FILMMAKER
SEAN BYRNE: A new take on
Pretty in Pink

THE RHODES
LESS TRAVELLED
(special feature pages 12-21)
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Cover: The Loved Ones, the recently-released film by Tasmanian writer and director Sean Byrne, is a deliberately intriguing mix of generic horror and art house cinematic techniques. The film stars Robin McLeavy as the chilling Lola. Stills photography by Suzy Wood.
PHILANTHROPY

Gilt-edged gift from philanthropist: 600 works and $1m

By Cherie Cooper

The University of Tasmania is celebrating its largest single gift ever, a multimillion-dollar donation from alumnus and philanthropist Geoffrey Tyler and his wife Frances.

The gift of artworks and $1 million will establish the Tyler Collection and Fund.

The collection of about 600 works – including paintings, drawings, graphics, sculptures and ceramics – has been amassed over half a century by Geoffrey, who graduated from UTAS in 1949 with a Bachelor of Science.

Now living in Washington, Geoffrey is a former economist with the International Monetary Fund.

The collection includes *The Sisters*, a prized early work by Arthur Boyd from 1949, Leonard French’s *Three Towers No 1* and an elegant set of 22 engravings illustrating the Book of Job by William Blake and which date back to 1825.

The collection also includes many mixed media works by a close friend of Geoffrey, the late Corneliu Petrescu, a Romanian artist who used gold leaf extensively.

UTAS Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) and Provost David Rich said the donation is very welcome and an extremely generous gift.

“Philanthropy of this nature is applauded and respected by the University community,” he said. “Gifts of this kind support and promote the qualities of excellence, innovation and participation to which the University aspires.”
The strength of UTAS within our community

One of my first official duties as Vice-Chancellor was to attend the graduation ceremony for UTAS nursing students in Sydney. It was a pleasure to meet the newest members of the UTAS alumni family and I have been delighted to meet many more of you over the past few months. A special lesson for me has been an understanding of the pride and affection of Tasmanians and graduates for the University, evident as I visit campuses in Hobart, Launceston, Burnie and Sydney, and as I listen to our broader community. A particular standout was the alumni event that was recently held in Hong Kong. One of my aims as Vice-Chancellor is to grow UTAS alumni networks, locally, nationally and internationally; there is much that we can do together. Alumni News is an important way in which we can draw this community closer, by providing insight into the achievements and aspirations of the University across the spectrum of our activities.

As one fortunate enough to study at Oxford University as a Rhodes Scholar following graduation from the University of Adelaide in 1985 I read with nostalgia the reflections of some of our Rhodes Scholars, featured on pages 12 to 21. UTAS contributes much through the education of students of this calibre, capable of interaction with the world’s great scholarly communities and prepared for societal contribution of spectacular impact.

Yet we contribute so much more than this; from research that contributes to the store of human knowledge and advances our society, through curricula that challenge our students to develop their fullest potential, to a student experience that makes UTAS a prized destination for local, national and international students.

Engagement across the UTAS community will be especially important in 2012 as we embark upon refreshment of the EDGE agenda through the development of a new strategic plan, attuned to a rapidly changing national and international context for Higher Education. We will listen with interest to those with a passion to assist us with this process and I extend a special invitation to alumni to participate and make your views heard. You will hear more from us shortly about how you can contribute.

In closing, I want to acknowledge and thank the UTAS alumni family for your continued strong support for the University. I am delighted by the opportunity to become part of your community.

Warm regards,

Professor Peter Rathjen

Vice-Chancellor, University of Tasmania

Hello new and old friends...

If we haven’t met, then let me introduce myself. Growing up on the north-west coast, I commenced my UTAS journey in Burnie in 1986 – well before the Cradle Coast campus was established – completing a major in the field of chemistry (BSc 1988, Hons 1989, PhD 1993). I am proud to have the opportunity to continue to serve as a member of UTAS staff, currently as a Deputy Director and Senior Research Fellow in the UTAS Central Science Laboratory. I understand well the great opportunities that a UTAS education can provide, and consider myself fortunate that I can still call Tasmania home.

UTAS has played a meaningful and enjoyable role in my professional life, so I’m sensitive to the history, standing and contributions of the alumni over the past 120 years. But I’m equally conscious of the style, expectations and norms of current graduates. Yes, having the right balance is important. On a similar thought, we hope to find that important balance between alumni activities in Tasmania and on the mainland, while extending and strengthening our global reach.

In March this year I had the pleasure of attending the UTAS Foundation awards dinner, where Distinguished Alumni Awards were presented to Professor Ross Large and Reverend Professor Michael Tate (see page 22). My hearty congratulations go out to both men. Meanwhile the Premier of Tasmania, the Honourable Lara Giddings MP, received the Foundation Graduate Award. All three alumni have achieved across a diverse range of fields and are most worthy ambassadors for UTAS.

In closing, I’d like to thank Mrs Elizabeth Daly, the outgoing Chair, for her commitment and service to UTAS Alumni for more than a decade. Her retirement comes at a time when the alumni community has never looked stronger, with so many ways to now keep in touch.

Wishing you the very best,

Dr Ashley Townsend
Chair, University of Tasmania Alumni
Scream king

By Cherie Cooper

The Loved Ones: This Australian horror film has been described as Pretty in Pink meets Texas Chainsaw Massacre. Stills photography by Suzy Wood.
HAVING TWO PEOPLE, ON TWO separate occasions, bolt out of a theatre that’s showing your film might seem initially like an insult. Except, of course, if it’s a horror film and the people ran out because they were scared witless.

Sean Byrne (BA/LLB 1997) is the writer and director of the recently released film The Loved Ones, which tells the story of an obsessive teenage crush that goes horribly wrong. The film is unashamedly gory and horrifying. It’s a tense thrill-ride that’s definitely not for the faint-hearted.

And why not? asks Sean. “I think if you’re going to make a horror film, you may as well go for the jugular,” he said. “It depends on your sense of humour. I see The Loved Ones as a jet-black comedy. There is a pressure-release through the film where you get a chance to have a laugh.

“As long as something is transportive and you don’t think about the fact that you’re sitting in a cinema, I love it. As soon as you think, ‘I’m in the cinema watching a film,’ the film isn’t working 100%.”

Growing up with a film critic as a father helped foster Sean’s love of film, but it wasn’t until he finished his law degree at UTAS that he decided movies were his future.

He went back to college to study media production and was later accepted into the Australian Film, Television and Radio School in Sydney. He graduated two years later with a masters degree. Sean started directing TV commercials, but worked on his own films in the background.

Then one day he met another law graduate, Rob Beamish, over the photocopier. Rob just happened to be clutching a script at the time, and he and Sean bonded over a love of film. They got together in 2007 to make the spookily stylish Advantage, a short film about two young lovers who trespass onto a supernatural tennis court.

Advantage appeared at the renowned Sundance Film Festival and did well on the festival circuit, garnering awards and admiration. Sean got American representation and The Loved Ones – which he’d been writing for the previous four years – got off the ground.

The Loved Ones is a deliberately intriguing mix of generic horror and art house cinematic techniques. The story follows the terrible journey of Brent, an emotionally damaged young man. After politely rejecting an invitation to a school dance from quiet schoolmate Lola, Brent finds himself kidnapped, tied to a chair and subjected to a terrible ordeal at the hands of the spoiled, psychopathic Lola and her murderous father.

“The Loved Ones has been described as Pretty in Pink meets Texas Chainsaw Massacre,” Sean said. “I didn’t come up with that comparison but I thought yes, I’m happy with that.

“I love when you get these hybrid genres because then there’s something fresh.”

The settings in The Loved Ones will be immediately recognisable to an Australian audience. Situating scenes of such horror in the context of the Australian suburbs and bush creates a viewing experience that is uncomfortably close to the bone. Sean cites the quintessentially in-your-face Australianness of the Mad Max films as part of his filmmaking inspiration.

“I like how attacking they are,” he said. “They go for the audience’s throat unapologetically. Sometimes that kind of ‘assault’ on the audience has been lacking.

“The thing I worry most about when making films is that people might get bored. I want the film to keep moving and coming at you. There have been thousands of horror films and everyone knows the formula backwards, so with The Loved Ones I was trying to bring in my love of world cinema and art house cinema, and marry that with something more commercial.

“I think it’s a real splicing of the teen and horror genres. I’m equally as influenced by David Lynch as I am by Jerry Bruckheimer. I’m not a huge fan of PG horror that’s diluted and tries to appeal to all quadrants. I feel like then no-one wins.”

Sean is currently writing a home invasion thriller which he describes as being as equally subversive a take on the genre as The Loved Ones. “You can give a film edge but unless there’s something there for an audience it kind of defeats the purpose,” he said.

“I’ve got this motto about having one foot firmly planted in commercial territory and the other foot dangling over a cliff. And that’s what I’m going for.”

Filmmaker: Sean Byrne wants to create films that have one foot firmly planted in commercial territory – and the other dangling over a cliff.

Australianness: The settings in The Loved Ones will be uncomfortably recognisable to Australian audiences. Stills photography by Suzy Wood.
PHIL HILTON WAS ABOUT NINE YEARS old when he discovered a copy of The Red Book of British Battles at a white-elephant stall. The book had a picture of Napoleon on the cover and it told spellbinding stories of great military battles.

But several years later, when Phil’s mother passed away, his family was broken up. “I had one battered old case that I was allowed to fill with whatever I needed,” Phil remembered. “At the time I didn’t realise I was leaving for good, otherwise I would have grabbed more books.

That’s when I lost my copy of The Red Book of British Battles – but I always remembered it. That book became my inspiration.”

Years later this passion for the past saw Dr Phil Hilton (BA 1983, DipEd 1988, BA Hons 1999, PhD 2010) graduate from UTAS as a history teacher. He worked in schools as far away as Wales and the People’s Republic of China before accepting a position as education manager and historian at the Port Arthur Historic Site.

Around this time a project began called the Port Arthur convict database, which involved collating data from the records of the 60,000 convicts transported to Van Diemen’s Land. Phil became involved in the project and, as he went through the records, he noticed that a large number of convicts were actually transported soldiers – the very heroes that had been celebrated in The Red Book of British Battles. He was amazed.

