COUNCIL

The University Council met in Meeting Room 1, Newnham Campus, Launceston on Friday 10 February 2012, starting at 9am.

On the evening before, Council members attended the opening of the exhibition ‘Hits and Memories: Ten Years at the Academy Gallery’ celebrating the high quality of artwork exhibited at the Academy Gallery in the past ten years.

Vice-Chancellor’s Portfolio Report

Vale Allan Carmichael
The University has been saddened by the death of the former Dean of Health Science Professor Allan Carmichael who passed away last month after a short illness. Professor Carmichael demonstrated a quiet dignified manner, both in the community and towards his colleagues during his career. His personal qualities, coupled with his outstanding professional and administrative abilities and his thoughtfulness and respect of the opinion of others, marked him as a trusted and respected colleague, and indeed, a true leader. Professor Carmichael made a fine contribution over a lengthy period to the development and life of the University, to health provision in Tasmania and to health policy and practice in the State and beyond. The Graduation ceremony in December at which Allan was awarded his honorary degree of Doctor of Medicine, honoris causa, aptly recognised the two decades Professor Carmichael spent making outstanding contributions as an academic, clinician, policy maker and academic leader. Professor Carmichael was appointed Dean of the Faculty of Health Science and Head of the School of Medicine in 1997. He oversaw the establishment of the University Department of Rural Health in Launceston, and the Rural Clinical School in Burnie, the massive expansion of the School of Nursing, now described as a powerhouse for Nursing within Australia, and the creation of Paramedic programs and postgraduate programs in Pharmaceutical Science and Clinical Pharmacy. Professor Carmichael also worked closely with the Menzies Research Institute to deliver an impressive research output in the health arena on behalf of the University.

Prime Minister visit to IMAS building site
The University of Tasmania hosted Prime Minister, Julia Gillard, in January as she inspected the Hobart waterfront site of the new home of the Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies (IMAS) and visited the CSIRO Marine Laboratories. During her inspection the Prime Minister was shown plans for the facility by Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), Professor Paddy Nixon, and the Executive Director of IMAS, Professor Mike Coffin. Ms Gillard also held a national press conference at the site, at which she spoke of the importance of the $45 million investment by the Federal Government to provide vital infrastructure and world-class facilities for collaboration in marine and Antarctic research.

Governor-General visit
The Governor-General, Ms Quentin Bryce AC, CVO and Mr Michael Bryce AM AE, visited the University’s Menzies Research Institute Tasmania in December. During the visit, the Governor-General and Mr Bryce were briefed on Menzies’ recent research successes and shown around Menzies’ research laboratories. The tour was followed by an informal morning tea where the
Governor-General and Mr Bryce met one-on-one with a number of researchers and students to hear about their latest research and also with professional staff and volunteers.

**New Executive Director Marketing and Communications**
Following a nation-wide search coordinated by 6 Degrees Consulting, an appointment has been made to the position of Executive Director, Marketing and Communications. Alicia O’Grady will join UTAS in early March, leaving Griffith University, where she currently holds the position of Deputy Director, External Relations.

**Adjunct Professor**
In accordance with the Honorary, Visiting, Clinical and Adjunct Appointments Policy, Professor Simon Foote has been appointed as an Adjunct Professor in the Menzies Research Institute Tasmania for a 3 year term from 1 January 2012.

**Highly-cited researchers to improve ranking**
The University of Tasmania is working to attract highly-cited researchers to affiliate with the UTAS to improve our performance in university rankings, in particular in the Shanghai Jiao Tong. The number of high-cited researchers is a key criteria, counting towards 20 per cent for the overall ranking for the SJT. Highly-cited researchers are a select group of academics who have a range of publications that are highly-cited in other publications. From this year, geoscientists Mr Vic Wall and Professor David Green will affiliate with UTAS. As a result of this, UTAS’s ranking for 2012 should improve. UTAS’s other highly-cited academic is Professor Jim Reid. UTAS was ranked 380 in 2011 but with the addition of these two scientists, it is estimated UTAS will rank at about 332, all other things being equal.

**RECOGNITION**

- Associate Professor Sue Hrasky (Head of School of Accounting and Corporate Governance) and Professor Mike Jones (University of Bristol) were awarded “Best Paper” at the recent Conference on Social and Environmental Accounting Research for their paper “The Lake Pedder Decision: Accounting for nature and creative accounting”.

