On the trail of a killer Dr Clare Smith landed a blow on malaria, now she is taking on tuberculosis – 125th anniversary Crown Princess Mary to be Honorary Patron – Master of messages Greg Leong – Score to celebrate New scholarship marks 50 years of Ag Science
Changing the world is not simple. It takes thought, time, persistence, and insight. But most of all, it takes something extraordinary.

At the University of Tasmania, we’ve made the pursuit of the extraordinary a never-ending commitment. With internationally recognised research and teaching programs, we are ranked in the top two per cent of universities worldwide*. 

Achieve the extraordinary.
Welcome

Reinforcing our rebranding, this new-look magazine will help further define our identity as a tertiary institution of global excellence, impact and reach.

Perhaps more than any recent issue of the Alumni magazine, this edition embraces the past, present and future in what I hope you will find is an engaging and illuminating fashion.

What is immediately obvious, of course, is the magazine’s new look – a redesign intended to be contemporary, clean and distinctive, and in accord with the recently unveiled rebranding of the University.

The rebranding, ahead of next year’s 125th anniversary celebrations, is intended to position the University of Tasmania in a way that reflects our standing as a tertiary institution of global excellence, impact and reach.

In an increasingly competitive sector, nationally and internationally, we need a strong brand that links us to our strategic intent, articulated in the Open to Talent 10-year plan, and helps our community and stakeholders understand what we stand for and value. You’ll get a sense of the new visual identity within these pages.

Preparations for the 125th anniversary – which recently retired Provost, Professor David Rich, has taken carriage of – are outlined on pages 6-7. I am delighted to announce that one of our best-known alumni, Crown Princess Mary of Denmark, has agreed to be Honorary Patron of the celebrations.

In framing this new-look publication around the ideas of global excellence and impact, it is fitting that we showcase another alumna, Dr Clare Smith, whose inspiring story is detailed in the Big Read.

Dr Smith made her name internationally in the field of malaria research while undertaking her PhD at the University’s Menzies Research Institute Tasmania. She is now a member of a celebrated team at the University of Massachusetts Medical School, just outside Boston, working on new treatments for tuberculosis.

While we are very much focused on the 125th anniversary, another important celebration is essayed in this issue. Late last year more than 200 alumni and staff celebrated 50 years of teaching and research excellence in the School of Agricultural Science. They were able to enjoy the fruits of their labour, as it were, over two days with a showcase of gourmet Tasmanian produce, workshops and a formal dinner.

Former Chancellor Damian Bugg’s law class of ‘64 numbered just 24 students yet, as the organiser, he managed to stretch the 50th reunion over three days! About half the cohort were able to make the reunion and what an illustrious group they were: two judges; two magistrates; two senior partners; three solo practitioners; one senior lecturer in law, one ambassador and one Director of Public Prosecutions. Together they are a reminder – as if one is needed – of the calibre and stature of our Faculty of Law graduates.

I hope you too will find plenty to celebrate in the revamped Alumni magazine.

Warm regards,

– Professor Peter Rathjen, Vice-Chancellor

PRINCESS PATRON

Royal stamp of approval for the 125th celebrations

The University of Tasmania is pleased to announce alumna Her Royal Highness Crown Princess Mary of Denmark as the Honorary Patron of the University’s 125th Anniversary Celebrations which begin next year.

“As a former graduate and from a family with strong ties to the University, it is with great pleasure that I serve as Honorary Patron of the University of Tasmania’s 125th Anniversary Celebrations,” Princess Mary said.

“As with each of you, the University holds a special place in my heart and I applaud the initiative to celebrate this notable anniversary year.”

University Vice-Chancellor Professor Peter Rathjen welcomed the news, saying it was a wonderful gesture of support.

“This University is distinctive – we are locally-informed and grounded, with global connectivity and internationally recognised standards,” Professor Rathjen said.
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A Master of Messages
Visual artist Greg Leong has exhibited his colourful works throughout Australia and across the globe.

Alumni is the regular magazine for graduates and friends of the University of Tasmania. Alumni include graduates and diplomates of the University, TCAETST and AMC, and staff of three years’ service. Alumni is prepared by the Communications and Media Office for the Advancement Office.

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University of Tasmania Advancement Office, Locked Bag 1350; Launceston, Tasmania 7250
Cover image: Dr Clare Smith by Christopher Padgett
From the Chair

Since becoming a father of two children, birthdays and other milestones now take on extra significance in my household.

I think it has something to do with gifts, party food and of course getting together and celebrating with family and friends.

In many ways the University of Tasmania alumni family to which we belong is no different.

Next year, the University will celebrate its 125th anniversary of foundation and this occasion provides all alumni and friends a great opportunity to return to the University, to catch up with former friends and colleagues and to celebrate together this important event.

This milestone represents a rich history and each of us has made our own contribution – it is something of which we can all be proud.

A 125th steering committee under the chairmanship of former Provost Professor David Rich and including myself has been meeting regularly this year and has begun planning and organising events and activities to mark the occasion.

Activities will continue to develop and take shape in coming months and we will keep you updated through Alumni and eNews.

Activities will include the compilation of 125 Stories celebrating key moments and individuals, preparation of a short film highlighting landmark University contributions, formal reunions and a week of focused festivities.

You can read more about the anniversary elsewhere in this issue, about how you can get involved, and of course we welcome your ideas and suggestions via 125@utas.edu.au

One of my favourite responsibilities as Alumni Chair is to make the presentation of the Distinguished Alumni Award.

At the Foundation Dinner in Hobart on 1 May I presented this year’s award to respected author Christobel Mattingley AM BA Hons (1951).

She is an outstanding recipient and I congratulate her along with Foundation Graduate Awardee Andrew MacLeod BA/LLB (1993).

We have much to be proud of in the outstanding achievements of these graduates.

Finally again, please don’t forget about the 125th anniversary next year – I do trust that you will make every effort to get involved and be a part of the celebrations.

With very best wishes,

Dr Ashley Townsend
Chair, University of Tasmania Alumni

MAN OF PASSION

Advancement’s new Executive Director brings a wealth of experience to the role

By Anna Osborne

Young Dawkins is a driven man. Driven by a passion for people.

“One of the most amazing aspects of my role is having the opportunity to meet people who care deeply about the University and Tasmania, and who are willing to give up their time and resources to help make positive things happen,” the University’s new Executive Director of Advancement said.

Young has spent the better part of his career raising the profile of organisations and businesses the world over and brings a wealth of experience in the higher education sector.

He has held senior leadership positions at Dartmouth College and the University of New Hampshire, and more recently he was Vice-Principal of Development at the University of Edinburgh.

He has also been Philanthropic Director for Save the Children UK.

“There is a clear and exciting vision for the University of Tasmania, and with my background and experience I felt I could contribute to the University’s trajectory,” Young said.

Above: The Dawkins family – Young is pictured with his son, Tom – fell in love with Tasmania during a brief holiday early last year.
Memorable milestone

The University of Tasmania has a long history of punching above its weight – with more than 90,000 alumni across the globe. Next year the University turns 125 and a year-long celebration is being planned

By Anna Osborne

There are not too many special occasions that call for a worldwide invitation. However, it’s not every year that a university turns 125. Next year is shaping up to be a defining year for the University of Tasmania.

All members of the University’s community, no matter where they are, are being strongly encouraged to participate in the year-long festivities and events being planned.

“It is a time to connect, and also reconnect, for alumni, current students and staff, as well as communities across Tasmania, Australia and the world,” said Professor David Rich, former University Provost and now Chair of the 125th Anniversary Advisory Committee.

“We will celebrate our past, and build for the future, we also aim to have fun in the present,” Professor Rich said.

The University’s 125th anniversary is as much to do with people and participation as it is key events and places.

“We have been a small university with a big impact through our alumni and staff,” Professor Rich said.

“We’ve been a very international university for a very long time.”

The University of Tasmania was only the fourth to be established in Australia when it was founded in 1890.

The University’s reach now stretches across more than 90,000 alumni around the globe where exchange agreements allow students the option to pursue international experience as part of their tertiary studies.

A special organising committee has been established to help co-ordinate, assist and support the many events and activities that will be held next year.

“There will be celebrations through most of the year, culminating in a major event in October 2015,” Professor Rich said.

“We are fully expecting the faculties, schools and institutes to be a part of the milestone, holding their own functions,” he said.

While we will celebrate our past, and build for the future, we also aim to have fun in the present  Professor David Rich

Neo-Gothic landmark: Originally the Hobart High School site, Domain House became the central building of the new University from the beginning of teaching in 1893.

