The only fitting way to begin my final introduction to Alumni magazine is with an expression of deep gratitude to our alumni, staff, students and the wider community: Thank you. I leave the University of Tasmania (to the equivalent role at the University of Adelaide) after six-and-a-half years with a sense of pride and humility, knowing that collectively we have left an indelible mark on our institution, and that it also has left an indelible mark on me.

It seems to me we have reached a critical role at the University of Adelaide) after six-and-a-half years, buoyed by a groundswell of support from alumni globally and the senior leadership of the University. This has, in turn, allowed us to build on historic strengths by attracting scholars of world standing in identified research themes. The further emergence of our University within the international community has allowed us to fulfill our promise of being a bridge from Tasmania to the world and from the world to Tasmania. New partnerships and collaborations have brought economic benefit – education now being one of the State’s significant exports – along with the social value of intellectual and cultural exchange which comes to a community which embraces diversity.

In recent years, the University’s focus has been to increase the productivity and prosperity of the State’s citizens, thus enabling social and economic revitalisation in our cities and regions. This has been done in historic levels of accord with both government and community. We have coupled this with a regionally relevant research agenda, knowing that the future of current industries – and the creation of entirely new economic sectors – will require innovation delivered through new knowledge, along with human capital equipped to use it in imaginative ways.

We now see the green-shoots of these ideas in powerful research collaborations, such as the establishment of the University’s Advanced Sensor Manufacturing Facility in Launceston, and world-first research which has unlocked the reality of on-land lobster farming, now enshrined within a commercialisation agreement with a local firm.

We are reimagining the concept of a contemporary university and are pursuing a model which is founded in excellence in teaching and research, but that is philosophically and physically embodied in the heart of our State and our communities. We have revised our curriculum to ensure relevance to all Tasmanians, now and into the future, and to expand employment opportunities for our students.

We have accomplished a great deal and this has been the result of effort across the breadth and depth of our institution, and further afield. It is something about which we should share a sense of collective pride, especially that we have come to demonstrate so comprehensively the transformative power of education.

Kind regards,
Professor Peter Rathjen,
Vice- Chancellor
Thank you

By Gilda Sorella

The University of Tasmania Foundation has created two new societies to recognise the generosity of our alumni and friends – because we can never say thank you enough.

The Bequest Society recognises the 1,500 donors who have decided to leave a gift in their will to the Foundation, gathering them together each year at a morning tea to celebrate their philanthropy.

Drawn to the concept of leaving a legacy, the late Dianne Eerden left a gift in her will to establish the Dianne Eerden Research Scholarship, which has provided significant support as she continues her PhD in motor neuron disease (MND). “It means so much to me,” Ms Eerden said. “During my study, I want to understand why neurons degenerate in motor neuron disease, to make a difference and to help people with the disease,” she said.

The Bequest Society, named in honour of the University’s original home, the historic Domain House, recognises those who have donated to the Foundation for five consecutive years or more. Together the society’s 300 members have collectively contributed more than $5 million towards University projects, which has funded research, new facilities and perhaps most importantly, student scholarships.

Thanks to donations such as these, the University is able to award more than 900 scholarships and prizes annually, enabling talented young students to access the lifelong-changing power of a university education. Student scholarships not only provide critical financial support that enable students to access higher education and perform their best, but also inspire them to chase their goals.

Debra Ploughman embodies the spirit of the Domain Society, having donated to the Annual Scholarship Appeal for the past 11 years, and to the Foundation’s Save the Tasmanian Devil Appeal for the past seven years. “It has been amazing to see the cumulative impact of my regular gifts to the University,” she said. “It brings me such joy to think that my contributions can help talented young students access a university education by alleviating financial hardship. And to think that my donations to the Tasmanian Devil Appeal have helped fund the cure to save the Tasmanian devils is beyond incredible.”

Domain House was recently restored to preserve the 186-year-old building for future generations. The donation benefits the naming of the Domain Society, whose members’ generosity, alongside the legacies left by the Bequest Society, will continue to make an impact for generations to come.

“The commitment and generosity that is shown by the members of the Domain and Bequest Societies enable the Foundation to support our fantastic programs, including student scholarships, for which we are deeply grateful,” Executive Director of Advancement Young Dawkins said.

The University of Tasmania Foundation is the philanthropic arm of the University.

Scholarships

SCHOLARSHIPS GIVE ASYLUM SEEKERS A NEW START AND CHANCE TO MAKE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE

By Anna Osborne

Young people seeking asylum in Tasmania from some of the world’s most troubled parts of the world have been granted new University of Tasmania scholarships, giving them access to the transformative power of education.

Three young asylum seekers – awarded places in the inaugural Tasmanian Asylum Seeker Scholarship scheme – are set on making a difference in fields including medicine and arts/law.

The University’s new scholarship is part of the Refugee Council of Australia’s Education and Power for All Campaign.

The 2017 Tasmanian Asylum Seeker Scholarship recipients are:

Mohammad Hanif

Iqbal Zada, 21

Hanif arrived in Australia in 2013 after fleeing Pakistan due to safety considerations. He is the sole income provider for his family, after losing his father and brother. Since arriving in Tasmania Hanif studied English at TAFE and Year 1 and 12 at The Friends School. This year, he is enrolled in a Bachelor of Medical Research. “I have always been interested in studying in the medical field because of my experiences growing up in Quetta, Pakistan, as a Hazara where I saw the impact of the lack of access to proper medical care. My father died of a preventable disease, tuberculosis, and other family members have suffered from malaria throughout their lives.”

Haji Mohammad Alizada, 21

At 16 years of age, Haji fled Afghanistan, arriving firstly in Indonesia before being taken to Christmas Island where he was granted a bridging visa in 2014. Since arriving in Tasmania Haji has volunteered at a number of organisations, including the Migrant Resource Centre and the Hobart Hazara Community Association, and regularly speaks on issues facing refugees and asylum seekers. He is enrolled in the University’s Foundation Studies Program, leading to the Bachelor of Arts, and hopes to one day help those in need.

Ali Almerti, 22

Ali arrived in Tasmania in 2013 to pursue his dream of becoming a doctor. He was born in Kuwait into a stateless family, which meant he was not permitted to study at any level, along with other rights. Since arriving in Tasmania, Ali has volunteered with the Red Cross (translating for Arabic clients) and the Migrant Resource Centre and has spoken publicly on human rights issues. He is currently enrolled in the University’s Foundation Studies Program, leading to the Bachelor of Biotechnology.

The scholarships will be presented annually to support Tasmanian asylum seekers living in Tasmania and on a Temporary Protection Visa; applying for a Safe Haven Protection Visa (SHPV); or an equivalent bridging visa; or seeking asylum in Tasmania to pursue undergraduate tertiary studies at the University of Tasmania. Applicants are assessed on demonstrated involvement in their local community, commitment to education and financial need.

To make an online donation to the Tasmanian Asylum Seeker Scholarship Fund visit utas.edu.au/donate. For more information contact the University’s Foundation on (03) 6226 1920 or utas.edu.au/advance
Infrastructure Australia’s approval of the business case for Hobart’s proposed $400 million Science and Technology Precinct is a ringing endorsement of its capacity to fundamentally and positively shift the state’s economy and community, IA has added the project to the nation’s Infrastructure Priority List.

“The Hobart precinct will draw together the world-class science and technology disciplines of the University in a way that promotes multi-disciplinary research, providing a foundation for the expansion of new research endeavours across the state,” the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Peter Rathjen, explains.

“In the south, STEM will be linked with the medical sciences, marine and Antarctic sciences, and arts and precincts to create new opportunity. In the north, STEM will provide a platform for an expanded opportunity in defence, maritime science, wood science, agriculture, engineering and marine industries.”

AMONG THE WORLD’S BEST

The University of Tasmania is continuing its climb to the world’s major academic rankings. In the latest, the QS World University Rankings, the University climbed to 313 from 370th place. It is usually the University’s Rankings’ inaugural year that drawer students and staff in contemporary teaching environments and cutting-edge research facilities.

STEM STAMP OF APPROVAL

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CALE – THE SUPER COLLEGE

The University’s shift towards a college model took a significant step forward on July 1 with the formation of the College of Arts, Law and Education (CALE). CALE incorporates the School of Humanities, the School of Social Sciences, the School of Creative Arts (formally the Tasmanian College of the Arts) and the faculties of Law and Education. The Head of School in the Faculty of Education retains the title of Dean as is the case for the Head of School for the Faculty of Law. Each of these academic units continues to be responsible for the development and delivery of their curriculum and their research. The expanded college is expected to generate exciting opportunities for interdisciplinary teaching and research as well as enhanced professional experiences.

A leading cultural historian, Professor Kate Darian-Smith, will join the University on December 1 as the inaugural Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Executive Dean (Arts, Law and Education). She currently holds joint appointments as Professor of Australian Studies and History in the School of Historical and Philosophical Studies, and Professor of Cultural Heritage in the Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning, at the University of Melbourne.

A second new college will come into effect on January 1, 2018. The College of Health and Medicine will incorporate the Menzies Institute for Medical Research, the School of Medicine, the School of Health Sciences, and the Wicking Dementia Research and Education Centre. Professor Denise Fassert, current Dean of the Faculty of Health, has been appointed to the role of Interim Executive Dean.

Establishing a Darling Harbour presence will allow the AMC to strengthen links with the surrounding ports, logistics, engineering and defence industries.

GALA EVENT TO CELEBRATE 10TH ANNIVERSARY

The School of Architecture and Design has celebrated the 10th anniversary of its move to Inveresk with a gala event attended by local and state politicians, senior management from the University and past and present staff. Head of the School of Architecture and Design, Professor Kirsten Forr, reflected on the school’s relocation from Newnham: “In 2007 the School of Architecture and Design moved into this converted 1951 diesel locomotive workshop. This award-winning conversion provides an extraordinary backdrop to the school’s activities. It is this building, its location in Launceston and the staff, students and activities it contains, that drew me to the University in March last year as the new Head of School.”

Darling Harbour AMC’s Next Port of Call

The Australian Maritime College will expand its reach into key national and international markets following the establishment of a study centre at Sydney’s Darling Harbour. The college will deliver two Masters level courses – in maritime engineering and maritime and logistics management – from February 2018, with plans for a third degree to come online in 2019. “Darling Harbour is an iconic location for the national maritime sector and Sydney is the centre of operations for the Royal Australian Navy, offering AMC prominent exposure to recreational, commercial and naval activities in the area,” AMC Principal Professor Neil Bourne explained.