- Award winning social and business entrepreneur from Launceston, Gary Cleveland (AM) and Professor Gary O’Donovan (Dean of Business, UTAS) authored the keynote address “Strengthening the Ethical Practices of Organizations” at the Economics Society International (BESI) Conference in Queenstown, New Zealand in January 2012.

- During November 2011 the Faculty of Education’s new course, the Bachelor of Education (Applied Learning) (B.Ed (AL)) was approved by the Tasmanian Teachers Registration Board for accreditation as a teacher education course. The B.Ed (AL) program is directed at a new teacher-education market within the VET/Polytechnic industry. This program presents the first of its kind nationally.

- Science, Engineering and Technology PhD student Vinodan Rajandran has received a prestigious ‘2011 Postgraduate Prime Minister’s Australia Asia Award’ under the Endeavour Awards scheme. The awards were announced recently at a Presentation Dinner at Parliament House, Canberra, where recipients were congratulated by the Prime Minister and recognised as future leaders in research and Australia-Asia relations Vino’s PhD project, supervised by Dr Jim Weller, investigates the genetic control of flowering, climatic adaptation and yield in lentil,
an important legume crop, and fits within the broader goals of a major new ARC Discovery Project to commence in Dr Weller’s group in 2012.

- Menzies’ Dr Kristy Sanderson has been appointed a member of the national beyondblue Workplace Mental Health Expert Advisory Group. This 11-person EAG is providing expert advice to assist beyondblue develop evidence-based research, policy, resources and interventions to build the capacity of workplaces and individuals to be mentally healthy. Dr Sanderson has also been appointed a committee member of the Public Health Association of Australia Mental Health Special Interest Group and as editor of the peer-reviewed international journal, Social Psychiatry & Psychiatric Epidemiology.

- Christian Ellston has been awarded the Career Development Association of Australia (CDAA) Ray Stacey Award for 2012. He will be presented his award at the CDAA conference dinner in Parliament House’s Great Hall in Canberra. Christian and his Career Adviser colleague, Jane Emery, have also been invited to present on the UTAS Vice Chancellor’s Leadership Award (VCLA) during the conference. This will be a great opportunity to showcase the VCLA program to career development practitioners working in a range of contexts (including but not limited to higher education).

- The University of Tasmania’s Bachelor of Pharmacy program has been granted full accreditation by the Australian Pharmacy Council until 30 September 2016.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

- The School of English, Journalism and European Studies hosted the Goethe Institute German Summer School in January, which saw 90 participants visit UTAS from across Australia to study or teach German for an intensive a week of immersion into the German language and culture.

- The Conservatorium of Music hosted an Australian Academic Research Network (AARNet) Workshop in December to trial new technology for enabling live interactive performances to take place in multiple venues across the world in real time. Participants included the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra and Terrapin Puppet Theatre.

- UTAS and the Conservatorium of Music supported the Carols by the Bay event in December. This event featured a 100-voice choir performing with the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra for an audience in excess of 20,000 people.

- Professor Ian Hay, Dean, Faculty of Education, gave the invited opening keynote address at the 2011 Australian Association for Research in Education (AARE) International Conference which was held in Hobart during 27 November – 1 December 2011. The Faculty was well represented at this conference with a total of 33 staff making presentations.

- Professor Mike Coffin, Executive Director of IMAS, attended the Partnership for Observation of the Global Oceans (POGO) Annual Meeting in Honolulu, Hawaii and delivered a presentation that introduced IMAS to POGO members and summarized development of the Southern Ocean Observing System (SOOS) international project office.

- Dr Gretta Pecl from IMAS was an invited speaker at the "Data Management and Local Knowledge: Building a Network to Support Community-Based Research and Monitoring"
workshop in Colorado in November 2011. The purpose of the workshop was to bring together researchers, community members, organisations, and projects working on issues surrounding data management for both local and traditional knowledge and information from community-based research and monitoring.

- Associate Professor Marcus Haward (School of Government, Arts Faculty) was an invited speaker at the Law of the Sea Institute Conference at the University of Wollongong in November 2011. LOSI is headquartered at the University of California –Berkeley.

- Professor Chris Carter from IMAS gave an invited presentation on potential impacts of climate change: case-study on Tasmanian Atlantic Salmon aquaculture at the third International Symposium on Cage Aquaculture in Asia 2011 (CAA3). Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in November.

