Director’s Report

Welcome to the Spring edition of our newsletter for this year. As I write this welcome, the sun is shining on a beautiful Hobart morning and our students are on study break – a very peaceful morning indeed. This makes a nice change from the hectic pace we have kept for the last few months. As you will see from the contents of this newsletter, we have had another very productive period at TILES. Our collaborative project with Dr Clarissa Hughes from the University Department of Rural Health has now been completed with our Final Report submitted at the end of June. We would like to thank the Alcohol Education Rehabilitation Foundation for the funding that enabled us to conduct this exciting study that involved trialling the Social Norms methodology for the first time in Australia. We would particularly like to thank Daryl Smeaton (CEO), Eleanor Sharp (Co-ordinator) and Tracey Purdam (Deputy Chief Executive Officer) for their ongoing encouragement and support throughout the past two and half years. We look forward to welcoming them to Hobart for the launch of the Resource Kit that we have developed to assist teachers in schools to conduct their own social norms-type interventions in the classroom. We don’t have a date for the launch as yet but please keep an eye out for an announcement very soon!

Our current Briefing Paper provides an overview of the results of this research. Please note that we have (finally!) developed a standard format and guidelines for authors for our Briefing Paper series (thank you Jenny). These details can be found on our website.

We have recently completed an evaluation for Mission Australia on the mentoring project they piloted with the assistance of funding from state and federal governments. We would like to thank Andrew Verdouw and Tamara Johnston for their assistance and collaborative spirit as we worked on this evaluation. Thanks also to Romy Winter from TILES and Dr Raimondo Bruno from the School of Psychology for their expertise in conducting this evaluation. Our very successful postgraduate symposium was held in August. Thanks must go to Professor Jenny Fleming and Caroline Burridge for organising this and to all those community members who attended. Jenny has provided a report on the symposium in this newsletter.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome a new member to our Management Committee and to farewell an ‘old’ one. I would like to welcome Inspector Robert Bonde who has joined us as the Liaison Officer (Academic) from the Tasmania Police Academy. We are looking forward to working closely with Inspector Bonde as we implement the changes we have made to the Bachelor of Social Science (Police Studies) - more on this in future newsletters! And, finally, a very sincere and extensive thank you to Inspector Matthew Richman who played a fundamental role in establishing the Institute in 2002 and in supporting me as the inaugural Director since 2003. As a foundational member of the TILES Management Committee, he provided significant advice based on his extensive operational and management experience in policing to the Director, the Head of School and the Dean of Arts, that ensured TILES established a reputation for excellence in policing research at both a local and national level within five years. Matthew has moved on to the position of Director, Strategic Services at the Australian and New Zealand Police Advisory Agency based in Melbourne. I wish to thank him for his long-term commitment to the Institute and its Mission and for the support he has provided to me as Director. On behalf of all the staff and postgraduate students at TILES, I wish him well in his new position and look forward to working with him in the future in a different capacity and at a national level.

Roberta Julian (PhD)
Associate Professor and Director
Tasmanian Institute of Law Enforcement Studies

Briefing Paper No 7 (September 2008): The Social Norms Analysis Project (SNAP): Results, Insights and Future Priorities

This briefing paper discusses some important results and implications of the Social Norms Analysis Project (SNAP). SNAP, which was conducted by the Tasmanian Institute of Law Enforcement Studies and the Department of Rural Health at the University of Tasmania, was the first major Australian trial of the ‘social norms’ approach to health promotion. SNAP was funded by the Alcohol Education and Rehabilitation Foundation, and aimed to provide a realistic picture of alcohol-related attitudes and behaviours of the high school students attending four public schools in two rural regions of Tasmania.

Copies are available by contacting tiles@utas.edu.au or the paper can be read online at http://www.utas.edu.au/tiles/
TILES held its second postgraduate symposium on 13 and 14 August 2008. The 2007 symposium, which had brought together a range of TILES postgraduate papers, had been a big success, not only in terms of how it was received, but in how the students felt about their preparation and presentation to their peers. Most reported an increased confidence about their work and a stronger appreciation of other students’ challenges and ways of dealing with writing the ‘dreaded thesis’. At the 2007 symposium a number of industry people and Tasmanian Police attended some of the sessions. They were welcome, but had not been formally invited. So impressed were they with the range of research topics and the professional way in which data had been presented, that they asked to be informed when other opportunities to view the work of TILES and its students presented itself.

Suitably encouraged, our 2008 symposium gave TILES and the students an opportunity to formally invite those people in the community who might be interested in attending the two day symposium. Once again the topics were varied and invitees could either select specific sessions to attend or come for the whole two days.