“In the 1960s there had been a study of transported soldiers, but only small samples were available to researchers,” Phil said. “So I decided to do an honours thesis on the Separate Prison at Port Arthur. I took the records of the first 400 convicts that I came across, and discovered that 10% of these men were soldiers. It seemed to me a huge over-representation.

“My supervisor at UTAS, Hamish Maxwell-Stewart, told me that this was a subject that hadn’t been thoroughly examined by convict historians. So, based on Hamish’s advice, as well as my own interests, I expanded my research into a PhD.”

Phil’s thesis was titled Branded ‘D’ on the left side: a study of Tasmanian convicts. His research included these findings:

• A total of 3,000 soldiers were transported to Van Diemen’s Land. Two-thirds were transported for military offences, with desertion being the most common crime (and these men were tattooed or branded with the letter ‘D’, somewhere on the left side of their body). Meanwhile 1,000 soldiers were transported for civil crimes after they had left the military;

• The British forces were the most brutally punished in Europe. Soldiers were still being flogged in 1881, for instance, while the last convict flogging at Port Arthur was in 1852; and

• Approximately 40% of transported soldiers ended up as police in Van Diemen’s Land, although around 800 committed secondary offences and were sent to Port Arthur. Thirty-three ended up on the gallows.

Today Phil has returned to teaching and lives in Hobart. Last summer he spoke of his research during a public talk at the Port Arthur Historic Site.

But Phil’s story doesn’t end there. More than 30 years after his family was split up and dispersed across Australia, Phil’s siblings organised a reunion.

“My brother had remembered The Red Book of British Battles and he found a copy, online, in England,” Phil said. “My brother gave it to me at this reunion.

“That was just great – and I used it to help finish my thesis. That book had been my professional inspiration, even though I didn’t have it for many years. Now it’s something that I’ll give to my children.”

Childhood heroes become focus of PhD research

By Janette Brennan
NATALIE CROOME (BED 1989) doesn't always bother correcting non-Australians when they confuse her Tasmanian origins with Tanzania. She regards herself as a citizen of both. Twenty years have passed since the Tasmanian State Institute of Technology (now UTAS) graduate made the “slightly random” career move from St Helens District High School to Arusha, Tanzania. Her initial plans featured an 18-month contract with an international school but, with her recent appointment to the renowned and remarkable School of St Jude, her ‘worlds-apart’ life as an expatriate teacher is likely to continue. Natalie is curriculum coordinator at St Jude’s. She’s leading the transition of 1,300 students and 145 teachers from a Tanzanian curriculum to the International Primary School Curriculum (IPC). It’s a tall order for any school community. But add to the mix Tanzania’s 1950s-style approach to teaching (which includes a firmly-rooted tradition of rote learning) and you have some idea of the task ahead of the Burnie-born teacher.

“I’ve always been up for a challenge,” Natalie said. “In fact, when I first landed in Arusha I was teaching a class with 16 nationalities and 12 mother tongues.”

A multicultural city which is host to the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, Arusha is also famous for its proximity to both the Serengeti and the Mount Kilimanjaro national parks. However, the population of around 600,000 is beset by poverty. Only 60% of children enrol in primary school, with as few as 5% continuing to secondary level.

Enter Gemma Sisia, founder of the School of St Jude. Gemma established St Jude’s (named after the patron saint of hopeless causes) in 2002. At the time she had a student population of just three. The young Australian teacher from outback New South Wales, who’s married to a Tanzanian safari guide, saw the need for access to quality education so that disadvantaged Tanzanian children could be guided out of poverty. The school was built by Australian volunteers and continues to be wholly sponsored, through Australian Rotary and The Smith Family (as well as international corporate donors). To be accepted into the school, students must come from homes with dirt floors and no running water or electricity.

“I’d known Gemma for a number of years as part of the community of 60 or so Australian expats who live in Arusha,” Natalie said, “and I knew that St Jude’s Australian and Tanzanian boards of management were keen to progress the school to an international curriculum.”

A three-year period teaching in Munich and undertaking professional development in the International Baccalaureate Organisation, coupled with the progressive approach to student-centred teaching that Natalie acquired through her Tasmanian Bachelor of Education degree, made the choice to move to St Jude’s irresistible. Natalie admits to being cautious about the time it will take to impact on the Tanzanian teaching and learning culture—an approach in which obedience, and not making mistakes, is seen as the mark of a good student, as well as the sign of a successful teacher.

“I’ll be spending a lot of my time mentoring teachers, putting students at the centre of learning, and trying to encourage critical thinking, problem solving, creativity and reflection,” she said.

“The sooner I can see teachers walking around the classroom and talking with individual students, the happier I’ll be.” More can be found on the School of St Jude at www.schoolofstjude.co.tz
A decade-long journey from the galley to the bridge

By Nicki Fletcher

AS A YOUNG WOMAN, EMMA EADIE was never interested in working at sea. That’s one of the reasons why her decade-long navigation from galley to bridge – a journey that culminated in her 2010 graduation from the Australian Maritime College – is all the more remarkable.

The decision by the former Don College student to work in hospitality during her gap year saw Emma as a trainee on the Spirit of Tasmania. But after years of making coffee for the captain (as well as a stint in the Royal Australian Navy and a three-year cadetship with British Petroleum), Emma is today at the controls.

Emma obtained an Advanced Diploma in Applied Nautical Science after more than three years of study and long stints at sea – initially working on the liquid natural gas (LNG) tanker, Northwest Shearwater, which sailed between Dampier and Japan, and then on another product tanker, British Tenacity.

“That was the trip that we spent trading mainly around South America, then up to Iceland, down through the English Channel to France, on to Spain, then across ‘the pond’ (as it’s called) to New York,” she said.

Sometimes the only female on board, and often at sea for months at a time, the young Tasmanian said her gradual induction into this gruelling occupation had served her well.

“We had some pretty hairy crossings across Bass Strait when I was working on the Spirits,” she said. “During one crossing, a porthole in a passenger cabin was smashed by a freak wave. Even the crew were pretty sick.”

Emma worked her way up to relief duty manager on the passenger vessel, and that got her thinking about her options for a career at sea.

“I’d been thinking about joining the Navy when I applied to sail on The Young Endeavour – the Navy’s training vessel,” she said. “Unfortunately it was literally smooth sailing, but it was a fantastic character-building experience and it did lead me to applying to join the Navy.”

The high seas: Sometimes the only female on board, and often at sea for months at a time, Emma said her gradual induction into this gruelling occupation had served her well.
Emma joined the Royal Australian Navy at officer-level as a seaman. This experience took her on an operational tour to the Solomon Islands in a peacekeeping capacity on the patrol boat HMAS Bathurst, supporting the Australian Federal Police in the lead-up to the islands’ democratic elections.

However, the relative freedom offered by the merchant navy enticed her back into civvies 18 months later and applying to 26 shipping countries across Australia for a cadetship.

One of three deck cadets selected by BP’s Melbourne headquarters, she began basic training at the AMC in readiness for a four-month stretch on crude oil and product tankers in waters around Australasia and Indonesia.

“Interestingly enough, I was the only cadet to last the distance,” she said. “The other two younger guys couldn’t hack the loneliness and extended time at sea.”

By mid 2008, Emma had moved from chipping and painting, cargo work and safety drills as a deckhand to studying again at the AMC, this time on bridge simulators. She was one of two females in the class of 30 students.

Back on board with BP, Emma was doing four-hour watches on tankers. She was in charge of everything on the bridge from engine movements and course alterations, to using the global positioning system and keeping an eye on the weather. By her own admission, it was exhausting work.

“My biggest fear was running into one of the small wooden Chilean fishing boats at night because they don’t come up on the radar,” she said. “Navigating a tanker through the English Channel was also a bit scary.”

Now working as second officer on the aptly-named offshore support vessel Mermaid Vision (from Dampier, WA), Emma is in charge of a 68-metre-long “oversized tug boat”. They have a crew of up to 14 and work between oil rigs on the North West Shelf, about 100km from Exmouth.

“My biggest fear was running into one of the small wooden Chilean fishing boats at night because they don’t come up on the radar,” she said. “Navigating a tanker through the English Channel was also a bit scary.”

And she is always up for a challenge...

“We set sail from Dampier this afternoon on cyclone avoidance, so I had better sign off,” she said. “Cyclone Carlos is heading straight for Dampier.”

Oversized tug boats: Emma has moved from BP tankers to second officer on an oil rig supply vessel.
Face to face with the Hytten legacy

By Catherine Rogers

LONDONER LIANNE GORDON remembers little of her great-grandfather, who died when she was only five. But recently, during a visit to the UTAS Sandy Bay campus, she was reminded of his legacy.

Lianne’s great-grandfather was Torleiv Hytten, the first full-time Vice-Chancellor of UTAS.

“I remember my great-grandfather as a gentle and generous person,” Lianne said. “I was very young when he died and I don’t have many memories of him. But I’m well aware of what he has achieved.”

Lianne is the eldest granddaughter of Torleiv’s only surviving son, Dr Frank Hytten, who is now 87 and lives in the UK. Lianne travelled to Hobart from London – where she works as a dietician – to learn more about her great-grandfather’s career.

She was accompanied on her UTAS tour by Rhonda Ewart, the development assistant from the Development and Alumni Office.

Rhonda has spent many years exchanging letters with Dr Frank Hytten.

Lianne said Hytten Hall was one of the locations that she was most keen to see. Hytten Hall became a source of tremendous pride for Torleiv as it fulfilled a real need for student accommodation.

The visit also included the rare book collection at Morris Miller Library. Lianne looked through photos, notes, reports and letters written by her great-grandfather to colleagues, prime ministers and premiers.

Torleiv Hytten forged an esteemed career in the university and banking sectors. Throughout his career he was an adviser to both the Tasmanian and Australian governments.

“It’s difficult to put his accomplishments into perspective, particularly in a physical sense, because I live in London,” Lianne said. “But he was amazing – a really interesting person. I knew about his time here, but it’s something special to come here in person to see it.”

