Director’s Report

As many of you are aware, Roberta Julian stepped down as Director of TILES at the end of June this year. As the inaugural Director of the Institute Roberta has made a strong commitment to TILES over the past seven years. Roberta’s enthusiasm, professionalism and hard work have all contributed significantly to where TILES is today – a Research Institute that promotes quality research around policing and law enforcement issues.

A key aim of TILES is to promote collaboration between the law enforcement sector and researchers both nationally and internationally and we do this well. Roberta’s promotion of TILES throughout Australia has ensured strong collaborative research partnerships between TILES and Australian and New Zealand police organisations. These partnerships have assisted greatly in keeping our focus on the Institute’s mission: To conduct and promote evidence-based research that improves the quality of law enforcement and enhances community safety.

I joined TILES in July 2006 as Research Professor and have been actively involved in research activities, postgraduate development and workshop delivery. I take up the reins of Director with the same strong commitment and enthusiasm as my predecessor and look forward to continuing the high profile work of the Institute. Happily, Roberta remains with TILES so I will continue to draw on her expertise and knowledge in this transition period. We have lots of activities planned over the next twelve months - watch out for them on our website and in the TILES newsletters.

There has been no opportunity to sit on my laurels in the past few months. TILES has been very busy. The final report from the ARC Linkage Project between TILES, Tasmania Police and the Department of Immigration and Citizenship: ‘A Conversation on Trust: Community Policing and Refugee Settlement in Regional Australia’ co-authored by Danielle Campbell and Roberta Julian was formally launched by Federal Labor Parliamentary Secretary for Multicultural Affairs Citizenship and Settlement, Laurie Ferguson, MP on 17 July 2009. The launch provided a community opportunity to bring together police, former refugees, new citizens and academics for the day to discuss some of the issues raised by the report and to note research that is happening across the country in this area. The report received considerable media coverage both on Stateline (ABC Tasmania), TV news broadcasts and radio. This newsletter provides an account of the day.

Also this month TILES submitted its Review of the Road Safety (Alcohol and Drugs) Amendment Act 2005 to the Tasmanian Government. The Report was tabled in Parliament on 30 June 2009. Other activities that the TILES’ team have been involved in can be found in our ‘What TILES has been doing’ section in this newsletter.

Before signing off I would like to add my thanks and appreciation to Inspector Craig Waterhouse of Tasmania Police. Inspector Waterhouse retires this year (to ‘go fishing’ he tells me). Craig Waterhouse represented Tasmania Police on the Australasian Police Multicultural Advisory Bureau and has been the prime contact and facilitator for TILES on the Community Policing and Refugee Settlement project. His practical commitment has been invaluable – thanks from all of us.

Jenny Fleming
Professor and Director,
Tasmanian Institute of Law Enforcement Studies
A Conversation on Trust – Community

‘A Conversation on Trust: Community Policing and Refugee Settlement in Regional Australia’ was launched at the Mercure Hotel in Hobart on 17 July by the Federal Labor Government’s Parliamentary Secretary for Multicultural Affairs Citizenship and Settlement Services, Laurie Ferguson, MP. Laurie Ferguson spoke of his Department’s commitment to settlement issues and its continuing commitment to assisting humanitarian entrants settle in Australia:

Thank you for inviting me to launch this report: Community Policing and Refugee Resettlement in Regional Australia: A Tasmanian Case Study.

I have had an interest in this project for a while and was briefed on its progress by Roberta and Danielle late last year.

So I am particularly delighted to be launching the final report here today.

The issues it addresses are important ones for us all. The task many refugee and humanitarian entrants face as they try to rebuild their lives in Australia is often a very difficult one. New humanitarian entrants find themselves in a country where much is totally new, where much is different in strange, disconcerting ways and where they often find it difficult to know what is required or expected of them.

Not only do they face immediate practical demands such as finding accommodation, sourcing an income, and possibly learning a new language, but they must deal with the long term challenge of coming to terms with a new culture, new ways of doing things, and different laws and legal practices.

