

MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS



Mid-March to Mid- May 2009

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

University News

Commonwealth Budget wins

Funding of \$45 million to establish a purpose-built facility for the new Institute of Marine and Antarctic Studies (IMAS) in Hobart was announced as part of the Commonwealth Budget on 12 May 2009. UTAS also received \$44.7 million for the Menzies Research Institute building along with \$52 million in funding for the Integrated Marine Observing System (IMOS) housed at UTAS. In addition, UTAS was part of the consortium with CSIRO in a successful \$120 million bid for a new research vessel to replace the existing *Southern Surveyor* and \$30 million for maintenance of the existing vessel. UTAS Vice-Chancellor Professor Daryl Le Grew said UTAS had every reason to be very pleased with the result.

Local coverage: ABC Hobart, ABC Northern Tasmania, *The Mercury*, *The Examiner*, *The Advocate*

National coverage: *The Australian*, *The Financial Review*, *The Age*, ABC 1 National TV News.

International investment

Having built a profound asset in international education, universities now need to think even more creatively about the future, says UTAS Vice-Chancellor Professor Daryl Le Grew. In the present bear market experienced by almost all other export sectors in the Australian economy, international education is rapidly becoming Australia's largest export sector. Also, he says Australian universities can be confident of international enrolments remaining at good levels at least in the short term

National coverage: *Campus Review*, *The Australian*

Uni enrolments an economic fillip for North

A consistent level of university students enrolling in Northern Tasmania is injecting millions of dollars into the local economy. More than 6000 students are enrolled in the North this semester, about the same as last year's level.

Local coverage: *Launceston Advertiser*

2009 UTAS Australian All Schools & Youth Championships

Athletics Tasmania, Athletics Australia and the University of Tasmania are delighted to announce that the 2009 UTAS Australian All Schools & Youth

Championships will be held at the Domain Athletics Centre in Hobart. UTAS Vice-Chancellor Professor Daryl Le Grew said UTAS is very proud to be involved in bringing this national event to Tasmania and showcase the University and the State to young people from all around Australia. "The synergy between young people that excel in the sporting arena and in academic pursuits is well known and it is certainly a strong element of student life that we promote at UTAS," he said.

Local coverage: *The Mercury, The Examiner*

New telescope installed at UTAS Observatory

A new 12 metre telescope dish was recently lifted into place at the UTAS Mount Pleasant Observatory as part of a new Australia-wide network. The network aims to examine the structure and evolution of the Australian continent in time and space. The establishment of the network is an initiative of the AuScope organisation, of which UTAS is a partner. AuScope is funded by the Australian Government under the National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy (NCRIS). The telescopes for the network are manufactured by Cobham Satcom Patriot products.

Local coverage: Win TV, Heart FM, ABC 936

National coverage: Business News

\$1m martial arts and gym extensions open for UTAS at Newnham

UTAS hopes to attract state and national martial arts competitions to Launceston with the opening of new Dojo and gym extension facilities at the University gym at Newnham. Opening the facilities, UTAS Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic) and Provost, Professor David Rich, said he hoped both the new Dojo facility and gym extensions would increase use of the gym by people from Launceston and surrounding areas. The Dojo development and gym extensions are funded by the Australian Government.

Local coverage: *The Examiner, Launceston Advertiser, The Mercury*

Professor Colin Buxton writes opinion piece concerning Side effects of marine parks/marine protected areas

An opinion piece by Professor Colin Buxton, Director of TAFI, about the South Australian government's plans to turn half of the State's waters into marine parks argues that while on the surface the concept seems to have merit in preserving fish stocks and protecting the marine environment, research funded by the government indicates this action could have side effects which can potentially devastate fish stocks.

National coverage: *Port Lincoln Times, The Advertiser Adelaide, Whyalla News, Sunday Mail Adelaide, ABC Mount Gambier, ABC Port Pirie*

Community News

University option for retrenched Caterpillar workers

UTAS will offer scholarships to retrenched Caterpillar Underground mining employees. The scholarships will cover the costs of the student's higher

education contribution of between \$4162 and \$8677 over a year, depending on the course chosen. For those workers who are not qualified to undertake a Bachelor degree entry places will be made available in the University's two-year Associate Degree program and/or university preparation and bridging programs.

Local coverage: ABC 936 Hobart, ABC Northern Tasmania, *The Mercury*, *The Examiner*

National coverage: *Kalgoorlie Miner*, *Bendigo Advertiser*, *Barrier Daily Truth* (NSW), *Geelong Advertiser*, *Sunraysia Daily* (VIC), *Shepparton News* (VIC), Channel 7 Sunrise

Future doctors head out on rural rounds

Communities from Queenstown to Penguin and Dover welcomed small groups of students to their towns for a week of grassroots learning about local networks of health care and how they impact on the lives of people living in these communities. UTAS' medical degree aims to produce junior doctors who will be well-equipped to address the future healthcare needs of Tasmania's communities, and has a particular emphasis on rural health. More than 120 second year UTAS medical students visited country areas to learn more about health services in rural communities around Tasmania during their 'rural week' which ran from 20 to 24 April 2009. This innovative Rural Communities Program is part of a staged introduction to rural practice for medical students at UTAS.

Local coverage: *East Coast News*, *The Advocate*, *The Examiner*, *Huon Valley News*, *The Mercury*

UTAS joins global astronomy marathon

The University of Tasmania's Mt Pleasant 26m Radio Telescope recently joined '100 Hours of Astronomy', which set out to become the largest science public outreach event ever. The event was part of the celebrations for the International Year of Astronomy involving a broad range of astronomical activities held around the world aimed at involving the public. The Mt Pleasant Observatory is one of just five astronomical facilities in Australia participating in 'Around the World in 80 Telescopes'.