- Adjunct Professor Michael Tate AO recently travelled to The Hague and held discussions with the Australian Ambassador together with the legal officers who deal with the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and the various international criminal law tribunals to get an update on the case that Australia has brought against Japan in the ICJ. It was also an opportunity to liaise with relevant personnel at the International Criminal Court where UTAS has been sending the annual recipient of the Tim Hawkins Memorial Scholarship to work as intern at the Court.

- Law Distinguished Professor Don Chalmers gave three presentations in Indonesia in Semarang at the Indonesian Bioethics Association Conference 1-2 December: ‘Personalised Medicine: What are the Ethical Challenges?’ ‘International Cooperation in Biobanking; the Aims of the International Cancer Genome Consortium’ and ‘Embryonic Stem Cell Research: Legal and Ethical Considerations.’

- Law Professor Dianne Nicol hosted an expert workshop for her ARC funded project, 'The Innovation Pool in Australian Biotechnology: Assessing Strategies for Fostering Innovation through Patenting and Patent Pooling' in December 2011. The twenty participants included colleagues from Canada, the United States, Belgium, Scotland, Norway, Japan, Melbourne and Adelaide in the disciplines of law, economics, innovation studies, social science, biomedicine and psychology. Professor Nicol also gave four presentations during the course of the workshop, and her research assistant, John Liddicoat also gave a presentation.

PUBLICATIONS

- **Historical dictionary of Australian Aborigines**, by Dr Mitchell Rolls and Dr Murray Johnson with introduction written by Henry Reynolds (Riawunna), published by Scarecrow Press, Lanham, 2011. The Historical Dictionary of Australian Aboriginals relates the history of Australia's indigenous inhabitants from their arrival on the continent 60,000 years ago to their role in today's Australia.

- **Ocean to Outback: Cosmopolitanism in Contemporary Australia**, published book by Associate Professor Keith Jacobs (School of Sociology and Social Work) and Prof Jeff Malpas (School of Philosophy), Crawley WA: UWA Publishing 2011. The book features a series of essays which explore the possibilities of cosmopolitanism as an ongoing political project and considers the implications for Australia’s sense of connection to the wider world.
• **Housewife Superstar: The Very Best of Marjorie Bligh** by Dr Danielle Wood (School of English, Journalism and European Languages) was published by Text Publishing Company. Housewife Superstar is an illuminating look at the life of eccentric Tasmanian domestic goddess, Marjorie Bligh.

• **A Hostile Beauty: Life on Macquarie Island** by Alistair Dermer and Dr Danielle Wood (School of English, Journalism and European Languages) was published by Melbourne University Press. The publication tells the story in pictures and words of the extraordinary Australian outpost of Macquarie Island.

• Associate Professor Sue Hrasky, Head of School Accounting & Corporate Governance, published her article “Carbon footprints and legitimation strategies: symbolism or action” in the A* journal Accounting, Auditing and Accountability (2012) 25:1, 174-198. The article assessed whether Australian companies have adjusted their carbon footprint-related disclosure responses and found that disclosure rates are increasing, and that disclosure is being signalled more prominently. However, while carbon-intensive sectors appeared to be pursuing a moral legitimation strategy underpinned by substantive action, the less intensive sectors are relying more heavily on symbolic disclosure.

• Patricia O’Keefe from the School of Accounting and Corporate Governance has had her paper “Non-compliance with Australian Stock Exchange Recommendations on Board Independence” accepted for publication in Corporate Board. The research assessed the characteristics of Australian companies that did not comply with recommended best practice principles of corporate governance. It concluded that firm specific characteristics can mitigate the need for certain governance mechanisms and that a “one size fits all” approach may not result in the most efficient governance structures.

• Professor Mardi Dungey, Sam Thompson and Assoc Professor Graeme Wells (School of Economics and Finance UTAS) had their paper "First Home Buyers' Support Schemes in Australia" published in the Australian Economic Review (2011), 44 (4), 468-79. This research examines a new quarterly dataset comprising gross and net rates of assistance provided by cash grants and stamp duty concessions to first-time owner–occupiers from 1990 to 2010. These data reveal substantial spatial and temporal differences between rates of assistance, and will, for the first time, facilitate analysis of what is a major public policy program.