Memories: Lianne Gordon (left), the great-granddaughter of Torleiv Hytten (the first full-time VC of UTAS), is shown documents from the rare book collection by Rhonda Ewart, development assistant from the Development and Alumni Office.
Finding his niche: After four years of teaching, Josh Smith has become assistant principal at his former school. Photo courtesy of the Circular Head Chronicle.

By Catherine Rogers

BY HIS OWN ADMISSION, JOSH Smith (BSc/BTeach 2007) hated school. So it’s perhaps with some irony that he ended up becoming a teacher. After working for just four years as a maths and science teacher, Josh has become assistant principal at his former school, Circular Head Christian School. But it was in Grade 12 at Hellyer College that teaching became a viable career option for this formerly reluctant student.

“I was tutoring science and was also going to church, where I was involved with the youth group,” Josh said. “Being around this age group was cool. And that’s when I started realising that I loved teaching.”

Josh spent the first year of his degree in Launceston, before completing his studies in Hobart.

As a teacher, Josh gets the most satisfaction from shaping students’ lives and helping with their future career path. “It’s more than just teaching,” he said. “You get to know these students pretty closely. They come to you with life questions – what would you do in this situation? How do I go about this or that?

“There are also those students who struggle to focus at school, or may simply find the restraints of school unattractive. I like to get alongside those students and encourage them. Usually these students don’t fit the ‘mould’ that school wants to see.

“But overall, I like to make school a place where real-life lessons are experienced, not just taught or talked about.”

Come back after school!

The science of faith

By Janette Brennan

AT THE AGE OF 57, WHEN MANY OF his friends were preparing to retire, Dennis Quinn left his career in science to begin work as an ordained minister of the church.

Dennis had been the laboratory manager within the UTAS School of Medicine since 1984 and had also served several years as the general staff representative on the University Council. Prior to that, he’d spent two decades working in labs on the mainland.

Then one day, out of the blue, a friend called Dennis from outback Queensland. “He told me that he had a challenge for me,” Dennis said. “Then he asked if I would like to take on a ministry at Winton in western Queensland.

“At that stage I’d worked within universities for 40 years. But the time was right. I resigned from the uni and went into full-time ministry.”

If the decision seemed sudden, it wasn’t. In fact, Dennis said his spiritual journey began more than 50 years before, when he first met his wife Lois. He quickly realised that if he wanted to see her on a Sunday, then he had to go to church (she taught Sunday school).

From then on, Dennis accepted a series of leadership roles within his local parish, particularly when the family moved from the mainland back to Dennis’s home town of Hobart.

“During one church meeting, I overheard an archdeacon say that he’d wished there had been someone around who could have taken a funeral service for him the day before because he was so busy.” Dennis said.

“I knew straight away that I could take on a role like that, but the Assistant Bishop explained that I’d have to become ordained. Well, I took six years, but eventually I decided to become ordained as a priest.”

Aged 68, Dennis today serves at St Mark’s Church in Bellerive.

“I don’t separate science and faith,” Dennis said. “In science, every question you answer creates a whole heap of other questions. And faith asks the same questions: How did the world come about? Who am I? Why do things happen? “So I’ve never felt a tension between science and faith. To me, they ask the same sorts of questions, but under a different banner.”

A man of God and science: The Rev. Dennis Quinn left his 40-year science career to be ordained as an Anglican Church minister.
The Rhodes less travelled

By Rhonda Ewart

WHAT DOESTHE FORMER Tasmanian Deputy Premier, Sir Max Bingham, have in common with Olympian Simon Hollingsworth? Would it help if we hinted that Dr Nicholas Hope, the director of the Stanford Center for International Development in the US, is part of the same group – along with clinical haematologist Dr Kate Burbury? The answer is that these acclaimed people are among the select UTAS students who, over the years, have been awarded Rhodes Scholarships. So what is the Rhodes?
The Scholarships were created in 1902 under the will of Cecil John Rhodes, a British colonial pioneer and statesman. The scholarship is an international postgraduate award for study at the University of Oxford (England), and is widely considered the world’s most prestigious scholarship. Cecil Rhodes left the greater part of his fortune to establish the scholarships – selection for which was to be based on qualities of character and intellect. To be chosen as a Rhodes Scholar you need an exemplary academic record. You also must display a willingness to give up your leisure time to participate in community service, and have the ability to lead. A fondness of outdoor sports is also a quality sought in a Rhodes Scholar.

Outstanding students from around the world are chosen as Rhodes Scholars, including one from each Australian state and three for Australia at large. Rhodes Scholars may study any full-time postgraduate course offered by Oxford University and, in the first instance, the scholarship is awarded for two years. So what is it like to be chosen as a Rhodes Scholar, and how can you define the effect it has on your life? Some of our past and present Rhodes Scholars recently spoke to Alumni News and kindly shared their thoughts on the ‘Rhodes less travelled’.

CELEBRATED NOVELIST RICHARD Flanagan (BA Hons 1983) was a road scholar before he became a Rhodes Scholar. Flanagan left school at the age of 16 wanting to be a carpenter. But apprenticeships were few and far between in the late 1970s and he found work as a surveyor’s assistant or chainman in the bush instead. A year later the company went bust.

“I decided, as you could then, to go to university,” he told The Weekend Australian in a 1997 interview.

Flanagan achieved a first-class honours degree in 1982 at the University of Tasmania and the following year was awarded a Rhodes Scholarship. At Worcester College, Oxford, he was admitted to the degree of Master of Letters in History.

Having inherited his father’s passion for words, he returned to Tasmania wanting to write. “I didn’t know how and I didn’t know anyone who had done it so I worked in various menial jobs, as a labourer, as a river guide, by day and wrote at night.”

His first novel, the critically acclaimed Death of a River Guide, was published in 1997. Next came The Sound of One Hand Clapping, a major bestseller in 1998. Gould’s Book of Fish won the 2002 Commonwealth Writers’ Prize, and was followed by The Unknown Terrorist (2006) and Wanting (2008), winner of this year’s $25,000 Tasmanian Book Prize. Currently in the throes of writing a new book, he was unavailable for interview by Alumni News.

Flanagan is a member of a select band: Tasmania’s literary Rhodes Scholars. Another is Peter Conrad (BA Hon 1968, Hon DLitt 1993), who was awarded a Rhodes Scholarship in 1968 and has lived in England ever since. Conrad has taught English at Christ Church, Oxford, since 1973, and is the author of many books, including The Everyman History of English Literature and Modern Times, Modern Places: Life and Art in the 20th Century.

After two decades at Oxford, he came home to pen Down Home (aka Behind the Mountain: Return to Tasmania), published in 1988, which as the third The Monthly contributor, Peter Pierce, notes in The Companion to Tasmanian History, was “locally stigmatised as disloyal to Tasmania, which Conrad had styled ‘the Appalachia of the Antarctic’”.

Conrad was awarded an honorary doctorate from the University of Tasmania in 2000. A third literary Rhodes Scholar is the aforementioned Peter Pierce (BA Hons 1974), who, after 10 years as Professor of Australian Literature at James Cook University, is now Honorary Professor at the National Centre for Australian Studies at Monash University. He was awarded a Rhodes Scholarship in 1973, the year that Conrad began teaching at Christ Church. Pierce graduated MLitt from Balliol College.

Sent forth to seek excellence

David A. Ritchie – Rhodes Scholar 1970

DAVID A. RITCHIE (BA HONS 1969) IS AUSTRALIA’S AMBASSADOR TO THE French Republic. He kindly shared his memories of the Rhodes with Alumni News.

Right from the start, the Rhodes process was formidable. My memory (which no doubt entwines fact and fantasy) had me walking into an imposing, wood-panelled room to take a seat at one end of a large table. Around this table were seated the great and the good. Then came a booming voice with a one-word instruction: “Relax!” As my children would say nowadays – ‘sure thing’…

There is one episode on which my memory is clear. At the dinner to mark the election, one of the selection panel took me into his confidence and let me know, encouragingly, that he had held out against my election. He went on to say that he believed the scholarship was wasted if given to an “arts man”. The thought did cross my mind that I suppose the same could be said if the prize were awarded to a lawyer, which he was. But the tone of the evening dictated genial silence (besides, some of my best friends are lawyers).

England came as a paradox. In so many ways, so like Australia – but in others, so different. And the differences the starker because they are set off against the similarities. It was a thought which struck me again, and was part of my working life, when I went back to England almost three decades later to work in the High Commission in London. But on first strolling on St Giles or Cornmarket as a fresh young Australian, the sight of gaunt, earnest undergraduates striding off to tutorials or loudly declaiming on this or that made Oxford seem very different from what I had known, and much like what we might today call a gated community. It was much more than that of course, and one of Oxford’s great strengths was the way it threw together people of very many nationalities and dispositions, mixed them up with the English, and sent them forth to seek excellence. But it is worth remembering that excellence can be found in many different places – it isn’t always dressed in a suit and tie, or a lab coat.

In the end, and all things considered, I am very grateful for the start the Rhodes gave me. It was a privilege to tread the reasonably well-worn path which leads from Tasmania, via the Rhodes, to the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. And it is an honour to have followed that path so soon after scholars of such achievement as Ashton Calver and John Gee (both distinguished diplomats).

Best wishes, David A. Ritchie

Enriching the lives of others

Elizabeth Murray – Rhodes Scholar 2011

By Cherie Cooper

A COMBINATION OF COMPASSION, dedication and perseverance characterises the winner of the 2011 Rhodes Scholarship. Twenty-three-year-old Elizabeth Murray (BPsych Hons 2009) said she takes great satisfaction in helping others.

“I believe that ending the day with the knowledge that you have enriched someone else’s life is one of the most fulfilling experiences a person can know,” she said.

Elizabeth was presented with the Rhodes Scholarship at Government House late last year. She completed a Bachelor of Psychology with First Class Honours in 2009, and now hopes to pursue the advancement of neuroscience.

