; another 13 work in schools across the Kimberley and four more will be employed in 2010.

program developed in Canberra, Purnululu students are showing remarkable improvements in literacy levels.

“When I began at Purnululu we had a lot of children in high school who were unable to read at the kindergarten benchmark, but now we have children reading at their age levels and beyond. For example, one Grade 6 student is reading at a Grade 8 level now.”

And the next goal for Mr Hunter is to get funding to upgrade Frog Hollow’s houses and build new houses.

“There are quite a few families that would like to move to Frog Hollow, but we simply do not have enough accommodation. This is a big issue and something we really want to see fixed.”

While the remoteness of schools in the Kimberley often discourages staff from staying longer than one year, Mr Hunter has a team of loyal staff who have returned each term for the past couple of years.

They include two fellow Tasmanians and UTAS graduates, Ben Johnston and Elizabeth Holmes, who arrived at Purnululu School in late 2007 and have fallen in love with the Kimberley and the tiny community of Frog Hollow. The young couple will return to Hobart over the summer as they are expecting their first baby, but will be back in the Kimberley next year and have planned a Kimberley wedding on their return.

Mr Hunter said he would fully recommend teaching in the Kimberley: “If you are keen for adventure and are prepared to work hard, then teaching in the Kimberley is extremely rewarding. The challenges you face and experiences help you learn more about yourself than a job in the city ever would.”
UTAS Professor Kate Warner has joined an elite group of nine visiting fellows at All Souls College Oxford.

Kate is currently on study leave as a Visiting Fellow at the University of Oxford, where she’s writing the latest research project she is leading about the views of jurors on sentences imposed in the Supreme Court of Tasmania.

From the historic halls where the first law lecture was held in 1758 to her home in Hobart, Kate’s name is synonymous with law and reform. Her renowned passion and energy for her work is completely pro bono.

Kate started her academic life among the few women to study and graduate from UTAS in 1970 with an honours degree in law. She obtained her Master of Laws in 1979. Her goal was to join a Hobart legal practice but pregnancy changed the course of her career.

“Law firms in those days were not very flexible with part-time work whereas this was a possibility in academia and I had already started doing some tutorials,” Kate recalled from her desk at Oxford.

“As a young under-confident graduate, I was encouraged by the Dean, Derek Roebuck, to do a research higher degree and take responsibility for a full-year unit in Criminology. When Don Chalmers became Dean and Head of School, I was encouraged to apply for promotion and take on positions such as Dean and Head of School.

“UTAS has been very supportive of my career and I owe it a big debt.”

Courting a Life of Criminal Justice

By Michelle Grima
“UTAS has been very supportive of my career and I owe it a big debt.”

With this support, Kate went on to become the first female Dean of the Law Faculty from 1992 to 1994, before her appointment as Head of School between 1994 and 1997.

She is currently the Director of the Tasmania Law Reform Institute, a member of the Gaming Commission, a Legal Education Board member, a director of the Centre for Legal Studies and Member of the Council of Law Reporting.

Specialising in sentencing and criminal justice, Kate keeps in touch with the judicial system, its practices and emotions, through research topics which take her straight to the courts and their environment.

“For the last two years with our jury sentencing project, I have been able to keep in touch with the courts and criminal trials as we have been surveying and interviewing jurors,” she said.

“In the past, reading courtroom transcripts and sentencing comments, serving as a member of the Parole Board and interviewing prisoners has also kept me in touch with the workings of the criminal justice system.”

Despite her endless catalogue of publications and projects influencing policy decisions and inspiring debate, Kate’s greatest achievement was her appointment as professor.

“And also keeping a reasonable balance between life, family and work – although my family may not always agree with that, but they have always been supportive, particularly my husband Dick.”

Kate believes the most pressing area of law reform facing Tasmania is adopting a Charter of Rights. The report, A Charter of Rights for Tasmania, was prepared by Law Faculty colleague Terese Henning, for the Board and was accepted and released in October 2007. Kate hopes to see this Charter implemented.

Somewhere between research and memberships, Kate - along with Terese and researchers from the University of Melbourne and New South Wales - is working on a book about criminal procedure and human rights.

With her dynamic quest for continued law reform, it’s hard to imagine Kate has time for a life away from the University. She’s also hailed as a superb gardener who has preserved and shaped the English-styled grounds at her historic farm, Valleyfield, near New Norfolk, that started the commercial hop industry in Australia.

“Being married to a farmer has meant that moving interstate or overseas to another University has not been an option but I have no regrets,” she said.

Law reformer: Professor Kate Warner is currently at Oxford University as a visiting Fellow.
Picture: Chris Crerar.

Study fulfils wish to service

HUMANITARIAN
Patricia (Pym) Trueman was awarded the Order of Australia Medal this year in recognition of her volunteer services to a range of community organisations working towards peace, human rights, reconciliation, advancement of women and inter-faith relations.

Starting out at the University of Tasmania in her 40s with a young child and sick mother and without full college qualifications, Patricia (Pym) Trueman was one of UTAS’s first mature-age students.