“Establishing a local presence will allow us to strengthen ties with the surrounding ports, logistics, engineering and defence industries; as well as providing our students with access to internships and project work within those sectors.” The study centre will be based at the Australian National Maritime Museum.

With the help of three Aboriginal dancers, a new Riawunna Centre on the Sandy Bay campus has been officially launched. Now relocated to colourful, spacious offices in the School of Social Sciences, Riawunna was formerly a long-term occupant of Hytten Hall above Churchill Avenue, blessed with a beautiful garden but invisible to the majority of students and staff, and to visitors.

The Provost, Professor Mike Calford, who spoke at the launch, sketched the humble beginnings of Aboriginal studies at the University more than 30 years ago “… in a single room at Hytten Hall, before aising on level one was dedicated to the Riawunna Centre, mirrored in the establishment of a facility on the Newnham campus.”

“It is important that this centre is now much closer to the central hub of the campus, where it will be seen by more students and will provide better access for those who use it.”

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It’s no surprise to Associate Professor Tracey Dickson that in 2017 there isn’t a supercomputer that comes anywhere near the power of the human brain. She knows the brain more intimately than most of us and, 20 years into a career in neuroscience, her enthusiasm for this fundamental organ shows no sign of dimming. “I know I’m biased,” she says, “but our brains are truly amazing.”

Associate Professor Dickson is Deputy Director at the Menzies Institute for Medical Research and the leader of the Institute’s Neurodegenerative Diseases and Brain Injury research theme. She is a national leader in motor neuron disease (MND) research and in 2017 received almost $1 million in research funding through FightMND, the foundation inspired by AFL legend Neale Daniher, who has MND.

In between being one of the two Menzies Deputy Directors, leading a research theme, running her own lab group and raising a young family, Associate Professor Dickson puts considerable energy into communicating her research to the community.

As well as MND, her research group of five scientists, five PhD and two Honours students is investigating the cellular mechanisms underlying Parkinson’s Disease, dementia and traumatic brain injury.

Associate Professor Dickson completed a Bachelor of Science with Honours at the University of Tasmania and then took up her first real job working as a laboratory assistant with Professor James Vickers, who is now Director of the Wicking Dementia Research and Education Centre. But it could all have been very different.

After growing up in Scottsdale and then moving to Burnie, she started out at the University of Tasmania enrolling in a double Degree in Law and Science, realising fairly quickly that she was more inspired by the latter.

She followed the Australian tradition of backpacking overseas, and for a short time had a job looking after an elderly couple who needed a driver to take them between their city and country homes. “I knew it was the job for me when the first question I was asked when I was being interviewed was could I drive a Jag?”

After a few months of cucumber sandwiches and gentrified English life, she realised that it was time to get back to the benches and contacted Professor Vickers about beginning a PhD in Hobart. She secured a scholarship through the Tasmanian Masonic Medical Research Foundation, which has continued to contribute philanthropically to her research.

“My PhD studies focussed on identifying some of the earliest pathological changes that occur in people with Alzheimer’s, when they are still in what is termed a pre-clinical phase. Our studies focussed on this group of people, as the most effective intervention in Alzheimer’s is likely to be treating people to either cure them or slow the progression of their disease before the important nerve cells actually die”

After graduating with her PhD she was awarded the CJ Martin Postdoctoral Fellowship from the National Health and Medical Research Council and spent two and a half years at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York City.

Further funding from the NHMRC and other competitive grant schemes, in addition to philanthropic funds, have enabled Associate Professor Dickson and her lab group to make inroads in understanding what is happening in the brain and central nervous system in neurodegenerative diseases. In 2016 her lab celebrated the publication of research showing where MND begins in the central nervous system.

“Despite its humble appearance the brain truly is an amazing organ,” she said. “How it performs many of its functions is still a mystery but we, and others around the world, are working hard on this. “The brain is made up of 100 billion nerve cells, all connected in a complicated series of networks via 176,000km of axons and 100 trillion specialised junctions known as synapses. With this level of sophistication, it is no wonder that even the most advanced computer is still unable to come close to its abilities.”
Profile

MY MOTHER, MY MOTHERLAND

A refugee from Vietnam, Minh Hien was determined to make the most of her new life through education

By Elizabeth Stacey

Alumna Hien Minh Thi Tran's memoir My Heritage: Vietnam Fatherland Motherland encapsulates a life of experiences that few of us could imagine.

Minh Hien, who grew up in Saigon, lived through the Vietnam War and its atrocities. She was only 17 when she and her brother escaped Vietnam in a small wooden boat. Rescued by the crew of the USS John Young, the pair spent time in a refugee camp in Singapore before arriving in Tasmania in 1981.

"When I arrived, Hobart was covered with snow – yet I felt warmed by the kindness of many people on this island and will always remember the people who offered us support and friendships," Minh Hien said.

While she endured separation from her family, Minh Hien never forgot the values that they had instilled in her – especially the importance of education. Having left Vietnam at a time when communist rule banned her from going to university, Minh Hien was determined to make the most of her new educational opportunities.

"My family and I have great respect for education," she said. "Since we were children, it had been a clear goal in our family that my siblings and I must get a university qualification. To progress in life we need to learn."

I feel good that the stories of three generations of my family ... are now alive.

Arriving in Tasmania, able to speak very little English, Minh Hien took adult education classes in English and studied at Hobart Matriculation College. She was among the top five to matriculate in the state in 1982.

She then enrolled in engineering at the University of Tasmania, graduating with a Bachelor of Engineering with Honours (1987) and a Master of Engineering Science (1990).

"Studying at the University of Tasmania was one of the best decisions I made and I cherished being able to follow my educational goals in peace and freedom," she said.

Minh Hien has continued to pursue her love of learning and now boasts eight university qualifications. Her current occupation is a systems accountant.

She also provided the Minh Hien and Fanshild Scholarship at the University of Tasmania from 2008 to 2014, supporting Tasmanian refugee students.

The culmination of her years of English classes and study was the launch of her memoir last year.

Minh Hien said writing My Heritage had given her the opportunity to preserve a significant part of Vietnam’s history and her family’s story.

"After years of studying I have been able to write her life story and now that the book is held in libraries and stocked in bookshops, I hope she will be remembered," Minh Hien said.

"I feel good that the stories of three generations of my family ... are now alive."

Many Hands Make the Words Sing

By Anna Osborne

A composition dedicated to the unsung heroes in elite sports led Conservatorium of Music PhD student Mia Palencia to an international sporting stage.

The Tasmanian-based student was invited to compose, produce and perform the opening night theme song at this year’s South-east Asian Games in Kuala Lumpur.

"It was amazing and terrifying at the same time. It’s not every day that you get to perform in front of 67,000 people," The South-east Asian Games hosted 11 nations in more than 400 events in late August. "Watching the ceremony unfold from backstage, and realising just how many people were involved in the production of the ceremony itself was very humbling," Mia said.

"Over the past year, Mia worked with a team of musicians, engineers and an orchestra in bringing her composition So Many Hands to life. "The amazing team of musicians and engineers spanned three continents, including musicians and engineers in Hobart and Melbourne, traditional musicians in Malaysia and a studio orchestra in Bratislava," she said.

"Mia is a Conservatorium graduate, having completed her Bachelor of Music (Honours) in 2014.

Furthermore, Mia’s composition So Many Hands has been featured in several international competitions, including the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP) Foundation’s Composer’s Coalition competition, where she was a finalist.

"It was amazing to see my work recognised by such a prestigious organisation," Mia said.

So Many Hands has also gained attention in the Australian music industry, with the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra performing it as part of their season opening concert in August.

"I feel very proud to be able to share my composition with such a large audience," Mia said.

The South-east Asian Games, hosted in Kuala Lumpur in August, is one of the largest multi-sport events in the world, featuring 11 nations and more than 400 events. Mia’s theme song was performed at the opening ceremony, setting the tone for the sporting showcase.

"It was a huge honour to be able to represent Australia at such a prestigious event," Mia said.
A LOVE OF PSYCHOLOGY HAS TAKEN PROFESSOR JANE PIRKIS ON A PATH THAT SAVES LIVES BY UNDERSTANDING WHAT TRIGGERS SUICIDE AND HOW TO PREVENT IT

RESEARCH THAT SAVES LIVES EVERY DAY

By Gilda Sorella

For more than 30 years population mental health researcher Professor Jane Pirkis has devoted herself to tackling one of society’s most devastating public health issues – with life-saving results.

As one of the world’s foremost experts in suicide prevention, Professor Pirkis’ research has been used to influence international media guidelines on suicide reporting, implement suicide-prevention barriers around the world and change the way Australian men think about mental health.

“Suicide is a terrible public health problem, but it’s been rewarding to work on it from a prevention perspective. I really like the fact that I can see my research having a direct impact on policy and practice,” she said.

Now the Director of the Centre for Mental Health at the University of Melbourne, Professor Pirkis (BA Hons 1983, MPsych 1996) leads a team of researchers conducting large-scale evaluations of mental health programs, major studies on mental health literacy and research into culture and mental health.

The alumna’s stellar research career, during which she has been published in more than 260 peer-reviewed journal articles, attracted nearly $50 million in research funding and held National Health and Medical Research Council fellowships since 2003, has been recognised with the University’s Distinguished Alumni Award.

“I am very excited to be receiving this award. I have really fond memories of my time at the University of Tasmania – it was a great launching pad for my career,” she said.

Returning to Tasmania to accept the award at the Foundation’s Launceston dinner was doubly special for her, as a visit to the Newnham campus meant a return to her childhood home.

“My father was a lecturer at the Tasmanian College of Advanced Education (TCAE), now the location of the Newnham campus, and during some of my primary school years I lived there. I was thrilled to be able to tour the campus, visit my old bedroom and see how much it’s transformed.”

With the value of a university education instilled in her as a young child and a passion for psychology sparked during her pre-tertiary studies, Professor Pirkis moved to Hobart to start university in 1983.

“I left home and went to Hobart at 17 to study a Bachelor of Arts. I crammed in as much psychology as I could because I loved it,” she said.