Holding their own: Sarah Dunbabin (the aunt of Robert Dunbabin, foundation Professor of Classics at the University) graduated in 1909 with a Bachelor of Arts.
A RICH LEGACY

Professor David Rich has stepped down as the University’s Provost but his work is not done yet

By Peter Cochrane

Nearly seven years commuting weekly between Launceston and Hobart – not to mention regular visits to Burnie – it is time for Professor David Rich to stop and smell the roses in his Tamar Valley garden – once he has done a little deadheading.

Professor Rich officially retired on April 17 after his successor Professor Mike Calford arrived to hang up his shingle at the Newnham campus.

“Semi-retirement” might be a more apt description of Professor Rich’s status; he has already re-appeared on campus in a part-time role as co-ordinator of the University’s 125th anniversary celebrations in 2015.

“It is an exciting opportunity to work with the University in celebrating its achievements over the last century and a quarter, recognising that we are the fourth oldest university in Australia and have a history that is probably not sufficiently well known,” he said.

“It’s also an opportunity for everyone to have a bit of fun, and to contribute to determining the way forward for the University, building its profile and reputation in Tasmania, Australia and internationally.”

Professor Rich joined the University as Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) and Provost in July 2007, from the University of New England in NSW. From 1997 to

In nearly seven years he chalked up more than 100,000km in each of two cars

125 STORIES
An invitation to contribute

One project is already taking shape – the 125 Stories. The project calls for short stories or reflections from staff, students, alumni and University friends that encapsulate university life, reflecting the academic and research achievements and national and international impact over the past 125 years.

Other material including photographs, memorabilia, keepsakes and the like will also be welcomed. Stories and supporting material will be released online and potentially made available in other ways, including hard copy, film, exhibitions and displays. University schools or faculties may also hold their own exhibitions.

A website and dedicated email will be launched to help inform and update the University community on the celebrations planned. With more than 90,000 alumni around the globe, celebrations will also be tailored.

“In the Advancement Office we are thrilled to be a part of this special occasion,” Executive Director of Advancement Young Dawkins said.

He noted that alumni across the world shared in unique traits when it came to talking about their University – integrity, pride and recognition.

“We are aiming to bring celebrations to as many countries as possible, where we will be asking alumni in key communities to host gatherings,” he said.

“It’s important that no matter where they are, people can come together and celebrate in their own environment.”

To keep up-to-date on events and activities planned for next year’s anniversary and find out more on or contribute to the 125 Stories project visit www.utas.edu.au/125 or email 125@utas.edu.au

2004 he was foundation Director of the Centre for Flexible Learning at Macquarie University. Neither Macquarie nor UNE service a whole state. Becoming Provost of the University of Tasmania meant he would need to be mobile. In nearly seven years he has chalked up more than 100,000km in each of two cars.

“I just don’t think my wife and I quite understood at the beginning exactly what it meant to live in the north but for me to spend a big chunk of the week in the south – the complications of having two offices, with staff divided between the two. It does bring overheads but it is important for senior people to be based in the north, to have a presence there.”

He cites the first Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency audit in 2011 as a highlight of his term as Provost. “That required a huge amount of organisation, a great deal of work by a lot of people, and we came through that successfully. But in many ways, the things that have given me greatest pleasure have involved trying to support staff through improvements in professional development, allied with developing much clearer performance expectations.”

At the Celebrating Heads of School 2007-2013 event, he was hailed for his leadership skills, “incredible generosity and honesty”, “directness and compassion” and “integrity and trust”.

Professor Rich singled out his wife Glenys, acknowledging her forbearance and understanding during his all-too-frequent absences from home.

“She has coped with everything without complaint, with one exception: and that is putting out the bins each fortnight – not just putting them out, because that’s downhill, but bringing them back in, which is uphill.”

PASSING OF AN ERA

Long journey: Professor David Rich made 279 return trips along the Midland Highway in his role as the University’s Provost.

CHRIS CRERAR
On the trail of a killer

In her pursuit of a cure for malaria, Tasmanian medical researcher Dr Clare Smith, thinking outside the box, went down a path fellow researchers said was a dead end. But her unorthodox approach has produced a promising new treatment.

Now she is in the US taking on the fight against tuberculosis

By Rachel Rohr

On the eighth floor of a new state-of-the-art research facility, gleaming with glass and chrome, 28-year-old medical researcher Dr Clare Smith (BBiotech Hons 2007, PhD 2012) looks out on a landscape of rolling hills and leafless trees in Worcester, a city about an hour’s drive west of Boston.

It's one of the first sunny, spring-like days on the University of Massachusetts Medical School campus after what has been, by all accounts, a hard winter.

In Worcester, 2.15m of snow fell and temperatures dropped as low as -20°C. That was a new experience for Dr Smith, the tall, bright-eyed Tasmanian finalist for this year’s Young Australian of the Year.

She grew up nearly 17,000km away in Dromedary, picking strawberries and raspberries on her family’s farm and selling them on Saturdays at Salamanca Market.

"It gets pretty cold in winter but not enough to snow on the ground. When we say it’s snowing, it snows on the mountains around the city,” she says, smiling. “My first snow here was a shock.”

She traded in her wool coat – a “fall coat”, according to her new colleagues – for a puffy down-feather one.

Dr Smith moved to Worcester in July 2013 to be a postdoctoral fellow in the laboratory of UMass professor and microbiologist Christopher Sassetti. He and his team of about a dozen postdocs and PhD students work on finding new treatments for tuberculosis, a bacterial infection that kills more than a million people a year.

Remarkably, Dr Smith had no previous experience researching tuberculosis. Rather, she’s an international leader in the field of malaria, a disease caused by a parasite.

As a PhD student at the University of Tasmania's Menzies Research Institute Tasmania, she discovered a promising new malaria treatment that is now undergoing drug trials.

A REMARKABLE DISCOVERY

Her research began as a risky Honours project, after getting her Bachelor of Biotechnology at the University of Tasmania, and continued through her PhD. Under the supervision and mentorship of then-director of Menzies Simon Foote, Dr Smith focused on the genetics of the human host, instead of the parasite. Some discouraged her, saying that approach was a dead end.

"Everyone always wants to target the parasite,” Dr Smith explains with characteristic enthusiasm for her work. “The parasite’s super sneaky, so it can become resistant really quickly. So we were thinking, what’s outside the parasite that it needs – what’s in the host? So, what’s in you that the parasite actually requires? Can we drug that host factor?”

She identified an enzyme in the host’s red blood cells that the parasite steals to survive, but the host doesn’t
THE LOVE OF A CHALLENGE

It’s hard to imagine this leader in malaria research not being at the top of her class, but it’s not the first time Dr Clare Smith didn’t begin at the head of the pack. She admits she nearly failed grade 11 physical science when she was 17.

“Science was always something I wasn’t particularly good at. I was a sports person; I was always outside, I loved English and writing. Science was kind of the one thing I didn’t feel great at,” she says.

She remembers thinking she hated science, but the challenge appealed to her. “That was the one thing I really had to work at, and somehow I ended up loving it more than all the other things that came easily,” Dr Smith says. “Things that come easily, they’re kind of not as fun.”

Her first meaningful encounter with science actually happened at Menzies when she was 15 – before attending Guilford Young College and the University of Tasmania. The week-long work experience program through Claremont High School introduced her to medical science and research.

“I don’t know what prompted me to say, ‘I want to go and have a look at medical research’ – I genuinely don’t know, but I’m glad that I did,” she said.

“What they were doing was so different, like one person working on cancer biomarkers, the next person doing surveys in schools about fitness and sport – like I could do anything here. It was all very inspiring.”

Off you go?: After making her mark in the field of malaria research, Dr Clare Smith has moved to the US to study tuberculosis.

need. It turned out there was already an inexpensive FDA and TGA-approved drug called griseofulvin that inhibits that enzyme. The tablet is taken as an anti-fungal to treat problems like toenail infections. Inhibiting the enzyme is a harmless side-effect of the drug.

The discovery could have significant implications for the treatment of malaria, which killed an estimated 627,000 people in 2012, according to the World Health Organisation, mostly African children.

New treatments are needed, as parasite resistance is an increasing problem. But Dr Smith is cautious when talking about the drug’s potential.

“We have to be the biggest sceptics of our own work,” she says. “Considering where the trial’s at, it’s nowhere near conclusive, so we want to be sure. We want to be 100 per cent. But all the lab work looks really promising.”

Her mentor Simon Foote has since moved on to become Dean of the Australian School of Advanced Medicine at Macquarie University, but he is still working with Dr Smith on publishing the research and the next steps for the drug.

“Success was due partly to luck, as is always the case, but also very much due to hard work and diligence,” Professor Foote says of her work.

“Clare wasn’t one of the top students in her undergraduate course, but she has been an excellent PhD student – one of our best.”
A NEW CHAPTER: TUBERCULOSIS
With her PhD completed, the research patented and clinical trials for the malaria drug underway, it may seem odd Dr Smith decided to move to the United States to study tuberculosis.