• Head of School Economics and Finance, Dr Sarah Jennings had an article published in ERA A journal Marine Policy (2012), 36, 753-759 “Communicating climate change: Climate change risk perceptions and rock lobster fishers, Tasmania”. World fisheries, already vulnerable, are under increasing pressure from the impacts of climate change. Using the Tasmanian rock lobster industry as a case study, we considered the efficacy of risk perception as a tool to inform how to communicate the science of climate change and suggestions for management in relation to development of adaptation strategies for fisheries

• Dr Eric Iversen (Honorary Fellow, AIRC) published "Emerging ways to address the re-emerging conflict between patenting and technological standardization" in A level journal Industrial and Corporate Change, (2011) (10.1093/icc/dtr067). The article considers the relationship between standards and intellectual property rights (IPRs) and argues that the way it is managed affects the way stakeholders contribute to standards and may ultimately affect the way some technologies and industries evolve.
• Dr Ann Torugsa (AIRC), Dr Wayne O’Donohue and Dr Rob Hecker (School of Management) have published an article in the Journal of Business Ethics (ERA A) which examines the association between capabilities, proactive corporate social responsibility (CSR) and financial performance in small and medium enterprises. ‘Capabilities, Proactive CSR and Financial Performance in SMEs: Empirical Evidence from an Australian Manufacturing Industry Sector’. (DOI 10.1007/s10551-011-1141-1).

• Keiren O’Brien and Dr Ann Torugsa (AIRC) had their article ‘Supply-Side Determinants of Energy Consumption and Efficiency (ECE) Innovations’ published in the Journal of Business Chemistry, (2011) 8:3, pp. 115-122. Their study analyses the supply-side determinants of eco-innovations related to Energy Consumption or Efficiency (ECE) for electricity and other energy sources. The study demonstrates the importance of supply-side factors on ECE innovation outcomes and draws attention to their potential policy relevance.

• Menzies’ Dr Liz Tegg, Dr Russell Thomson, Dr Jim Stankovich, Ms Annette Banks, Dr Katherine Marsden, Professor Ray Lowenthal, Professor Simon Foote, and Associate Professor Joanne Dickinson are named authors on a paper published in Blood titled: ‘Anticipation in familial hematologic malignancies’.

• Menzies’ Dr Tania Winzenberg and Professor Graeme Jones are named authors on a paper published in the British Medical Journal titled: ‘Effects of vitamin D supplementation on bone density in healthy children: systematic review and meta-analysis’.

• Menzies’ Honorary Research Professor Terry Dwyer, Honorary Research Professor Anne-Louise Ponsonby, Professor Alison Venn, and Ms Jenny Cochrane are named authors on a paper published in the British Medical Journal titled: ‘Association of change in daily step count over five years with insulin sensitivity and adiposity: population based cohort study’.

• Menzies’ Dr Kaylene Young was a named author on a paper published in the journal Neuron titled: ‘NG2-glia as Multipotent Neural Stem Cells: Fact or Fantasy?’.

• Menzies’ Professor Simon Foote, Professor Bruce Taylor, Dr Jim Stankovich, as part of The International Multiple Sclerosis Genetics Consortium (IMSGC) and the Wellcome Trust Case Control Consortium (WTCCC), are named authors on a paper published in the journal Nature titled: ‘Genetic risk and a primary role for cell-mediated immune mechanisms in multiple sclerosis’.

• Menzies’ Dr Costan Magnussen, Professor Alison Venn, and Honorary Research Professor Terry Dwyer are named authors on a paper published in The New England Journal of Medicine titled: ‘Childhood Adiposity, Adult Adiposity, and Cardiovascular Risk Factors’.

Australia Day in Paris
The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Peter Rathjen, spoke in Paris on 19 January 2012 at the CampusFrance Australia Day event on behalf of Universities Australia. The event was a celebration of French-Australia cooperation in Higher Education. It was opened by Kevin Rudd, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Australia and Alain Juppe the Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of France. The program focused on the Australian higher education system, its international strategy and the way to strengthen student mobility and university cooperation between France and Australia. Representatives from a number of French and Australian Universities attended. The
Vice-Chancellor’s presentation focused on Australia’s higher education sector and international strategy as well as including some information about the University of Tasmania and our links with France.

**Vice-Chancellor’s Speaking Notes**

**Australian higher education and its international and European strategy**

**Professor Peter Rathjen**  
**Vice-Chancellor and President, The University of Tasmania**  
**CampusFrance Australia Day Event, representing Universities Australia**  
**16 January 2012**

I would like to begin by acknowledging the French Minister for Foreign and European Affairs, the Honourable Alain Juppe, and the Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Honourable Kevin Rudd. Distinguished guests and colleagues, friends one and all.