The Mt Pleasant Radio Telescope and adjoining Grote Reber Museum opened to the public on Saturday 4 April. Tours of the telescope facilities, control room and 3D space movies in the virtual reality theatre were provided for visitors. Dr Simon Ellingsen, from the School of Maths and Physics, said the Open Day was a great chance for the public to find out about the vital role the UTAS astronomical facilities play in a range of international science projects.

Local coverage: *The Mercury*, ABC 936 Hobart

National coverage: *Ballarat Courier*, ABC 66 Canberra

New Bookend patron gives documentary exclusive

Award-winning documentary maker Cathy Henkel joined the Tasmanian-based BookEnd Trust program as a new patron this April. The BookEnd program was launched in partnership with UTAS in 2008 with the aim of promoting positive

environmental solutions and careers to students throughout the State. The program recently won a Pride of Australia Medal for the voluntary work that went into creating it. To celebrate Ms Henkel's new role as a patron, BookEnd partnered with Screen Tasmania to present a special working preview of her latest film, *The Burning Season*, for Tasmanian film-makers.

Local coverage: *The Mercury*

North-West women capture India in new Campus exhibit

An Indian orphanage and school is the focus of a photography exhibition at the UTAS Cradle Coast Campus. *The Mona Lisa Project: living, loving and learning in India* features photographic images of some of the 12 orphans and 100 children living and learning at a school in India. The images were taken by UTAS associate lecturer in the Education Faculty, Donna Harris, along with North West Coast women Jess Jacobson and Allison Davies, all of whom travelled to India to volunteer at the school.

Local coverage: *The Advocate, The Examiner*

Active Launceston funding secured for three years and the launch of an Active Parks Resource Kit

The Active Launceston project will continue to provide Launceston residents with top quality opportunities to get physical, following the announcement of another three years of funding. UTAS, Launceston City Council and the State Government have each pledged \$35,000 a year to continue the community based project. In addition, Active Launceston launched a blueprint to help other Australian communities run the Active Parks program, held in central Launceston and its northern suburbs.

Local coverage: *The Examiner, Launceston Advertiser*

Research News

Researchers close the net on terrorist bombers

The pioneers of the world's first portable explosives 'fingerprint' device at the University of Tasmania, received \$1.6 million to refine research which is assisting investigations to apprehend terrorists responsible for bomb blasts. Over three years, a team of nine scientists from the Australian Centre for Research on Separation Science (ACROSS), within the School of Chemistry, will develop a new briefcase size instrument with the ability to analyse all post-blast residue.

Local coverage: *The Mercury, Southern Cross TV ABC Southern Tasmania, ABC online, ABC TV, Win TV, The Examiner, The Advocate, ABC Northern Tasmania, Heart FM, ABC 936*

National coverage: *The Australian, The Sydney Morning Herald, Newcastle Herald, The Advertiser Adelaide, Sunraysia Daily, Triple J Sydney, Win Dubbo, ABC1 Darwin, ABC1 Sydney, ABC1 Perth, ABC1 Canberra, ABC Melbourne, ABC 666 Canberra, ABC 7.30 Report*

International coverage: *The Money Times online*

New research about the link between bushfires and climate change

Fires are one of the greatest causes of increased carbon dioxide emissions in the atmosphere, an international study led by UTAS researcher Professor David Bowman found. Prof Bowman of the School of Plant Science, said fire needs to be recognised as an integral part of climate change, especially in Australia where bushfires are common. Prof Bowman and 21 other researchers from around the world, including Dr Fay Johnson from the Menzies Research Institute, have published their findings in the prestigious journal *Science* discussing the role of fires on health, ecology, global modelling, physics, anthropology, and climatology.

Local coverage: *The Mercury*, ABC 936 Hobart, ABC1, Heart FM Hobart, ABC Northern Tasmania,

National coverage: ABC Newcastle, ABC 666 Canberra, ABC 612 Brisbane, ABC 702 Sydney, Triple J Radio Sydney, ABC 891 Adelaide, ABC North West WA, ABC 1 Sydney, *Sydney Morning Herald*

International coverage: PhysOrg.com - Evergreen, VA, USA; *Science Magazine* USA; *Reno Gazette Journal* - Reno, NV, USA; InTech – NC, USA

Indian Ocean buoys help solve climate puzzles

A vast network of research buoys across the tropical Indian Ocean is helping farmers better plan their crops and to unlock the climate secrets of one of the least studied expanses of water, a team of scientists say. Director of the Integrated Marine Observing System at the University of Tasmania, Professor Gary Meyers, said the Indian Ocean was the most poorly observed and least understood of the three tropical oceans. A study on the network was published recently in the *Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society*.

International coverage: Reuters

Hot new theory on cooling the planet

Tasmanian scientists are devising a way to recycle greenhouse gases and help save the planet from global warming. Researchers from the University of Tasmania are developing a chemistry model which could help tackle climate change. Head of the University's School of Chemistry, Professor Brian Yates, says the experiments attempt to break the strong molecular bonds of pollutants such as carbon dioxide to produce less toxic compounds.

Local coverage: ABC 936, ABC TV

National coverage: ABC Online, *The Weekend Australian*

UTAS people

Emerging leaders – those at the forefront of innovation and discovery

The Weekend Australian ran a series of the top 100 emerging leaders in Australia. Two UTAS academics, Dr Emily Hilder from the School of Chemistry and Dr Anna Johnston from the School of English, Journalism and European Languages, were selected for the series.