“Studying psychology gave me a great foundation in research, but I found that clinical psychology just wasn’t for me, and I realised that I was more interested in populations than individuals.”

The realisation spurred her decision to undertake a Master of Applied Epidemiology at Australian National University, and then combine her two passions, population health research and psychology, into post-doctoral study at the University of Melbourne.

A primary focus of her research has been on suicide reporting by the media, which has informed Australian and international media guidelines on safer ways to present suicide-related stories and contributed towards Australia becoming a leader in the field.

“The work we’ve done on media reporting shows that irresponsible reporting, by which I mean inflammatory reporting, or reporting that glorifies suicide, can lead to others copying that behaviour,” she said.

Her second body of work in masculinity and suicide led to the creation of the documentary Man Up, in partnership with the Movember Foundation and Heineken Films, screened by the ABC last year.

“If you work in suicide prevention and you know that three-quarters of all suicides are by men, you can’t help but be interested in male mental health and some of the issues that might underpin it,” Professor Pirkis said.

“Our role was providing scientific advice to the show and completing a evaluation of the show’s impact – which indicated that [viewing the show] had increased men’s likelihood of seeking help.”

A second body of Professor Pirkis’ work investigates whether suicide can be prevented at public sites that have a reputation as places where people often go to end their lives.

“The research has shown that implementing preventative structures, such as barriers, not only prevents suicide but also prevents subsequent attempts. You can have a quite a dramatic impact on suicide by what are relatively straightforward interventions that you wouldn’t necessarily think of from a mental health context.”

In addition to reviewing national and international mental health grant programs and serving as Acting President of the International Association for Suicide Prevention, Professor Pirkis is dedicated to building the next generation of suicide prevention researchers.

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POVERTY, DESPAIR, WAR AND HUNGER
DRIVE DR ALICE EDWARDS IN HER FIGHT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

A WARRIOR FOR WORLD JUSTICE

By Gilda Sorella

Trail-blazing lawyer and humanitarian Dr Alice Edwards (BA/LLB Hons 1997) has negotiated with war criminals, lived under security curfew in war zones, monitored arms movements across borders and interviewed hundreds of survivors of persecution and violence. But no matter the challenge, she has always been driven by one thing: justice.

“I've had a social justice outlook since I was very young,” said Dr Edwards. “I've always been driven by justice. But no matter the challenge, she has always been driven by one thing: justice.”

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“I remember at about age eight, making popcorn and selling it at my front gate, of my own accord, to raise money for the Salvation Army. I later learned that my mother had to call every friend in the neighbourhood to come and buy it! I raised just under $3.”

Now the Head of the Secretariat for the Convention against Torture Initiative (CTI), in Geneva, Dr Edwards is striving to achieve the universal ratification and implementation of the United Nations Convention Against Torture. The alumna’s remarkable 20-year career, which has shaped the lives of millions of refugees through her contributions to policy and law, has been recognised this year with the Foundation Graduate Award. Born in Hobart, Dr Edwards enrolled at the University of Tasmania after matriculating from Fahan School. It was an international law class that first sparked her interest in human rights law. “The class resonated with me because we studied the Bosnian conflict while it was being broadcast in the news. It really hit home because many of us had friends who were of Serbian, Croatian or Bosnian origin,” she said.

At the time, Dr Edwards could never have predicted that she would ultimately come to work on the ground in the aftermath of the Bosnian War. However, with an innate humanitarian spirit and a yearning to travel, sparked by seeing as a young girl her father’s photos of travels abroad in Europe and North Africa, it’s fitting that Dr Edwards steered her life on an international course.

After graduating she undertook a year-long journey through Africa, then landed in Geneva, where she interned at the International Service for Human Rights and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). The insight into the poverty and despair in war-afflicted areas made Dr Edwards even more determined to make a difference. “I knew by then that working for international humanitarian causes was what I wanted to do,” she said. Dr Edwards spent a further year abroad working at Food for the Hungry International in Mozambique, before returning to Australia to complete her legal articles and become admitted as a barrister and solicitor.

Dr Edwards went on to work in legal and policy positions for the UNHCR in war-torn areas in Rwanda and Bosnia and Herzegovina, during which she authored a large-scale study that led to major improvements in the assistance provided to female victims of war violence.

She also helped develop rescue mechanisms for the thousands of trafficked women and girls in the Balkans, in part in response to a scandal surrounding the international community’s collusion in human trafficking, later depicted in the film The Whistleblowers starring Rachel Weisz. Academia beckoned and Dr Edwards obtained a Master of Laws in Public International Law from the University of Nottingham in 2003, followed by a PhD in Public International Law from the Australian National University in 2008.

She spent five years in research and teaching positions at Oxford University, and the University of Nottingham, until she was headhunted for the position of Chief of Protection Policy and Legal Advice at the UNHCR – becoming the youngest woman to reach its top legal position, which she held from 2010 to 2015. “I was honoured to be invited back to the UNHCR. It was an extremely demanding role, but it allowed me to influence the international agenda at its source.”

During the world’s largest refugee crisis, she provided advice to the High Commissioner on ways to better protect refugees and was responsible for nearly 100 interventions submitted to major courts to protect the rights of refugees, with more than a 95% success rate. She also personally initiated, galvanised support for and steered the UNHCR’s global strategy to end the detention of asylum-seekers and secured more than $2 million for projects related to human rights and research.

“I hope that my receiving this award will inspire others, especially female graduates, that it’s possible to have an impact in the international sphere as a University of Tasmania graduate. It’s not easy, but if you’re sufficiently driven and committed to the issues that you’re passionate about – it’s possible,” she said.

“I'd like to live in a community, in a society, in a world where everybody has their equal chance. And some of the work that I’ve done over the years I hope has contributed to that.”

Seeking sanctuary: Rohingya refugees fleeing the violence in Myanmar disembark from a boat in Teknaf, Bangladesh. Alice Edwards' career has shaped the lives of millions through her contributions to human rights policy and law.

I remember at about age eight selling popcorn at my front gate. I raised just under $3 for the Salvation Army.
Launceston Foundation dinner  
Hotel Grand Chancellor, June 29

A moving speech by scholarship recipient Ashlea Hull, pictured above, was among the highlights of the Foundation’s annual Launceston dinner, attended by more than 250 people.

After a welcome by the Chancellor, the Honourable Michael Field AC, the 2017 northern scholarship students were presented on stage.

Miss Hull, recipient of the 2017 Channel RSL Sub Branch Miss Cluny Portnell Memorial Scholarship, spoke of the transformative impact that a student scholarship has had on her life, by enabling her to relocate to Launceston to study a Bachelor of Nursing, and providing her with the support necessary to undertake future rural placements during her degree.

She spoke about growing up on the West Coast of Tasmania, where she developed an awareness of the increasing need for health care professionals in regional areas, and of how receiving the scholarship had had on her life, by enabling her to relocate to Launceston to study a Bachelor of Nursing, and providing her with the support necessary to undertake future rural placements during her degree.


More than 150 staff, alumni, students and donors gathered to hear from three inspirational speakers and toast the 2017 North-West scholarship recipients.

After an address by Acting Vice-Chancellor Mike Calford and the presentation of the recipients, the audience heard from Lee Jefferies, recipient of the Blundstone Scholarship for Agribusiness, pictured bottom right.

Inspired by the agribusinesses on her King Island home, Lee is determined to tackle one of the key issues facing the local community: access to fresh fruit and vegetables. “I am amazed at how these businesses run and cope with all the challenges,” she said. “They inspire me and I want to be a part of this industry and at the same time provide for my local community.”

Lee’s dream is to achieve this by becoming a mycologist (mushroom farmer), which she’s on the path to achieving by studying the University’s new Associate Degree in Agribusiness (see page 45).

The audience also heard from industry partner Sandra Knowles of Sassafras Farm and Professor Janelle Allison, Principal of the University College, before finishing with an address by the Chancellor.
If there’s one thing Professor Greg Woods has learnt in a 36-year career in science, it’s that things get more complicated the more you understand, particularly when the focus of your research is cancer and the immune system.

Professor Woods recently retired from full-time work at the Menzies Institute for Medical Research, where he has led the team that is developing a vaccine against the Devil Facial Tumour Disease (DFTD), and the School of Medicine, where he has lectured in immunology for 30 years. He estimates that equates to about 780 weeks of teaching, but he remains upbeat about it. At his packed farewell seminar in July, he described teaching as “one of the joys of working in a university”.

Professor Woods completed his Bachelor of Science with Honours at Monash University but in 1978 he left Melbourne to come to the University of Tasmania, enrolling in a PhD with Hobart cancer specialist and clinical researcher Professor Ray Lowenthal. “When I started my PhD here there were two of us doing PhDs in the entire faculty,” he said. His PhD investigated T-cell proliferation and the way they interact with cancer cells, in the context of treating leukaemia. In those days diagrams in PhD theses were hand-drawn – “one mistake and you had to start the whole thing again”. Computers were essentially high-end typewriters and only useful for playing Pacman, unlike the sophisticated software available today. But in some ways, it was easier to get things done. One of Professor Woods’ most memorable and well-cited papers, on the effect of anaesthetic gases on T-cell activity, was knocked out in three days over Christmas/New Year with Dr David Griffiths, the Chair of Anaesthetics at the Royal Hobart Hospital, while the wards were quiet.

Professor Woods, his wife Rhonda and their young twins moved to Toronto in 1986 where, through a molecular focus on immunotherapy and melanoma, he and colleagues published on drug resistance in cancer patients. On his return from Canada, Professor Woods began research in pathology and cell biology and teaching in immunology under the Head of Pathology and internationally eminent pathologist, Emeritus Professor Kon Muller, who died this year.

At Professor Woods’ farewell the Head of the School of Medicine, Professor Ben Canny, remarked on Professor Woods’ generosity and contribution to the University. For example, as a senior academic he continued to supervise exams and throughout his career regularly gave community talks for the many members of the public who were interested in his research. “You are the consummate academic who understands the complexity and completeness of what university life is all about - going from the undergraduate teaching through to the high-level science and bringing it all together,” Professor Canny said.

