

MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS



Mid-July to Mid- August 2009

There has been significant media activity over the past month in relation to the following events, announcements and research at the University of Tasmania:

University News

Young Tassie art makes vibrant exhibition

The UTAS Tasmanian School of Art recently hosted ArtRage 2008, the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery (QVMAG)'s exhibition of secondary school student artwork. Showcasing the talent of many of Tasmania's future arts professionals, ArtRage is exhibited in the creative environment of the School of Art, Hobart. ArtRage includes artwork from more than 70 secondary art students from across the State.

Local: Hobart Mercury

UTAS soprano wins Churchill Fellowship

UTAS Conservatorium of Music lecturer, Gina Bashford, has been awarded a Churchill Fellowship to help smarten the ears of Tasmanian music students. Ms Bashford will visit prestigious music academies in Hungary, Finland and Britain to learn both traditional and new music teaching strategies, which focus on ear training (aural skills) and vocal technique – something that music students often do not learn until they reach university as it is not taught in Australian schools.

Local: Hobart Mercury, Sunday Tasmanian, ABC 936 Hobart, Launceston Examiner

Partnership project aims for a greener future

The University of Tasmania and Greening Australia, Tasmania, secured an Australian Research Council (ARC) grant totalling \$530,000 to create more resilient landscapes and a greener future for the State. Academics from the UTAS School of Plant Science, Prof. David Bowman, Prof. Brad Potts and Associate Professor Mark Hovenden and Dr Anthony O'Grady (now working with CSIRO) will work with Greening Australia to conduct research to provide an urgently needed scientific framework for proposed large-scale restoration of degraded Tasmanian rural landscapes.

Local: ABC 936 Hobart, Hobart Mercury

\$500,000 funding for Asian languages project

A new project at the University of Tasmania to develop Asian language excellence in the State received a \$500,000 funding boost from the Commonwealth Government. UTAS Vice-Chancellor Professor Daryl Le Grew said the funding will help strengthen networks between the University, Tasmanian schools, local Asian communities and businesses and

partner with universities in Asia. Funding for the project, called “New pathways for the teaching and learning of Chinese, Indonesian and Japanese in Tasmania”, was one of just seven winners out of 117 applications.

Local: Burnie Advocate

Geography covers more ground than ever

The sixth annual 2009 School of Geography and Environmental Studies Conference took place on Monday 6 July 2009. Head of the UTAS School of Geography and Environmental Studies, Professor Elaine Stratford, said the conference was a chance to celebrate and share the work produced in the School. There were presentations from Honours, Masters by coursework and Research Higher Degree candidates, as well as staff and Honorary Research Associates.

Local: ABC 936 Hobart

National: ABC 702 Sydney

Healthy careers for NW Year 10 students

Year 10 students from Tasmania’s North-West were catapulted into the future, experiencing first-hand the challenges of working in the health professions. The 35 students, from 12 schools, attended the UTAS Rural Clinical School as part of an annual three-day Health Careers Camp. The students worked with medical specialists during simulated medical situations in the operating theatre and gained an insight into what it is like to work as a theatre nurse, environmental health officer, biomedical specialist, anaesthetist, dietician, radiographer and physiotherapist. The Health Careers Camp has had success in attracting students into health-related university courses since it was piloted in 2000.

Local: Burnie Advocate

Careers and Courses in ICT Expo

The UTAS School of Computing and Information Systems recently opened its cutting edge gaming development labs and revealed its latest research breakthroughs to secondary school students as part of National ICT Careers Week. The Careers and Courses in ICT Expo showcased the range of ICT courses on offer at UTAS, including the new Games Fundamentals course offered for the first time this year. More than 20 games developed in the purpose-built games lab as part of the course were on display..