It is my great pleasure to be here today representing *Universities Australia* at this important event, and also the University of Tasmania of which I am Vice-Chancellor.

There is great regard amongst Australians for the French and your accomplishments. You have fine intellectual and cultural traditions, embodied in the artistic and scientific collections here in Paris. These speak also to the deep historical relationships between our two countries. If you go through the stunning collections of Cuvier and Lamark at the Natural History Museum, so important to our understanding of evolution, you will find biological and geological samples from Australia.

The French were present from the earliest stages of modern Australian history. In fact, Tasmania, the small and beautiful island about the size of Ireland that hosts my university, was settled by the British in 1803, expressly to prevent the French from claiming the territory. We went close to becoming French!

Many of the early interactions between our countries were intellectual in nature, or at least driven by the quest for knowledge that characterised these times. In 1756 the French king Louis XV sent Louis-Antoine de Bougainville to search for the Southern lands. According to Wikipedia he reached Tahiti where his boat was surrounded by hundreds of canoes filled with beautiful women. ‘Given such a spectacle, how could one keep at work 400 Frenchman’ he wondered. His route to the west was blocked by a large reef – he was the first known European to see the Great Barrier Reef, an Australian natural wonder.

Closer to my own home, the French explorer Joseph-Antoine Raymond Bruny D’Entrecasteaux explored parts of Tasmania as early as 1792. He stopped for water in south-east Tasmania while searching for the ill-fated expedition of La Pérouse. La Pérouse’s ships, La Boussole and L'Astrolabe disappeared part way through their four year exploration of the Pacific.

Quite by accident, D’Entrecasteaux found the opening to a channel that separated an island from the coast of mainland Tasmania. His expedition spent five weeks exploring and charting the channel and its surrounds. They even planted an experimental garden with European food plants before heading off to continue the hunt for La Pérouse. The harsh Tasmanian environment was not an hospitable place and they must have been very disappointed to find only a few surviving, stunted plants when they returned for water several months later. But the scientific work had been done.
Not long after, D’Entrecasteaux met an untimely death. While he never found La Pérouse, D’Entrecasteaux’s expedition and explorations of Tasmania provided Europe with a great deal of information about Tasmanian flora, fauna and indigenous people. This theme was taken up by Darwin, who also visited Tasmania in 1836.

The names of many Australian places and landmarks speak to historical engagement between our nations. Bruny Island and the D’Entrecasteaux Channel in Tasmania’s south east still bear the name of this early explorer and Recherche Bay and Port Esperance are named for his ships.

Our tradition of partnership continues to this day. Substantial trade valued at around $5bn annually and investment link our economies. I note perfumes and alcoholic beverages amongst the more important traded goods! We have shared military history, and there are many Australian recipients of the prestigious Ordre national de la Legion d’honneur.

So our history embraces the quest for discovery, mutual respect and an undertone of enjoyment. But today is not about the past, it is about how, working in partnership between our countries, we can provide opportunities for Australian and French universities and students, thereby enriching the intellectual, social, cultural and economic life of our communities.

_Universities Australia_ is the peak national industry body that represents Australian universities: our 37 public universities and two of our three private universities. It plays a key role in advocacy for higher education in the public interest nationally and internationally, promotes the value and widespread benefits of higher education, has a commitment to ensuring Australia’s reputation as a highly innovative and educated nation, and is an active player in the formulation of public policy.

Together, Australia's universities have an enrolment of more than one million students, and employ more than 100,000 staff. University expenditure accounts for 1.5% of gross domestic product, with significant spillover benefits for students, staff, industry, and the wider community.

Australia’s universities are self-accrediting institutions with significant discretion over their academic profile, teaching methods, student profile, internationalisation, staffing and research and development. This independence is consistent with European university traditions over almost a millennium as articulated in the Magna Charta Universitatum at Bologna.

Australia is a huge country, more than twice the size of Western Europe but with only 1/30th the population. Our institutions are located in each state of the continent. As you might expect with such a geographical spread, different universities have distinct capabilities, strengths and aspirations. While we see this diversity as a strength, individual universities within our system share common aspirations including engagement with the international community. This is the reason for the existence of _Universities Australia_ and also for the development of an Australia-wide program of engagement with universities in other countries.

We work closely with the Australian government, within national priority and funding parameters. The last few years have seen very significant national investment in Australian universities, which have been assigned a high priority as part of the ‘Education Revolution’, promoted by our federal government.