Since 2006 Professor Woods has focused on DFTD. “I was interested in how cancer escapes the immune system so this was a logical step for me. We set out to try to find out why this tumour is being transferred from animal to animal when it should get rejected. The devil has a good immune system. It should recognise these cancer cells as foreign and reject them.” His group has found that DFTD is a Schwann cell cancer, a type that is very rare in humans. The problem lies in the fact that the devils’ immune system does not recognise the DFTD tumour cells. In the laboratory, the team has been able to modify the tumour cells to make them visible to the immune system. They have had some devils contract the cancer and then fight it off with immunotherapy and a devil vaccine is being trialled in the wild, with mixed results. Ultimately the goal is to develop a “one-shot” vaccine.

Dr Bruce Lyons will now lead the devil research. Typically understated, Professor Woods said he will be watching, “and when things go well, I’ll reappear”.
BUILDING NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE STUDENTS OF THE FUTURE

By Professor Peter Rathjen

In Tasmania’s cities, you are starting to see, in glass and stone, the philosophy that we’ve recently adopted as an institution. That philosophy is to sit much closer to the community, to try to find ways to interact much more intensively with the community, and to find ways in which the University of Tasmania can contribute more to Tasmanian life.

What marks this community, beyond all else, is the low average wage when compared to the rest of Australia. Tasmanians earn 20-25 per cent less than the average Tasmanians earn 20-25 per cent less than the average wage on the mainland, and that lack of resource is manifest everywhere you look.

At the heart of this disadvantage is the appalling outcomes that the Tasmanian education system delivers. For example, if you are a rural male in Tasmania you have a 14 per cent chance of finishing year 12.

Statistics such as this are confronting. What should we do about them? Here there are different schools of thought. The new Tasmania will need a new economy. The jobs which have served us reasonably well here are about extractive industries - you chop things down, you dig things up. The new industries that we need will come from some form of innovation - new knowledge or new ways of using knowledge, perhaps invented here, perhaps imported.

However, new knowledge in itself is of no use if you don’t have people able to use that knowledge in creative ways. The innovation base will have to be matched with human capital - clever people who can use new knowledge. We bear a particular responsibility as the only university in Tasmania. I don’t really talk about us as a university anymore. I talk about us as a university system, because everything that is higher education [in this State] we have to find some way to represent.

When we started to realise that Tasmania needed a university system, rather than a university per se, we decided to visit California, because, at that time, I knew of only one university system in the world. We have since visited 14 other states [in America] and have found that all had university systems crafted from their individual universities and community colleges.

As we went around the country, we were told that 49 of the 50 American states have moved to a system-based approach for their universities over the past decade or two. It’s a movement we don’t hear anything about in Australia, but a movement which could be embraced here. The idea is simply that, by aligning state needs and the capacity of a university to deliver in all sorts of different ways, you are able to build a more prosperous future, in whichever way you choose to define prosperity.

Such a system was obviously transferable to Tasmania because we have one university. We approached our State Government to discuss how we might do something similar. Was there a way of embedding the University as possibly the most important driver of economic betterment and social well-being in this State? Could the future of the State be predicated on the ability of the University to harness innovation and to build human capital?

The upshot was a memorandum of understanding, encompassing a 10-year period, which defines targets that we think will make for a better Tasmania. These are shared targets, including increased levels of education, a bigger contribution to the economy of the State, new and different economies that can revitalise industry here, and revitalised regions.

Now that’s part of what we learnt when we went around the United States, but there were more learnings. As I talked to chancellors of university systems, two words kept coming up: affordability and regionality. These universities were consciously trying to reach out physically into regional communities, setting up new campuses in disadvantaged parts of the State. The chancellors all made the point that the killer cost for disadvantaged communities is not the cost of education, it’s the cost of living away from home.

Affordability. Regionality. Increased participation. These objectives all apply to the Tasmanian context. So we have started to offer associate degrees as of this year. Associate degrees, which are two-year degrees, cost less, are locally delivered, and they should lead to a job. Why do we think they should lead to a job? Because we’ve designed them with industry input. Does industry think these are valuable? Yes.

Local industry has funded 100 per cent scholarship coverage for our agribusiness associate degree. And all of it’s embedded in a structure that means that the students bring 100 per cent credit from their associate degree should they want to go on and enrol in a bachelor program.

We’ve been given special permission by the Federal Government to take students into these programs, using it as a pilot for the rest of the country. I’m guessing we will need even shorter and more targeted education products as I think there is a desperate need for high levels of innovation in this space between TAFE and the bachelor’s programs.

The transformation taking place here is about education, but it’s equally about our campuses themselves. We will, if we’re fortunate to secure the funding, spend about $1.2 billion over the next decade in relocating our campuses into the CBD areas of Tasmania’s cities.

This is partly born of a recognition that the student population our current campuses were built to attract is not the student population that we have now. More than 50 per cent of our students are mature-age, trying to balance a complex combination of part-time work, part-time study and their social and family responsibilities. Study is not easily accessed in suburban locations which are not well serviced by public transport. It is easier to balance the competing demands of life...
We are trying to create cosmopolitan ecosystems which are quite different when studying in the middle of a city. We need to make education visible. You can’t see our current campuses. Tasmanian kids don’t see education, they don’t see university, and they don’t see what a university student looks like. As we move the university into town, we will see a reinvigoration of cultural amenities. As we better engage with industry, with business, with politicians, we will find better ways to help with the revitalisation of the economy, and, as we move into cities, we will see a process which the Prime Minister calls value capture. He talks about it in the context of railway lines – that as you put them through regional towns, land values rise, rates rise, prosperity is created.

What is particularly interesting about this process is not so much the buildings but their connectivity. Our new campuses will be a dispersed set of assets within the various Tasmanian cities, where the life of the city takes place in and around the university buildings. They will be porous campuses. As we move to the new campus in Burnie or the new campus in Launceston, you can see that they are co-located with the major sporting facilities in those towns. They’re also co-located with the respective major cultural centres – in Launceston, the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery; in Burnie, The Makers’ Workshop.

We are trying to create cosmopolitan ecosystems which are quite different from the isolated campuses that have characterised Western universities for about the past 100 years, but which are startlingly similar to the oldest universities of all. This is what Cambridge and Oxford, and Bologna and Boston, look like. This is the direction that we think suits the future and future students. The greatest economic benefit of what we’re doing will go to North-West Tasmania, which is where it is needed, and the north of the State. It’s because of these improvements in human capital and in economic value that the State and Federal governments have agreed to support us.

Last but not least, we are enjoying a measure of grassroots support, as communities around the State start to appreciate what is possible if an institution such as this collaborates with government and industry to realise a shared vision for Tasmania. This is an edited version of a keynote speech given by the Vice-Chancellor to the University of Tasmania Symposium Reimagining and Revitalising Communities Through Higher Education – Engaging, Informing and Learning, held at the new student accommodation complex in Hobart’s CBD.

The master plan includes the construction of three main University buildings, each complementing the other in providing density and definition for the precinct to be vibrant and dynamic into the future. It also includes the construction of a new pedestrian and cycling bridge linking the Willis St site to the Inveresk Precinct.

The master plan for the new $40 million precinct at Burnie sets out the long-term vision for the development of the site over coming decades. Incorporating extensive feedback, the master plan includes a lower-scale Stage 1 main building, along with a waterfront teaching and learning facility as part of Stage 2. Each of these projects complements other inner-city developments completed in recent years, including the Medical Sciences Precinct on Liverpool Street and the Marine and Antarctic Precinct on the waterfront at Salamanca.

Together, these initiatives seek to deliver the core business of the University – research and teaching – while harnessing higher education to address some of Tasmania’s most serious social and economic challenges. The University is creating inner-city networks of people, facilities, and knowledge to propel innovation and drive economic growth as well as attracting a new cohort of Tasmanian students to become graduates prepared for an evolving global economy.

The master plan outlines a dynamic higher education and research ecosystem. This project is the single highest infrastructure investment in Launceston’s history and will be a lasting legacy for the community. “We are not proposing to build a traditional university campus,” the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Peter Ruthjen, said at the time of the master plan’s release. “This master plan outlines a dynamic higher education and research ecosystem as part of the Inveresk precinct and the beating heart of Launceston as a University City for the future.”

Further information: utas.edu.au/ northern-transformation
**HED-LINE ACT**

**DRAWS CROWD**

The generosity of two foundations has given a welcome boost to the Hedberg, Hobart’s new $96 million cultural and performing arts precinct.

By Gilda Sorella

Two major donations to the University’s Foundation have given a boost to the $96 million creative industries and performing arts development that promises to transform the heart of Hobart into a vibrant arts and culture precinct.

The Ian Potter Foundation, a major Australian philanthropic foundation, has awarded a grant of $2 million towards the project, with an additional $3 million contingent upon the University matching it with funding from other donors.

The Tasmanian-based Alcorso Foundation, established in 2001 in honour of the Tasmanian Arts patron and founder of Moonilla Estate Claudio Alcorso, has made an $80,000 donation.

“The incredible generosity of the Ian Potter and Alcorso foundations will undoubtedly have a transformative impact within the University and community as this project comes to fruition, and serve as a reminder of the power of philanthropy within higher education,” Director of Advancement Young Dawkins said.

Built out of a partnership between the University, the Theatre Royal, government and community, The Hedberg will encompass the Theatre Royal, the University Conservatorium of Music and the Creative Exchange Institute (CXI), a new interdisciplinary research institute with a focus on performance, design and creativity.

It will contain inviting public spaces to welcome the community and tourists to observe practice and performances. “The Hedberg will not only provide a state-of-the-art home for the Conservatorium, it will become the foundation upon which future musicians, artists, dancers and performers, scientists, mathematicians and all creative design thinkers can gather together to explore new models for creative and interdisciplinary endeavour, including, of course, to make new music,” Director of The Hedberg and the Conservatorium of Music Professor Andrew Legg said.

“The artistic and cultural opportunities it will provide will be felt not just by the University’s students and local arts groups, but the Tasmanian community in general and beyond.”

Engineering firm ARUP and architecture firms Liminal Studio and WOHA Architects are collaborating on the project, which, once finished, will have the potential to deliver $660 million in direct and indirect economic benefits and will generate 280 jobs during construction.

The Hedberg name is drawn from the Hedberg Brothers Garage, which was built on Collins St in 1925.