“I plan to undertake a Master of Science in Neuroscience at Oxford University, to investigate the recovery of function after brain damage,” she said.

Born in Launceston, Elizabeth was placed on the Dean’s Roll of Excellence every year of her undergraduate degree. She was awarded the University Medal in 2009.
WHEN PROFESSOR RONALD GATES (BCom 1946) was in his early 20s he spent 18 months in the Northern Territory, waiting for the Japanese to invade. It was 1944 and Ronald had volunteered for the Australian Imperial Force (despite being doubly exempt from service, as an officer of the Taxation Department and as one of the students selected by the Australian Universities’ Vice-Chancellors’ Committee on the basis of excellence in their first year). At the end of this period Ronald’s unit returned to Tasmania on leave. That’s when he heard of the Reconstruction Training Scheme, under which the government was offering university places to members of the armed forces who wanted to complete their degrees.

“My two and a half years in the army was a period of marking time,” Ronald remembered. “So when I came back, I was raring to go.

“In 1945, my final year at UTAS and my first experience of full-time study, a colleague and I established the University branch of the Labor Party and spoke at its state conference, I played piano in a jazz group, I sailed and rowed on the Derwent and during my final examinations I even had a minor role in a production at the Playhouse Theatre.

“I was anxious to do things after a period away from life!”

This enthusiasm, combined with ‘high distinctions’ for all of his final-year commerce subjects, led to Ronald being awarded the 1946 Rhodes Scholarship – an honour he shared with Professor Charles Miller (BE 1943). Two scholarships were offered in 1946, following the interruption of the Second World War.

“Probably the most outstanding thing for me about being at Oxford was the possibility of travelling on the Continent,” Ronald said. “I was brought up in a working-class family in Launceston and I had a sheltered life. But this opportunity vastly broadened my perspective.

“I spent a month in Czechoslovakia in the summer of 1947, chronicling the activities of the Graeme Bell Australian Jazz Band, and I visited France many times. Paris was fairly unscathed from the war – except psychologically. In appearance it was run-down, but to me it was tremendously exciting.

“Meanwhile in Britain, there was still rationing of food and fuel and clothing – and even sweets. The winter of 1946-47 was unusually cold and in the college heating wasn’t available. In fact the winter was so bitter that I gave up shaving and grew a beard.”

Raring to go after a period away from life
Professor Ronald Gates AO – Rhodes Scholar 1946
By Janette Brennan
Ronald admits that he probably didn’t study as hard at Oxford as he should have because there were so many new experiences to take in. But after completing his degree with a good second and returning to the Taxation Department in Hobart, he was assigned to help write a history of Australian taxation during the war (to provide material for the official war history). This work led to a senior lectureship in economics at the University of Sydney and, later, promotion to Associate Professor. From there Ronald became the Chair of Economics and President of the Professorial Board at Queensland University. In 1976 he was appointed Vice-Chancellor of the University of New England (UNE), which was a position he held until his retirement in 1985. During this time (1978) Ronald was named an Officer in the Order of Australia.

Today, Ronald and his wife Barbara live on a property on the outskirts of Armidale, NSW. He has honorary doctorates from both the University of Queensland and the University of New England. But, in a similar spirit of adventure to the one that saw him travel across Europe more than 60 years ago, he continues to explore new worlds.

“When I was Vice-Chancellor at UNE, a friend named Ralph Harry – who also happened to have been a Tasmanian Rhodes Scholar – asked me to be patron of the Australian celebrations of the centenary of the international language, Esperanto,” he said.

“I thought that if I was going to do this, then I’d better learn the language. So I bought some books, and loved it. Esperanto is easy to learn, is completely regular in its grammar, is pronounced exactly as it’s written, and is a very expressive language. In fact while I was learning Esperanto I read a series of detective stories written in the language. I thought maybe I could write one too, and I did. To date I’ve had five detective novels and three volumes of short stories published in Esperanto, and I’m working on more.

“These days, I’m still enjoying meeting people around the world, but now it’s through the internet.”

Tasmania’s first national track champion

Alfred Clemes – 1908 Rhodes Scholar

A L F R E D W I L L I S C L E M E S (1887 – 1971) was the first Tasmanian athlete to claim an Australian track and field title, winning the one-mile race at the 1907-8 nationals (which were held at the Hobart Cricket Ground). The son of Samuel and Margaret Clemes, who established The Friends’ School in Hobart, Alfred went to Oxford on a Rhodes Scholarship in 1908. Initially, he had no plans of running in England, as reported in The Hobart Mercury on 18 December 1908: “In a letter received from Alf Clemes, and dated November 1, he stated that up till then he had done very little training, as he did not intend running that year, but having met Dr Harvey-Sutton, an ex-

A servant of education

Sir Leonard Huxley – 1923 Rhodes Scholar

S IR L E O N A R D H U X L E Y (1902 – 1988) undertook his early schooling in Mathinna, a small town in north-eastern Tasmania. After scholarships to The Hutchins School and then UTAS, Sir Leonard was awarded a Rhodes Scholarship during the second year of his undergraduate degree. More than 50 years later, he vividly recalled his first impressions of Oxford:

“I remember walking down from the railway station, down College Lane, and being absolutely entranced. It seemed like fairyland to me. And then you enter this huge quadrangle; Gothic buildings, the original buildings – founded by William of Wykeham – still there… And then the beautiful garden bounded by the old city wall, which goes back to the time of Henry II. All this had a most colossal and tremendous impact on me.

Sir Leonard obtained a DPhil from Oxford in 1928. He went on to become a foundation fellow of the Australian Academy of Science, and the first president of the Australian Institute of Physics (1962-1965). During the war years he was a member of the British Telecommunications Research Establishment where, from 1940-46, he was head of a school that trained more than 7,000 people in the principles and applications of radar. He retired in 1967 after serving seven years as Vice-Chancellor of the Australian National University, and was knighted in 1964 for services to education.

April 1943: When Ronald was in his early 20s he spent 18 months in the Northern Territory, waiting for the Japanese to invade.
The judge’s verdict on his Oxford experience:

Judge Richard Cogswell QC – Rhodes Scholar 1974

His Honour Judge Richard Cogswell was appointed to the District Court of NSW in 2007. He kindly took time to share his memories of the Rhodes with Alumni News during a recent visit back to Hobart.

The Rhodes Scholarship is an experience that certainly helped me to realise my potential – but also to discover my limits. The potential is that it offers opportunities, and I was able to step through the door of those opportunities. But as I did that, I began to realise how far I could or couldn’t go.

One of the immediate effects of my Oxford experience was that I did a lot of growing up. I was withdrawn from my familiar environment, where I was known, and put into an environment in which I had to rely on my merits. I realise that many Tasmanians don’t come back from that bigger world, and I’m one of them. But I visit often because it’s where I come from. Tasmania, my friends and family here are very much part of me.

After doing four years of law at UTAS, the expectation may have been that I would do a postgraduate law course at Oxford. But I elected not to. Instead, I chose to read PPE (Philosophy and Politics only in my case) because while I knew I wanted to practise law, I also wanted to use the opportunity to broaden my education.

I also had an expectation that I would read philosophy and politics and become a philosophical politician! But that wasn’t to be. There were people who were better at politics than I was, and I realised my primary interests were my profession and my family. Those are big choices to make in life: marriage, work, faith and children. Later in life I found I could also make more refined choices. For me these choices have been Christian meditation and yoga. I’ve found it important to try to get my priorities right at the different stages of my life.

Family ties


By Cherie Cooper

Any parent of a Rhodes Scholar would be extremely proud of their child’s achievement. But what if two of your children won a Rhodes Scholarship? This is the case with Dr Jess Melbourne-Thomas (nee Trebilco) (BSc Hons 2002, GradDipMarSc 2010, PhD 2010) and her brother Rowan Trebilco (BSc Hons 2004).

Jess, who received her Rhodes Scholarship in 2003, is very proud of her brother. “Rowan’s academic achievements, including his Rhodes, are amazing,” she said.

“Our parents have always been incredibly supportive of our pursuits. They’ve never pressured us into pursuing certain goals, but instead have respected and supported our choices.”

Rowan speaks highly of his sister and her achievements, saying Jess “led the way with the Rhodes”.

“I definitely always looked up to Jess,” he said, “so that made my Rhodes Scholarship all the more of an honour.”

Rowan left Oxford with a Master of Science in Biodiversity Conservation and Management. He is currently about a third of the way through his PhD at Simon Fraser University, Vancouver.

Meanwhile Jess studied in the Oxford Zoology Department from 2003 to 2005. Her research examined how coral communities in Indonesia respond to a range of environmental factors. She then completed a Graduate Diploma and PhD in Quantitative Marine Science from UTAS, and she now works in the Antarctic Climate and Ecosystems CRC at UTAS.

As well as a Rhodes Scholarship, Jess and Rowan also share a love of diving. Both describe it as their “passion”.

“I’m a little hyperactive, so I rely on exercise to keep me sane and productive,” Rowan said.

He added that it’s great to have a sister who shares an expertise in marine science. “Our interests are quite distinct within the field, so we have fun picking each other’s brains,” he said.

“We haven’t had a chance to actually work together on any research yet, but I’m sure it’ll happen before too long. But Jess is brighter than I am, so she’ll have to do most of the work!”
‘realising my potential but discovering my limits’

Over time – and it’s been 30 to 40 years – my view of the Rhodes Scholarship has changed. When I was younger, I thought of the opportunities which might not otherwise be available to me. In the early years after Oxford, the scholarship opened the door for me to become a judge’s associate based in Sydney, and I’m sure it helped me to become established at the Sydney Bar. It may have made me an attractive candidate for some of the senior positions I’ve held in the law but the securing of those positions then had to turn on my track record. As I’ve worked in each of those positions (realising my potential but discovering my limits) I’ve come to view the Rhodes Scholarship as a wonderful opportunity offered to me more than 35 years ago. It changed the direction of my life. But it has been important for me not to confuse the “brand” with the substance. Who I am and how I can contribute are the bigger questions.