These challenges can be compounded by the experiences humanitarian entrants have had prior to arrival in Australia – they may well have learnt not to trust precisely those authorities and institutions which in Australia provide the guarantee of security and a fair go. These issues can be particularly difficult in regional areas where there are few people with a similar cultural background or experiences. Even if cultural groups are well established they may not have the critical mass necessary to provide support to their new members. Or they may not have the leadership capacity to engage effectively with the broader community.

However, regional communities can often be very welcoming and supportive of new humanitarian entrants as they move from being former refugees to becoming fellow Australians. I know that the very process of undertaking this research [and compiling this Report] has already been beneficial.

For example, the research project has helped Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) to develop its understanding of the issues and informed its engagement with the University of Tasmania to develop the DIAC funded Tasmanians Talking Project. The Tasmanians Talking project commenced in September 2008 seeking to establish dialogue between new arrivals and the host community, and included projects aimed at enhancing community cohesion.

I am pleased that DIAC has been an industry partner on this research. I commend the police for taking part and I thank those who have run the research and delivered the report. Congratulations on the report and the work that has been involved in producing it.

Mr Laurie Ferguson, MP

Acting Commissioner Darren Hine spoke of the commitment of Tasmania Police to settlers in Australia and discussed the organisation’s involvement in a wide range of programs aimed at assisting refugees in the settlement process and enhancing perceptions of community safety. Doug Walker (Department of Immigration and Citizenship, Tasmania) made the point that the partnership with the University and Tasmania Police has resulted in the development of good working relationships to address policing and community issues in regard to law enforcement issues and police/community relationships, through both the TILES research and through community networks established by various projects.

The agenda was a full one and almost seventy people, including refugee settlers, police, academics and community representatives listened to a variety of speakers addressing the issues associated with refugee settlement. Kiros Hiruy is a Project Manager at the Department of Economic Development, Tourism and the Arts in Hobart. Kiros Hiruy immigrated to Australia in 2006 as a humanitarian entrant. Kiros talked about his travels and demonstrated that few refugees make it to Australia in a straight line from A to B. Kiros explained that he, and many other refugees actually take many years and travel through many countries as refugees before settling. Kiros speech was moving and powerful.

Before lunch Denise Meredyth (Swinburne University) and Melissa Bull (Griffith University) shared with the audience their investigation into how police have adapted themselves professionally to the new demands associated with Australian-African communities in Victoria and their exploration of the differences between police perspectives and those associated with other roles – such as social services, advocates and community representatives and stakeholders.

Darren Palmer (Deakin University) on behalf of himself and his colleagues at James Cook University discussed their preliminary research into Sudanese refugee perceptions and experiences of Queensland’s criminal justice system; particularly their interactions with police and the role of the media in refugee representation.

It was exciting to see how these various projects are gaining momentum and providing context and policy direction for this increasingly important area.

Danielle Campbell, the primary author of the Report spoke about the
research, the people and the positive outcomes of the research and report:

The impact of the research can only reach its potential by those committed to having conversations about trust and exploring the role they can play in encouraging the development, and maintenance of police refugee relations in regional Australia.

I want to thank the Australian Research Council for supporting research that has the capacity to improve the lives of vulnerable people in a process of transition and the rebuilding of their lives. I would like to acknowledge the contributions of Tasmania Police and the Department of Immigration and Citizenship and the individuals from within those organisations who have given support to this project. Particular appreciation to those who have a strong practical commitment to the creation of positive relationships with newly arrived communities in Tasmania. The community organisations, for assisting in making resources available and showing such enthusiasm. A special thanks to the research assistants, for imparting all their knowledge and their patience and support of the project. I particularly wish to express my respect for the members of the various African communities in Launceston and Hobart, for their time, their trust of me with such a sensitive topic, and most of all for the insight into their daily lives now and their journeys of courage that brought them here.