The artistic and cultural opportunities will be felt not just by the University’s students … but also the Tasmanian community in general and beyond.

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**RECLAIMING A VAST RESOURCE TO GIVE NEW LEASE OF LIFE**

By Claire McLaren

In hydroelectric dams around Tasmania, forests of dead timber are still standing. Flooded to create water storage for energy production, the dead 200 to 1000-year-old forests have been submerged for more than 30 years. Thanks to innovative harvesting and processing methods, this valuable timber is now being reclaimed from the depths and marketed as Hydrowood.

SFM Environmental Solutions director David Wise went to British Columbia four years ago and saw timber being pulled out of lakes. It was being reclaimed after being preserved in the cold, dark fresh water. He asked his business partner and fellow director Andrew Morgan, “Why can’t we do this here?”

“There is high demand for Tasmanian special species timbers, but very low supply. So this dead timber was potentially a valuable resource,” Andrew said. “But we didn’t know how to recover it or how it would perform after 30 years under water.”

They initiated a feasibility study with the University of Tasmania and the Department of State Growth and assessed five lakes. Divers pulled timber out of the water to be assessed by the University’s Centre for Sustainable Architecture and Wood (CSAW). “We needed to know if the timber was sound, whether it could be used for building, joinery, flooring and how we could dry it with the right regime of air-drying and kiln time,” Andrew said.

CSAW explored worldwide findings about salvaging submerged timber. CSAW found that despite Hydrowood losing water in a unique way, if it was dried properly it became very stable and pleasing product.

“It was gratifying to see – getting it dry and getting it into a saleable product so that it was commercially viable. It is a world-first on a Tasmanian species,” senior technical officer Michael Lee said.

SFM now has about 15 years’ worth of timber resource in hydro dams around Tasmania that they can supply to the marketplace. SFM are working with the University of Tasmania on underwater technology to improve viability for harvesting.
A RIGHT TO A FAIR GO

By Tanani Nair

A young Helen Szoke was determined not to let her humble beginnings in north-west Tasmania dictate her future. She wanted to get an education and follow her passion in political science and public policy. Now Oxfam Australia’s Chief Executive Officer, Dr Szoke has throughout her career championed the right for everyone to have equal access to life’s opportunities. She has been a strong advocate in particular for foreign aid and international development, human rights and gender and race equity. Dr Szoke joined Oxfam in 2013. Before this appointment, she served as Australia’s Federal Race Discrimination Commissioner and as the Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commissioner.

She completed her Bachelor of Arts (Politics and Psychology) at the University of Tasmania and then went on to a PhD in Public Policy at the University of Melbourne.

What was your university life like when you were here?

A: It was a very particular time in Australia – between 1972 and 1975. That’s when Gough Whitlam won and lost power. I was from a family who’d come to Tasmania because my dad had lost his business in Adelaide so we were living in the bank homes – I think that is what they’re called in Tasmania – in Smithton and then in Wynyard. I can remember having this moment thinking that I really want to go to uni because I want my kids to be proud of me and my dad at the time saying it’s a waste of money. Gough Whitlam got me to university – no fees.

What did you study here?

A: Politics and psychology were my passions so I ended up majoring in political science. In those days, we had Bill Mollison at the University – he went on to set up the permaculture movement. He taught environment psychology which was a weird and wonderful course but it was really the politics that captured my heart at that time.

What were some of the advantages of coming to a regional university which is obviously smaller than the ones on the mainland?

A: For me relocating from the North West to Hobart was coming to the ‘big smoke’. The University had perhaps 10,000 students in those days and we used to congregate at the Ref. The University was small enough for you to be able to engage and be involved and big enough to kind of give you a sense of being pretty important. There was a lot of student activism at that time.

You’re a strong advocate for foreign aid, international development, and human rights – why do you think it is important for people to get interested in these topics and in social justice in general?

A: I had two drivers. One was that my dad was a refugee after the Second World War and to some extent as our economic circumstances changed I felt the stigma of being poor and of being different and felt that that was unjust. And then, of course, once I began at university, I began to see that actually my circumstances were pretty good but there were a whole lot of other things that really needed to be challenged – such as what should people have the right to access, equal access at least, to give their self a chance. And I think the great thing about university courses is that it gives you an opportunity to take a glimpse into the different types of circumstances that people experience.

The other thing that I think is important is that Tasmania is small but it is very multicultural now – there are pockets of resistance to that still but I think we need to take the journey with our global brothers and sisters to understand what’s happening in the world. There are some huge global challenges and so we want the young people coming through to have a framework for understanding that and hopefully an ability to influence that.

We need to take the journey... and understand what’s happening in the world.
HERE’S CHEERS TO GOOD YEARS AND MEMORIES

By Peter Cochrane

Hong Kong alumni networking evening
9.07.2017
A reception at the Cordis Hotel attended by the Vice-Chancellor and Deputy Chancellor brought together both expatriates and graduates from the University’s joint program with Hong Kong Universal Education. The alumni guest speaker was Tia Poole (BIS 2014), who grew up on Tasmania’s North West coast and is married to fellow alumni Isaac Poole, both pictured right.

School of Medicine
30-year reunion
31.03.2017– 2.05.2017
Former classmates between the years 1982 and 1987 turned out for a trip down memory lane, beginning with a tour of the old Biomedical Sciences building on the Sandy Bay campus, and including a visit to the Menzies Institute for Medical Research, a dinner at Urban Greek and a farewell lunch at Frogmore Creek winery.

Hong Kong alumni networking evening
9.07.2017
A reception at the Cordis Hotel attended by the Vice-Chancellor and Deputy Chancellor brought together both expatriates and graduates from the University’s joint program with Hong Kong Universal Education. The alumni guest speaker was Tia Poole (BIS 2014), who grew up on Tasmania’s North West coast and is married to fellow alumni Isaac Poole, both pictured right.

London alumni reception
23.05.2017
The Ham Yard Hotel in Soho was the venue for a gathering attended by the Vice-Chancellor. Pictured, clockwise, left to right: Damon Thomas; Professor Monica Skidmore; Lawrence Foster and Michelle Vissier; Luke Kow; Tom Forrest; Clare Cowley; Tyler Acers; Scott Semmens and Benjamin Eastman; Nicola Castle; Margaret Rodgers and Cathryn Pocock.

Shanghai alumni reception
6.07.2017
Seventy-three alumni and AIEIN Institute (Shanghai Ocean University) staff members enjoyed the opportunity to network over drinks and canapes in the Majesty Plaza Hotel ballroom. The keynote speaker was Vice-Chancellor Professor Peter Rathjen, while the alumni speaker was Mike Ma (BIS 2012; MIS 2014), now an AIEIN staff member. Pictured from far left, Wenyi Xu and Merry Joyce; Stuart Crispin and Xinxia Zhang.
TAKING SCIENCE OUT OF THE LAB AND INTO THE REAL WORLD

By Anna Osborne

Professor Michael Breadmore’s quest for excellence in science innovation moves beyond the academic world.

It is the challenge of transitioning science from the laboratory to real-world applications which fuels his energetic approach to excellence. “These days, I’m driven by how we can move from academia to impact,” he said. Professor Breadmore (B Sci, 1st Class Honours 1998; PhD 2001) is an analytical chemist, ARC Future Fellow and a Professor of Chemistry at the Australian Centre for Research on Separation Science (ACROSS), based on the University’s Sandy Bay campus.

“I am very interested in impact – how our technology can be used, for example, to run farms, test the quality of our drinking water or to manage personalised medicine.”

His work in developing ‘lab-on-a-chip’ portable analytical devices – which allow users to submit a sample and get an answer out on the spot – has the potential to revolutionise clinical, forensic, environmental and industrial applications.

There was never any question of me not coming back to Tasmania to work.

“As an analytical chemist, my work in developing ‘lab-on-a-chip’ portable analytical devices has the potential to revolutionise clinical, forensic, environmental and industrial applications.

Dr Paul Haddad, who established ACROSS almost 20 years ago.”

Professor Breadmore said. “It was Paul’s vision to bring together a group of scientists, working collaboratively, to achieve internationally leading science outcomes.”

Professor Breadmore grew up in Bridport, Northern Tasmania, where his parents owned and operated the local supermarket.

After completing secondary studies at Scottsdale High School and Launceston College he enrolled in a combined science/law degree at the University of Tasmania. Realising a career in law was not for him, he eventually pursued a major in chemistry and graduated with a Bachelor of Science (1st Class Honours) in 1998. He remained at the University to complete his PhD, under the guidance of Professor Haddad, before venturing overseas to undertake research opportunities in the US and Switzerland and working in industry in the UK.

“There was never any question of me not coming back to Tasmania to work,” Professor Breadmore said.

In 2015, he was one of three Australian academics to be recognised in The Analytical Scientist magazine’s inaugural Top 40 Under 40 listing.

“I am a very proud Tasmanian and the University of Tasmania has provided me with ample opportunities,” he said. “There is international excellence at this University which is among the best in the world, and I wanted to come back and help educate the next generation of scientists. If I can help other people like me to realise what they can do, what they haven’t even dreamed of doing, that’s a pretty awesome job to undertake.”
While paramedicine training is ultimately about saving lives, it also proved valuable for University of Tasmania alumni Ella Cuthbert and Sean Mackay during their recent stint on television renovation series House Rules.

“We took seven months off work for the show – however, I think our work prepared us and we coped with the long days, late nights and fatigue better than some of the other teams,” Ella explains. Their professional skills also proved useful on set when a fellow contestant cut an artery in his wrist on a pane of glass. "Mine was a small class of only 40 students which meant plenty of hands-on time with the equipment,” Ella said. “The University also has its own simulated ambulance which was really good for learning and summer placements also gave us a chance for plenty of real-life experience.”

Sean and Ella said the strong link between the University and Ambulance Tasmania was also of great benefit during and after their studies and both felt very privileged to have secured jobs in Hobart. "Post-House Rules, life is a ‘new normal’. ‘A lot of patients want selfies now,’ Ella said. "Some are actually quite sick and you have to say, ‘Hang on, let’s talk about you for a minute’. "It’s fun, though, and you have to enjoy it while it lasts, I guess.”