Hundreds of reasons to treasure Oxford

Rhys Edwards – Rhodes Scholar 1992
By Janette Brennan

There were around 400 reasons why Rhys Edwards (BEc Hons 1993) treasured his experience as a Rhodes Scholar – because that’s the number of students that he lived with at Brasenose College.

Rhys, who today is the secretary of the Department of Premier and Cabinet, Tasmania, said Oxford is an exciting and engaging environment in which to study.

“But what I liked most about the Rhodes was living in the halls,” he said. “Most people in Australia don’t travel a long distance to go to university, and I was no exception. I grew up in Hobart and went to the university down the road.”

“That’s why it was fantastic to experience college life at Oxford. You live, study, eat and play with people from all over the world. You tend to build lasting friendships – friendships that are at a different level to what you experience when you don’t reside at uni.”

While at Oxford, Rhys completed a masters degree in comparative social research. He’s since held a number of senior positions in the Tasmanian Government, including deputy secretary of the Department of Economic Development and economic adviser to premier Jim Bacon.

Prior to joining the public service, Rhys worked as a university researcher and real tennis professional (a sport in which he also gained a half-Blue at Oxford). He was appointed to the governing body of the University of Tasmania Council in 2007.

“The Rhodes Scholar brand carries such weight that it opens a world of opportunities,” Rhys said. “But the true legacy for me has been the lasting friendships that I made.”

“Even today, I have many enduring friendships from my time at Oxford with really interesting people who are living and working across the globe. That’s what was especially memorable about the experience for me.”
‘Press-ganged’ into a life on the water

Dr Dorothy Steane – 1991 Rhodes Scholar

By Janette Brennan

Within days of starting at Oxford, Dr Dorothy Steane (BSc 1988) was exposed to ‘bumps’. It got into her blood – and has been with her ever since. Dorothy, who today is a lecturer within the UTAS School of Plant Science, said bumps is a type of rowing race that is peculiar to Oxford and Cambridge.

“The river on which the college boats compete is very narrow,” Dorothy said, “and it’s only just wide enough for two boats to pass one another.

“There are dozens of college crews on the river, so you can’t race side-by-side. So, eights racing has become a game of chasings. Your crew’s job is to catch (or hit) the boat in front of you, without being caught by the boat behind. Hence the name bumps,” Dorothy went to University College at Oxford, which was one of the older, wealthier colleges. She said ‘press gangs’ went around the college at the start of the year to make the freshers try rowing.
“They rounded us all up, took us down to the river and put us all in boats,” she said. “Then it was generally a process of attrition; those who didn’t quite make up several crews.

“Most of the training took place early in the morning and winter was especially challenging, with darkness, floods and snow. It was a real test of dedication to the cause!

“But I took to rowing like a duck to water, eventually joining a private club in Oxford so that I could row in the London Head Race (a long-distance fours race on the Thames). I still do lots of rowing, at masters level these days, with Lindisfarne Rowing Club in Hobart.”

The Rhodes Scholarship allowed Dorothy to complete a DPhil in Plant Science. Her project used DNA-based techniques to review the taxonomy of a tropical group of plants called Clerodendrum. It involved fieldwork in Africa, trips to botanic gardens and herbaria (including the famous Kew Gardens in London) and six months in the USA undertaking lab work.

“There was a lot of academic stimulation,” Dorothy said. “You could find yourself sitting next to some of the greatest minds in the world at any time – in the lab, at a college ball, in a boat or at the pub.

“There were also all sorts of interesting characters with various eccentricities, including the classic Oxford dons who wouldn’t know how to survive in ‘the real world’.

“There was one lovely don in college who never travelled outside England. He said he didn’t need to travel because ‘...the world comes to me’.”

Ogilvie High School in Hobart recognised the achievements of Dorothy, a former student, by using the name Steane House for one of their five intra-school houses. Dando House is another such group at Ogilvie, named in honour of UTAS’s 1969 Rhodes Scholar, Susan Dando (BA Hons 1997, BA LLB Hons 1998). Susan went on to complete a Master in Law at Oxford, as well as an MBA. Today she is working in the United States.

The Rhodes Royce of research
Dr Jane Sargison – 1998 Rhodes Scholar
By Catherine Rogers

When Dr Jane Sargison (BE Hons 1997) arrived at Oxford as a Rhodes Scholar in 1998 she was amazed to be part of its history. She still rates her arrival as a highlight.

“I came off the plane and got on the bus and had in my suitcase everything I thought I’d need for three years,” she said. “I could hardly lift my case. I walked up the cobbled paths and the wheels on the suitcase broke straight away. But it was just amazing.

I wanted to touch the buildings and feel them. Oxford is so much a part of history – and living history.”

A mechanical engineer, Jane completed a Doctor of Philosophy at Oxford. She studied aerodynamics and heat transfer in gas turbines to develop cooling methods for greater efficiencies in aircraft engines. The research was funded by Rolls Royce, the second largest producer of aircraft engines in the world.

“Going into the lab (at Oxford) there were high standards for research and so I was working really hard,” she said. “People would come through to have a look around – British Defence experts, Rolls Royce experts and research experts from around the world.”

Jane developed a film cooling hole for Rolls Royce to optimise the way cooling fluid is used. It continues to be produced today. Jane’s time at Oxford was a positive, often peculiar, experience, and far from what she was used to.

“Generally at Oxford you would meet people whose ambition was to be the next US president and they would say it in a way that was quite realistic,” Jane said.

“When you see those Sunday night British dramas about life in the early 20th century, it’s exactly like that – wood panel rooms and sherry with the chaplain. It took me a while to realise that it wasn’t Britain. Even the British students had culture shock.”

Jane is currently a senior lecturer with the School of Engineering at UTAS – the first female academic appointed to the School. She juggles family, teaching and consultancy work with research into energy, an area that continues to fascinate her. As program leader of energy and delivery systems at the Centre for Renewable Energy and Power Systems within the School, she is investigating algae and bacterial growth in pipelines for Hydro Tasmania.

Jane is one of the few women in Australia making a mark in engineering and her work doesn’t go unrecognised. She was included in Australia’s top 100 young emerging leaders in innovation by The Australian in 2009. Even her former school, St Michael’s College, named their new library ‘The Jane Sargison Library’.

“You just do your work and you don’t expect these things,” Jane said, “but it does feel great to be recognised.”

Cutting-edge research and ancient beauty
Michael Stokes – 1972 Rhodes Scholar
By Janette Brennan

It was Oxford’s blend of cutting-edge research and ancient beauty that made the most lasting impression on Michael Stokes (LLB Hons 1972), a senior lecturer in the UTAS Faculty of Law. Michael completed an MPhil in Politics at Oxford from 1972-75, after qualifying for the LLB with first-class honours.

“I was particularly interested in jurisprudence (legal philosophy) and there were two outstanding experts on the subject in the English-speaking world – professors H.L.A. Hart and Ronald Dworkin,” Michael said. “Both men were at Oxford and, at various times, I was taught by them on a one-on-one basis.

“That’s the real advantage of a Rhodes Scholarship. It gives you the opportunity to spend time talking to and studying under people who are right at the cutting edge in their field.”

But what most amazed Michael was the juxtaposition of this advanced research with the ancient beauty of the Oxford architecture.

“When I first went to my college I was put in a room that had 17th century carved wooden walls,” he said. “It was spectacular! You’re living in a building that’s twice as old as white settlement in Australia – and that wasn’t even one of the older college buildings. There were plenty that dated back to the 14th and 15th centuries.

“I think it has a particularly powerful effect on students from relatively young countries like Australia. And if you look at our public spaces, we just don’t seem to be interested in making our buildings into works of art. At Oxford, all the buildings are works of art. It made me realise that, in many ways, we are barbarians.”
T'S SAFE TO SAY THAT BRAINS RUN in Alexander Shabala's (BSc Hons 2008) family.

His mother Svetlana is a research fellow in the Tasmanian Institute of Agricultural Research (TIAR) and his father Sergey is a professor in the UTAS School of Agricultural Science and TIAR. Alex's elder brother Stanislav is an astrophysicist with the UTAS School of Physics.

And as for Alex – well he was a 20-year-old graduate when he was awarded the 2009 Rhodes Scholarship. That made him one of the youngest-ever students to receive the honour.

Alex is undertaking a DPhil in Applied Mathematics at Oxford, developing models that describe the use of genetically modified viruses as targeted treatments for cancer.

So how did he find the transition to the "Oxford way of life"?

"My older brother Stas was doing research here," he said. "Having a familiar face here made the transition easier.

"Another part of it was the fact that everyone was so friendly and open. From the very first day I got in touch with some other Rhodes Scholars who had already arrived and we went punting on the river together.

"Oxford is such a vibrant place, and there is so much to do that I don't think I ever really had time to get homesick. I was too awestruck.”

Oxford is unlike any university Alex has ever encountered. For example, during exams you won't see students in track pants and ugg boots. The full dress code for men is dark suit, white bow tie and academic gown (similarly formal for women) – even in the middle of summer!

And because of the mixture of research and taught-course students, Oxford can be teeming with people during term time and seem completely desolate during summer.

"Luckily, there is a very strong Australian community that organises a lot of events," Alex said.

"Rhodes House also does a fantastic job of bringing scholars together, as well as hosting some impressive lectures by world leaders.”

"For the past two years, we've organised an annual Movember event to raise money for men's health charities,” he said. "It has always been a good laugh. There's always something happening in Oxford, so it can be hard to get the balance of fun and work right.”

Alex said it was always his dream to come to Oxford, but until the Rhodes, it was one that seemed unlikely to become reality.

"As clichéd as it may sound, it really didn't even cross my mind that I had a shot at winning a Rhodes Scholarship," he said.

"I was standing at the back of the room clapping, not even hearing the announcement properly, and looking around trying to see who was going up.

"It took the longest time to sink in, and even now, being in Oxford, I am still realising what an amazing life-changing opportunity this has been.”

Alex said he has no doubt that in the future his fellow Rhodes Scholar mates will reach amazing heights in their chosen fields.