After ‘giving it a go’ for a year, six more years followed in which Pym gained a Bachelor of Education and a Bachelor of Special Education, allowing her to fulfil her dream of working with handicapped children.

Her Baha’I faith, with its promise of world peace gave her the incentive to work in areas of multifaith, multicultural and reconciliation.

Other areas then arose through her membership of the United Nations of Australia and Tasmania – from which she rose to National Vice President. This took Pym in to the areas of human rights, equality, and juvenile justice, and she then joined the Red Cross International Humanitarian Law Committee.

Pym is eternally grateful for her university education, which she says equipped her to work in all these areas.

“It was a wonderful training ground and it gave me the self confidence to move into something where I could see the opportunity to join with others to achieve even a small change,” she said.

Pym’s other awards include the Tasmanian Honour Role of Women; United Nations Day Award (Tasmania), Human Rights Weeks Award, 1997; Federation of Ethnic Communities Council of Australia Award; finalist, one of three, Pride of Australia Medal (Peace category) in 2006; and was included in Who’s Who of Australian Women, 2006.
FOR over thirty years, UTAS’ astronomers have studied, discovered, uncovered and redefined the universe, as we know it. Thanks to our excellent researchers and the optical astronomy observatory at Mt Canopus near Hobart, UTAS has made groundbreaking contributions within the field of astrophysics. Some of the important contributions include the discovery of more than 10 planets that orbit stars thousands of light years away. UTAS has also played a crucial role in measuring the atmospheres of Pluto and other minor planets.

With each new incredible discovery, new questions arise and new tools and techniques are needed to enable us to answer these questions and continue our journey of discovery.

In recent years, the Mt Canopus observatory has become less effective as a scientific facility due to light pollution caused by nearby development. For UTAS to continue to undertake important research, training and education in astrophysics, there is an urgent need to construct a new facility at a carefully selected location in the Southern Midlands region of Tasmania. The site on Bisdee Tier, Spring Hill has been selected under the expert guidance of Dr John Greenhill and is one of the best locations in Tasmania for astronomical observations.

Our target
The total cost of the facility is $5.8 million. This includes a $2 million telescope featuring movable dome, optical, electronic and mechanical systems. Almost $3.8 million is dedicated to the building and development of the observatory surrounding site, including access from the Midlands Highway. $3.8 million has been raised from our supporters and UTAS. This includes a significant $2 million donation from an anonymous supporter. To ensure the successful and timely completion of this world-class facility, another $2 million is required from our friends. You can become a part of this innovative and exciting astronomy project that will have significant impact in Australia and throughout the world by making a donation.

How to support the project
Contributions can be made as one-off donations, periodic donations or in-kind assistance. All donations are tax deductible if made in Australia.

Donate online: www.utas.edu.au/foundation/observatoryappeal.htm
Donate by phone: (03) 6226 1920
Donate by mail: UTAS Foundation, Private Bag 40, Hobart, Tasmania, 7001

Further information
For further information or a copy of the prospectus, please contact the Director of Development and Alumni on (03) 6226 1938.
A generous supporter

Dr David Warren completed a Bachelor of Science with Honours at UTAS in 1981 and was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Science in 2008. David, and his wife Michelle, are generous supporters of UTAS and recognise the world-class education provided by UTAS and the opportunities resulting from this education. David and Michelle have donated over $250,000 to UTAS supporting a number of Honours students, researchers and research projects. They have committed an additional $100,000 towards the optical astronomy observatory.

“As a young scientist, I had the great fortune to be introduced to the brave new world of microprocessor technology as it emerged. The visionary tuition I received set me up for business success. I am contributing to this project because I believe that the discoveries made by university scientists working at the cutting edge will benefit the world, and will also lead to a new generation of young technologists trained to apply the practical skills gained along the way. Please join me by contributing to the appeal for a new optical astronomy observatory and keep Tasmania at the centre of the world.”
The iconic Tasmanian devil is attracting some equally iconic supporters in funding a response to the threat of a deadly cancer ravaging the wild population.

By Jess Tyler

DEATH FACIAL TUMOUR DISEASE is a unique and contagious cancer responsible for a decline of more than 70 per cent in the Tasmanian devil population since before 1996, when it was first seen in the wild. Since 2003, the Save the Tasmanian Devil Appeal has been raising funds to support the Save the Tasmanian Devil Program – the official Australian and Tasmanian Government response to the threat of the disease to the survival of this important species.

Anthology, owners of the Cradle Mountain Huts experience in the iconic Tasmanian wilderness has joined forces with the Save the Tasmanian Devil Appeal and its guests to help fund essential research to combat this deadly disease.

Anthology was launched in late 2008 and provides premium quality destination experiences for travellers in Australia. Each experience allows guests to immerse themselves in nature and heritage in rare and interesting locations. Anthology currently owns and operates the iconic Bay of Fires and Cradle Mountain Huts Walks, and the historic Quamby heritage estate – all in northern Tasmania, and the spectacularly-located Wilpena Pound in South Australia.