While it could have something to do with her love of a challenge, there is a connecting thread: with antibiotic resistance an increasing problem, Chris Sassetti is also using the novel approach of looking at host genetics in the hope of developing new treatments. Dr Smith says the decision came down to a “gut feeling” about Professor Sassetti and his work.

“Just talking to him, he was super enthusiastic,” Dr Smith says. “It’s one of the few labs in the world where I can actually look at host-pathogen interface – how they actually cross. Because it’s not just the host, it’s not just your genetics, it’s not just the bacterium, how it works. How do they actually talk to each other? How does that influence your genes, how do your genes influence that?”

It’s been a huge adventure getting this job, packing up a suitcase, coming here. I’ve kind of got nothing to lose. It’s just me. I can work, I can adventure Dr Clare Smith

Professor Sassetti is also well-funded. He’s one of 50 early-career scientists in the US who won prestigious six-year appointments to the non-profit Howard Hughes Medical Institute. The program provides each winner with US$1.5 million to fund his or her research.

“Pretty much you can just come up with the idea, you run it past Chris and he’s, ‘Off you go!’,” Dr Smith says. “We get paid really well back home, but it’s super competitive. There’s not much funding.”

When Dr Smith isn’t sure how to analyse something or is faced with the “horrible job” of scraping bacteria off massive plates for genetic sequencing, she goes to other researchers for help. Professor Sassetti’s group is just one team working in the expansive office space and Biosafety Level 3 laboratory upstairs. She also goes to Boston once a month to meet fellow tuberculosis researchers at other universities, such as Harvard and Tufts.

“The environment for doing science, I’m just loving,” Dr Smith said.

“It’s really collaborative, which is nice.”

Dr Smith is gradually settling into her new home halfway around the world. She drives on the right-hand side of the street and has managed to find a supermarket that sells Vegemite (though sadly not Tim Tams). She misses the local food, cheese and wine of Tasmania, but has discovered a weekly farmers’ market amid the fast food chains.

In the lab, there’s a book of Aussie lingo her colleagues jokingly pass around to “translate” things she’s said like, “That’s more than you can poke a stick at”.

At the same time, some researchers have picked up saying “reckon” and “zed”. And Dr Smith has started using the expression “we’re all set” to ask for the bill.

With a cohort of researchers from Venezuela, India and Denmark, Dr Smith goes for happy-hour drinks and weekend outings, and there’s a group of four Indian researchers she can talk about cricket with. They stayed up all night, live-streaming the Ashes. Dr Smith was a state cricketer when she was very young, but turned to rowing. She rowed all through her teenage years, first with Glenorchy Rowing Club and then with Buckingham Rowing Club.

She then turned to coaching the under-17 and under-19 women’s teams at Buckingham Rowing Club, winning “heaps” of state and national medals over eight years. The time commitment was significant: 5am to 8am on the Derwent, back again after work and then races on the weekends. “I miss my dinghy and megaphone,” she says.

It’s clear the Bucks miss her too. Club captain Gordon Stewart says Dr Smith had a “special talent” for coaching.

“Within no time, Clare had her rowers performing extremely well in racing,” he says. “Clare had a knack for showing no mercy when it came to making the girls work very hard at training, but at the same time displaying a unique compassion for the girls that made her loved by all.

“Clare’s ability to inspire people to aim for higher goals was infectious,” he says.

“As an example, I am forever grateful for Clare being a major influence for my own son to take up a degree in medicine at the University of Tasmania after graduating from school.”

The rowing club has even named a boat in her honour. “We had no difficulty agreeing on the name,” he says.

“However, ‘Clare Smith’ being selected as a name is considered a rare thing for someone of her demographic.

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Dr Smith hopes to take up rowing again on Worcester’s Lake Quinsigamond. Her contract to work in the US is for three years, and she’s not sure what will happen next, though she would like to return home one day to Tasmania and her family – her farmer dad, businesswoman mum and brother in the RAAF.

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Late last year Dr Albert Shugg (MBBS 1973) spent his final month as Clinical Associate Professor in Rural Paediatrics with the University of Tasmania’s Rural Clinical School at Burnie working at the Royal Children’s Hospital (RCH) in Melbourne.

And this year he’ll be able to help equip paediatricians of the future with knowledge gained in one of the most progressive hospitals and offer better health services to regional Tasmania.

The 64-year-old paediatrician, known as Bert, took sabbatical leave having secured a scholarship through the Royal Australasian College of Physicians to study tele-health initiatives at RCH.

The Gaston Bauer Work Shadow Grant allowed him to work with consultants at the forefront of tele-health technology.

Much of the daily routine involved observing Tasmanian patients visiting specialists on site, having been monitored by RCH specialists via video links.

As a practising paediatrician at the North West Regional Hospital, and also in his ongoing teaching role at the Rural Clinical School, the updated knowledge will be valuable to the north-west region and entire state.

Dr Shugg considers it vital rural health providers embrace tele-health conferencing; his time at RCH will keep him up to date with the technology and create new links for Tasmanian Health Organisation NW and consolidate links he has already made with specialty services in Melbourne. He will teach a new generation of doctors about the value of tele-health consultancy.

“We’re talking about another dimension of patient care that not only reduces the number of trips a patient has to make to the mainland, but reduces the number of clinics a specialist has to attend interstate, so their time is used more effectively and they can see more patients,” he said.

“Tele-health will play an increasingly important role in delivering health services to regional and rural environments, especially when it comes to quickly assessing children who become acutely ill so that we know if they can be treated here or if they need to be transferred out.”

Tele-health will play an ... important role in delivering health services Dr Bert Shugg

However, Dr Shugg says this should not mean doctors lose the ability to listen to and look at their patients face-to-face. “That is a skill I was taught and that is what I teach my students because it will always be the better option,” he said.

While in Melbourne, Dr Shugg also undertook postgraduate research into paediatric rheumatology and diabetes.

“There is no paediatric rheumatologist in Tasmania, and while auto-immune disorders related to the musculoskeletal system are rare, the treatment of children who suffer these problems is becoming more complex,” he said.

Life-long learning: Dr Bert Shugg at the Royal Children’s Hospital, Melbourne, during a sabbatical to study advances in tele-health and childhood rheumatology and diabetes treatments.

While much of his postgraduate work was undertaken interstate and overseas, his clinical work has mainly been in Tasmania, beginning with six years as a rural general practitioner in the north-west before undertaking six more years of specialist paediatric training at RCH in Melbourne. He returned to Tasmania to work at the Royal Hobart Hospital, which included outreach to the north-west, a position he held for 15 years.

When former Rural Clinical School founding chief executive and Professor of Rural Health Judi Walker offered him a conjoint position with the Burnie hospital he was more than happy to return to the area.

“It was important to me that I returned some of the great teaching that I had received through the University and the Royal Hobart Hospital as an undergraduate.”

Dr Shugg has spent the past three years as a committee member of the national body that reviews the qualifications of paediatricians who are trained overseas, most of whom end up working in a rural environment. “It’s been helpful for me having worked in rural health to know what they are required to do and what challenges they will face,” he said.

Having demonstrated that living on a small island is no hindrance to achieving a high status in the medical world, Dr Shugg is adamant that the Rural Clinical School is the key.

“It is a world class facility, unique in its position within the campus of the NW Regional Hospital,” he said.

Dr Shugg’s clinical teaching role there has been filled by senior lecturer and paediatrician Dr Heinrich Weber.
When researchers went into Australian schools in 1985 and collected data on thousands of children for the Australian Schools Health and Fitness Survey, the intention was to catch a snapshot of the health and fitness of school-age Australians at that time.

Now, almost 30 years on, this data is helping to inform researchers at the University of Tasmania’s Menzies Research Institute Tasmania about the origins of heart disease, diabetes and mental health.

The data collected in 1985 is the basis of the Childhood Determinants of Adult Health study (CDAH), which enters an important new phase this year with the 30-year follow-up of participants who were aged between 7 and 15 in 1985.

The leader of the project, Professor Alison Venn, says the data still has much to tell us. “It was intended to show the state of Australian children’s health and fitness at that time,” Professor Venn said.

However, the study had greater potential because, unusually, it included measures of blood cholesterol and blood pressure (from the children aged 9, 12 and 15) as well as measures of fitness, height and weight and information about health-related behaviour.

“The classic cardiovascular risk factors are high cholesterol, high blood pressure, overweight and obesity, smoking, poor diet and physical inactivity.

“If you are really interested in when the risk of cardiovascular disease kicks in, and whether it really matters that you’ve got these risk factors already in childhood, you have to have studies with thousands of children with those measures. Hardly any studies around the world do.”

As part of the international i3C Consortium, CDAH data is pooled with similar studies from Finland and the US, which means about 10,000 participants can be compared.