More than $4.5bn has been invested recently in university infrastructure through the Education Investment Fund (EIF), much of it in areas where Australian research has special strength or opportunity. Funding for operational costs and research has also increased substantially, made possible by a relatively strong economy, assessed by at least one major international corporate as the premier first world growth economy. Our location in the Asia-
Pacific region, and our particular richness in minerals and agriculture, provide special opportunities. We have relatively low levels of unemployment and debt.

The quality of courses, staff, pedagogy and student services is monitored and reviewed by government through the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA) and by industry and professional bodies. In this way we ensure that the student experience and outcomes at Australian universities are amongst the world’s finest.

Similarly, research quality is measured via Excellence for Research in Australia (ERA), which calibrates Australian research against international norms. An assessment last year concluded that the great majority of research in Australian universities is of world standard or better, and that more than one third is above world standard. French and Australian universities are regarded similarly by international rankings systems – with French universities marginally more highly regarded by Shanghai Jiao Tong and Australian universities marginally higher ranked by Times.

As a country we recognise the importance of knowledge, culture and education for their own sake. But we also understand that in education lies future economic, social, intellectual and cultural prosperity for our nation. Accordingly we have seen massive growth in university participation, with further ambitious aspirations for 40% of students to achieve a Bachelors level qualification. Our universities prepare people for the highly skilled jobs of the future, and to be leaders in developing and adapting new knowledge to revitalise our economy, strengthen our society and tackle the many problems we will face.

We are good at basic research. Australian-born researchers have received 10 Nobel Prizes to date, with several more awarded for research carried out in Australian universities. There is a strong bias towards medical research. Four prizes in the last two decades honour advancements in basic immunology (Peter Doherty), ulcer treatment (Barry Marshall and Robin Warren), cell aging (Elizabeth Blackburn) and, last year, expansion of the universe (Brian Schmidt). Australia is also one of the world’s leading research nations on a per capita basis. Holding less than half a per cent of the world’s population, we produce nearly three per cent of the world’s research output. France produces a little more than 4%.

Our basic research achievements are coupled with an entrepreneurial history that recognises the importance of social impact. Every day over one billion people around the world rely on Australian discoveries to make their lives, and the lives of others, better. Amongst many discoveries, Australian researchers have developed G-CSF for cancer treatment, Gardasil for cervical cancer, a Bionic Ear commercialised by Cochlear (and potentially a bionic eye), Wireless technology (WLAN), methodologies for minerals separation, spectrophotometry, the black box flight recorder, wave piercing catamarans, microsurgery, spray-on skin, rational treatments for influenza and antibiotic therapies for ulcers. The last of these, for which the 2005 Nobel Prize in medicine was awarded, pays respect to the work of another Australian medical pioneer – Florey, who discovered antibiotics together with Fleming and Chain and was awarded the Nobel Prize for medicine in 1945.

The onset of the 21st Century therefore sees a strong and diverse university sector in Australia. Indeed, in 2008, the Lisbon Council found Australia to have the best university system in the world for its ability to meet the challenges of the 21st century knowledge economy.

But in the 21st Century it is not sufficient to stand alone. Accordingly one of the major policy objectives of Universities Australia is to advance internationalisation of Australian universities. We recognise that there are significant benefits for all when universities from different nations work together.
At its heart, international education is about lasting connections between and among people. The world of ideas knows no boundaries: by working together we can create the intellectually rich environment that fosters the creation of new ideas, and remove barriers that might stand between new ideas and their realisation.

We can bring Australian expertise to the world, and the world’s expertise to Australia, building relationships of enduring value that transcend short term goals or policy, and bring our counties closer.

There are approximately 620,000 international students in Australia with 244,000 or around 39 per cent of these in higher education. The majority of our overseas students come from China, India, Malaysia and Hong Kong.

A range of programs and agreements is in place with China, India, Latin America, Japan, Saudi Arabia and of course France, and we have informal engagement with Malaysia, Canada and the United Kingdom.

In 2009 Australian universities delivered around 889 programs offshore. 27 of these were in France. Of five and a half thousand formal international agreements, roughly 280 were between Australian and French universities and institutes. We work together already, but there is much more that we can do.

Of great significance to enhanced relationships between our two nations was an agreement signed in 2009 between French and Australian universities that allows for mutual recognition of each country’s educational qualifications and periods of prior study.