“We established Anthology to deliver distinctive Australian experiences to our guests. This includes giving them the opportunity to interact with important local flora and fauna,” said Anthology CEO, Grant Hunt.

“We also wanted to provide our guests with a way to also feel that they could lend a helping hand. We consider the Tasmanian devil to be at the heart of this practice and want to help provide funds for this critical program,” he said.
For every booking made in January 2010 on the Cradle Mountain Huts six-day walk on the Overland Track, Anthology will donate $200 per person to the Appeal. As well as this fabulous cash support, Anthology has also alerted the travel and tourism industry of its plans, bringing a generous boost to the Appeal’s publicity effort.

With similar generosity of spirit and hot on the heels of the re-launch of Tasmania’s iconic Hartz mineral water range, Juicy Isle has launched an ongoing funding program with the Save the Tasmanian Devil Appeal to raise funds to support research to help save the Tasmanian devil.

Founded in 1971 by the Cooper family, Juicy Isle is a Tasmanian producer of chilled, freshly squeezed and long-life fruit juices.

For 2010 and 2011, the new range of Hartz mineral waters and its innovative new packaging will sport the new ‘Supporter of the Save the Tasmanian Devil Appeal’ branding. The company will also provide a substantial annual cash donation to the Appeal.

Juicy Isle’s Managing Director, Michael Cooper, says that the purchase of the Hartz business and brand was an excellent and complementary addition to its product base, and the connection to the Tasmanian Devil Appeal strengthened its connection with Tasmania’s iconic status.

“We are an extremely proud Tasmanian company and when we purchased Hartz we saw the opportunity to profitably grow another iconic Tasmanian brand and to maintain the Tasmanian heritage of the brand.

“Part of that heritage is the iconic Tasmanian wilderness, so supporting the Save the Tasmanian Devil Appeal is a natural fit for us from a Hartz perspective and from our company as a whole.”

Other major corporate Appeal donors during 2009 included:

- Dev’Lish Expresso
- Biscottelli
- The Income Tax Professionals
- The Wilderness Gallery
- Tasmanian Icon Wines
- Qantas
- Veolia Environmental Services
- V8 Supercar Events
- Van Diemens Land Co

In other developments this year the Save the Tasmanian Devil Appeal has reached some important milestones, with the new Save the Tasmanian Devil Appeal Committee now up and running, and the appointment of an Appeal Manager to coordinate fundraising and publicity activity for the Appeal and its donors.

“Every day we are encouraged and surprised as new sponsors, donors and program partners join the campaign to save the Tasmanian devil,” says Save the Devil Appeal Committee Chair David Rowell.

For the campaign to succeed in the long-term the appeal needs to grow substantially and with new branding and a new website planned for 2010 alongside a major push into the USA, the Appeal will significantly broaden its fundraising across Tasmania, interstate and internationally.

For more information on the Save the Tasmanian Devil Appeal, go to www.tassiedevil.com.au

Lisa Morisset has been the backbone of the Save the Tasmanian Devil Appeal for many years and it has been thanks to Lisa that the appeal continues to be a popular cause for the local and national community. From the Save the Devil Appeal Committee and on behalf of all the donors who have given their support through your encouragement, thank you Lisa.
To Touch the Clouds
By Peter Watt
(Macmillan, 2009)

To Touch the Clouds is UTAS Bachelor of Arts graduate Peter Watt’s 10th book and continues the saga of the Duffy and Macintosh families that began in 1999’s Cry of the Curlew. This instalment is set on the eve of WWI. Alexander Macintosh and his cousin Matthew Duffy are sent on a secret reconnaissance mission in German controlled New Guinea, by Alexander’s father Colonel Patrick Duffy. Alexander’s brother George is focussed on growing and protecting the family business and his stake in it while their sister Fenella is fast becoming a household name as a silent film star. It is said that there is a curse on the family and as events unfold it seems that this may well be the case.

This novel is part of an unfinished series but it can be enjoyed as a stand-alone story (the author kindly includes a family tree to reduce confusion). Watt has spent time as a soldier, articled clerk, prawn trawler deckhand, builder’s labourer, pipe layer, real estate salesman, private investigator, police sergeant and advisor to the Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary. He speaks, reads and writes Vietnamese and Pidgin. He now lives at Maclean, on the Clarence River in northern New South Wales. Fishing and the vast open spaces of outback Queensland are his main interests in life.