"All of us seem to be of the same opinion – the opportunity given to us by the Rhodes Trust is more than we can put in words, and we are all extremely grateful for it.”
Caring about life’s journey

Professor Marnie Hughes-Warrington – Rhodes Scholar 1992

By Sharon Webb

Historian and Philosopher

Marnie Hughes-Warrington (BEd Hons 1992) is clear about what makes her a good teacher. “I’m profoundly interested in the people I teach as individuals,” she said. “They’re all on life journeys, and caring about those life journeys makes all the difference.”

Marnie is in a good place to inspire the teaching of others. Currently Monash University’s Pro Vice-Chancellor (Learning and Teaching), she is a passionate teacher of history and has worked to expand the range of topics students encounter in their studies. “Students might not even know what’s possible when they walk in the door of the university,” she said, “but caring about what they want and what they might want, seeing them as growing, is always going to work well in your teaching.”

Although she has experienced teaching and learning in different environments in several different countries, Marnie traces that kind of caring directly back to her UTAS experience. “A female member of staff at UTAS recommended I apply for the Rhodes,” she said. “This staff member said it was critical that young women think about applying. If she hadn’t said that, I might not have applied. “To be in a university that cared so much about me was amazing; when I did apply for the scholarship I felt the whole faculty was cheering me on.”

After completing her studies, Marnie worked at the University of Washington, Seattle, and Macquarie University, in NSW. Recently she also worked in Germany, finding among all those countries very different attitudes to teaching and learning.

She has a significant piece of advice for today’s Rhodes Scholarship aspirants. “Be yourself and don’t forget to talk about yourself,” she said. “There is no template for success in a Rhodes Scholarship. I’d advise students to talk about leadership in their individual context because leadership comes in many forms.”

Learning to love learning

Dr Neal Blewett – Rhodes Scholar 1957

By Janette Brennan

Former Federal Health Minister

Dr Neal Blewett said it’s common for Rhodes Scholars to say their studies at Oxford enhanced their careers. But for him, it completely transformed his life. “I’d been teaching high school at New Town for two years,” Neal said. “I enjoyed teaching and I think I was rather good at it. I would have been content for that to be the course of my life. But for better or worse (would I have been happier?), that changed at Oxford.

“The major thing that happened for me was that I fell in love with learning. Prior to that, when I was an undergraduate at UTAS, I think my studies were essentially utilitarian – pursuit of a degree, getting the necessary professional qualifications.

“But when I went to Oxford, I already had my qualifications. My studies became more about learning for learning’s sake. Amid all those dreaming spires, it was easy to do. If I’d been good enough I might easily have spent my life there.”

Neal studied modern greats – philosophy, politics and economics between 1957 and 1959, and then remained at Oxford to complete a DPhil in Political History. His research into early 20th century British politics was later published. “Those seven or eight years in Oxford set my life on a completely new trajectory,” Neal said. “When I returned to Australia I was able to gain a university position, something I had previously never contemplated.

“Later came the years in politics, although I cannot blame that on my years at Oxford,” he added jokingly.

In 1974, Neal was appointed professor of politics at Flinders University (SA). He held this post until 1977, when he ran for federal parliament. He represented the electorate of Bonython, SA, from 1997 to 1994.

When Labor won government under Bob Hawke in 1983, Neal was made Minister for Health. In that position he oversaw the implementation of the Medicare health scheme, and a national strategy to combat HIV/AIDS – a strategy that included the famous “Grim Reaper” advertisements.

From 1994 to 1998, Neal served as Australian High Commissioner to the UK. In 1995 he was appointed Companion of the Order of Australia (AC) for service to Australian society.
THREE DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS OF the UTAS alumni family were celebrated in March at the annual UTAS Foundation Awards Dinner.

UTAS Distinguished Alumni Awards were presented to Professor Ross Large, an internationally recognised economic geologist, and Reverend Professor Michael Tate AO. The Premier of Tasmania, the Honourable Lara Giddings MP, received the Foundation Graduate Award.

Distinguished Professor Ross Large is an economic geologist who is internationally recognised for his research and leadership in the field of ore deposits. Ross graduated with a BSc (Hons) in 1969, and a PhD from the University of New England. In 1989 he established the Centre for Ore Deposit Research (CODES), which is now one of the top research institutes in the field of ore deposit geology and exploration in the world. Ross Large became a Distinguished Professor at the University of Tasmania in 2009.

Reverend Professor Michael Tate AO has had an extraordinary and diverse career as an academic, politician, diplomat and priest. He gained first-class honours in law from the University of Tasmania in 1968. He then studied a Bachelor of Arts at Oxford, and an academic career at UTAS followed. Michael Tate was the Minister for Justice in the Hawke and Keating governments. He represented Australia at the International Court of Justice and was involved in the early days of the War Crimes Tribunal.

The Honourable Lara Giddings MP graduated in arts and law in 1998. When she was elected to the seat of Lyons in 1996 at the age of 23, she was the youngest woman to be elected to an Australian parliament. For more than 15 years she has served the community with distinction and, this year, became the first female premier of Tasmania.

More than 500 guests attended the UTAS Foundation Awards Dinner, which also recognised the essential contribution of donors. Through their generosity, about 465 students will benefit this year from scholarships to study at UTAS through the UTAS Foundation.

ELIZABETH DALY OAM – A MEMBER of the Alumni Committee and Chair of the University of Tasmania Alumni over a period of 14 years – became a Fellow of the University of Tasmania last December.

Elizabeth spent her entire working life with the Department of Education, from which she recently retired. Her career included positions as teacher, Assistant Principal, Principal, Senior Superintendent of Early Childhood Education, District Superintendent and Director of Special Projects. Her area of deep commitment and particular interest was in early childhood education.

Elizabeth received the Order of Australia Medal (OAM) in the General Division in the Australia Day Honours in 2008. The OAM was awarded “for service to education in Tasmania, particularly in the areas of early childhood education, language development and policy implementation, and to the community”.

She was an active member of UTAS Council from 2001 to 2006. In 2010 she retired as Chair of the UTAS Alumni after her continuous involvement with the Alumni Committee from 1996 to 2010. Over that period, Elizabeth served as a committee member from 1996 to 2000, then as Chair for 10 years to November 2010.

The University can flourish only if it has the support and commitment of community leaders and alumni such as Elizabeth. She has been a role model for those who follow in her tracks and is still steadfast in her support of her university, even though trying to enjoy a well-earned retirement.
THREE MEMBERS OF THE UTAS alumni family received Australia Day Honours in 2011.

Peter Spratt (MEnvSt 1978) was awarded a Member of the order of Australia. He was recognised for his conservation work on more than 600 historic buildings around Australia, as well as the establishment of an online building degree course and contributions to industry associations. Peter remarked that he was “somewhat surprised” to receive the honour, which he said was rare for engineers.

Peter completed his masters degree at UTAS and went on to run his own business. He attempted to retire recently – but it didn’t quite work.

Meanwhile Dr Anthony Brown (BSc Hons 1972, PhD 1986) received the Public Service Medal. He was recognised for providing outstanding service to the Tasmanian public sector for almost 40 years as a leader in the application of information technology and innovation to the State’s mining industry. Anthony has also served as Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery.

Anthony said the medal was a great honour. He plans to retire in the near future, but will continue to work in an honorary capacity in the UTAS School of Geology. When he isn’t working, Anthony has a keen interest in researching colonial art.

Also recognised was Lieutenant Colonel Colin Riley CSC, who was awarded the Conspicuous Service Cross for his outstanding achievement as commanding officer of the 12th/40th Battalion, the Royal Tasmanian Regiment.

Colin has raised the efficiency, effectiveness and capability of the regiment and of the Army Reserve in Tasmania, and has helped raise his unit’s numbers by 35% in 14 months. Colin graduated with a BSc in 1994 and a Bachelor in Social Science (Police Studies) in 2009.

When he isn’t working, Colin enjoys kayaking. “There’s nothing more relaxing than kayaking on the Tasmanian waterways,” he said.

Fulbright Scholar to widen her expertise

By Catherine Rogers

Dr Natasha Wiggins (BSc Hons 2001, PhD 2006) from the UTAS schools of Plant Science and Zoology has been awarded a 2011 Fulbright Scholarship to study in the United States. Natasha was the only Tasmanian among the 26 Australians to receive the prestigious scholarship.

Natasha will travel to Boise State University in Idaho and Washington State University next year. She plans to investigate why pygmy rabbits, native to the area, are attracted to the sagebrush plant and rely on it as a major source of food. The population of pygmy rabbits is in decline, while sagebrush (a woody and silver-green foliage shrub that survives harsh winters and hot summers) is in decline due to human habitation.

“The research will look at what natural toxins are present in the sagebrush plant and how the difference in temperature and seasons determine why the rabbits select this plant over others,” Natasha said.

The Fulbright Scholarship is a major international educational exchange program established in 1946 by Senator J William Fulbright and the US Government.
SHE’S NOT A GRADUATE OF THE Starfleet Academy but Professor Margaret Britz, Dean of the Faculty of Science, Education and Technology, found inspiration to study science among the voyages of Star Trek.

“I was a great science fiction reader so I was always inspired by the way people imagine a future, which you then might want to create,” Margaret recently told a celebratory world-wide breakfast to honour the achievements of women in science.

“I like the imagination in science and the idea that you can be party to creating or discovering something that you may have been contributing to.”

Australia’s leading women chemists held breakfasts linked by Skype to mark the International Year of Chemistry 2011 and the 100th anniversary of Marie Curie being awarded the Nobel Prize for Chemistry.

In Tasmania the event was held at the University Club, on the UTAS Sandy Bay campus. UTAS academics, local chemists and Royal Australian Chemical Institute members chatted to scientists all over the world.

ABC Radio host Ryk Goddard interviewed event attendees, including Professor Emily Hilder from the School of Chemistry. Emily said she was taken by chemistry at a young age.

“As a student I was captured by chromatography,” she said. “Then I moved into separation science, and it was just fascinating to me that you could take something really complex and separate it out into all its components and find out what they are.

“There are so many opportunities and I think you’ll find chemists employed in an amazing array of fields.