Danielle’s enthusiasm for the research and the need for the various projects to continue was contagious. At the end of the day everyone participated in the panel session where representatives from the Migrant Resource Centre, DIAC, Tasmania Police amongst others joined to answer questions from the audience. It all seemed to be over before it had started. The event attracted a lot of media interest and Danielle Campbell, Kiros Hiruy and Inspector Craig Waterhouse spent a lot of time talking to ABC Stateline, Radio National, local newspapers, television stations and local radio.

None of these events proceed smoothly without the help of others. Special thanks to Sally Kelty (especially as it was her second day with TILES!); Mary Eckhardt, Kate Boden and Jackie Hallam for their assistance in putting this community forum together. Thanks to our speakers and those that travelled from afar to attend the forum. And a special thanks to the communities that turned up, ‘engaged’ and enjoyed the day.

All photos from the Community Forum were taken by Rasa Dunlop from Tasmania Police.
One of TILES’ flagship research projects has been the ARC-funded Linkage Project on ‘Community Policing and Refugee Settlement in Regional Australia: A Case Study of Tasmania’. Inspector Craig Waterhouse was a key player in the development of the application for funding and has been a committed Partner Investigator in the project since it began in 2005. Craig is about to retire from Tasmania Police and we would like to acknowledge his involvement in this ARC Project and to pay tribute to his long-term commitment to Tasmania’s culturally diverse communities over a long and successful career in Tasmania Police.

The idea for the ARC project began during a conversation between Roberta Julian and Danielle Campbell in the car park of the University Child Care Centre. Roberta had just been appointed as the Director of TILES after twenty-odd years of research with migrants and refugees and Danielle was working with a service-provider in supporting the settlement of newly-arrived refugees from Africa. Both of us had worked with Inspector Craig Waterhouse of Tasmania Police and were impressed by his commitment to multiculturalism and to developing ways in which police could enhance the settlement experiences of newly-arrived migrants and refugees in Tasmania. Craig’s approachability and openness provided us with the confidence to approach Tasmania Police to seek some funding towards the project. In addition, the high regard with which he was held by the Department of Immigration and Citizenship also enhanced our bid for funding support from that organization.

Danielle and Roberta are indebted to Craig for his ongoing support and his unwavering commitment to all members of the Tasmanian community, particularly to our culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities. We would like to take this opportunity to add our voice to the many who are publicly thanking him for his contribution to policing in Tasmania and his commitment to ensuring that all members of the Tasmanian community receive appropriate and culturally sensitive service from Tasmania Police. His commitment to this area is evident in various significant positions that he has held in this area. These include his roles as a member of the Australasian Police Multicultural Advisory Bureau, Chair of the National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters (Tasmanian Office), member of the Tasmanian Advisory Council on Multicultural Affairs (TACMA) and member of the Australian Multicultural Advisory Council (a Federal Appointment).

All of us at TILES wish Craig all the best in his retirement and thank him sincerely for his contribution to Tasmanian policing and to the Tasmanian community as a whole.
Having stepped down as the Director of TILES, I wish to take this opportunity to welcome Professor Jenny Fleming as the Institute’s new Director and to publicly state how pleased I am that she has agreed to take up this important position within the Faculty of Arts at UTAS. Since Jenny joined TILES as Research Professor in 2006 she has made a significant contribution to our research and publication profile, postgraduate activities and workshops. Her commitment to academic-practitioner partnerships in the field of policing research is evident in all the work that she undertakes and positions her well to take TILES into the next stage of its development. I look forward to working with her over the next three years and I know that I am going to enjoy supporting her plans for further growth and development of the Institute.

There are a number of people who have provided significant support to TILES (and to me as Director) during its establishment phase and I wish to acknowledge them here. I would like to begin by acknowledging those who had the vision for a university-police research institute and who acted on this by establishing TILES in 2002. The significant visionaries at this point were the then Commissioner of Tasmania Police, Mr Richard McCreadie and the then Dean of Arts, Professor Malcolm Waters. This vision was translated into reality by Professor Jan Pakulski, who followed Prof. Waters as Dean of Arts, and by Professor Aynsley Kellow, who was appointed as the Interim Director once TILES was established.