For Drew Heath, Architecture graduate and one of three 2017 House Rules judges, appearing on the show was a “baptism of fire”. "It was a great experience but I was really petrified," he said. "It was only half way through the season that I started to feel comfortable." Once he relaxed into his role, Drew was able to communicate his passion for architecture. "I realised that common architecture has principles about light, materials and plan that I could bring to the show, as well as a kind of honesty and integrity,” he said. Drew graduated from the University of Tasmania in 1993 (BArch Hons) with great memories. "As students, our first three years were in the Jones and Co Arts School building on the Hobart waterfront and it was just the most creative place to be – it was such a fantastic location,” he said. "I then studied for two years in Launceston, when the School of Architecture moved there, with a group of students who I lived with for the duration – we were really tight and it was a lot of fun.”

Drew’s Tasmanian upbringing was also a solid grounding for the environmental aspect of his work. "It’s about finding the truth in environmentalism and sustainability – and that has always been in our conversation,” he said. "My father worked for the Hydro and they were on the frontier, exploring the Tasmanian wilderness with geologists, photographers and historians. "I’d like to think that’s how we would all approach environmental matters and development, with all experts trying to get the best out of it for everyone.”

Drew has run his own very successful architecture firm in Sydney for the past 20 years but says there is still plenty to learn. "Architecture is the best profession as it just covers so many different aspects of life and travel. You can take an artistic side to it or a scientific side to it - so there are places within architecture for everyone;” he said. "My aim is to just keep concentrating on building homes for people - and eventually get really good at it.”
If recent roles are anything to go by, chances are we’ll be seeing a lot more of University of Tasmania alumnus Toby Leonard Moore.

The humble actor’s star is certainly on the rise, having secured parts in major hit series including Netflix’s Daredevil and most recently, Showtime’s Billions.

The talent and versatility of the 36-year-old Tasmanian actor, moving between voiceover work, TV, stage and screen, has translated into an ever-growing body of work.

Initially starting out on Australian stage and television, working with the Sydney Theatre Company and in the television film Murder in the Outback, Toby then set his sights on the US market.

“I started in LA, but didn’t like it very much,” he said. “I had a friend in New York who suggested I come out there and I’ve stayed ever since. In a lot of ways, the city chooses you.”

And choose Toby it did. Since arriving in the US his career has gone from strength to strength.

Among his acting credits he is best known for his roles as Victor in cult-hit movie John Wick; James Wesley, criminal underworld figure Wilson Fisk’s right-hand man in Daredevil; and law-abiding Bryan Connerty in Billions.

“I have played quite a lot of villains, which is great fun,” he said. “Playing Brian on Billions was completely different as he has such a strong moral fortitude.”

Toby’s desire to pursue acting started at a very young age.

“I knew from when I was nine years old that I wanted to do acting and NIDA [the National Institute of Dramatic Arts] was where I wanted to go,” he said.

Born in Sydney, the son of acclaimed voiceover artist Robyn Moore (best known as the voice of Blinky Bill), he moved with his family to Hobart when he was 11 years old.

The ensuing years saw him pursue theatre work around Hobart, landing roles in productions by the Gilbert and Sullivan Society, among others, before he enrolled in a Bachelor of Arts (majoring in Japanese) at the University of Tasmania.

“I have always loved Japan. It’s been a big part of my life ever since I was an exchange student in 1997, so it really was a degree of love,” he said. “I actually started with law as well, because I like the performance aspect of it, but gave it away and just focused on Japanese.”

He graduated in 2002, and set to work honing his love of acting at NIDA.

“I did a lot of theatre early on in my career, but I have tended to gravitate to film and TV in recent years,” he said. “Although there is something about theatre. It has the adrenalin and you get an immediate reaction. It’s something that I’d really like to get into again.”
By Gilda Sorella

namEl AsuTEned AustraLiaCounTrY lawyer of the year for 2016, the career of Sarah Thornton (BA 1987, Dip Ed 1987) has spanned working as in-house legal counsel with Virgin Blue Australia, selling Tasmanian-made robotics and helping to secure Australia’s biggest aviation infrastructure project.

Q: Where did your career begin?

A: After I graduated from the University of Tasmania in 1987, I was offered a Westpac graduate traineeship in Sydney. At 22 I wanted to see the ‘big smoke’ and they paid me $500 to relocate … so I packed my belongings into my Datsun 120Y and got on the ferry! After a short period in banking, I spent eight years in sales and marketing, in industries as diverse as publishing and robotics.

Q: Robotics is quite a niche, how did you get into it?

A: It was the 1990s and I had moved back to Tasmania and worked for a Tasmanian company that designed and manufactured research robots. Seeking to sell them internationally, the owner hired me as international sales and marketing manager.

Q: You then studied a law degree at the Queensland University of Technology — where did that lead you?

A: I was hired by national law firm Clayton Utz in Brisbane. Shortly afterwards, I was seconded to Virgin Australia Airlines. I enjoyed it so much that I continued to work for Virgin as its in-house lawyer. It was fast-paced and full of challenges — not long after I joined, September 11 occurred and Ansett collapsed, all while Virgin was growing at a rate of 400 per cent per annum.

Q: You’re currently wrapping up a seven-year stint at the Brisbane Airport Corporation, what was your role?

A: I was General Counsel and Group Company Secretary. Aside from putting a lot of time into legal practice, management innovation, a highlight was securing the funding to build a new $1.3 billion runway — the biggest aviation infrastructure project in Australia. It was a team effort and my contribution included developing strategy and negotiating with airlines to get their support.

Q: You’ve passionately supported the University’s Save the Tasmanian Devil Appeal for more than five years, where does this passion come from?

A: I feel strongly that to lose another iconic Tasmanian marsupial less than 100 years after the last Tasmanian tiger walked the Earth would be unacceptable. I’m so grateful for the work the Appeal team is doing to find a solution.

Q: Most students at the University know the Stanley Burbury Theatre — I hear that you might be related to him.

A: My great great great grandfather was Thomas Burbury, a well-documented Tasmanian convict who acquired land east of Oatlands, which is still farmed by the Burburys today. Thomas Burbury’s son had about 18 children, so it’s hard to keep track of how I’m related to Stanley Burbury.

Q: What was your role at the University of Tasmania?

A: I was hired by national law firm Clayton Utz in Brisbane. Shortly afterwards, I was seconded to Virgin Australia Airlines. I enjoyed it so much that I continued to work for Virgin as its in-house lawyer. It was fast-paced and full of challenges — not long after I joined, September 11 occurred and Ansett collapsed, all while Virgin was growing at a rate of 400 per cent per annum.

Q: Describe your time at the University of Tasmania.

A: I would describe my time at the University of Tasmania as ‘liberating’. I was studying English literature, history and basically all of the things I loved in a supportive and nurturing learning environment.

Q: What’s your most recent achievement?

A: Last year in November I was named Australian Corporate Lawyer of the Year by the Association of Corporate Council Australia. As part of receiving the award, I have been fortunate enough to be flown around the country, delivering talks on contemporary legal practice management.

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It appears that advice has stood Professor Wiseman (BA 1972, BA Hons 1973) in good stead. Not only has he worked across diplomacy, philanthropy and academia, but he has also published extensively on defensive security concepts, the diplomatic corps, the United Nations, American diplomacy, adversarial states and public diplomacy.

Born and raised on the North West Coast of Tasmania, Professor Wiseman’s interest in politics has always been a constant. "I was interested in politics, both domestic and international, from a very young age," he said. "I remember when I was 11, making an appointment to see my Braddon member in the House of Representatives. Politics has always fascinated me."

With the support of Professor Boyce, he pursued a summer scholarship at the Australian National University (ANU) after completing his studies at the University of Tasmania, which opened doors to a career in foreign affairs. It was during his time at the University of Tasmania he earned the first of many career highlights — representing Tasmania and then Australia in surf lifesaving.

"As it turns out, I did a Masters degree at ANU and joined Foreign Affairs where my first posting was Stockholm, Sweden; my ambassador being Tasmania’s own Lance Barnard, who had been deputy Prime Minister," he said.

Professor Wiseman went on to work as an Australian foreign service officer in Hanoi and Brussels, and as private secretary to the then Australian Foreign Minister, Gareth Evans. In 2006-07, he worked in the Strategic Planning Unit of the Executive Office of the UN Secretary-General, dealing with issues involving nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament.

He has also worked in the philanthropic sector, serving as program officer at the Ford Foundation in New York City. In 2006-07, he worked within the Strategic Planning Unit of the Executive Office of the UN Secretary-General, dealing with issues involving nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament.

In addition to family visits, he recently received a Visiting Scholarship at the University of Tasmania, presenting a public lecture at the Sandy Bay campus and also delivering the Annual Australian Institute of International Affairs/ Government House Lecture. "There is no doubt in my mind that my University of Tasmania education provided a strong foundation for my continuing studies and research," he said. "At the University of Tasmania, I was introduced to a Tasmania-wide, even national, group of friends who became teachers, lawyers, politicians, business entrepreneurs, social workers and doctors. Wonderful people, many of whom I still count as friends and keep in touch with to this day."
In a historic step for Australian female sport, a University of Tasmania team was one of eight selected to compete in the inaugural Aon Women’s Uni 7s Series, staged by the Australian Rugby Union.

Dubbed the University of Tasmania Lions, the 24-strong squad comprised students, local players, Australian women’s sevens representatives and elite athletes from abroad. University of Tasmania students selected for the side were Michaelyne Arumbi, Wynonah Conway, Jessica Dobbie, Kristina Ryan, Brielle Quigley, Rachel Bourke, Ebony Hicks and Caitlin Ryan. August 25 when the first of four tournaments in the series kicked off.

Coming off bottom-of-the-table finishes in the first two tournaments, the Lions put on a strong performance in the third round to take fifth place. Coach and former Wallaby Burgess said the insertion of Olympic gold medallist Nicole Beck, returning to the elite level only five months after the birth of her second child, helped the team step up. Coach and former Wallaby Burgess said the insertion of Olympic gold medallist Nicole Beck, returning to the elite level only five months after the birth of her second child, helped the team step up.

The Lions upset Canberra 19-5 on day one of the fourth round before a thrilling 12-all draw with Bond University left them in fourth place.

We have some superstars of Rugby 7s playing for the Lions, but for many of the girls this is a relatively new sport of various codes from an early age. And it creates opportunities for partnerships built around business and the community, using the stadium as a hub.”