Vertigo
By Amanda Lohrey
(Black Inc., 2008)

Vertigo, by acclaimed Australian author and UTAS graduate, Amanda Lohrey, was inspired by two Henry Lawson works, the short story The Bush Fire and the poem The Fire at Ross’s Farm. Vertigo follows the lives of Luke and Anna, thirty-something and restless, who decide on a sea change. Worn down by city life and wounded by a loss neither can talk about, they flee to a sleepy village by the coast. The vertigo of the main characters, Anna and Luke, is a disabling panic that occurs whenever the past lunges forward into their lives, usually in the form of their still-born child who appears hauntingly on the periphery as “the boy”. At their coastal escape they garden, meet the neighbors, take up bird-watching, and buy a canoe for paddles around the lagoon. There, surrounded by nature, they begin to feel rejuvenated, but when bushfire threatens their new home, they must confront what they have tried to put behind them. Lohrey, who lives at Falmouth, on Tasmania’s east coast near the Bay of Fires, experienced the dangers of bushfires herself last year. Lohrey’s first novel was The Morality of Gentlemen, published in 1984. It was followed by The Reading Group and then Camille’s Bread, winner of the Australian Literature Society’s Gold Medal and a Victorian Premier’s Literary Award in 1996.

Wanting
By Richard Flanagan
(Random House, 2009)

The new novel from the internationally acclaimed, bestselling writer and UTAS graduate Richard Flanagan is based on events in early colonial Australia and England. Wanting is set in 1839, a young Aboriginal girl, Mathinna, is running through the long wet grass of an island at the end of the world to get help for her dying father, an Aboriginal chieftain. Twenty years later, on an island at the centre of the world, the most famous novelist of the day, Charles Dickens, realises he is about to abandon his wife, risk his name and forever alter his public image because of his inability any longer to control his intense passion. Connecting the two events are the most celebrated explorer of the age, Sir John Franklin - then governor of Van Diemen’s Land - and his wife, Lady Jane, who adopt Mathinna, seen as one of the last of a dying race, as an experiment. Lady Jane believes the distance between savagery and civilisation is the learned capacity to control wanting. The experiment fails, Sir John disappears into the blue ice of the Arctic seeking the Northwest Passage, and a decade later Lady Jane enlists Dickens’ aid to put an end to the scandalous suggestions that Sir John’s expedition ended in cannibalism. Dickens becomes ever more entranced in the story of men entombed in ice, recognising in its terrible image his own frozen inner life. He produces and stars in a play inspired by Franklin’s fate to give story to his central belief that discipline can conquer desire. And yet the play will bring him to the point where he is no longer able to control his own passion and the consequences it brings.
Maralinga – the Anangu Story
By Yalata and Oak Valley Communities with Christobel Mattingley
(Allen & Unwin, 2009)
University of Tasmania graduate Christobel Mattingley AM recently received the 2009 UNESCO Award for her contribution to literature, in particular Maralinga – the Anangu Story, written in collaboration with the Anangu communities at Yalata and Oak Valley in South Australia. The book went into reprint before its publication by Allen & Unwin in April 2009. ABC’s Message Stick aired two documentaries based in the books to coincide with the 2009 anniversary of the first British nuclear tests in Anangu traditional country in South Australia in 1953. UK and USA editions will be released in 2010. Maralinga – the Anangu Story, is an extraordinary illustrated history told from the indigenous perspective and created through a series of workshops, extensive research and community consultation. In words and pictures Yalata and Oak Valley community members, with author Christobel Mattingley, describe what happened in the Maralinga Tjarutja lands. The book relates the history of European explorers traversing their land, the coming of the missionaries, who derided and undermined their culture, imposing a white god, to the rations and handouts, making these people dependent upon a government organisation, all resulting in their alienation and dispossession. The final straw, the bomb tests, tore the land from their grasp, making it uninhabitable.

Inquiring Minds Learn to Read and Write
Jeffrey D. Wilhelm, Peggy Jo Wilhelm and Erika Boas
(Rubicon Publishing Inc, 2009)
UTAS graduate and Tasmanian teacher Erika Boas co-authored Inquiring Minds Learn to Read and Write with renowned English and Language Arts Professor and author of 15 books, Jeffrey Wilhelm and his wife Pegg Jo Wilhelm. Inquiring Minds Learn to Read and Write presents a valuable introduction to inquiry and aims at helping teachers implement critical inquiry learning in the classroom. It offers more than 50 literacy and learning strategies that support inquiry-based teaching, complete with planning tools, guidelines, templates, and examples to help teachers design and implement critical inquiry units and lessons in the classroom. Erika Boas graduated from UTAS with a B. Ed (Hons) and B. Arts (Hons) and has been a full-time teacher in Tasmania since graduating. In 2008 she was awarded the Hardie Fellowship (named after former UTAS Dean of Education Professor Charles Hardie) to further her study of inquiry-based learning and student literacy. She studied for six months with Wilhelm to produce this teacher resource for helping introduce critical inquiry learning in the classroom. Boas says research in nearly every discipline shows that when students are taught curricular topics and learning strategies through inquiry, they become both engaged and more competent as readers, composers, and learners.