Since that time TILES can be viewed as having passed through two development stages. Stage One (mid-2003 – mid-2006) was its start-up phase that began with my appointment as inaugural Director in July 2003. This was a stage in which much of our energy went into ‘putting TILES on the map’. We established its governance structure, including the Board of Directors; we worked with Clemengers to develop the TILES logo; we conducted research both within Tasmania and nationally; we began publishing the TILES Newsletters and TILES Briefing Papers; and, together with Tasmania Police, we ‘marketed’ TILES at a national level. As the new Director of a new research institute, I could not have achieved what we did without significant support from Tasmania Police and the university. In particular, I would like to acknowledge the strong support provided by Commissioner Richard McCreadie and Deputy Commissioner Jack Johnston during this crucial stage of development. Equally important was the support we received from the Dean of Arts, Professor Jan Pakulski and the Head of the School of Government, A/Prof. Marcus Haward. Once we had established a Board of Directors, Sir Max Bingham was appointed as Chair and I would like to thank him for his outstanding leadership and his commitment to the Institute’s mission. The members of the Management Committee who were responsible for supporting me in the day to day functioning of the Institute were also significant players in the successful early development of TILES. Professor Lorraine Mazerolle from Griffith University was appointed as Associate Director and we were ably supported in our management roles by Inspector Matthew Richman of Tasmania Police and Dr Rob Hall from the School of Government at UTAS. I would particularly like to thank Lorraine, Matthew and Rob for their willingness to put so much of their time and energy into this difficult start-up phase.

During Stage Two (mid-2006 to mid-2009), TILES experienced a consolidation phase. This was marked by the appointment of a policing researcher, Professor Jenny Fleming as Research Professor in TILES. Jenny’s expertise and established reputation in the field of policing research enabled TILES to develop its reputation at an international as well as a national level. Our academic research output increased significantly as a consequence of her appointment and the energy she brought with her has led to a number of international workshops being hosted by TILES and to enhanced community engagement through the development of postgraduate research conferences that involved participation by industry representatives. A number of key people have supported the work of TILES during this stage: in particular, the Chair of the Board of Directors, Mr Richard Bingham; the Dean of Arts, Professor Jan Pakulski; the Head of the School of Government, Professor Aynsley Kellow; and Dr Rob Hall who has had a continuing involvement as a member for the Management Committee since TILES was first established. Support has also been provided by Tasmania Police through the involvement of Ms Sandra Lovell and Inspector Robert Bonde as members of the Management Committee.

TILES is now poised to move into Stage Three of its development. In the context of the UTAS EDGE Agenda, while the focus in the first two stages was on Distinctiveness and Engagement, it is now positioned to focus on Growth and Excellence. I am confident that Professor Jenny Fleming will provide the leadership and expertise that will enable TILES to move confidently into establishing itself as one of the leading policing research institutes in the country. I wish her all the best for the exciting and challenging times ahead.

TILES welcomes Dr Sally Kelty who joined the TILES research team in July. Dr Kelty has a Ph.D in Law and Psychology from Murdoch University, Western Australia and takes up a three year Post-Doctoral Research Fellowship on the ARC Linkage Grant, The Effectiveness of Forensic Science in the Criminal Justice System. Sally’s Ph.D developed a model of grievance escalation and explored methods for the measurement of violent sentiments in violent offenders. Sally has worked in both research and in clinical settings. Her clinical work in mental health started with assisting women discharged as psychiatric in-patients to reconnecting into the community. Then for the Department of Corrective Services in Western Australia (DoCS) she managed a case load of high-risk offenders on parole, preparing pre-sentence reports for higher courts, parole release reports and delivering one-on-one programs for domestic violence, aggression, drug use and various white-collar offences. Sally’s research career commenced at DoCS where she co-developed the Legal and Social Awareness Program for cognitively impaired adult offenders. She managed a three-year longitudinal National Health and Medical Research Council study exploring the psycho-social development of teenage mothers and their children. In 2007, Sally took up a one-year post-doc at University of Western Australian researching how urban design impacts on adolescent obesity, social risk and deviant behaviour.
What TILES has been doing...