“But in my case, I was drawn into it simply because it gave me so much freedom to do what I wanted to do.”
JUST AS SOME CHEMICAL processes are protracted rather than instantaneous, so too is the history of chemistry at the University of Tasmania. The first chemistry course for a BSc commenced in 1894, four years after UTAS was established, with an enrolment of just two. In 1927, as detailed by Dr Peter Smith in his contribution to *The Companion to Tasmanian History*, a unique arrangement was negotiated between the University and the Hobart Technical College whereby a joint body, the Engineering Board of Management, was established to provide courses in chemistry for both institutions. However, the School of Chemistry is a much more recent manifestation. It will celebrate its 50th anniversary with a one-day symposium, followed by a cocktail party, on 1 September.

The School actually opened for business on 1 July, 1961, after its new home on the Sandy Bay campus was finally completed. The original builder had been declared bankrupt mid-construction, forcing the then State Public Works Department to step in, with attendant delays and cost overruns. “We were very poor and very small yet we produced some people who subsequently became important figures on the Australian scene and even the international scene,” recalls Dr Smith, whose association with chemistry began in 1940 as a diploma student. He would much later become Acting Head of School.

Those distinguished graduates included David Mellor, Head of the School of Chemistry at UNSW from 1956 to 1968, and one of Australia’s most outstanding crystallographers, David Wadsley. Today the School, under Associate Professor Greg Dicinoski, boasts 600 first-year, 200 second-year and 40 third-year students, plus five honours and 30 PhD candidates. Last year was one of great achievement for the school’s researchers, with Dr Robert Shellie being named the Tasmanian Young Tall Poppy for 2010; Professor Paul Haddad receiving the UTAS Medal for Research Excellence and Dr Shellie and Dr Emily Hilder receiving UTAS Awards for Research Excellence.

The symposium on September 1 will include speakers from each decade for the past 50 years. All chemistry alumni are invited to attend, and the School will be endeavouring to contact as many alumni as possible with a formal invitation.

Reunion for Faculty of Law’s class of ’61

By Catherine Rogers

NINE LAW ALUMNI RECENTLY reunited to celebrate the 50th anniversary of their graduation. It was the seventh reunion for the group of friends – which includes Brian Doyle, the Hon. Peter Heerey QC, David Bennett QC, Val Smith, Bruce Crawford, Jack Turner, Cyril Clark, Peter Rae and the Hon. Michael Hodgman AM QC. Sadly Des Dwyer and Richard Webster have passed away. Eleven law students graduated in 1961. The reunion was an opportunity to inspect the Faculty of Law building, while meeting up with current and past faculty members over afternoon tea. “Everyone was very enthusiastic, mixed well and was delighted to visit and look over the facilities for law students, which have changed immeasurably since the 1960s,” alumnus Bruce Crawford said.

“The contrasts between studying now and back then are great. Law was located at Domain House, class sizes were small and the numbers of women were few. Bruce said that the friendships among the group had remained strong over the years. “We are a close knit group of friends who shared many experiences during our law studies,” he said. “We have continued to have a close association over the years that followed.”

Alumni 50+ club

There will be a reunion lunch for all who first graduated at least 50 years ago, at the Henry Jones Art Hotel, Hobart, on Friday 25 November. To ensure you receive your invitation, please send your email address to Alumni.Office@utas.edu.au or phone (03) 6324 3052.
2010 Annual Appeal thanks

The University of Tasmania Foundation wishes to thank everyone who generously supported our 2010 Alumni Appeal. Your gifts make a real difference towards developing excellence at UTAS and provide real opportunities to students for educational and social growth.

Thank you to our 2010 Annual Appeal donors:
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2011 Annual Appeal

The 2011 Annual Appeal was launched in May and alumni are encouraged to support the current generation of students by donating online at www.utas.edu.au/foundation/donations-and-support/current-appeals

The UTAS Foundation is happy to report that 2010 saw its most successful appeal to date. We have raised $150,000 plus matching funds, meaning in 2012 we will be in a position to offer three Annual Appeal Scholarships to worthy students. Special thanks go to Mr Mitchel Martin-Weber who donated $100,000 in order to endow the additional two scholarships. The UTAS Foundation is aiming to increase the number and value of Annual Appeal Scholarships offered to students each year to four valued at $5,000 per year.
Alumni and Friends

We number amongst our ranks many alumni of the University of Tasmania. We support higher education through the provision of scholarships tenable at the University of Tasmania and research at UTAS through the Masonic Centennial Research Foundation.

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For further information please contact the Grand Secretary on (03) 6223 5814 or email gltas@aapt.net.au
**2000s**

***Matt Boden*** (BMus 2001, MMus 2003) and the Matt Boden Quartet launched their first, self-titled CD at the Clarence Jazz Festival in February. Matt – a pianist, composer and bandleader – studied at the Tasmanian Conservatorium of Music, and held residencies at the Hotel Grand Chancellor, and the jazz club The Temple Place. In 2004 he moved to Melbourne and then, three years later, to Paris, France, where he now resides. Matt said the CD has a strong focus on melody. “It has something with which people can identify,” he said. “It’s a modernist approach with the traditional values of swing – and is joyous. It should make you smile and want to dance.” The CD can be purchased online at: www.mattboden.com

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**Dr Jo-Anne Kelder** (GradDipInfoSys 2002, BInfoSys Hons 2003, GradCertCommercialisation 2008, PhD 2009) is currently working as a project officer on the Australian Learning and Teaching Council’s “Learning and Teaching Academic Standards Project” for the Science Discipline (www.altc.edu.au/standards). The challenge of this 12-month project is to develop meaningful statements describing Threshold Learning outcomes for science graduates that can be used by teachers in higher education, auditors, students and employers.

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**Dr John Tasirin** (PhD 2004), who is an employee of the Wildlife Conservation Society Indonesia Program and who also teaches within the Faculty of Agriculture at Sam Ratulangi University (Sulawesi, Indonesia), was recently presented with an international conservation award by the Van Tienhoven Foundation for International Nature Protection. This award recognised John’s conservation work in the province of Sulawesi – work which ranged from helping villagers protect their sea turtles to providing conservation advice to the governor of North Sulawesi.

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World Social Work Day, which was celebrated on March 15, was particularly significant at UTAS this year with two of our alumni volunteering to support the newly-established social work community in Cambodia.

Mara Schneiders (BSW 1990) spent 18 months working as an adviser with the Social Work Department at the Royal University of Phnom Penh. This is Cambodia’s first-ever undergraduate social work course and, with the first cohort due to graduate in 2012, the faculty aims to produce future leaders for a country that’s still experiencing the devastating impact of civil war, genocide and poverty.

Mara returned to Tasmania in August last year and is now working with the UTAS social work team, teaching community work practice.

Meanwhile Alison Birchall (BSW Hons 1999) is working in Battambang province, close to the Thai border. Alison is working as a social work adviser for a local NGO that delivers services to vulnerable children and their families – particularly street children, trafficked children, and children orphaned by HIV, AIDS and other causes.

The theme for this year’s World Social Work Day was ‘Social Work voices responding to global crises: Together we develop the agenda’. This year Tasmanian social work students gathered with faculty on the three UTAS campuses sharing an exchange of messages and photos with Cambodian students, who hosted their own event in Phnom Penh.

Mara and Alison both volunteered with Australian Volunteers International.

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Mara and Alison both volunteered with Australian Volunteers International.
1990s

**Paul Kitchin** (BHM Hons 1998) has co-authored a 96-page, full-colour Case Book about the business of running a major sports venue and brand – namely Arsenal Football Club’s Emirates Stadium. Paul’s Case Book, which he co-authored with Jon Pettigrew, provides insight into the relationship between academia and professional sport, and is being distributed to schools across the UK (along with a supporting guide for teachers). Paul is currently a lecturer in sport management at the University of Ulster (Northern Ireland) and is completing his PhD at Loughborough University (Leicestershire, UK), investigating the development of self-identity in young people with disabilities through sporting participation.

1970s

**Jacoba Faber Akazawa** (DipTeach 1975, BEd 1976, GradCertEd 2001, MED 2002) is working as a special foreign language lecturer at the Kyoto Sangyo University in Japan. Jacoba paid special thanks to Dr Thao Le for his inspiration and insights while Jacoba was studying for a Master of Education.

**Prof Fred Chow** (BSc 1971, BSc Hons 1972), from the Research School of Biology at the ANU, has kindly let us know that the inaugural McAulay-Hope Prize for Original Biophysics was awarded at the Australian Society for Biophysics annual conference late last year. This award was named after a supervisor-student pair from UTAS – Professor Alexander Leicester McAulay (BSc 1916) and his student Alexander Beaumont Hope (BSc Hons 1950, PhD 1953). The award was presented by Prof Hope’s widow, Vivien Hope OAM. Fred, who had been one of the late Prof Hope’s students, said his research collaboration with Prof Hope stretched over three decades. He added that Prof Hope had been the chairman of the committee that founded the Australian Society for Biophysics, but that Prof Hope passed away in 2008, shortly before his 80th birthday.

1960s

**Judith McKernan** (BSc 1962), who now lives in Sydney, has completed a Master of Arts in Pure Mathematics as well as a Graduate Diploma in Science – all since she ‘retired’ from work in 1999. On top of that, Judith is currently in the final stretch of a Master of Scientific Studies from the University of New England. “I must admit it is hard going, but most enjoyable when you accomplish the final result,” she said. Judith began working in IT when her youngest went to school (1975). She didn’t retire until the company in which she had worked for 20 years was sold overseas. “They bought some gurus in to help expand the IT area,” she said. “They looked at my grey hair and thought I was too old – and made me feel like it.” But Judith said she turned this experience around, and ended up using it as motivation for her further studies.

**David J. Stabb** (BSc Hons 1966) currently lives in Victoria, after teaching at the University of Ballarat for 28 years. He said the December 2010 issue of Alumni News was a ‘trip down memory lane’, featuring names such as science graduate and boat restorer Des Beechey. But it was the story about the bridge between Victoria and Tasmania that particularly took David’s fancy. “By the way, did you know you can walk between Tasmania and Victoria and keep your feet dry?,” he added. “Boundary Islet spans the 39°12’ parallel – the interstate border.”