Local: ABC 936 Hobart, ABC Northern, Sunday Tasmanian, Heart FM

Artificially intelligent web monitoring system

Hours wasted dredging through internet sites may be a thing of the past with the help of a “smart” internet monitoring system being developed at UTAS. UTAS School of Computing and Information Systems academic Associate Professor Byeong-ho Kang has placed himself at the forefront of Tasmania’s telecommunications revolution with the development of an artificially intelligent internet monitoring system. Assoc. Prof. Kang’s innovation is particularly timely, given the possibilities that will flow into Tasmania with the Federal Government’s rollout of the national broadband network (NBN) and the

arrival in Tasmania of pioneer of the internet, Professor Larry Smarr, who advised government and businesses on the best way to utilise the NBN.

Local: Hobart Mercury, ABC 936 Hobart, Launceston Examiner,

National: The Australian

Young winners get their Big Ad Break

UTAS recently announced the winners of the UTAS Big Ad Break competition. Winners Mark Kuilenburg, Daniel Cosgrove and Angus Ashton take away the \$5000 in prize money for their entry “Beyond the Door”, which was shown on commercial television for the first time today. The Big Ad Break competition invited contestants to “unlock their inner ad guru” and make a 30-second commercial to promote the University’s 2009 Open Days.

Local: Hobart Mercury, Southern Cross News

Savvy science students put to the test

The Tasmanian heats of the national Science and Engineering Challenge were held at three locations around the state recently. The Challenge involves teams of Year 9 and 10 students from 34 Tasmanian schools racing each other to complete tasks involving principles of science, engineering and technology. Heat winners from the three regions will go on to the state final to compete for the chance of representing Tasmania at the national Challenge at Bendigo in October.

Local: Hobart Mercury, Launceston Examiner

New Devil Fundraising Entity Committee Announced

The Young Australian Career Achiever 2000, an international wildlife conservationist and a Commonwealth Government wildlife legislation strategist, are among the members of the Save the Tasmanian Devil Appeal Committee, announced today in Hobart. The members were confirmed at the University of Tasmania Foundation Board meeting this morning, before the committee’s inaugural meeting of the official fundraising entity for the Devil Facial Tumour Disease. Appeal Committee Chair, David Rowell, said that the formalisation of the committee was a significant step in the global effort to save the Tasmanian devil.

Local: Hobart Mercury, Heart FM, Sunday Tasmanian

Open Days

The UTAS open days were well-attended this year. Writer, television presenter and sustainable living expert Tanya Ha revealed how science is used and misused to sell products, and will help make sense of environmental advertising claims in a free public lecture at Newnham. Other star attractions of the day included tours of the virtual reality HIT Lab AU and VisionSpace and new \$7 million Centre for Maritime Simulations. In Hobart renowned author and media commentator Scott Pape – *The Barefoot Investor* – delivered a free public lecture with Professor Mardi Dungey on the Global Financial Crisis amongst a variety of events.

Local: Hobart Mercury, Ultra 106.5, ABC 936 Hobart, Heart FM, ABC Northern Tasmania, Launceston Examiner, Win TV

Graduations

More than 300 students graduated at ceremonies in Launceston and another 786 graduated in ceremonies in Hobart.

Local: Hobart Mercury, Win Hobart, Sunday Tasmanian, Launceston Examiner

Chemical recipes for disaster

Fiery explosions, beautiful reactions and stunt jelly babies were the highlights of a chemistry magic show touring Tasmania. Hobart girl, turned international science show star, Adele Wilson, returned to Tasmania to further research in chemistry and for one week will perform some silly, crazy and dangerous chemistry as part of National Science Week. Ms Wilson has performed science shows in schools, theatres and sheds all around Australia and the United Kingdom with the likes of Questacon, the Edinburgh International Science Festival and BBC Brainiac scientist, Dr Bunhead.

Local: Southern Cross News, Win News, ABC-TV, Launceston Examiner, Hobart Mercury

NBN to revolutionise education

The national broadband network (NBN) roll-out will transform access to education for all Tasmanians, says UTAS School of Computing and Information Systems head Dr Julian Dermoudy. Dr Dermoudy said despite flexible learning being available at schools and universities in the state, the internet bandwidth available to students studying off campus had limited its success.