The former Director, Associate Professor Roberta Julian will remain at TILES on a three year secondment from the School of Sociology. A/P Julian will devote much of her time to working on her $890,000 ARC Linkage grant (2009–2013) - The Effectiveness of Forensic Science in the Criminal Justice System. A/P Julian will also oversee and teach into the In Service Pathway of the Bachelor of Social Science (Police Studies).

Jenny Fleming presented a paper at the Cross-Border Policing Conference in Canberra in April. The paper, Crossing the State Line: Policing across Boundaries is the subject of a recent ARC Discovery application.

Jenny Fleming Chaired the Research Award panel for the National Drug and Alcohol Awards. The awards were presented at a special ceremony in the Great Hall at Parliament House, Canberra in June 2009.

As a member of the Australian Institute of Police Management Board of Studies, Roberta Julian attended a meeting in Sydney in July to discuss teaching and pedagogy strategies associated with ‘police as students’. Roberta also visited Victoria Police and the National Institute of Forensic Studies to further the recent ARC Linkage Grant, The Effectiveness of Forensic Science in the Criminal Justice System. Other partners include the Australian Federal Police and the University of Lausanne, Switzerland.

During April/May Professor Jenny Fleming was invited to sit on the New South Wales Parliamentary Working Party for Safety Ratings Systems for NSW Licensed Premises for the Department of Arts, Sports and Recreation.

A/Prof Roberta Julian was invited to attend a Capabilities Framework Workshop in May at Tasmania Police Academy.

Jenny Fleming has recently returned from London where, with funding from the British Academy and the Australian Academy of Social Sciences, she (in conjunction with Professor Eugene McLaughlin, City University) ran a workshop on Public, Trust and Confidence in Police at City University, London. The workshop attracted police scholars such as Peter Neyroud, Louise Westmarland, Michael Banton, Simon Holdaway, Mike Hough and Janet Foster. The workshop was deemed a success and a Special Issue that will include the papers from the workshop has been secured with the UK Journal – Policing A Journal of Policy and Practice. The journal will be published in June 2010.

While in London Jenny Fleming visited the Metropolitan Police Sexual Assault training centre (Westminster) and Child Abuse Unit at Scotland Yard. These visits were in conjunction with Professor Fleming’s work with Victoria Police on police management of sexual violence.

As an Executive Board member of the Alcohol and Other Drugs Council of Australia, Prof. Jenny Fleming attended the inaugural Federal Council Meeting of the peak, national, non-government organisation representing the interests of the Australian alcohol and other drugs sector.

In July, Jenny Fleming was invited to, and attended the Tasmanian Alcohol Consultation Workshop in Hobart to participate in round table discussions with representatives from Tasmania Police, Department of Health and other associated agencies. Jenny also visited Brisbane this week to work with Professor Tim Prenzler to finalise a presentation and paper for the Australasian Council of Women and Policing Conference next month. While in Brisbane, Jenny also met with the Integrity Commissioner of Australian Commission for Law Enforcement Integrity, Philip Moss.

TILES submitted a Review of the Road Safety (Alcohol and Drugs) Amendment Act 2005 to the Minister for Police and Emergency Management that was tabled in Parliament on 30 June 2009. The research was conducted in collaboration with A/Prof Roberta Julian (TILES), Dr Jeremy Prichard (Law) and Dr Raimondo Bruno and Dr Allison Matthews (Psychology).

Jenny Fleming (with Tim Prenzler) presented a paper at the Australasian Council of Women in Policing Conference in Perth, WA in August.

The paper, ‘Gender equity in Australasian Policing: ten years on’ updated statistical data across Australian police jurisdictions about women in policing. Jenny also Chaired a Policing For Women panel at the Conference.

Jenny Fleming was invited to speak to Western Australian police at the Sellenger Centre at the Edith Cowan University in August. Her paper was entitled, ‘The ‘Nature of the Beast’ – Negotiating Police-Research Relationships’.

Recent TILES publications


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