Associate Professor Roberta Julian, Director of TILES, welcomed Tasmania’s Police Commissioner, Mr Jack Johnston and other dignitaries to the opening session of the symposium which featured TILES’ first post-doctoral candidate, Dr Vanessa Goodwin. Dr Goodwin’s research traces the extent of inter-generational crime and related social problems in Tasmania. The research seeks to identify ways to better respond to the needs of multi-problem families and break the cycle of crime. In the same session, a relatively new graduate student, Tamara Dawes, talked about the ‘politics of child care’.

Dr Caroline Taylor, a Senior Research Fellow at the University of Ballarat, brought two of her students (Shirley Grant and Robyn Berry) to the symposium to discuss aspects of a larger project between the University of Ballarat and Victoria Police. Both students provided a solid account of the various perspectives the project would take in relation to policing sexual assault in Victoria.

The two days passed by very quickly. Papers from Romy Winter (Policing intimate partner violence in rural communities); Ron Mason (The predictive utility of risk assessment and screening tools in predicting violent recidivism); Meredith Izon (African youth settlement in Tasmania); Cecile McKeown (Future direction of Australian alcohol policy); Mary Eckhardt (Fear of crime); Margaret Eldridge (Settlement and secondary migration of the Tasmanian Hmong); Barbara Stewart (Pathways into policing); Cheryl Ryan (Pedagogy and police training); and Rowena Friend (Criminal profiling), combined to make the sessions varied and informative. The audience, which included police officers, public sector representatives, government representatives and academics from various schools across the University participated fully, asking questions and generally providing support to the speakers.

A highlight of the event was the presentation at afternoon tea on the first day by Margaret Eldridge, of a copy of her Masters thesis - New Mountain, New River, New Home? to representatives of Tasmania’s Hmong Community. The event was well covered by Tasmania’s print and TV media and subsequent newspaper articles have considered some of the more advanced research projects in detail.

Perhaps one of the most important aspects of holding such events is that students (and indeed all participants) get the opportunity to network with other students and industry people who are genuinely interested in research and the potential outcomes of that research. An informal dinner on the Wednesday night facilitated these links.

Intellectually and socially, the symposium was rated a success by all participants – as usual the hard work was done behind the scenes, largely by Caroline Burridge (TILES’ Business Development Officer). The catering (Pickled Pear) was as usual, excellent, and contributed greatly to the general ambience. For those who were unable to attend, a number of the presentations can be accessed on the TILES website, http://www.utas.edu.au/tiles/

If you would like to subscribe to our regular newsletter and briefing papers, please contact the TILES office on 6226 2328 or email us at tiles@utas.edu.au. Our publications can also be viewed on our website.
For a week in April, Caroline Burridge, who lives with type 1 diabetes and is the TILES’ Business Development Officer, trekked the Kokoda Trail to raise funds and awareness for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. Caroline was fortunate to go as an ambassador for Diabetes TASMANIA through some of the funds raised in the DARE project, which had the financial and in-kind support of both the University of Tasmania and Tasmania Police.

The trip was organised by Guy Barnett, Liberal Senator for Tasmania, and included 17 other trekkers from Tasmania, Victoria, New South Wales and the ACT, ranging in age from 25 to 63 years. There were two war veterans in the group, Ivan Dean MLC (Malaya) and Scottsdale RSL President, Bruce Scott (Vietnam).

The trek covered the 96km journey along the Owen Stanley Range from Owens Corner to Kokoda and traced the footsteps of our diggers who stopped the Japanese advance on Port Moresby in 1942. The trek was long and tough with its unforgiving terrain of dense jungle, muddy ground, step ridges and many river crossings. The climate was incredibly hot and humid and physically it was a tough trip.

The mental aspect of the journey was just as tough and emotionally it was challenging. The trek included an ANZAC Day Service and the scattering of the ashes of two Kokoda veterans at separate locations on the track. All three of these services saw many of the trekkers in tears. In fact, there was not a trekker who at some stage along the track did not shed a tear or two.

For Caroline and Senator Guy Barnett, who also lives with type 1 diabetes, there was the added challenge of managing their diabetes on the trek. This included about 15 blood sugar tests a day and frequent food stops to monitor and maintain healthy blood sugar levels. Caroline said, “For me, Kokoda was the toughest trek I have done diabetes wise. Managing my sugars on the track, with the heat, humidity and constantly varying terrain was very tough and I had heaps of low blood sugar episodes on the trip.”