Local: Launceston Examiner, Hobart Mercury, Southern Cross News, ABC 936 Hobart

Plasma the future of energy

An internationally renowned physicist who launched the world's first plasma-powered satellite into space, gave a free public lecture in Hobart.

Associate Professor Christine Charles spoke about plasma - a hot ionised gas containing positive and negative charges- which is used in plasma televisions and fluorescent lights. Plasma accounts for more than 99% of the total mass of the universe and can be used in the future to build fuel cells to drive motorised vehicles for getting around town and transporting humans to other planets.

Local: ABC 936 Hobart, Hobart Mercury

Science mysteries revealed at UTAS Science Fair

1200 Tasmanian school students attended this year's UTAS Science Fair. The Faculties of Science, Engineering and Technology and Education held an extravaganza on the wonders of science for school children and their teachers as part of National Science Week activities. Twenty-four schools and 1200 students attended the UTAS Science Fair sessions. at the Activities Centre, UTAS Sandy Bay campus.

Local: ABC 936 Hobart, Hobart Mercury

Laugh while you learn mathematics

A stand-up comedian direct from the Melbourne International Comedy Festival performed Hobart in August as part of National Science Week 2009. Simon Pampena is an award winning comedian with a passion for teaching mathematics. It is his third year

of involvement with National Science Week, previously touring in 2007 and 2008. Pampena is well known for his 'Numbercrunch' show, which he performs to schools around Australia. The show inspires students to learn by incorporating comedy into an energetic audio-visual performance, designed to teach students mathematics.

Local: Hobart Mercury, ABC Northern Tasmania , ABC 936 Hobart

Experimental new-media artist comes to Launceston

Internationally-recognised experimental artist Stelarc was joined in conversation by two leading new media experts for a special one-off event at the UTAS Annexe Theatre. Stelarc is an Australian artist who has performed extensively in Japan, Europe and the US, including new music, dance festivals and experimental theatre. He has used medical instruments, prosthetics, robotics, virtual reality systems and the internet to explore alternate, intimate and involuntary interfaces with the body. Stelarc is currently surgically constructing and using stem cells to grow a visible ear on his arm, which will be internet enabled.

Local: Launceston Examiner

Cancer research to continue after graduation

A University of Tasmania student has channelled the tragedy of cancer that touched her family into a determination to help find a cure for the disease. Heather McGee graduated with a PhD having spent three years of her doctorate unravelling the relationship between exposure to sunlight during childhood and diseases such as skin cancer and autoimmune disease in adult life. Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, a type of blood cancer, tragically took her father's life a few years ago and Ms McGee spent her graduation morning in Hobart's CBD collecting donations for the David Collins Leukaemia Foundation's annual button day. Ms McGee will continue research into skin cancer at the UTAS Menzies Research Institute.

Local: Hobart Mercury, Launceston Examiner, Southern Cross News

Cradle Coast research talent on show

The North West Coast's research talent was on show for a special one-day conference in Burnie recently. The inaugural Cradle Coast Postgraduate Research Conference, *Research on the Edge*, brought together researchers from across the region to discuss their latest findings in a range of areas including rural health, education, architecture, agriculture and sustainability solutions.

Local: Burnie Advocate

Good Guide shows UTAS stars

The University of Tasmania is continuing to earn its stars in the *Good Universities Guide*. UTAS has received a five star rating for access and equity, which ranks it in the top 20 per cent of Australian universities and in the top three universities for rates of participation from low socio-economic areas. The university also received four-star ratings for teaching quality and research, putting UTAS ahead of many of the larger, metropolitan universities in other states. UTAS Vic-Chancellor Professor Daryl Le Grew said the rankings for teaching quality, research and equity show what an important contribution the University makes to the Tasmanian community.