Former Menzies director Professor Terry Dwyer and Professor Venn first decided to follow up the participants from the 1985 study in 2000, but no contact details for any of the children surveyed had been kept. So they set about looking and two years later had found 6840 of the 8498. “Of those, 5170 were prepared to give us some information about their current status and consented to participate in further follow-up,” Professor Venn said.

In 2004-06 the CDAH team set up clinics around Australia to repeat some of the measures done 20 years earlier and to bring in some new tests.

They followed up again with questionnaires five years after that, and are now preparing to set up clinics in Tasmania and Victoria to carry out the 30-year follow-up, known as CDAH3.

At this stage funding has been secured for a CDAH3 pilot. A full roll-out of the third phase around the rest of Australia will depend on fundraising.

A recently published finding from the first follow-up of the cohort in 2004-06 was the association of childhood exposure to passive (parental) smoking and poorer blood vessel health in adulthood.

CDAH research has established other associations of childhood obesity, fitness and physical activity with adult heart disease and diabetes risk, bone mass and depression.

**Clues to causes of disease:** Professor Alison Venn says follow-up surveys 30 years later are providing critical health pointers.
The Childhood Determinants of Adult Health study at the Menzies Research Institute Tasmania is building knowledge of the impacts of childhood lifestyle on adult heart disease, diabetes and mental health. Data gathered in schools 30 years ago, followed up today and pooled with international data, can give us remarkable insight into the connections between our experience as children and our health in adulthood.

Prevention of chronic disease begins in childhood and begins at home.
A master of messages

By Lana Best


The 67-year-old Chinese Australian was winding up an hour-long presentation on his life and work as part of a series of free public lectures at the University’s Tasmanian College of the Arts (TCotA) at Inveresk.

It was an engaging end to the potted history of a talented visual artist who has exhibited regularly since 1988, worked mainly in digital imaging, textiles and installation and often using costume as a signifier for race, sexuality and cultural identity.

His slides showed his work has been about being gay, Chinese and Australian, and they covered international group exhibitions in Japan, Malaysia, Bangkok, Hong Kong and the United Kingdom.

There was no avoiding the heavy representation of political satire and flamboyant fabrics.

“I’ve always been interested in costume. It’s like a badge you wear that tells people who you are – as is any garment that a person chooses to wear – but I particularly like the elaborate Chinese costumes and I use that as a signifier for race and sexuality,” he said.

“All my work is political because the moment you talk about racial and gender relations it’s a political issue, and while some people think political art dates easily, I believe only the topic dates, but the relevance will always be there in that moment.”

Greg’s body of work is bizarre and beautiful: luring the viewer, who initially likes what they see, but then on closer inspection all is not what it seems and their attitude often changes. “You have to like it to dislike it,” he said.

For staff and academics in attendance, it wouldn’t have seemed that long since Greg’s influence was all-encompassing at the venue once known as the University of Tasmania’s Academy of the Arts.

In 1983 Greg initiated, then taught, arts management for more than a decade, as well as art theory and drawing, before in 1996 becoming head of the textile studio where he nurtured and influenced students for another four years. When he was a similar age to the students he taught and while living in Hong Kong, Greg kicked off his creative career by applying to be a fine music announcer in the English Service of the then British Hong Kong government radio station.

“But I failed my audition when I did not know how to pronounce Yevgeny Rozhdestvensky! They gave me a job, however, as an announcer reading the news and so on. During this time I learned how to pronounce foreign names in 12 different languages, re-auditioned for the fine music role and eventually became a fine music producer.”

After completing a postgraduate diploma in arts and leisure administration at the University of Westminster (formerly Polytechnic of Central London) Greg worked for a year as the first marketing officer of the UK’s peak body for youth music development, before heading back to Hong Kong to become performing arts co-ordinator at Hong Kong Arts before later becoming the head of programs.

In the late ’80s, Greg moved to Tasmania and took on the new position of director of Tas Regional Arts (formerly Tasmanian Arts Council) where it was his job to provide access to the arts in regional communities. It was his Australian-born mother who had applied for him to come to Australia under the federal
Empress Dowager with Chief Eunuchs, the Celestial Axis of Virtue, Greg Leong
Digital print on archival paper, 117.5 cm X 75 cm, 2008

This work was made just as John Howard and George Bush had retired from their positions of power, with British PM Tony Blair about to step down. The artist Greg Leong is Cixi, the power-wielding Empress Dowager who put the Last Emperor Puyi on the throne of China. He is seen here garbed gorgeously in a cloak worn by the historical Cixi, surrounded by her closest palace confidants, three favourite eunuchs. The work is an allegory of the rise of China in recent times as an economic power.

I’ve always been interested in costume ... like a badge you wear that tells people who you are as is any garment a person chooses Greg Leong

government’s family reunion program.
Since then he has amassed an impressive list of publications, curated and featured exhibitions, commissioned works, awards and arts management achievements. His work is represented at the National Gallery of Australia, the state art galleries of NSW, South Australia, Tasmania and Northern Territory, the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery (Launceston), the University of Tasmania, the Meander Valley Council, Tamworth City Gallery, Maitland Art Gallery and the Constance Howard Centre for Textile Research (London). After his time as a university lecturer Greg became a freelance curator, visual artist and performer.
He particularly enjoyed working with small communities, such as during a three-week residency at a mine in Rosebery, and a seven-week residency at the Museum and Art Gallery in the Northern Territory where he created a large outdoor artwork. From there he took on two hospital history projects back in Tasmania (Art for Public Buildings projects in Queenstown and George Town), and a Chinese market garden installation in Campbell Town for Ten Days on the Island.

“I also enjoyed creating a karaoke cabaret, directed by Robert Jarman, for myself to perform in,” he said.

It was a new direction for Greg, who wrote the script, designed all the costumes and created all the artwork for the karaoke which previewed in August 2003 in Launceston, followed by performances in Brisbane and Adelaide.

“During my 2004 visit to London, the Drama Department and School of Art, Goldsmiths College, jointly presented JIA as part of their International Research Forum program,” Greg said. “It was then presented in one-week seasons by Salamanca Arts Centre and Centre Stage in Launceston and later by the Museum of Contemporary Art in Sydney and the Darwin Entertainment Centre.”

JIA looked critically at the position – or lack of position – the Chinese have in the construction of a national identity.

In recent years Greg has excelled in the role of director of the Burnie Arts and Function Centre and Burnie Regional Art Gallery – a job he describes as the best he has ever had.

With plans to retire, to help look after his sick partner in Launceston, he was detoured by an offer to become general manager of Theatre North in Launceston.

“It was like going home, I couldn’t resist,” he said.
Where the journey starts

Black-tie dinners in Launceston and Hobart have celebrated the outstanding achievements of past and present students. Author Dr Christobel Mattingley and humanitarian Andrew MacLeod were specially honoured

By Peter Cochrane

The achievements of University of Tasmania students past and present have been celebrated at black-tie events in Launceston and Hobart.

The annual Foundation dinners welcome and salute scholarship recipients, acknowledge the support of sponsors and donors, and recognise outstanding achievement with the presentation of the Foundation Graduate and Distinguished Alumni awards.

Author Dr Christobel Mattingley AM (BA Hons 1951) is this year’s recipient of the Distinguished Alumni Award, which recognises community and/or professional service and achievement by a senior alumnus.

Dr Mattingley began her studies at the University as a 16-year-old in 1948, graduating in 1951 with a Bachelor of Arts (First Class Honours), majoring in German. She went on to become a prolific writer, having authored more than 50 books to date, the latest published just three weeks before the Hobart dinner.

“This award has brought full circle 66 years of association with this very important institution,” Dr Mattingley said in her acceptance speech.

She recalled being one of only about 600 students when she enrolled at the University. “German hadn’t been offered since 1939 … and lectures were one-on-one,” she said.

The Foundation Graduate Award for 2014 went to lawyer and humanitarian Andrew MacLeod (BA/LLB 1993), a former CEO of the Committee for Melbourne and Chief of Operations of the UN Emergency Co-ordination Centre in the international response to the 2005 Kashmir earthquake. This award recognises high-achieving graduates in their early to mid-career pathways who demonstrate the potential to shape the world through their vision, leadership and professionalism.

Mr MacLeod moved to Tasmania in 1988 to begin a combined BA/Law degree. “I believe that a university offers an education but not just an academic one,” he said at the Hobart dinner.
Clockwise from top left: Launceston dinner guests included Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Students & Education) Professor David Sadler, Janet Sims of Newstead College and scholarship recipient Claire Garden.

Professor David Adams of Launceston, Graeme Tonks of Launceston and University of Tasmania Alumni Chair Ashley Townsend.

Derek Le Marchant of Northern Tasmania Development, Meander Valley Council Mayor Craig Perkins and Scott Schilg of NRM North.