Invasion
By Julian Stockwin
(Hodder & Stoughton, 2009)
Julian Stockwin graduated from UTAS with a Bachelor of Arts in 1971 and now lives in England with his wife Kathy Stockwin (nee Stackhouse) who is also a UTAS arts graduate. Together the couple research and write fiction and non-fiction seafaring books. Invasion is Julian Stockwin’s latest novel and is set during the period when Napoleon’s forces were poised to invade Britain. Commander Thomas Kydd’s ship is at the forefront of the fleet defending the English coast. His honour restored after temporary disgrace in the Channel Islands, and reunited with his ship Teazer, Kydd seizes the chance to fight for his country. Then Kydd is abruptly withdrawn from the fleet and sent back to Dover on a secret mission to guard a mysterious American inventor. Maritime Miscellany, also published this year, is full of fascinating facts and sea-lore. This book is Julian Stockwin’s own ditty bag of wonders from the golden age of sail. Ranging from the heroic voyages of discovery in the fifteenth century through the iconic Napoleonic Wars to the glorious era of the greyhounds of the sea, the clipper ships, he celebrates and explores a colourful world we will never see again.
Howard’s Second and Third Governments

Edited by Chris Aulich and Roger Wettenhall
(UNSW Press, 2008)

Co-editors Chris Aulich and Roger Wettenhall, both graduates of UTAS, capture key issues of the successive years of one of Australia’s longest-serving prime ministers – John Howard. These eighth and ninth volumes in the Australian Commonwealth Government Administration series published the University of Canberra analyse through the performance of these terms, identifying key issues and reflecting on key policy debates and changes to the machinery of government.

Howard’s Fourth Government looks at the administrative and leadership style of former Prime Minister John Howard’s fourth and final term in government (2004-2007). Organised into three sections, it begins with a group of essays that reflect on key governance issues such as privatisation, the management of the Howard Government’s Senate majority, and issues relating to accountability and ethics. The second section examines policy issues that dominated the fourth term, such as management of the economy, rural politics (particularly wheat and drought), industrial relations, indigenous policy and foreign affairs. The third section provides an overall assessment of Howard’s leadership style during this period and finally concludes that Howard’s faltering political skills on key issues may have ultimately secured his defeat. Expert contributors comment on the government’s handling of issues such as indigenous affairs, citizenship, environment, accountability and ethics in the public service, mapping the trail to the 2007 election loss.

THREE of the University of Tasmania’s most distinguished alumni have been honoured for their professional achievements.

Ophthalmologist Professor David Mackey, engineer John Cruickshank and scientist Professor Jim Reid were acknowledged for their contribution at this year’s UTAS Foundation Dinner.

Prof. Mackey was recognised with the Foundation Graduate Award for his work at the Royal Hobart Hospital Eye Clinic and the Centre for Eye Research Australia, through the universities of Tasmania and Melbourne respectively.

He graduated from the UTAS Faculty of Medicine in 1983 and moved into the field of ophthalmology, in particular the genetics of eye disease.

Mr Cruickshank was recognised as a Distinguished Alumni. He graduated from the UTAS School of Engineering in 1957 and has since excelled in many professional areas including the manufacture of wood flour, various consultancies, software technology and viticulture.

He graduated from the UTAS Faculty of Medicine in 1983 and moved into the field of ophthalmology, in particular the genetics of eye disease.

Mr Cruickshank was president of the Tasmanian University Union in 1950 and is now an honorary life member.

Prof. Reid holds a Bachelor of Science (Honours, awarded 1972), is a Doctor of Philosophy (awarded 1977) and a Doctor of Science (awarded) 1995 and was named the Inaugural Distinguished Professor in 2008.

University Foundation chair Richard Watson said both Prof. Mackey and Mr Cruickshank had shown true leadership and reached the top of their respective fields of expertise.

“Professor Mackey is now Australia’s most eminent genetic ophthalmologist, with an extremely high international profile.

“Mr Cruickshank is also internationally recognised. Since graduating from UTAS he has expanded his interests and talents to such a successful degree, that he must surely rank as one of our brightest and most entrepreneurial graduates,” he said.

Chair of the UTAS Alumni Elizabeth Daly said that Prof Reid had brought UTAS great honour through his outstanding teaching, research and administrative abilities, his national and international research collaborations, and through his tireless representation of UTAS in a variety of forums.

“Jim is recognised as being amongst the foremost in his academic discipline of plant science, particularly in eucalypt genetics. His research has attracted an impressive record of professional awards, including the prestigious David Syme Research Medal,” she said.

“Since winning his first Academic Research Council grant in 1976, he has succeeded in winning continuous ARC funding – an outstanding achievement for any researcher. He is regularly invited to give keynote addresses at conferences in Asia, North America and Europe.”

UTAS Chancellor Damian Bugg, Prof. Jim Reid, Elizabeth Daly (Chair of Alumni), Prof. David Mackey (award winner), John Cruickshank (award winner), Chair of Foundation Richard Watson, UTAS Vice-Chancellor Prof. Daryl Le Grew.
Dr Allan Bremner

Allan Bremner was named the winner of the Australian Institute of Food Science and Technology (AIFST) Keith Farrer Award of Merit last year.

Dr Bremner’s contribution to the Australian and international food industry, food science community and the AIFST spans several decades and is particularly focussed on seafood - quality, freshness, shelf life and aquaculture harvesting.