Local: Hobart Mercury, Heart FM, ABC 936

Research News

New research needs old photos

A new research project underway at UTAS needs your old holiday beach photos. Honours student Monica Hayes and her supervisor Professor Jamie Kirkpatrick, from the UTAS School of Geography and Environmental Studies, are using photographs of beaches to help determine the environmental changes that have taken place as a result of marram grass introduction. Photos of coastlines taken from the air are available from the late 1940s onwards, but Monica and Prof. Kirkpatrick have been unable to find many photographs prior to this. Prof. Kirkpatrick said sea levels are rising and human pressure on the coast is increasing.

Local: Hobart Mercury, ABC 936 Hobart, ABC Northern Tasmania, Southern Cross News

Research helps asthmatics breath easier

An asthma intervention program developed by the University of Tasmania for community pharmacies has found a significant improvement in the management and quality of life for sufferers of the respiratory condition. The School of Pharmacy's Unit for Medication Outcomes Research and Education project recently completed its research review finding that general practitioners, community pharmacists and people with asthma support the full implementation of the program. Researcher pharmacist Bonnie Bereznicki said the project also saw participants endorse a national roll-out of the intervention program that could benefit more than 150,000 Australians with poorly controlled asthma.

Local: Launceston Examiner, Heart FM

Building positive refugee-police relations

Strategies for improving refugee-police relations in regional Australia are outlined in a Tasmanian Institute of Law Enforcement Studies report, which was released at a Hobart forum. The report, *A Conversation on Trust: Community Policing and Refugee Settlement in Regional Australia*, analysed the settlement of African refugees in Tasmania from the perspective of both refugees and police. Report co-author, Danielle Campbell, said many African refugees had been victims of state-sanctioned violence in their countries of origin and, as a result of this trauma, they mistrust government officials, police, uniformed officials and soldiers.

Local: Hobart Mercury, Southern Cross TV, Win TV, Launceston Examiner

National: Radio National

Last Chance to Comment on Circumcision

The Tasmanian Law Reform Institute at UTAS encouraged the Tasmanian community to contribute to the largest review into the legalities of male circumcision in Australia's history, before final submissions close on 28 August. The issues paper, *Non-Therapeutic Male Circumcision*, requested by the Tasmanian Commissioner for Children, has identified serious uncertainty about whether circumcision can be lawfully performed on

an infant male. TLRI Postgraduate student and Issues Paper author, Warwick Marshall, said the research has found that the criminal and civil laws fail to provide adequate certainty for both parents and members of the medical profession.

Local: ABC 936 Hobart, Burnie Advocate (two articles), Hobart Mercury, Launceston Advertiser, Launceston Examiner

National: Geelong Advertiser, Northern Territory News, Newcastle Herald, News.com, AAP, Border Mail, Canberra Times, Western Advocate, ABC 66 Canberra, Radio National Canberra, Melbourne Herald Sun, Ballarat Courier, 2GB Sydney

Mapping health in Beaconsfield and NW Tamar

A project mapping the community health and wellbeing needs of residents in the Beaconsfield catchment area recently kicked off. The Beaconsfield Health and Wellbeing Mapping Project is a timely initiative with the last health needs assessment being conducted in 2002. It has been designed to identify and prioritise the health and wellbeing needs and assets of the Beaconsfield community. The project aims to gather a variety of information from community members, health service providers and community stakeholders including the council, schools, businesses and service groups in order to plan and develop funding grants, service plans and other initiatives that can be used to improve the health and wellbeing of the community in the Beaconsfield catchment area.

Local: Burnie Advocate

Enjoy running in 35°C temperatures during a Launceston winter

Runners can escape the cold Launceston winter by participating in a trial being run by the UTAS School of Human Life Sciences. Dr Cecilia Shing is leading a trial investigating the effect of probiotic diet supplementation on gut function when running in a hot environment. Her research findings may help improve exercise performance and heat tolerance of not only elite athletes, but also fire fighters and defence personnel working in high temperature conditions.