Keith Wenn of Launceston College, Dr Lizzie Shires and Dr Debbie Wilson of the University’s Rural Clinical School (Burnie) and Rosemary Wenn of Launceston College.

Jeremy Dineen of Josef Chromy Wines, Dr Kim Lehman of the University of Tasmania and Alisa Ward of the Tasmanian College of the Arts.

Launceston Mayor Albert van Zetten, University of Tasmania Chancellor Michael Field, student guest speaker Megan Dykman and Vice-Chancellor Professor Peter Rathjen.

“...And what was the other thing? Oh yes, I was a law student” Andrew MacLeod

“...And what was the other thing? Oh yes, I was a law student.”

University Vice-Chancellor Professor Peter Rathjen congratulated the award recipients.

“Graduates such as Dr Mattingley and Mr MacLeod stand out as shining examples for the young people studying at our University,” Professor Rathjen said.

“Both have achieved excellence in their respective fields after successful tertiary studies; both have pursued their passions to excellent effect.

“And both retain their link to Tasmania, where their journeys began.”
A ustralian Maritime College graduates move on to the coolest careers around the globe. Recently they were asked to share their experiences in the AMC Around the World photo competition.

Responses came from alumni in both seagoing and land-based roles, from punching through ice on board the Aurora Australis and working on mega offshore structures to those responsible for shipbroking and engineering design.

They came from all corners of the globe – as far afield as Antarctica, Africa, Malaysia, Norway and the Maldives – representing the truly diverse nature of careers in the maritime sector.

These photographs represent a cross-section of entries in the competition. The pictures and profiles will be used to help inspire the next generation of AMC graduates.
“I reckon my career is great because it’s fast-paced and about the heaviest form of construction an engineer can be involved in.” Landon Kibby

1. Landon Kibby (BEOceanEng Hons 2008), front right, works as a project engineer in the offshore oil and gas sector and is pictured with his team on the deck of a barge. “I reckon my career is great because it’s fast-paced and about the heaviest form of construction an engineer can be involved in,” he says.

2. Matt Barnes (BFA 2002) took this photo on board ASP’s product tanker British Fidelity during a two-week supernumerary voyage.

3. Tobias Clarke (BEnvArch 2004) lives with his family in Central Africa, where he runs his own boat-design company and is also engaged in volunteer work helping underprivileged children.

4. Katrina Beams (AdvDipAppSc 2012) is Third Mate on board the ice breaker RSV Aurora Australis. “My career allows me to enjoy the beautiful scenery of Antarctica and to experience the challenges of navigating in this amazing part of the world,” she says.

5. Christopher Hawtone (BEOceanEng Hons 2012) is a graduate engineer at Ocean Installer in Stavanger, Norway. This photo was taken from the bridge of the CSV Normand Clipper as she tries to escape some rough weather west of the Shetland Islands.

6. Current student Tom Dragutinovich is a deck cadet with Farstad Shipping. “I love the fact that while you’re on board you are a self-contained unit. If something goes wrong, you fix it,” he says.
COLOURFUL PAST

The University of the Third Age has produced a colourful history of the Philip Smith Centre, a place of learning

Reviewed by Professor Michael Bennett, University of Tasmania

Many University of Tasmania alumni retain a zest for lifelong learning, and in recent times the University of the Third Age has provided wonderful opportunities to continue to learn and share knowledge.

The Hobart branch is based at the Philip Smith Centre on the Domain, the fine Gothic building, opened in 1911, that has been associated with education in southern Tasmania for more than a century.

In a happy initiative, a U3A group has written a history of this “place of learning”, so closely connected physically and institutionally with the University of Tasmania.

Two former professors of history, Michael Roe and Richard Davis, provide engaging accounts of the first Teachers’ College (1906-1947) and the rise and fall of the Southern Teachers’ Centre (1973-1994).

David Dilger provides a succinct history of the University’s Faculty of Education (1948-62) before its move to Sandy Bay, and the Hobart Teachers’ College (1962-72) before its move to Mt Nelson as part of the TCAE (later merged with the University).


Des Hanlon and Kathy Turner tell us about the special heritage status of the Domain complex and how the Philip Smith building came into community ownership in 1997.

Leone Scrivener, one of the editors, reports on the latest incarnation of the Centre as (from 2004) the home of the U3A Hobart and the U3A’s activities and progress over the past decade.

She also offers a gem on the “Artists’ Studio” in the Centre’s attic which has served similar purposes, though with one phase as a library, through the various occupancies.

Another treasure, which will be a revelation and delight to many alumni, is Ralph Spaulding’s chapter on the Glebe Players, a repertory company made up of students from the Teachers’ College and the University’s English Department.

The book is well-illustrated, elegantly produced and well indexed (with references to more than 500 alumni of the University or its predecessor institutions).

It presents not only the history of a place of teaching and learning, whose functions have changed with the enthusiasm and needs of successive generations, but also a rich site of memory.

Available in bookshops from $30, or from U3A committee for $25.

Student teachers, 1968:
TANSY MAGIC

Tasmanian graduate Tansy Rayner Roberts’ latest book completes her science fiction fantasy trilogy

By Cherie Cooper

In a cozy family house in suburban Hobart, whole new worlds are being created by author and University of Tasmania graduate Tansy Rayner Roberts (BA Hons 1999, PhD 2007). Dr Roberts has recently released her latest book, Ink Black Magic, the final in The Mocklore Chronicles, a science fiction fantasy trilogy for young readers. She says the book is “an all-Tasmanian production” – printed in Launceston and with a cover designed by local artist Tania Walker.

The series is about a magical kingdom loosely based on Tasmania – as Dr Roberts puts it, “a smaller Tasmania, with more magical explosions”. It’s a place where magic is a dangerous and damaging force, particularly for people and the environment.

“I wanted to look at the possible negative effects of using magic. It’s actually something you see a lot in superhero comics, the responsibility of power and how it changes people psychologically,” she said. “I wanted to play with the idea that magic quests can have horrible consequences, even if you do everything right.”

The first book in the trilogy, Splashdance Silver (1998), won a competition for best unpublished science fiction or fantasy novel, when she was just 19 and studying her Bachelor of Arts. “It was extraordinary, something I had always wanted, I almost didn’t submit the manuscript. I got very nervous about it. My partner made me and he has claimed credit ever since.”

Dr Roberts studied popular fiction at the University and now one of her recent novels, Power and Majesty (2010), is on the curriculum of a similar English course. She also holds a PhD in Classics, which inspired a short story collection based on Roman history, Love and Romanpunk (2012).

Dr Roberts is also the first Australian woman to win a coveted Hugo Award, a towering creation that sits on a sideboard in the family dining room, surrounded by toys and old VHS tapes. The awards are science fiction’s most prestigious. “It’s pretty cool; I wasn’t at the ceremony because it was in Texas and I had no idea I would win, but a friend was there and accepted it for me,” Dr Roberts said.

An avid reader from an early age, encouraged by creative parents (her mother is an artist with a background in theatre and her father is a local historian), her reading of the books she loved naturally led to a desire to write. Dr Roberts has now published eight novels in the sci-fi and crime genre, under her own name and a pen name, Livia Day.

RARE BALANCE ON FRONTIER CONFLICT

The Black War, as it became known, was the most intense frontier conflict in Australia’s history, yet many Australians have never heard of it.

The Black War, by Dr Nicholas Clements, is a ground-breaking new book that distinguishes itself starkly from other histories of the Australian frontier.

It is the first social history that focuses on the attitudes, experiences and actions of those involved first-hand.

Most significantly, The Black War cuts explicitly through the polemics of the “History Wars” and in doing so has, as Henry Reynolds asserts, “brought them to an end”.

By writing half of each chapter from the colonists’ perspectives and half from the Aborigines’, Dr Clements blurs the line between victim and villain, and with it, the certainties of our historical judgment. The Black War is a gritty and deeply human account, detailing raw personal testimonies that bring to life the tribes, families and individuals involved as they struggled to survive one of the darkest periods of Australia’s past.

The Black War: Fear, Sex and Resistance in Tasmania

Nicholas Clements, published by UQP, 2014. $34.95

Dr Clements is an Honorary Research Associate in the University’s School of Humanities.
From a bounty hunter tracking an escaped convict leader to the history and future of Australian football, Tasmania boasts a rich literary landscape

**Disturbance**
Ivy Alvarez, Seren Books, 2013

The second book by Ivy Alvarez (BA Hons 1997, MA 2002) is a verse-novel that chronicles a multiple homicide, a tragic case of domestic violence, where a family is gunned down by the husband and father. It features poems in a kaleidoscope of voices from all the characters involved – including the father and his attitude to the authorities and neighbours. It is a courageous book which addresses the evil and its presence in our everyday lives.