This agreement has made it easier for Australian students to include study at a French university or engineering school in their Australian degree program, or to complete their degrees in France. This is particularly important for those pursuing a professional qualification, as the opportunity to participate in international study was previously constrained by the strict curriculum requirements of some degree programs. Through the cotutelle system similar opportunities are available for research students studying towards a PhD.

With the assistance of the Embassy of France in Australia, we now also have an internship scheme established between a number of Australian universities and ten French companies. Half the internship is spent in Australia and half in France.

These agreements and programs makes it easier for Australian students to pursue further learning in France, gain work experience in an international context, and improve their understanding of French language and culture.

The key to many of our relationships with universities in France is the special opportunities that Australia can provide. Sometimes this is something distinctive about the student experience, or areas of education in which Australia is especially strong. Research collaboration flourishes where similar aspirations and complementary capabilities, often based on local opportunity, come together.

My colleague Mike Gallagher will tell you shortly, and correctly, that research in Australian universities is most intensive in the Group of Eight institutions. The geographical dispersion of Australian universities though means that areas of worldclass research can be found in most of our institutions.

In my own institution, for example, building upon our sub-Antarctic and island location, a prestigious UNESCO-Cousteau Ecotechnie Chair in Antarctic and Southern Ocean Environmental Sciences has been established at the University of Tasmania.
We have created an Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies (IMAS) to develop further our strength in this space. This has a range of active collaborations with French institutions including joint oceanographic missions, co-supervision of thesis students, exchanges of postdoctoral fellows, and participation on advisory boards. Your Southern Oceans research vessel, L’Astrolabe, can often be seen tied up at our dock in Hobart. At UTAS, together with our partners, we are world leaders in research in the Southern Oceans and Antarctica – of great import given the influence of this region on world climate and food security.

But there are, of course, other specialised areas of research excellence both at UTAS and amongst Australian Universities. Without wanting to go into too much detail, I can think of internationally preeminent programs distributed across the nation’s universities in tropical studies, indigenous studies, mining technology and earth sciences, materials, nanotechnology and analytical chemistry, oceanography and fisheries, astrophysics and design. As ever in research, excellence regardless of location is the key.

Already we do much together, with France the fourth most important partner for Australian researchers, after the US, the UK and Germany. There is though, room for much more.

The social and cultural benefits of partnership and collaboration are clearly of paramount importance in a globalised world where international relations are undergoing rapid changes, and where the future for all countries depends on their ability to establish diverse and productive international connections.

Australian universities are involved in a wide range of international activities. The numbers and scope of such involvements are increasing rapidly as the importance of activities crossing national boundaries is recognised more widely, both within Australia and in the large number of countries with which Australia has dealings.

*Universities Australia* plays an important role in facilitating these initiatives, supporting the endeavours of individual universities and the sector, and finding ways to promote the many non-economic benefits of international education to Australia as a nation, to the individuals who benefit from it and to the regions around the globe from which they come.

It is a charter member of the United Nations Academic Impact Initiative which aims to connect universities around the world with the United Nations, and with each other.


The Australian Government is currently focussing considerable energy and resources on making Australia an even better place for international students and staff to live, study and work. *Universities Australia* recognises the importance of initiatives that aim to improve international student safety, and increase their ability to access affordable housing, employment and support services.

Those who teach and work with international students, and those who collaborate with international teaching and research colleagues both in Australia and overseas, know the positive outcomes that flow from these relationships.

The key to increasing the connectivity of higher education institutions in our two nations and therefore the opportunities for our universities and students, is communication, individually and collectively.

To have the confidence to build upon our past as we embrace our future.
Through the establishment of relationships based on respect, understanding and a sense of opportunity we can create an environment that aligns the grand traditions of universities with the requirements of modern society, developing leaders, innovation and culture, building a better world – socially, intellectually, culturally and economically, for tomorrow.

I thank you for the opportunity to speak at this important event.

**Leaders Retreat and Open to Talent vision – UTAS strategic plan**

Plans for the Leaders Retreat are continuing. Approximately 73 leaders will attend the retreat in Launceston on 16 and 17 February 2012. The program is being finalised and will include an analysis of the *Open to Talent* green paper as well as the Chancellor speaking to attendees at dinner. The Green Paper, proposing UTAS’s strategic priorities for 2012-22, was released by the Vice-
Chancellor on 21 December 2011, with a call for feedback from the UTAS community and the general public.