Since then the stadium has hosted four AFL games scheduled there for the 2017 home-and-away season while a second football code made its University of Tasmania Stadium debut in August, with the staging of the first round of the new national women’s Rugby Aon Uni 7s Series.

The latter featured eight teams, one being the University of Tasmania Lions, a 24-strong squad comprised of current students, local players, Australian women’s sevens representatives and elite US athletes.

Launceston will also host its first Big Bash women’s sevens fixture on December 30, when the Hobart Hurricanes head north for a home game against Sydney Thunder at the University of Tasmania Stadium, part of a double-header also involving the respective WBBL teams.

The naming rights sponsors agreement, which began on January 1, 2017, will continue for five years.

STADIUM SPONSORSHIP

The University of Tasmania’s move to claim naming rights for the former Aurora Stadium in Launceston introduced a school of hard knocks into its outreach program.

The agreement was finalised as the University and its partners progressed a $300 million transformation program in the north of the State.

Speaking on the eve of the first major fixture to be staged at the newly renamed arena – a Women’s Big Bash League (WBBL) game – Provost Professor Mike Calford said the sponsorship of the stadium reflected the pride the University felt for the region.

“We want to strengthen the relationship between the University and the community and to encourage more people, particularly Tasmanians, to extend their education,” he said.

“University of Tasmania Stadium will lift our profile and let us speak to young fans of various codes from an early age. And it creates opportunities for partnerships built around business and the community, using the stadium as a hub.”

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While a university degree is not a prerequisite to forging a career on the footy field, it certainly doesn’t hurt if you have coaching ambitions.

Two of the current AFL coaches are University of Tasmania alumni: Brendon Bolton (Bachelor of Human Movement, 2001), in his second year of the Carlton rebuild, and Queenstown’s Chris Fagan (Bachelor of Education, 1982), in his first year at the Brisbane Lions, where the Development Coach is another alumni – Zane Littlejohn (Bachelor of Human Movement, 2010).

Rodney Eade, who was until August 8 coach of the Gold Coast Suns, also has a University of Tasmania link – he is the son of Brian Eade.

Interviewed for a former issue of Alumni magazine, Brendon Bolton said his experience here had held him in good stead.

Dealing with the mind of a sportsperson was something that he first started to get his own head around at university.

“How people think determines how they feel and how they feel determines how they play.

“Dean Cosley, who lectures in sports psychology at the University, often made us look at our readiness to perform, and that’s something I’ve shown an interest in since I’ve left uni – making sure the mind is ready to play.”

The three Tasmanian coaches came together for the Celebration of Tasmanian Footy dinner in Melbourne in May.
By Carmen Stephens

The University of Tasmania’s Advanced Sensor Manufacturing Facility (ASMF), which is being operated in partnership with Launceston firm Definium Technologies, was opened in March.

Leading the way: Sensors are assembled in the new Launceston facility. Definium Technologies general manager Mike Cruickshank is pictured in the background.

University of Tasmania Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) Professor Brigid Heywood said the new facility was a stellar example of the type of advanced manufacturing that will define the future capability of the state. “This is smart, future-facing manufacturing,” Professor Heywood said. “This will position Launceston and Tasmania as an innovative provider of advanced circuit board components and electronic hardware design.”

“This is a direct return on investment by our government in the Sense-T project and shows what can happen when we marry our distinctive research strengths, our capacity in the STEM disciplines, and a strong partnership between the University, government and industry.”

The ASMF will manufacture sensor prototypes to be embedded across the emerging Internet of Things and build on Definium’s global reputation. Importantly, it will serve as a training and education centre for students at the University of Tasmania.

Sense-T Director Dr Stephen Cahoon said Sense-T had developed a close working relationship with Definium Technologies in recent years and it was the natural partner for the ASMF.

“The ASMF is an important component of our data value chain as it will enable 21st-century sensor technology to be developed in Launceston for our suite of innovative projects,” Professor Cahoon said.

“These sensors will collect the necessary real-time data that, when combined with Sense-T’s data analytics capabilities, will provide new business insights and evidence-based decision-making for managers in a range of sectors from agriculture to transport logistics.”

Lee Jefferies, aspiring King Island mushroom farmer and current scholarship recipient, brought an unusual prop with her to the podium when she spoke at the Foundation dinner in Burnie. Here she explains why she no longer sees a bag of carrots as just a bag of carrots:

Good evening. My name is Lee and I am a mushroom farmer – the technical term is a mycologist. But I feel the need to put an asterisk above this statement as it has some conditions attached.

I am trying to be a mushroom farmer and in the early stages of growing an agribusiness. I am not there yet. I live alongside many agribusinesses on King Island, both large and small, and I am amazed at how these businesses run and cope with the challenges. They inspire me and I want to be a part of this industry and provide for my local community.

Access to fresh fruit and vegetables on King Island is limited and leaves our community very vulnerable. I am hoping to go from being just someone who grows food for fun to build a business out of it and encourage other local people to do the same so we can have our own local food sources, as currently we rely on importing more than 96 per cent of our fresh produce.

I didn’t have the required skills and knowledge to jump straight into building an agribusiness, so I started looking for places where I could build up my practical skills. I undertook a few short courses through TAFE in cattle handling, weed management, chemical handling and operating machinery. This satisfied my initial needs of getting daily work done but I still didn’t feel confident with the business side of managing a farm so I started looking around to build my knowledge.

I already had a bachelor degree in information management from 15 years ago so I investigated what courses were available in the area of agriculture through universities. I came across information on the Associate Degree in Agribusiness at the University of Tasmania. This course looked to have a mix of theory as well as actual real life real agribusiness knowledge. I then saw an opportunity to apply for a scholarship from Blundstone so I applied. So far, the course is exceeding my expectations. I love how much real-life content is included in the course, using a mixture of media, including TED talks, Landline segments and the theoretical knowledge from texts, industry leaders and teaching staff. One of the course features that has blown my mind is how lucky we are to have the subject co-ordinators and other teaching staff. They put so much work into industry relationships that have enabled us to visit agribusinesses in the workshops.

Attending these workshops has changed the way I view food. I bought with me tonight a bag of carrots because this particularity is something that has changed for me when I buy produce. I no longer see this as a bag of carrots. I see the agribusiness behind it and can appreciate the time, effort, business decisions, human resource management, weather monitoring, cleaning and equipment that has gone into getting this bag of carrots into my hands.

The opportunities of the businesses we have visited at the workshops have been so open and transparent, very enthusiastic and willing to answer any questions that we had. From seeing how carrots are processed, how tomatoes are grown hydroponically, where my soil test samples go and even getting a glimpse into pyrethrin farming, which is exported around the world from Tasmania.

These visits would not have been possible had it not been for our teaching staff building these relationships over many years. My attendance at these workshops would not have been possible had I not received the scholarship from Blundstone. It was the deciding factor in me being able to undertake the course as the cost of travel to and from King Island is high.

I am aiming that by the end of the course, when I see you again, I will be able to introduce myself as Lee, the mushroom farmer without an asterisk.

I am hoping to go from being just someone who grows food for fun to build a business out of it.
The hard work and scholarship of more than 2500 graduands were celebrated during the winter 2017 graduations round.

In Hobart, 1,663 graduands received their testamurs; in Launceston, the total was 925.

“For our students, these ceremonies mark the end of one chapter, and the beginning of another,” Vice-Chancellor Professor Peter Rathjen said.

“Their studies have helped identify, shape and hone their talents, and now they will take those talents out into the community to the benefit of us all.”
Technological advances in scientific imaging of the seafloor are allowing researchers to reveal stunning landscapes previously hidden at the bottom of the world’s oceans.

Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies (IMAS) scientist Dr Vanessa Lucieer has joined with fellow marine scientist Dr Margaret Dolan, from the Geological Survey of Norway, to catalogue captivating acoustic images of the seafloor through a new website, Visual Soundings.

Dr Lucieer said seafloor images are usually studied with a scientific eye rather than from an artistic perspective, which means the breathtaking beauty of marine landscapes is often overlooked.

“In recent years, however, new techniques such as multibeam echo sounders have revolutionised scientists’ knowledge of the appearance, shape and structure of the seabed,” Dr Lucieer said.

“Their beauty can sometimes be overlooked,” Dr Lucieer said.

Through Visual Soundings we are sharing some of our favourite images and inviting others to contribute their own acoustic images.”

By Andrew Rhodes

ACOUSTIC IMAGES REVEAL BEAUTY OF MARINE LANDSCAPES

Eye-opener: Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies scientist Dr Vanessa Lucieer.

Norwegian coast that bears an uncanny resemblance to a bird’s head.

“My colleague Margaret Dolan and I wanted to share the sense of wonder that we often experience when studying acoustic images,” Dr Lucieer said.

Through Visual Soundings we are sharing some of our favourite images and inviting others to contribute their own acoustic images.”

Dr Lucieer said the images featured on the website include a 1km-long feature, in the shape of a figure ‘9’, incised by an iceberg on the seabed of the Barents Sea off Norway’s north-east coast, a haunting tattoo-like pattern formed on the seabed off Malta, and a structure off the Norwegian coast that bears an uncanny resemblance to a bird’s head.

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SECRETS OF THE SEA

An innovative new autonomous underwater vehicle (AUV) capable of diving to 5000 metres, operating underneath the ice and gathering data on Antarctic research missions has been unveiled at the Australian Maritime College.

The $5 million polar vehicle bears the name nupiri muka, which means ‘Eye of the Sea’ in palawa kani, the language of Tasmanian Aboriginals.

Nupiri muka is funded by the Australian Government through the Antarctic Gateway Partnership – a $24 million Special Research Initiative of the Australian Research Council that aims to provide new insights into the role of Antarctica and the Southern Ocean in the global climate system.

AMC AUV facility co-ordinator Peter King said the vehicle’s features made it ideal for deployment in challenging, under-ice conditions.

“At nearly 7m long and weighing 1.5 tonnes, nupiri muka’s endurance enables it to travel more than 140km or 24 hours without needing to be recharged,” Mr King said.

“It’s also highly customisable, such that the engineering team can install a range of instruments in addition to those already on board.”

LAVA BRAIN

Australia – Southern Ocean

Lava flowing from a recent submarine volcanic eruption takes the form of a brain in its complexity and shape.