**Australian Football: The People’s Game 1958-2058**

Writer, broadcaster and painter, Adjunct Professor Stephen Alomes (BA Hons 1974) has recently published a major history and futurology, *Australian Football: The People’s Game 1958-2058*.

**Infamy**
Lenny Bartulin, Allen and Unwin, 2013

REWARD: Twenty gallons of Rum for the Delivery into My Custody of one Colonel George Bloody Arthur. The Reprobate’s Offences include Fraudulently Impersonating a Lieutenant Governor. For I Am the TRUE George!

William Burr, the son of an English settler in South America, had a steady job hunting mahogany pirates in British Honduras.

One day, injured and recovering after a jungle skirmish, he receives a letter from John McQuillan, his old friend and now Chief Police Magistrate in Hobart Town, with the offer of a reward for the capture of a notorious outlaw: and so Burr sets sail for the Antipodes, though with a little idea of what to expect. He arrives in Van Diemen’s Land, the most isolated and feared penal colony of the British Empire, in 1830 to find a world of corruption, brutality and mystical beauty.

Following the trail of Brown George Coyne, the charismatic outlaw leader of a band of escaped convicts, Burr is soon rushing headlong through the surreal, mesmerising Vandermonian wilderness, where he will discover not only the violent truth of British settlement, but also the love of a woman, and the friendship of an Aboriginal tracker, himself an outcast on an island of outcasts.

*Infamy* is a brilliant and beguiling Australian western by Lenny Bartulin (BA Hons 1994). Visceral, phantasmagoric and exhilarating – you have never read anything like it.

**The Promised Land**
Brian A. Curtis, Xlibris, 2013

A desire to help make the Bible user-friendly for the 21st century reader is behind Brian A. Curtis’ new publication.

An ordained minister, and Bachelor of Arts graduate, he believes the Bible is often misunderstood and misquoted.

*The Promised Land* aims to present the Bible in a logical, historical order. It is based on the Hebrew Scriptures, but is supplemented by additional comments interwoven through the text to enhance the readability and understanding of both the narrative and the laws. Born in England, the author (BA 1998) migrated to Australia in 1974. In 1980 he began studying at Ridley Theological College, Melbourne. He was ordained as a deacon (1983) in the Anglican Church of Australia Diocese of Tasmania, and a year later was made a priest. In 1990, he took a 10-year break from the ordained ministry and completed a Bachelor of Arts majoring in geography and history.

In 2009 he retired but has continued to work on a casual basis.
TIES THAT BIND

Malcolm Scott has had a rich and varied career but will forever be ‘tied’ to the University of Tasmania

By Anna Osborne

University of Tasmania alumnum Malcolm Scott (BA 1968, DipEd 1969) has had a fascinating career, proving a uni degree can not only take you places, but provide an array of career choices.

“For some years I was a member of the Standing Committee of Convocation of the University (now Alumni) representing graduates of the Arts Faculty,” he said.

While on this committee, he designed the University Graduate tie and got a real insight into the workings of the University.

“My only complaint is that just about nobody wears the University tie anymore,” he said.

Malcolm’s career began in nursing which saw him go to Melbourne and the UK for work, study and some travel. “In 1965 I decided I would try to obtain what I wanted most in life, a university degree. In those days, 25 was ancient to start an undergraduate degree.

I decided I would try to obtain what I wanted most in life

“I lived in Christ College for four years, where at times some of my fellow students found it hard to relate to me and sometimes I to them. Had I not been in Christ College, I would never have got my degree.”

Malcolm continued with his studies, pursuing a DipEd before he was appointed to Riverside High School.

He stayed at the school for four years until 1973, when he took leave and travelled back to London for a year.

It was during his UK stay he received an out-of-the-blue job offer.

“The Director of Nursing at the Royal National Throat Nose and Ear Hospital in Gray’s Inn Rd had, in those days, never come across a nurse with a degree and was so impressed, she appointed me in charge of Ward A, which included the Professional Unit and the Private Patient Suite,” Malcolm said.

“It was not only a wonderful year, but being in charge of my own ward was a fantastic experience.”

On returning to Tasmania (but not before being “head hunted” by the very hospital he had just left), Malcolm secured a position at the Launceston Technical College (now TAFE).

He taught mainly business communication and economics both macro and micro to business studies students for 23 years, before retiring in 1997.
The Faculty of Law’s class of 1964 gathered for a three-day reunion where they were able to compare the then and the now: most noticeably today there are more women, more staff, more overseas students ... but fewer suits

The class of ’64

By Peter Cochrane

It was a time when law students happily co-habitated with engineering students, when female students – and international students – were few and far between, and when you could buy a single cigarette at The Ref for two cents.

The recollections flowed like the premium Tasmanian sparkling wine when the Faculty of Law’s class of ’64 reunited for three days of celebrations in early March. The class of ’64 numbered just 24, yet, as the current Dean of the Faculty, Professor Marg Otlowski observed, they were a “bunch of high achievers”.

Those attending the reunion included two judges, two magistrates, two senior partners, three solo practitioners, one senior lecturer in law, one ambassador (Richard Rowe, who played an important behind-the-scenes role in the signing of the Treaty of Rome, which established the International Criminal Court) and one Director of Public Prosecutions (former University of Tasmania Chancellor Damian Bugg, who organised the reunion).

One graduate, Robyn Krauthammer (Trethewey), who could not attend, went on to study at Oxford. She now lives in Washington where she is an artist and, with her husband, has co-founded the Pro Musica Hebraica, an organisation dedicated to presenting Jewish classical music in a concert setting.

On the second day of the reunion those attending came together in the Faculty of Law for a 50th anniversary cake organised by the Advancement Office, washed down with fizz, and to compare the then and the now.

Professor Otlowski, in her welcome, sketched the changes over half a century. Not least was the fact the Faculty has its own building now, whereas 50 years ago, the staff and students were accommodated in the Engineering building. The other differences related to size and gender.

“I understand that in 1964 there were half a dozen full-time academic staff, now there are something like 20, supported by many part-timers and higher degree students,” she said.

“We now have more female than male professors, and 60 per cent of the students are female.

“The other difference of note – there were few if any international students. Now we have a higher proportion of international students than many other parts of the University.”

The Deputy Dean, Professor Rick Snell, noted that University of Tasmania law graduates, as typified by the class of ’64, “punch above their weight”.

“They are renowned nationally for their companionship, collegiality, hard work and talent.”

Speaking after the formalities, Mr Bugg pointed to one other significant difference between his cohort and today’s – “we were suit-wearers”.

Left: The group drops by a lecture where Judge Baulch gave a brief commentary.
“By the end of the second year we were all doing Articles in town. It meant that for the next three years we would turn up for 9am lectures here in suits.

“So once a year in retaliation, the engineering students would have a Suit Day, where they would go off to Vinnies and reappear on campus in outrageously out-of-date suits. There was a great camaraderie despite the fact that we were essentially unpaid tenants in their building.”

Clockwise from top: Peter Manser and Kerry Dillon; Professor Kate Warner and Richard Rowe; Bernard Cairns and Peter Griffits; the class of ’64 reunion group.

Where she became her own person

‘At school I learned about kindness and respect, and how to both win and lose graciously. I learned that applying myself to study does pay off. To new girls I’d say: try everything, work hard, be tolerant of others, and be your own person. The fact you’re a Collegiate girl doesn’t make you special. It’s what you do with the opportunities you’re given that makes you special.’

Kate Warner
Professor, Faculty of Law
University of Tasmania
To help mark the 50th anniversary of Agricultural Science, a scholarship named after Professor George Wade, the father of Ag Science at the University of Tasmania, will go each year to the most worthy new student. The Wade family has donated $10,000 towards the scholarship’s $150,000 target.

Ag Science’s 50th a score to celebrate

By Peter Cochrane

Turning 50 is the perfect pretext for a major celebration, whether you are an individual or an institution. In October last year, the occasion at the University of Tasmania was the 50th anniversary of Agricultural Science.

In achieving this important milestone, the Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture/School of Agricultural Science found itself in some illustrious company. As the Deputy Head of School, Dr Richard Doyle, noted, others celebrating a half century in 2013 included such institutions as Weight Watchers and the Australian Institute of Physics, plus famous names such as Dr Who, The Rolling Stones, Brad Pitt, Johnny Depp, Elle Macpherson and Michelle Obama.

Sadly, none of the above could be present at the Ag Science celebrations. However, 200 people – former and current staff and students from throughout Tasmania and the mainland – did come to the party, which stretched over two days.

First-day highlights included the launch of the Professor George Wade Scholarship in Agricultural Science – named after the Foundation Professor of Agricultural Science at the University of Tasmania – at the same time as a lecture theatre in the Life Sciences building on the Sandy Bay campus was renamed in his honour.

The perpetual scholarship will go each year to the most worthy student entering the Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture/School of Agricultural Science.