Local: ABC Northern Tasmania, Win Hobart, Southern Cross News, ABC1, Hobart Mercury, Launceston Examiner

Investigation into how vitamin D affects balance and muscle strength

A University of Tasmania investigation into how the Tasmanian weather impacts on balance and muscle strength is seeking volunteers from northern Tasmania to be part of the study. UTAS School of Human Life Sciences lecturer Marie-Louise Bird said there was evidence that the types of accidental falls that older people have change with the different seasons. Ms Bird's study will investigate whether there are measurable changes in balance in people aged between 60 and 85 at different times of the year and if this is related to either changes in activity level, leg strength or levels of vitamin D. Study participants from the Launceston region will be required to attend testing five times over a one year period starting in Spring 2009.

Local: Launceston Advertiser, Hobart Mercury, ABC 936 Hobart, ABC Northern Tasmania

Southern Ocean commuters

Groundbreaking research undertaken by the UTAS School of Zoology has discovered Antarctic fur seals commute, rather than migrate, south for the winter. The investigation by the UTAS Antarctic Wildlife Research Unit found some pregnant seals swim over 12,000km during winter as they make multiple trips between sub-Antarctic islands and the rich winter feeding grounds off the coast of Antarctica. The study, conducted by UTAS's Dr Mary-Anne Lea and Professor Mark Hindell and South African collaborators Professor Marthan Bester, Nico de Bruyn and Chris Oosthuizen, tracked female seals from Marion Island, a sub-Antarctic island 1770km to the southeast of South Africa.

Local: ABC 936 Hobart, Southern Cross, ABC TV,

National: Sydney Morning Herald, ABC TV

Tasmanian company pioneers video podcast games

Three University of Tasmania students are blazing a trail in the internet entertainment industry with the development of a computer game based on a cult video podcast comedy series and an iPhone game that can be shared via social network site Twitter. During the week the three friends study at the UTAS School of Computing and Information Systems and on the weekends they set-up with laptops and iPhones at their favourite café to create games and innovative software under the alias of Secret Lab. Television and movie spin-off games have been around for years, but this is believed to be the first time that an electronic game has been created based on a video podcast series.

Local: ABC 936 Hobart, Hobart Mercury

UTAS research achieves dramatic drop in sedative use in nursing homes

Sedative use in Hobart nursing homes has decreased by almost half over two years as a result of UTAS research. The findings have just been released as part of the School of Pharmacy's Reducing Use of Sedatives (RedUSE) intervention project, promoting improved use of benzodiazepines (sleeping and anxiety tablets) and antipsychotics in nursing homes. The results will reach the international stage with Project manager, PhD student Juanita Westbury, presenting the research as part of a junior research prize at an international old age mental health conference in Montreal, Canada in September, resulting in guaranteed publication in an international journal on the psychiatry of old age.

Local: Hobart Mercury, Burnie Advocate, HO FM, ABC 936 Hobart, Pharmacy News

Expertise

Fires close in on Athens

Fire expert, Professor David Bowman from the University of Tasmania says the conditions in Greece are different to Australia. He says the scale of these wildfires in Europe serves as a stark warning for Australia's upcoming fire season.

National: ABC The World Today

Watchdog vow before polls

University of Tasmania senior law lecturer Rick Snell said the anti-corruption watchdog body could be established by the time voters went to the polls - but it may not necessarily be fully functional.

"You could have the commission established, but you might not have the staff in place," he said.

Local: Launceston Examiner

QVMAG outside broadcast - What kind of sport should you play?

Dr James Fell is the Exercise Science Program Coordinator at the School of Human Life Sciences at the University of Tasmania. He came and spoke to us about his program which looks at athlete talent identification. He uses a series of tests to identify what sport you should play.

If you or your sporting club want to be tested then go to www.ausport.gov.au

Local: ABC Mornings with Tim Cox statewide – ABC online