DUNE

Australia – Southern Ocean

Strong east to west currents shape the submarine landscape revealing the highly dynamic nature and power of the circumpolar current.

DWARF GUYOTS

Australian – Sub Antarctic

Previously undiscovered dwarf guyots off McDonald Island in the southern ocean pepper the seafloor like jewels.

The Visual Soundings website address is visualsoundings.org
ART TRAVELS ACROSS TIME AND PLACE
TROVE OF COMMUNIST-ERA ROMANIAN ART NOW GLOBALLY ACCESSIBLE

By Peter Cochrane

The largest collection of Romanian art from the Ceausescu era outside Romania is now publicly accessible.

The collection was assembled by University alumnus Geoffrey Tyler after meeting Romanian artist Corneliu Petrescu while working for the IMF. Petrescu introduced Tyler to many of his artist friends and Tyler supported them by buying their works. In 2011, Geoffrey and his wife Frances gave their collection to the University. Consisting largely of communist-era Romanian art, the collection contains religious icons and works from Australia, Europe, Africa and the US. Last year, the Tyler Research Project team began classifying and digitising the 1500 artworks (paintings, works on paper, sculptures, ceramics and religious icons), exhibition catalogues, letters, books and photographs. The online Tyler Collection of Romanian and Modern Art is, according to Rachael Rose, Registrar and Keeper of the Fine Art Collection and Curator of the Tyler Collection, “a great opportunity to build relationships and global connections with scholars and the community at large.”

“Ten years ago we had collected almost all the data and vision to do it, but we just did not have the team to do it. Now we are ready.” Lynn Davies, Tyler Collection Digital Curator, added: “By digitising and publishing these items and objects we not only showcase the collection to the world, but the repository has allowed us to build interconnected connections and layers about the artists, their works, friendships and context. It’s early days but relationships are forming and the repository is transforming into a rich interconnected story.”

The repository can be accessed at: tylercollection.omeka.net

PHOTO CREDITS

Above: Geoffrey Tyler, right, pictured with Corneliu and Mariana Petrescu; above right, an untitled work by Corneliu Petrescu; right, Geoffrey Tyler and his wife Frances.

VOICE OF A UNIVERSITY

PRE-PUBLICATION OFFER

In 2016 the University of Tasmania celebrated the 250th anniversary of its establishment and out of those celebrations emerged the 250 Stories Project.

While there is a natural tendency to identify a university with its campuses, lecture theatres, laboratories and so on, in fact the heart of a university is to be found in its people. With over 180 stories written by a wide range of distinguished authors from all over Australia and beyond this 36-page book gives a richly textured, large-scale portrait of a vibrant community of students, teachers and scholars who have a manifold attention for the commitment to this inspiring, creative institution.

The University has made a huge contribution to making Tasmania the civilized, enterprising and culturally strong society it is today. Get your copy today and treat your researches at the University stocking list! Pre-publication price $50 +GST (RRP $60 + GST)


SWEDES EMBRACE TASSIE PROJECT TO MONITOR TOURISTS’ CHOICES AND CATER FOR THEIR NEEDS

TRACKER SHOWS WAY FOR WORLD TOURISM

By Lucy Poskitt and Sally Gaetzer

A ground-breaking tourism research project by the University of Tasmania is expanding to Sweden, Europe’s most innovative country according to the European Commission.

Led by Hobart-based tourism researcher Dr Anne Hardy, the Tracer Tourism Tracking Project was established in 2015 as a partnership between the Tasmanian Government, tourism industry and a research team at the University’s Institute for the Study of Social Change. Tasmanian ICT company Iotara is a key partner and creators of the technology.

Stage one took the Tasmanian industry by storm last year, providing the data every tourism operator wants – why visitors come, where they go, what they actually do while they’re here, and for how long. Early in 2016, more than 450 visitors to Tasmania were recruited and given smartphones with an app which tracked their movement and surveyed for demographic information in the most comprehensive tracking study of its kind in the world. Institute for the Study of Social Change director Professor Richard Eccleston said. “Our research partnership involves us linking our tracking technology to the ‘back end’ of an existing app to track cyclists on the brand new 274km Sydostleden Trail,” Professor Eccleston said.

Dr Hardy said the Swedish partnership will allow real-time data from Scandinavia to be analysed in Hobart, highlighting how innovative technology products and research services can be exported.

“Our research partnership involves us linking our tracking technology to the ‘back end’ of an existing app to track cyclists on the brand new 274km Sydostleden Trail,” Dr Hardy said. “The GPS and survey data will be sent to our servers in Hobart in real time and visualised via our Tourism Tracer dashboard. This project demonstrates how an innovative research product can become an exportable product and has put really the University of Tasmania on the map.”

Fredrik Albinsson, project manager for Tourism Skåne, said the collaboration will allow his organisation to gain invaluable knowledge about how tourists use the new bike trail.

“The crew from Tasmania has been providing us with valuable feedback and freely sharing their experiences with us. They have also been extremely fun to work with and amazingly well equipped to handle Skåne’s country roads, local food and occasional hard weather,” he said.

This year sees the launch of stage two of the University’s landmark tourist study. From February 1, the project team began recruiting 1000 new participants for this year’s study.

Stage two is unfolding during a period of strong growth – particularly in the international sector – in Tasmanian tourism.

“It is significant the collection has travelled across time and place – from 18th-century Romania and... post-war Europe to Washington DC and now to Tasmania.”

Lynn Davies, Tyler Collection Digital Curator, added: “By digitising and publishing these items and objects we not only showcase the collection to the world but the repository has allowed us to build interconnected connections and layers about the artists, their works, friendships and context. It’s early days but relationships are forming and the repository is transforming into a rich interconnected story.”

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Rich story: Above, Geoffrey Tyler, right, pictured with Corneliu and Mariana Petrescu; above right, an untitled work by Corneliu Petrescu; right, Geoffrey Tyler and his wife Frances.

If it’s a large outdoor venue, they may want to know how people move through the site; and also where they go before and after visiting that site, so they can target their co-marketing with other operators.

Keeping track: Visitors to Tasmania can share their travel data.
REBECCA CODY
BEd(Hons) 1995

Ms Cody will take up the reins as Geelong Grammar’s first female principal in the second term of 2018.

Currently Principal of Methodist Ladies’ College in Perth, she started her career in the classroom as an English and drama teacher at St Michael’s Collegiate School in Hobart, continued at PLC Perth, where she rose to Head of Senior School, before securing her first principal’s position at New Zealand’s Woodford House in 2004, at 31.

She will be Geelong Grammar’s 12th principal in its 163-year history and the first to be born in Australia.

“I feel honoured to be offered the opportunity to continue to strengthen the legacy of Sir James Darling and, more recently, Stephen Meek.”

ANDREW HARMAN
BSurv 1986

The Managing Director of TGM Group, one of the largest engineering and surveying consultancies based in regional Victoria, Mr Harman was recently appointed President of the Association of Consulting Surveyors Victoria, which represents more than 120 private surveying firms throughout the state.

After graduating from the University of Tasmania, he joined Campbell Smith, Phelps, Pedley in Launceston, before moving to Melbourne to join KA Reed Group in 1989. He left KA Reed Group in 1992 to establish his own land surveying practice in Maryborough in central Victoria.

In December 1995, he merged his business with two other leading engineering and surveying consultancies in Ballarat and Geelong, and, through subsequent acquisitions, TGM Group has grown to employ more than 100 specialists in engineering, surveying and town planning in offices in Ballarat, Geelong and Melbourne. He was appointed Managing Director in 2014.

I feel honoured to be offered the opportunity to continue to strengthen the legacy
The Governor of Tasmania, an Emeritus Professor and a former Supreme Court of Tasmania Justice were among this year’s Australia Day Honours recipients with links to the University of Tasmania.

Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Kate Warner was awarded the highest Australia Day honour when she was made a Companion in the General Division of the Order of Australia. Emeritus Professor Bill Mulford and alumnus and former Supreme Court of Tasmania Justice the Honourable Christopher Wright were made Officers in the General Division of the Order of Australia (AO) while Adjunct Professor and leading architect Robert Morris-Nunn and alumni Mitchel Martin-Weber and Steven Chopping were all made Members in the General Division of the Order of Australia (AM). Christopher Fagg received the Emergency Services Medal.

Dr Patricia Cameron, an Aboriginal Elder who has spent 45 years working to improve access to education for Indigenous Tasmanians, was among a strong representation of University alumni and staff in the Queen’s Birthday Honours. Dr Cameron (BA-GS, 1991; BA, 2007; MA, 2008; DLit, 2016) is now an AO. Dr David Daintree, who served as a principal of the University’s Jane Franklin Hall for 18 years, was recognised as an AM. Professor John Biggs also received an AM. Other alumni honoured with an AM included Sheree Vertigan, Michael Brown, Jody Heald, Dr Timothy Mooney and Dianne Snowden. Robert Harry Wilsdon was awarded a Medal (OAM) in the General Division and Public Service Medals went to Karen Goo and Lynne McDougall.

Recognised: Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Kate Warner.

ALUMNI HONOURS

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DENITA WAHN
BA/LLB 1993; Grad Cert Legal Practice 1994

Mrs Wawn became the first female CEO in the 127-year history of Master Builders Australia in March this year. She took on the top job after spending 12 months as General Manager Operations of the organisation, which represents the $200 billion building and construction.

In announcing her appointment, the National President of Master Builders, Dan Perkins, said: “Denita has impeccable credentials for success including her wealth of experience spearheading game-changing advocacy and industrial relations campaigns at the National Farmers Federation and the Australian Hotels Association.”

“As CEO of the Brewers Association of Australia and New Zealand, Denita implemented a highly successful reputational change strategy at a national and international level.”

Strong foundation: Master Builders Australia CEO Denita Wawn.

To help secure the future for the Tasmanian devil donate here: www.tassiedevil.com.au

FAST FACTS

Tasmanian Devil Vaccine Trials

Research has shown that immunotherapy can cure Tasmanian devils of DFTD.

The vaccine “turns on” the immune system to attack the cancer cells.

At least 30 devils will take part in the wild devil recovery project this year.

The trials will look at release techniques and the effectiveness of the vaccine.

To continue vaccine research, funding is still urgently needed. Our goal - $2 million.