The University of Tasmania Foundation, which is administering the scholarship, has initiated an appeal to raise $150,000. Already $50,000 has been raised, including a donation of $10,000 by George Wade’s three sons. Professor Bob Menary, a former member of Professor Wade’s...
teaching staff who is still involved with the School of Agricultural Science, said the Foundation Professor, a plant pathologist from Victoria who was appointed to the post in 1962, “set the scene for the 50 years that we are celebrating”.

“George believed in collegiality and consensus, and knew how to encourage people involved in research. His community engagement was quite outstanding – he brought agriculture before the public and the University.”

Professor Menary recalled one of George Wade’s roles at the University of Tasmania was an unofficial one, advising the then Vice-Chancellor, Englishman Sir George Cartland.

“Sir George couldn’t understand why fewer and fewer staff were coming to his Christmas parties. Of course it was because he served warm beer to the colonials. So on my recommendation he appointed George Wade as his etiquette adviser in Tasmania so he could become familiar with the habits of the locals,” Professor Menary said.

Professor Wade’s off-campus pursuits included fly fishing and bushwalking with staff and students.

“He and his wife Margaret also had open-house regularly … George had a family and it included all of the staff and all the students all of the time.”

Professor Wade’s legacy was detailed earlier in a speech by Vice-Chancellor Professor Peter Rathjen, himself an agronomist’s son.

“The first Degree of Agricultural Science was offered in 1963. Lecturers were appointed progressively over the next four years and we are particularly delighted that four of those original staff members are here today: Jim Yates, Alan Bray, John Madden and Bob Menary,” Professor Rathjen said. “Professor Wade led Agricultural Science here for 20 years, during which he oversaw a steady growth, appointed staff, developed infrastructure, and from the start, fostered an enviable research reputation which stays with us – we are still very highly regarded for our agricultural research across Australia.”

Sir George couldn’t understand why fewer ... staff were coming to his Christmas parties. It was because he served warm beer

Professor Rathjen also acknowledged the achievements of Professor Wade’s successors, notably PhD graduate Dr Robert Clark, who was appointed Head of School in 1982.

“Dr Clark built and strengthened links with industry and government, and within the university, something which this school leads the way in Australia.”

The celebration included tours of the Horticultural Research Centre, addresses by graduates, a dinner at the University Club and lunch at the University Farm, Cambridge, followed by a tour.

A LABOUR OF LOVE FOR GRADS

By Anna Osborne

GUY ROBERTSON | B AgrSc Hons 2000 | MT GMONON FARM

The hands-on opportunities and career options that originally enticed Guy Robertson to study agricultural science have served him well.

“I’ve always enjoyed the practical application of life science, and of nature and farming. In Tasmania there are so many jobs in agriculture I figured that is where I want to be,” Guy said.

Since graduating with honours in 2000, Guy has worked across areas including agronomy, dairy and land management before embarking on his largest role to date.

In 2009, Guy and his partner Eliza Wood established Mount Gnomon Farm where they specialise in free-range Wessex Saddleback pigs. The farm is near the Dial Range on the North West Coast and is also home to old-fashioned breeds of chooks, ducks, cattle and sheep. What drives the couple, and a unique talking point, is how animal welfare far outweighs profit in this venture. Ethically-produced meat underpins all of the operation’s retail lines.

“I’ve always wanted to run my own business and have a go at producing, and what I did find is in Tasmania you need to develop a niche product to be successful. Of all the free-range animals no one was doing pigs,” Guy said.

Guy and Eliza started with 10 pigs and a boar. Back then they would process two pigs a week for restaurants. Now they can take up to 10 a week to restaurants and cafes and travel to farmers’ markets across the state to showcase their popular wares.

They have also recently secured a grant to build a food and farming centre on their Dial Range property.

SEONA FINDLAY | B AgrSc Hons 1998 | TAS AGRONOMY PTY LTD

Seona Findlay is a busy woman. Like many, she is juggling the needs of raising a young family and managing her own business. However, she would not have it any other way.

“For me, the opportunities my chosen career has provided me have been amazing. I feel lucky every day I get to be involved with a great industry,” she said.

Seona graduated with a Bachelor of Agricultural Science (Hons) degree in 1997. She was awarded the Sir Harold Cuthbertson University Prize for “showing the greatest potential to make a contribution to Tasmanian agriculture”.

Since graduation, she has worked as a sales agronomist before establishing her own business, Tas Agronomy Pty Ltd, in 2006.

“The degree gave me a good understanding and general knowledge. The degree was quite broad which meant I wasn’t locked into a specific job at the end of it. This really appealed to me, to have flexibility,” she said.

The independent business works directly with individuals and farming groups, providing whole-systems approaches to farming practices. The business has grown from a one-person operation to a fully fledged company. Seona is a strong advocate for encouraging the next generation of scientists – school leavers or those looking for a career change.

“I am a vocal advocate for encouraging the young, and not so young, to enter the industry, and help out where I can. I volunteer and co-ordinate the Hagley Farm School Vegetable Garden Program.

“Getting our young involved and showcasing all the job opportunities that agricultural science provides is great, but we shouldn’t forget to look at encouraging older candidates into the industry.”
In her own business words, Dr Hazel MacTavish-West helps industry profit from science. Along with her husband, Darren West, she co-founded the business MacTavish West Pty Ltd, a specialised consultancy firm providing near-market food science and technology, scientific, engineering and creative services to a diverse range of businesses in Australia and Europe.

It was her unique PhD research into factors affecting oil yield and quality in Brown Boronia which laid the foundation for future business ventures.

Hazel completed her PhD in 1995 at the University of Tasmania with Professor Bob Menary.

“I was lucky enough to be able to pursue the science as well as developing industry-ready techniques to capture the benefits of my findings via post-doc work,” she said.

Since graduation she has worked across industry and academia, especially in the UK, where she originally established MacTavish West.

“I thought I was too specialised for the smaller markets here in Australia (based on population) compared with Europe – but I was wrong,” she said.

“Business is booming and we are busier than ever, keeping up UK activity as well.

“We simply get to do interesting things and live in a better place: Tasmania.

“I specialise in the things in plants which make them coloured, flavoured and bioactive.

“The applications can be food or non-food. The common theme is plant biochemistry – and helping industry profit from science.”

Will Tatchell pursued his passion in life, and has forged quite an enviable career path. Since completing his Bachelor of Applied Science – Agriculture (2003), Will spent several years fine-tuning his craft of brewing before he and his family established Van Dieman Brewing in 2009.

The microbrewery is located on his family farming property, just outside the historic Tasmanian town of Evandale.

“I’ve been fortunate to forge a career in an industry I’m excessively passionate about – brewing,” Will said.

He spent several years training as a breweer in the UK, before returning to Australia to start his own craft brewery.

He said the industry had adopted the US term “craft” brewing, as opposed to boutique, which can be best defined by process – not so much size.

“The process of craft brewing is time-consuming, you’re using expensive ingredients and your beer needs to be made with passion, that’s the most critical ingredient,” Will said.

“It’s very easy for us to stick to these principles as a 100 per cent independently owned brewery. My degree allowed me to gain an intimate knowledge of key sectors of the brewing industry, namely grain production systems, microbiology and chemistry.

“I thrive on the creative nature that brewing beer provides, and I see it as an extension of the agricultural industry, particularly with the Tasmanian ingredients we utilise and the relationships we have with fellow Tasmanian suppliers.”
THE NEXT 50 YEARS: AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE AND FOOD SYSTEMS

Without agriculture, societies would fail, economies would collapse. And the key to agriculture is science

By Professor Holger Meinke

Celebrating successes and achievements is very important, and we don't do it often enough. So the big event for us in 2013 was, of course, the 50th anniversary of the School of Agricultural Science, which provided plenty of opportunity to celebrate. We put on an exciting, professional and enjoyable program. Our Vice-Chancellor, Professor Peter Rathjen, opened the ceremonies and highlighted the importance of agricultural science for the University and Tasmania.

There are some amazing people among our alumni and many travelled from afar to be with us. Apparently our dinner at the University Club was the biggest dinner ever held there. It was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the school's successes, recent achievements and future aspirations, and to mark this very important milestone for the school, for the University, for Tasmania and for global agricultural research and teaching.

I used the occasion to highlight that agriculture remains the foundation for all our societies – we all need to eat, preferably three times a day.

The first degree of Agricultural Science was offered at the University in 1963, and there's no doubt agricultural research and teaching are more important than ever. It is particularly important for Tasmania, where agriculture and related value chains account for about 18 per cent of the state's economic activity.

Agriculture remains the foundation for all our societies – we all need to eat. Professor Holger Meinke

Professor Holger Meinke (left), Director of the Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture, with Dr Richard Doyle from the School of Agricultural Science.