Among his greatest contribution is the development of what is now known as the Quality Index Method (QIM) that evaluates current storage life and estimates remaining shelf-life. QIM has been adopted in industry and at auctions, is recognised by the EU and is now the standard reference method in research and commerce throughout Europe.

UTAS alumni and preeminent historians Professor Marilyn Lake and Professor Henry Reynolds won the 2009 Prime Minister’s Literary Award for their book, Drawing the Global Colour Line.

Prof Reynolds and Prof Lake shared the 2009 Non-Fiction Award and the $100,000 prize with Evelyn Juers who wrote House of Exile: The Life and Times of Heinrich Mann and Nelly Kroeger-Mann.

Prof Lake, who is a Professor in History and Associate Dean (Research) in the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences at La Trobe University, graduated from UTAS with a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) and Master of Arts and completed her PhD at Monash University. Prof Lake also holds an honorary doctorate from the University of Tasmania.

Professor Reynolds graduated with a Master of Arts from UTAS and completed his PhD at James Cook University. He is the current UTAS Riawunna chair and professor with the UTAS School of History and Classics.

Drawing the Global Colour Line brings a global view of how white racial policies evolved and shows how, in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, countries worked together to exclude those defined as not-white. The book covers policies that were implemented in the United States, China, Japan, Africa, India and Australia.

UTAS science graduate Professor Phillip Hughes has been awarded a UNESCO medal for his lifetime contribution to education.

He was presented the Jan Comenius Medal in Geneva in recognition of his impact in Australia and internationally on a range of educational issues, from curriculum development to guidance, counselling and teacher education.

Prof Hughes helped design the ACT’s school system when it broke away from the NSW system in 1973, which incorporates a similar Year 11-12 college system to what Tasmania has in place.

Growing up in Tasmania’s North West at Sheffield, Prof Hughes completed a science degree with honours at the University of Tasmania in 1946 before winning a Rhodes Scholarship, which took him to Oxford in 1950 to undertake a Masters degree in science. Prof Hughes is now an Emeritus Professor with ANU.

Matter Machar

Australian Maritime College graduate Matter Machar won the Victorian Trainee of the Year and Australian Apprentice (Trainee) of the Year for 2008.

Mr Machar has taken a completely different path since graduating from AMC in 2005 with a Bachelor of Applied Science (Fisheries) and he now works in youth services for the Greater Dandenong Council in Victoria after completing a Certificate IV Youth Services and Protective Care.

Mr Machar coordinates the council’s Sports Inclusion Program, which develops pathways for young people and encourages them to develop their social, communication and emotional skills. The program currently runs a basketball, futsal and volleyball program, attracting large numbers of young people each week.

Matter Machar

UTAS Art School graduate Tim Burns won Australia’s richest prize for a landscape painting – the $50,000 Fleurieu Art Prize.

His winning work was an oil painting of the Arthur River in Tasmania’s North-West, Arthur River Trance.

He completed a Master of Fine Arts degree at the Tasmanian School of Art in 1990. Burns is widely exhibited throughout Australia and represented in public collections nationally, and in private collections in Australia, New Zealand, Japan and North America.
Professor Mike Solomon
17 September 1928 – 27 May 2009

UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA staff and students were deeply saddened with the passing of Professor Mike Solomon on May 27, 2009.

Mike played a leading role in the development of economic geology both in Australia and internationally. He had numerous achievements during a highly distinguished career, including his pioneering work with volcanic-associated deposits which put Tasmania’s Mount Read Volcanic Arc firmly in the lexicon of geologists around the world.

Traits that were always abundantly evident throughout his working life were his desire and ability to test the limits, which often led to new ways of thinking and advances in the understanding of the science.

One of his many respected and influential publications was ‘The Formation of Massive Sulfide Deposits on the Seafloor’, which he co-authored with John Walshe and published in Economic Geology in 1979.

This visionary work correctly predicted the existence of ‘black smokers’ on the seafloor long before they were discovered in deep sea dives – a view that was met with a great deal of scepticism from his peers at the time.

In 1972 he initiated the first papers on the evolution of ore deposits in relation to the plate-tectonic evolution of the Tasman Orogenic Zone, and his book The Geology and Origin of Australia’s Mineral Deposits (co-authored with David Groves) is still considered the premier overview of those ore deposits and their setting more than 15 years after its publication.

Among Mike’s many accolades were the Heemskirk Medal (1979), the Stillwell Award (1987) and the Penrose Medal (2008).

In addition to his many academic achievements, Mike will be remembered for his ability to bring geology alive and make it fun. As a young lecturer he was particularly popular with his students for his willingness to join in at social functions and his capacity to introduce intriguing topics to the lecture theatre: on one occasion his guest speaker gave a talk on ‘Pyrite, Politics and Promiscuity on Cuba’.