1940s

**Peter Sprent** (BSc 1946, BSc Hons 1952) has written a charming account of his days at University, during and after WWII. “I enrolled as a science undergraduate in 1942 and remember that on the enrolment day, after going through the boring but doubtless necessary formalities, the first task befalling male undergraduates was to dig trenches in the lawns in front of Domain House to provide shelter in case of a Japanese air raid. Although never needed, these refuges (informally dubbed “funk holes”) were recognised at the time as a wise precaution…” To read more of Peter’s reminiscences, go to www.sprentland.com

**You’re hired!**

Brandy Kuentzel never heard the words “You’re fired” shouted at her by one of the world’s most famous businessmen, Donald Trump. Instead, the American lawyer, who studied at UTAS on exchange, was announced the winner of the 10th season of the reality TV show, *The Apprentice*. Brandy studied politics, media and psychology at UTAS in 2001 as part of a Bachelor of Arts (Political Science) degree from the University of California, Los Angeles.

Now Brandy is Donald Trump’s latest protégé at Trump Organisation in New York.

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**degrees from you**

University of Tasmania alumni are invited to keep in touch by sharing snippets of their news, career achievements, community involvement and social events.

Please send details via email to: Alumni.Office@utas.edu.au

You can also post your entries to the UTAS Development and Alumni Office, Locked Bag 1350, Launceston, Tasmania, 7250.
KEEPING IN TOUCH

Young alumni: where are they now?

James Murchison
BCom 2007
Financial Accountant
Avalon Minerals
Perth

Pei Vern Fong
BBioMedSc 2010
Medical Scientist
Pathology One
Melbourne

James Chester
BA 2010
Student Adviser
Faculty of Arts, UTAS
Hobart

Keith Westbrook
BEnvDes 2006, MArch Hons 2009
Graduate Architect
Circa Architecture
Hobart

Natasha Wiggins
BSc Hons 2001, PhD 2006
Postdoctoral Researcher
UTAS
Hobart

Eliza Harris
BAntSc Hons 2008
PhD student
Max Planck Institute for Chemistry
Mainz, Germany

Helen Kontozopoulos
MIB 2008
Founder and Facilitator
The Creative At Work
Toronto

Hamish Davies
BBus 2008
Regional Development Manager, Marketing
International Services, UTAS
Launceston

Luke Kay
BCom-BInfoSys 2008
Project Manager
Graysonline.com
Queensland

Marion Davies
MBBS Hons 2008, Grad Cert eHealth 2010
Resident Medical Officer
Emergency Department
Broome Hospital, WA
There’s been a strong tradition of successful collaborations between artists and writers, from high art through to really cool children’s picture books. But what about collaborations between writers and new craft movements?

I sleep in haysheds and corners is a book that features Tasmania’s best young writers and crafters, working together for the first time. Inscrutable Press asked young people from all over the State (from primary school students to writers in their late 20s) to respond to the project’s title – ‘I sleep in haysheds and corners’. The publisher’s favourite 10 stories have been included in the collection, ranging in themes and styles from hallucinogenic encounters with a great white shark in an island pub, to quiet reflections on formative experiences in a simple country hayshed.

Each of the hand-picked Tasmanian crafters received one story, which they responded to in their practice. The results were exciting in their range: a knitted book, pieces of jewellery encasing tokens of memory, a leather suit and delicate letterpress designs.

I sleep in haysheds and corners was edited by Tasmanian creatives Ben Walter (BA 2001) and Kelly Eijdenberg, who completed an Associate Degree in Arts from the UTAS Academy of the Arts in 2009.

Mediation for Lawyers
By Dr Samantha Hardy and Dr Olivia Rundle (CCH Australia, 2010)

Mediation for Lawyers provides a comprehensive resource for lawyers involved in mediation. It is designed as a reference for students of alternative dispute resolution methods such as mediation. The focus of this book is on practical application of theory. It is founded in current mediation theory relating to the range of models used in Australia and its detailed contextual information includes the legislative frameworks for mediation in different jurisdictions.

Dr Samantha Hardy (GradCert ULT 2005, PhD 2006) used to work as a lecturer at the UTAS Faculty of Law.

Grapes 101
By Dick Friend (XVT Solutions, 2011)

Ever felt embarrassed by an endless wine list, or overwhelmed by the huge number of grape varieties and styles? Grapes 101 is an iPhone App (which is also available for Android phones) detailing 165 unique grape varieties used in Australian wine. It tackles the big questions, such as the differences between Chardonnay and Pinot Gris.

It also helps you appreciate the varied tastes of Sangiovese and Sagrantino and to get the pronunciation right (SAHN-joey-VAY-ay and (SAH-GRAHN-TEE-noh).

This iPhone App draws on the VineFinders database of 5,400 vineyards, wineries and cellar doors, and was researched over eight years of travelling and tastings in 85 Australian wine regions. Author Dick Friend (BA EnvDes 1984) lists the varieties from Aglianico to Zinfandel. With software development and production undertaken by XVT Solutions, based in South Hobart, Grapes 101 is an easy-to-navigate guide to the wine world, which, when downloaded from the App Store to your phone, is knowledge at your fingertips.

This book by P.J. Snow (BSc Hons 1970) reminds us that we live in a time when science finally has significant answers about the true nature and origins of human behaviour – a perspective that heralds a new era that will inevitably see the dissolution of many hallowed, though plainly stagnant, institutions and the establishment of a new world.

Practical CBT: Using Functional Analysis and Standardised Homework in Everyday Therapy
Gary Bakker (Australian Academic Press, 2008)

Gary Bakker’s grounding in the emerging psychological therapy, cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT), occurred at UTAS in the late ’70s and early ’80s. Since then, CBT has become the leading evidence-based therapy for most psychological problems, and Gary has been fine-tuning its application through 30 years of practice in numerous settings and the full range of problems.

This manual is the result, providing therapists with a patient-friendly model of psychological problems, links to a treatment-focused assessment process and then to therapy ‘homeworks’, which are presented through verbatim scripts directly usable or appropriately modifiable by therapists.
Professor Graeme ‘Bill’ Ellis
Died 4 February 2011, aged 89 years.

Professor Graeme ‘Bill’ Ellis was one of the great researchers in radio astronomy. Born in Launceston, he was a navigator with the RAF before he commenced his studies at UTAS. In 1949 he collaborated in making radio observations of the Sun from Eaglehawk Neck during a partial solar eclipse. He subsequently performed important research on the Ionosphere – work that led to his PhD in 1955.

In 1960 Bill was offered, and accepted, the Chair of Physics at the University of Tasmania. He researched the topics of ionospheric physics, the Earth’s magnetosphere, low-frequency radio astronomy and radio emissions from Jupiter, the Sun and other celestial objects. In 1969 Bill became Patron of the Astronomical Society of Tasmania (AST), and was to remain so for two decades.

Bill continued to work for some time after his official retirement. In 1963 he was awarded the Thomas Ranken Lyle Medal – an award presented by the Australian Academy of Science for outstanding research accomplishments. In the following year he became a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Science. In 1984 he was made an Officer of the Order of Australia.

Professor Brian Douglas Mackenzie
Died 19 November 2010, aged 68 years.

Professor Brian Douglas Mackenzie was born in Canada. He earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology and philosophy from the University of British Columbia, his Master of Arts degree in experimental psychology from Simon Fraser University (both in Vancouver), and his Doctor of Philosophy degree in psychology from the University of Edinburgh, Scotland.

In 1973 Brian joined UTAS’s Department of Psychology, where he distinguished himself both in research and teaching. He later served as Head of Department, Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Executive Dean of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences.

In 1995 Brian left Tasmania, first going to University of Western Sydney, Hawkesbury, as Pro Vice-Chancellor (Academic), and then to Monash University Gippsland Campus as Pro Vice-Chancellor. He retired in 2007 and was named an Emeritus Professor of Monash University.

Brian was a Fellow of the Australian Psychological Society and of the American Psychological Society. His intellectual interests were wide, including not only psychology and philosophy, but also the history and philosophy of science, world religions and parapsychology.

Upon his retirement Brian returned to Hobart, where he spent his last years enjoying the company of family and friends. He is survived by his wife Patricia, his two daughters and their mother, and his two stepchildren.

When Sheila Dorothy Davies was awarded an open scholarship to the London School of Economics, one of her lecturers commented on her keen interest in the social and political problems of the day. She was already a public lobbyist, writing in 1944 in support of equal wages for both sexes.

In 1950, Sheila married Gordon Rimmer. They moved to Tasmania in 1964 and then to Sydney in 1968. Sheila always worked: she lectured part-time at the University of Tasmania and presented a television world-affairs program.

Following her retirement from academic life, Sheila was busier than ever. From 1991 to 1996 she was an alderman on Randwick Council, and was deputy mayor in 1995. At the same time she became involved with the Council on the Ageing (COTA). She was passionate about breaking down negative attitudes to older people and age discrimination. She was vice-president and then president of COTA NSW for six years before being elected president of COTA National in 1998.

Sheila was made a member of the Order of Australia (AM) in 2000 and awarded the Federation Medal for services to older people and health in 2003. She is survived by her daughters Janet, Carolyn and Martine and her grandchildren.
Ever fancied returning to study but can’t commit to a full-degree course? The Faculty of Arts now offers four Diploma courses that are equivalent to just 1-year full-time and are perfect for part-time study. Best of all, you can start most of them as soon as July 2011.

Diploma in Fine Arts and Design – NEW
Diploma in International Studies – NEW
Diploma in Languages
Diploma in Music Performance

So whatever your motivations for returning to study – enhancing your career prospects, taking your hobby to the next level, changing careers, life-long learning – now’s your chance to get a taste of the good life.

Enrolments for Semester 2, 2011 are now open. Apply online or for further information call 1300 363 864, email course.info@utas.edu.au or visit www.utas.edu.au/arts
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