I am proud to be the Director of the Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture (TIA), which has the responsibility to deliver independent agricultural research, teaching, industry development and extension throughout Tasmania. We are the only organisation in Australia that has such a comprehensive mandate. I accepted the challenge to lead TIA largely because I recognised it as such an innovative organisation, an institution designed to address questions at all levels, with a clear focus on solving problems that matter.

With the recent merger of the schools of Agricultural Science/TIA and Geography/Environmental Studies into the new School of Land and Food – of which I am the Head of School – we have embarked on a very ambitious curriculum reform agenda. Rather than designing a curriculum we think will work, we are actively listening to those people who ultimately need to benefit from this: our current and future students, the agriculture sector in general and, of course, everyone who is actively involved in the cutting-edge science that underpins our agricultural and food systems.

TIA and the School of Agricultural Science laid the foundation for excellence and I will continue to ensure our organisation remains up there with the best of them. In recent years, TIA has substantially increased its student intake and achieved some noteworthy evaluations. This includes an Excellence in Research for Australia rating of 5 for agriculture – the highest rating possible. We will focus solidly on the innovations required to remain at the leading edge of science – locally, nationally and internationally.

At universities like ours we tend to refer to agriculture as “a discipline” like physics, mathematics, law or fine arts. But this categorisation doesn't stack up anymore. Agriculture is a fundamental pillar of our economy. This is why in our new school we now have a discipline cluster called “Agriculture and Food Systems”. Can you envisage a future without agriculture? All of our food produced and imported from elsewhere? No rural landscapes, no farmers' markets, no berries freshly picked or local cheeses accompanied by a fine pinot noir?

And this is where the famous quote by Lord Cameron of Dillington comes in, who, in relation to Britain's food security discussion about 10 years ago, quipped that at any time our societies are all only nine meals away from anarchy.

Agriculture and food systems are part of our social fabric.

So no, a future without agriculture is not something we can envisage: it is a vital part of our society and economy aimed at keeping us fed and healthy.
Team high-five

Five University of Tasmania graduates have been recognised for their work in turning the Glenorchy Art and Sculpture Park (GASP) into an award-winning success.

By Anna Osborne

Five University of Tasmania graduates have redesigned, and in turn reinvigorated, an integral part of Hobart city’s river landscape. Architects from Tasmanian firm Room 11, including Thomas Bailey (BArch Hons 2004), Megan Baynes (BArch Hons 2004), Nathan Crump (BEnvDes 1999), James Wilson (BEnvDes 1998) and Josh Fitzgerald (BEnvDes 2007), were instrumental in turning the Glenorchy Art and Sculpture Park (GASP) into a reality.

GASP is a multi-faceted art park just 10 minutes from Hobart, on the northern shores of the city’s Derwent River at Elwick Bay.

The project was led by Thomas Bailey and includes four sections of coloured boardwalk split across 3km of foreshore.

The public walkway hugs Elwick Bay and is also home to two new pavilions.

The first stage also features a shared path which stretches from Little John Rivulet to Wilkinson’s Point.

The boardwalk crosses both land and...
sea, and links points of interest including a playground, entertainment centre and school. Seasonal art installations also provide opportunities for sightseeing.

Stroll, cycle or jog along the ground-level pathway which houses two pavilions – at Little John Rivulet and Humphrey’s Rivulet – and make perfect pit stops to soak up views and vistas.

Its functionality and purpose is matched only by its approach to a design sensitive to the local urban and industrial landscape.

It appears the team’s efforts have captured national attention, too.

The firm picked up a Tasmanian Chapter of the Institute of Architects State Urban Design Award and the Australian Institute of Architects National Award for Urban Design 2013 for the project. They also received the prestigious 2012 Dulux Commercial Award.

“We were humbled by the response from the profession,” Thomas said.

Room 11 has built a strong reputation for its work of timeless, functional, sophisticated and environmentally responsible architecture.

“We think of architecture as a tool that manipulates perception,” he said.

The firm has been involved in the project since it began with a competition in 2010. Stage Two of the park opened last year.

The second installation incorporates 800m of new paths, a wetland and a new multi-purpose pavilion at Wilkinson’s Point which also includes boat moorings.

The pavilion is powered and sits across the bay from MONA. The seamless design and bold colour of the pavilion reflects its relationship with the bay while providing a functional area to play, relax or entertain.
HIGH ACHIEVERS

STEPHANIE CLAYTON
BACHELOR OF EDUCATION (EARLY CHILDHOOD) 2011
Stephanie is a recent alumnus who has returned to study after gaining practical experience of education in the classroom.
After graduating in 2011, Stephanie taught a grade 1-2 class for 12 months at Miandetta Primary School in north-west Tasmania.
While she enjoyed being a classroom teacher, Stephanie realised she missed the writing and research she had experienced during her studies.
“I have always wanted to do a PhD and, although I really enjoyed my time with students in the classroom, I realised that I needed to fulfill my dream and return to university,” Stephanie said.
Stephanie was successful in her 2013 application for an Elite Research Scholarship.
Her PhD is extending her final-year undergraduate honours project focus of students’ choice of studying language subjects at secondary school.
The title of the PhD project is: To L2 or not to L2? Selecting a Second Language as an Elective Subject in Grades 9-12 in Tasmania.
Stephanie will remain connected to classrooms, undertaking relief teaching during her postgraduate study.

ROSS BYERS
BACHELOR OF CONTEMPORARY ARTS 2002, MASTER OF FINE ART AND DESIGN 2006
Ross studied his undergraduate and postgraduate degrees at the University of Tasmania, completing a Bachelor of Contemporary Arts in sculpture in 2002 and a Master of Fine Art and Design in 2006.
Since completing his postgraduate studies, he has worked as a freelance sculptural artist. He was the 2013 recipient of the Devonport Regional Gallery’s annual commission opportunity, which culminated in a solo exhibition.
Ross has just completed a month-long Artist in Residency at the University’s Cradle Coast Campus. His research project focused on the changing face of Burnie since closure of the local paper mill.
As part of his residency, Ross established an open studio space in the Cradle Coast Campus foyer attracting many local people and more than 170 students.
“The Cradle Coast residency has been strongly focused on conversation-based research with people who worked at the pulp mill, local students, educators and the extended community,” Ross said.
“One of the things that struck me through this project is how local communities in Tasmania have relied heavily on big business to make us feel secure.”

PROFESSOR MARILYN LAKE
Dr Marilyn Lake is a Professor in History and ARC Professorial Fellow in the School of Historical and Philosophical Studies at the University of Melbourne. She also convenes a series of public lectures and seminars called Australia in the World.
She has achieved great success across her academic career including being awarded an honorary doctorate by the University of Tasmania (2000); in 2001 she was appointed to the Chair in Australian Studies at Harvard University; in 2008, she co-authored a book with Henry Reynolds, Drawing the Global Colour Line: White Men’s Countries and the Question of Racial Equality. The book received the Prime Minister’s Literary Award for non-fiction, the Ernest Scott Prize and the Queensland Premier’s Prize. In 2010 she was elected President of the Australian Historical Association and secured a second term in 2012. “I was taught by great historians at the University of Tasmania: Professor Michael Roe, who inspired my interest in American history, for which I won the Australian-American Association prize in third year History; by Malcolm McRae, who taught me about Australian radical nationalism and by Dr Kay Daniels, who introduced me to feminist ways of understanding history,” Marilyn said.

Continued page 34
Dr Peter Jones, Master of Humanities, 1996

Dr Peter Jones has been a history and comparative religion teacher at The Friends’ School in Hobart since 1992.

He completed a Master of Humanities (Tasmanian History) in 1996 under the guidance of Michael Roe. Peter wanted to learn more about his new homeland, and further his professional development. (His first degree was an MA in British and European History from Oxford).

His studies influenced his teaching career and he would often take students on field trips to Recherche Bay, and organise walks around Hobart looking at commemorative plaques and other sites of recognition. His thesis was on the history of the Democratic Labor Party in Tasmania.

“The party is usually associated with Victoria, though it began in Tasmania after the 1955 split at the ALP conference in Hobart,” Peter said. “I don’t know if anyone has looked at it since, but given that the DLP has recently, like Lazarus, risen from the dead in Australian politics, perhaps it might be of interest to students curious to know its origins. I was also invited to contribute an item on this period for the Tasmanian Encyclopaedia.”

He pursued his PhD, ‘Islamic Schools in Australia – Australian Muslims or Muslims in Australia?’, through the University of New England.
In 2015, the University of Tasmania will celebrate 125 years of history and extraordinary achievements. We invite you to help us celebrate, and to share your stories of student life, lecturers, researchers, alumni successes and community impact. You can share stories online at www.utas.edu.au/125, by emailing 125@utas.edu.au or by writing to The 125 Stories project, Private Bag 40, University of Tasmania, Hobart 7001.

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