Many of his students have gone on to become leading economic geologists in their own right, including David Groves, John Walshe, Geoff Green, Noel White, Chirn Heinrich and Ross Large, to name just a few. They, like many other geologists over many years, have looked upon Mike as a character, a leader, a mentor and, most of all, a friend.

The Centre of Excellence in Ore Deposits Student Chapter of the Society of Economic Geologists plans to introduce an annual Mike Solomon Memorial Lecture in honour of this extraordinary man.

Jan Sedivka AM
8 September 1917 – 23 August 2009

By Penny Thow

RENOVATED violinist and former Tasmanian Conservatorium of Music director Jan Sedivka was one of Australia’s most influential and innovative music teachers. His work strongly contributed to the Conservatorium’s respected international reputation and has created a rich legacy of musicianship throughout the country.

Born in Slany, Czechoslovakia, Professor Sedivka had a lifelong love of reading and philosophy and his strong personality made him an enthusiastic participant in lively and intellectually stimulating discussions and debates with friends and colleagues.

He not only taught, but also mentored his students and opened his own home frequently to international students while they were studying in Tasmania.

Prof Sedivka’s catch phrase ‘up is down’ symbolised his open-minded approach to life and work. As well as teaching technique and style he encouraged his students to see the broader picture and to think for themselves. Prof Sedivka also believed he could learn from his students.

Prof Sedivka felt a strong affinity for the violin from the age of six when he first heard the instrument played and began formal lessons at seven. He was later tutored by Otakar Sevcik and Jaroslav Kocian, Czechoslovakia’s most respected music teachers of the day, and gained a master diploma with honours from the Prague Conservatoire.

He moved to Paris to undertake further studies and formed a friendship with Czech composer Bohuslav Martinu.

Prof Sedivka was imprisoned in Paris at the beginning of war but later escaped to England. He continued further studies in London with the well-known teacher Max Rostal and became a respected and influential part of the classical music scene.

Prof Sedivka was leader of the highly regarded London International Trio, which included Viennese cellist Sela Trau and British pianist Tom Bromley. He also conducted the Jan Sedivka Chamber Orchestra, made more than 45 BBC broadcasts, premiered contemporary works and performed as a soloist.

However his primary interest was in teaching and he held a number of scholastic positions
including as professor of violin and chamber music at Trinity College in London.

It was in London that Prof Sedivka met his wife Beryl, who is an accomplished and successful pianist. They gave their first concert together in 1955, playing a Mozart sonata. The couple was married in Hampstead on April 15, 1961.

Such was their respect for the professor that, when he moved to Australia in 1961 to become chief lecturer of violin and chamber music at the Queensland Conservatorium of Music, Sela Trau and a number of his students also migrated to Australia.

Leading Australian composer Larry Sitsky joined the Queensland Conservatorium in the same year and their common interests of philosophy, psychology and music brought the two men together in a close and lifelong friendship that was often reinforced by discussions late into the night over a glass or two of wine.

Both Sitsky and Prof Sedivka felt restricted by the conservative nature of the Conservatorium in Queensland in the 1960s. Sitsky was appointed to the Canberra School of Music in 1965 and in 1966 Prof Sedivka became head of violin and chamber music at the recently established Tasmanian Conservatorium of Music.

He became director of the Conservatorium from 1971 and held the position until his retirement in 1982. After retiring Prof Sedivka continued his association with the Conservatorium as master musician in residence until the time of his death.

Prof Sedivka’s expertise and initiatives took the Conservatorium to a new level and its string department became regarded as the best in Australia.

He was responsible for the Conservatorium’s international focus. He established the String Summer School, which attracted students from overseas as well as from locally and nationally.

Prof Sedivka established and conducted the Tasmanian Conservatorium Symphony Orchestra and, at the suggestion of Rex Hobcroft (first director of the Conservatorium), established the Tasmanian Conservatorium Trio with Beryl and Sela Trau. He also set up the Rialannah and Petra String Quartets and commissioned many new works. His contribution to the concert life of Tasmania was enormously influential, both within the established Conservatorium / University concert series and in his development of other concert series elsewhere in the state. His presence in Tasmania, and hence the Conservatorium, became a focal point for many overseas artists and quartets (such as the Smetana and Amadeus), visiting here for Musica Viva.

In the late 1970s Prof Sedivka visited China and established close and enduring musical connections and exchanges between Chinese musicians and the Conservatorium. He was visiting lecturer at the Shanghai Conservatory of Music on a number of occasions and also encouraged current Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra concertmaster Jun Yi Ma to study in Tasmania.

Prof Sedivka’s significant contributions to music in Australia have been recognised by a number of awards including: Member of the Order of Australia (AM), an Honorary Doctor of Letters from the University of Tasmania, his appointment as honorary professor at Shanghai University and being named Professional of the Year by the American Biographical Institute. He was made an honorary citizen of Slany and an honorary fellow of Trinity College. He also received an honorary fellowship of music from the AMEB, the Sir Bernard Heinze memorial award from the University of Melbourne, a distinguished service award from the Australian String Association, a centenary medal from the Australian Government, a Tasmanian Government Arts award and life membership of the Australian String Teachers’ Association.