**UTAS Strategic Plan for Learning and Teaching 2012-2014**

Council approved the UTAS Strategic Plan for Learning and Teaching 2012-2014.

*Executive Summary*

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Students & Education) has consulted widely in the development of the University’s first Learning and Teaching Strategic Plan. The strategic plan will replace the Learning and Teaching Plan, which has an operational focus.

The draft UTAS Strategic Plan for Learning and Teaching contains the following vision:

“UTAS will unlock potential and transform the lives of individuals and the communities in which they live. We will ensure that UTAS graduates will be equipped and inspired to shape and respond to the opportunities and challenges of the twenty-first century. Through the acquisition of subject and multidisciplinary knowledge and skills our graduates will be able to participate as socially responsible citizens in local, national and global society.

We see excellence in the student experience as the overall goal that frames our approaches to Learning and Teaching. UTAS will ensure therefore that teaching and the learning environment are of the highest quality and are enriched by world class research and the fruits of our global and local partnerships. Our approaches will be innovative and use technology that enhances learning and teaching. Excellence will be recognised, rewarded and celebrated.

UTAS will increase participation and attainment in tertiary education. UTAS embraces its role as a global educator and its unique responsibility in raising the educational attainment levels of Tasmanians.

The Strategic Plan sets out how this vision will be delivered. It has several key purposes-

- To communicate an inspiring vision for Learning and Teaching appropriate to the needs of all UTAS students and staff.
- To act as an integral component of the University Strategic Plan.
- To ensure our approach to Learning and Teaching is framed by and reinforces key national initiatives including-
  - the development of threshold learning outcomes led by the ALTC Discipline Scholars
  - the creation of TEQSA as the new regulatory body for the tertiary sector and the development of the TEQSA Teaching and Learning Standards Framework
  - the strengthening of the Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) which is to be implemented from July 2011 until January 2015.
- To link with and support wider University strategic priorities including-
  - the quality management framework
  - excellence in the student experience
  - social inclusion and increased participation in tertiary education
  - community engagement
  - world class research and scholarship
  - internationalisation.
To act as a framework for plans and policies through which the strategic goals in Learning and Teaching will be realised. These include:
  - The annual Operational Plan for Learning and Teaching
  - The Academic Standards Framework
  - Faculty Learning and Teaching plans
  - Strategies to ensure clarity of learning outcomes at unit and course levels
  - UTAS graduate attributes
  - Criterion Referenced Assessment and Assessment Policy
  - Student Engagement and Student Voice policies
  - Student Transition and the First Year Framework
  - Strategies to foster, recognise and reward excellence in teaching
  - Quality Enhancement strategies including the 2011 Communities of Practice Initiative
  - The Learning and Teaching Evaluation Framework
  - Work integrated learning

The Strategic Plan for Learning and Teaching will be an integral component of the University Plan, *Open to Talent*, describing in further detail the initiatives aimed at achieving the University’s key strategic goals for Learning and Teaching.

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Students & Education) has consulted widely in the development of the Strategic Plan for Learning and Teaching. Staff within Faculties and Divisions have been given the opportunity to provide input into the development of the Strategic Plan, and by Senior Management Team and Academic Senate have endorsed this final version.

The UTAS Strategic Plan for Learning and Teaching 2012-2014 *(attached)* will be made available on the University’s website and circulated to University stakeholders.

Numerous initiatives are already under way aimed at achieving the strategic goals described within the Strategic Plan.

The annual operational plan is in the final stages of development and will be considered at the next Academic Senate meeting.

**General Funds Investment Policy**

Council approved the revised General Funds Investment Policy.

The University General Funds Investment Policy has been updated to:
  - reflect the revised investment fund purpose (as circulated out of session with no feedback received)
  - reflect recent fund manager changes approved by Finance Committee
  - reworded to reflect new University positions such as Chief Operating Officer
  - clearly separate policy (requiring Council/Finance Committee approval) from schedules which can amend based on minuted Finance Committee decisions.

Council approved the implementation of the Sustainable Transport Strategy 2012-2016, noting that the COO would provide information about the cost of developing the strategy.

Academic Senate Planning Session 1 December 2011

Council received the draft minutes of the Academic Senate Planning Session of 1 December 2011, noting that the expectations of a UTAS academic will also be considered at the upcoming leaders’ retreat.

Graduation in Absentia and Conferring of Awards

Council approved the applications for the conferring of awards on 56 people, and the Chancellor conferred degrees in absentia on them.