The trekking team raised an amazing $150,000 in donations with all proceeds going towards supporting research into type 1 diabetes. Caroline hopes that through the trek others will be encouraged to try a challenge that seems out of their reach. “Doing the trip with diabetes made my journey a bit different from those who did it without, but I think it makes me appreciate and enjoy it that much more. Everyone can achieve the seemingly unachievable if they dare to believe they can.”
Debra Salter is currently employed as the Acting Manager, Drug Policy Services Manager, Department of Police and Emergency Management (DPEM). Debra was awarded a DPEM Scholarship in December 2008 to undertake a Master of Public Policy. Following successful completion of the unit, Developing Policy in Semester 1, Debra is now undertaking the thesis component of the Master program. Professor Jenny Fleming is her supervisor. Debra will be considering the effectiveness of legislation as a policy tool in managing the secondary supply of alcohol to minors by parents and adults responsible for their care. This research will explore and analyse the utility of existing Australian and international legislative and non-legislative controls to regulate the supply of alcohol to minors on licensed premises and in private settings. The research will also consider the effect of these controls in decreasing the harms to young people from inappropriate consumption of alcohol.

Internationally, there are many differences in approaches to alcohol and young people. There exist varying legal ages for consumption of alcohol on licensed premises and in private settings, and alcohol consumption is influenced by cultural and religious beliefs.

The Federal Government, under the National Binge Drinking Initiative is currently seeking to determine a preferred framework to regulate the secondary supply of alcohol to minors by parents and adults. This research will explore and analyse the utility of existing Australian and international legislative and non-legislative controls to regulate the supply of alcohol to minors on licensed premises and in private settings. The research will also consider the effect of these controls in decreasing the harms to young people from inappropriate consumption of alcohol.

Rowena Friend
(Honours Psychology/TILES)

Rowena’s research will investigate some of the decision making strategies that investigators use within the police service, by presenting case details, suspect details and a criminal profile, and examining how decisions are made. Her thesis will be entitled: Stereotypes, Belief Persistence and Presentation Order in the Interpretation of Criminal Profiles in Police Investigations. Supervisors: Mr Peter Ball, School of Psychology and Associate Professor Roberta Julian, TILES.
Policing Hate Crime in the UK - Dr Nicole Asquith

In June/July this year, Dr Nicole Asquith spent three weeks working with the Violent Crime Directorate of the London Metropolitan Police Service on her research into the role of hate speech in hate crime.

Unlike Australia, the UK has specific hate-aggravation and hate-motivation laws that enhance penalties imposed on convicted perpetrators. During her visit, Nicole met with the team responsible for monitoring and evaluating the policing response to racist, homophobic, disability-based and faith-based hate crimes, and was able to secure access to over 60 000 hate crime complaints lodged between January 2003 and December 2007. These complaint files will be analysed over the next six months to investigate how hate speech is used in these incidents, and the common themes of hate speech to emerge across the four areas of regulated hate violence. Dr Asquith also met with the London Metropolitan Police Authority to discuss the outcome of three years of Race Hate Crime Forums undertaken across the 32 boroughs of greater London.

It is expected that this research will inform the Metropolitan Police Service’s management of hate crime, and assist in the development of more effective training instruments to better prepare front line officers for evaluating the risk of hate crime escalation.

Distinguishing prevailing D/discourses in police training – Cheryl Ryan, Postgraduate Student

Cheryl Ryan is an Education, Training and Assessment Adviser with the Department of Police and Emergency Management. Prior to that, she had a 20 year career working and teaching in community services and health in Queensland and Tasmania.

Through a partnership with the Faculty of Arts and Education at Deakin University, TILES and the Department of Police and Emergency Management, Cheryl completed a Masters by research focused on police training and involving a cohort of police trainers and trainees from the Tasmania Police Academy.

The research aimed to distinguish prevailing D/discourses (words, tools, beliefs, thinking styles) in police training, to analyse the real and potential impacts of D/discourses on individuals’ identity, subjectivity, agency, learning and “membership” within the policing community, and to undertake preliminary theoretical analysis of the causes and effects of the D/discourse.

The personal constructs or perceptions of nine police trainers and 14 trainees were elicited in relation to a range of personality and character attributes (including gender) within the context of a number of police roles and functions. Three prevailing D/discourses were distinguished from the analysis of the data from the interviews. The predominant D/discourse was that of the Warrior, closely followed by Tough-love family and Perfect self.

A paper outlining this research was presented at the 2008 TILES Postgraduate Symposium and is available on the TILES website.

Cheryl is now undertaking a PhD involving a cross-jurisdictional study of police training and police education through the auspices of the Australian and New Zealand Police Advisory Agency (ANZPAA) and in conjunction with Deakin University, TILES and the Department of Police and Emergency Management.

ATDC Annual Conference, 27-29 April 2009

The early stages of planning for the ATDC Conference have begun for the 2009 conference.

Details of the theme, venue and abstracts information will be released in early September. The call for abstracts will be open mid-September.

For any enquiries regarding the 2009 Conference, contact Jayne Barry on 03 6224 7780 or e-mail conference@atdc.org.au.
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