In 1992 Prof Sedivka received a memorial gold medal from the Academy of Musical Arts in Prague and last year he was presented with one of the Czech Republic’s most prestigious awards, the Gratias Agit which recognises outstanding people who promote the country’s good name abroad in the spheres of science, education, the arts or public life.

A private service was held for Prof Sedivka on August 26 and a public celebration of his life was held in late October. Prof Sedivka is survived by his wife Beryl.
Sir Geoffrey James Foot
20 July 1915 – 4 May 2009

TASMANIA LOST a distinguished son this year with the death of Sir Geoffrey Foot, a former member of the Legislative Council, prominent businessman and University Council member.

Sir Geoffrey Foot was born in Launceston and attended Launceston High School. The Great Depression meant he left school after grade nine for work but Sir Geoffrey studied through evening classes to qualify as an accountant by the time he was 20. He worked with a Launceston legal firm before serving in the Second World War.

Returning to civilian life he joined what was to become the Tasmanian Permanent Building Society, where his capacity and commitment saw him rise through the ranks of management to become chairman.

In addition to his work in the finance industry, Sir Geoffrey was a member of the Legislative Council for 10 years - three as leader of the Bethune government in the Council. He was an Associate Commissioner of the Hydro Electric Commission and chairman from 1987.

Sir Geoffrey also served on the Council of the University of Tasmania for 17 years, ten as chair of the important finance committee. The University recognised his contribution to Tasmania by awarding him a Doctor of Laws in 1988.

As a committed Christian, Sir Geoffrey had a life-long concern for the well-being of others which saw him give 20 year’s service to Glengara Children’s Home and 15 years as trustee of the Launceston City Mission. He served the Church of Christ both locally and nationally was honoured for 30 years of service to the Bible Society of Australia.

Despite his many professional commitments, Sir Geoffrey was a keen sportsman, especially cricket, an enthusiast for trout fishing, and a lover of classical music.

His greatest accolades came in 1984 when he was knighted for his service to the community and in 1990 when he was made a Freeman of the City of Launceston.

A perpetual scholarship, The Sir Geoffrey Foot Award, was established at UTAS in 1986 to recognise the contribution he made through his work for the Tasmanian community. It funds students in second year business or economics and has now supported over 20 highly talented students, many of whom are playing a prominent role in the business life of Tasmania and Australia. It was a source of immense pride for Sir Geoffrey and he relished the chance to meet and chat to the recipients each year.

Sir Geoffrey Foot is survived by his daughter Jocelyn and sons Warwick and Greg, seven grandchildren and six great grandchildren.

Sir Geoffrey had a life-long concern for the well-being of others which saw him give 20 year’s service to Glengara Children’s Home and 15 years as trustee of the Launceston City Mission.
TASMANIAN farming innovator and award-winning businesswoman Amabel Fulton died of breast cancer in August.

Dr Fulton won the Telstra Tasmanian Business Women’s Award in the innovation category last year and in May this year she was awarded her PhD in rural social research in a special graduation ceremony held on the UTAS Sandy Bay campus.

Dr Fulton spent much of her career following her interest in understanding the people and organisational aspects of the agri-food sector, working to foster sustainable industry development throughout regional Australia.

She was a national finalist and Tasmanian winner in the Telstra Business Innovation Award 2008; she was also a state finalist in the Telstra Women’s Business Private and Corporate Sector Award 2009 and runner-up in the Rural Women’s Award for Tasmania last year.

Dr Fulton was involved with sustainable land management since 1983 when she enrolled in a UTAS agricultural science degree, graduating in 1987 with a major in animal production and receiving first class honours for her thesis on the genetics of footrot in sheep.

Over the past 20 years she has held a diverse range of positions, all focussed on sustainable agriculture, including rural reporter, horticulturalist, lecturer in agricultural extension and rural sociologist.

In 1999 she and her husband David established Rural Development Services, an agri-food consulting and training business in Hobart.

Dr Fulton is survived by husband David and their children, Tom, 11, Ben, 8, and Sarah, 6.

Agriculture consultant Amabel Fulton was awarded her PhD in a special ceremony this year.
You’ve got answers.

We’ve got questions.

Take part in our alumni and friends survey for your chance to win an iPod touch!

In 2010 we’re planning to refresh our Alumni program and would like to hear the views of our alumni and friends.

This includes the types of connections you would like to have with UTAS through activities such as reunions, publications, communications and events.

Your answers will shape our Alumni program and help us offer the kind of connections you’d like to see provided by UTAS.

The survey will only take 5 to 10 minutes and can be completed online at www.alumni.utas.edu.au or call (03) 6324 3052 to complete over the phone or if you would like us to send you a survey.

All survey responses are confidential, and if you choose, anonymous. We do not pass your details to any third parties.

If you complete the survey by 31 January 2010, you will be in the running to win an iPod touch.

www.alumni.utas.edu.au