

ISSUE 48 ————— 2016

# Alumni

\$300m plan to address  
the education deficit

Pre-eminent economist  
joins the University

Table talk of the  
London Biennale

Gift makes possible  
\$5m Warren Chair  
in Astrophysics

Have blog, will travel

New TV series brings  
comic back on campus





**Vice-Chancellor  
Professor Peter**

**Rathjen:** "We have to train at the highest possible standards the future leaders of this state and to bring our knowledge and our culture to the professions."

of trying to develop the human capital of an entire state.

Global portability matters enormously when you are located on an isolated island in the Southern Ocean where the future must be built on cultural respect – respect for diversity and integration into a globalised economy.

Here the University plays such an important role, from affording opportunities for its students to participate in that global economy to its supportive alumni networks around the world. We act as a bridge between Tasmania and the world, the world of cultures, of ideas, of ethnicities – the world we have to be part of in we want a prosperous future for our children.

Underpinning all of these is a commitment not just to this state but to people. We see our primary role as empowering people to discover, identify, nurture and develop their talent in whatever direction that might take them.

In Brodie Neill, we have someone who has lived this experience, who embodies this vision of aspiration, enrichment and global participation.

We draw strength from our identity and our ability and Brodie does too.

It is important that we celebrate achievement and talent wherever we see it, that we showcase the fact that people from our island and people on our island can achieve at a level as high as anyone else in the world. In that spirit, we celebrate our role as a university that creates opportunity on the broadest possible front, on an island that has so many people and alumni of outstanding accomplishment.

**– Professor Peter Rathjen,  
Vice-Chancellor**

**We have the awesome responsibility of representing all of what higher education is to an entire state**



*Anniversary issue wins praise*

*The University of Tasmania's special 125th Anniversary Alumni magazine (pictured) was not only well received by alumni but also enjoyed national peer recognition.*

It was voted the best alumni hardcopy magazine at the Australian Alumni Professionals biannual conference held at the University of Melbourne in late February. Thirty institutions from around the country were represented at the conference.

The 125th Anniversary issue was praised by the judging panel spokesperson for, among other things, its "wonderful quality", "the right balance of research, personal interest and anniversary stories" and as a "great example of a coffee table-style magazine" and "a great keepsake for alumni".

It was subsequently entered in the prestigious international Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) awards for tertiary institution publishing.

## WELCOME

**What makes this university, and its alumni, distinctive is addressed by the Vice-Chancellor in this edited extract from a speech he gave at a recent London Design Biennale reception:**

**B**rodie Neill is renowned for his ability to combine contemporary materials with artisan skills, to do things that other people normally cannot. An important message for us all to remember, especially those of us from the Southern Ocean, is that disruptive innovation more often than not comes from outside the mainstream.

His story is one we often hear of on this island – that of a bright, talented, motivated person, nurtured within the university and working across the globe.

In many ways, Brodie's trajectory is an embodiment of how we see the University of Tasmania's role.

There is but one university of this island. It means that we have the awesome responsibility of representing all of what higher education is to an entire state.

We have to train, at the highest possible standards, the future leaders of this state and bring our knowledge and our culture to the professions.

Prior to London, I was in Frieberg, Germany, where 52 per cent of the young people go on to higher education; in North-West Tasmania that figure is 7 per cent.

Until Tasmania can train its people at the same level as the rest of the world, we are doomed to be non-competitive. At the University of Tasmania we have the awesome responsibility



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# OXFORD EXPANDED MY INTELLECTUAL HORIZONS ... THIS WAS AN INTELLECTUAL, SPIRITUAL AND SOCIAL REVOLUTION

By Lucy Poskitt



NICK OSBORNE

**The transformative experience of a year at Oxford University as a young postgraduate student has led Reverend Professor Michael Tate AO to propose a scholarship for another University of Tasmania student or graduate to do the same.**

"It was such a transformative experience in every sphere, that if one or two Tasmanians can have a similar experience, that will be enough for me to die a happy man," he said.

Father Tate, as he is known, has had an extraordinary and diverse career as an academic, politician, diplomat and priest.

He gained a First Class Honours in Law from the University of Tasmania before studying a Bachelor of Arts at Oxford in the Honour School of Theology in 1971.

An academic career at the University of Tasmania followed, including serving as Dean of the Faculty of Law from 1977-78.

In his first year as an undergraduate student, Father Tate

was involved in a car accident at the corner of Regent and Princes streets near the Sandy Bay campus, leaving him almost immobile and meaning he had to repeat the first year of his law degree.

"I had to be carried up the steps to the engineering building, which is where the Faculty of Law was housed in those days," Father Tate said.

"I had a lot of support from students and staff."

They say every cloud has a silver lining, and recovering from the accident meant Father Tate spent many hours in the library – which contributed to the achievement of his First Class Honours, giving him the opportunity to go to Oxford on a Commonwealth scholarship.

"I was supposed to study more law, but when I got there, I asked if I could study theology," Father Tate said.

The Oxford experience was a rewarding one for the young Hobart man.

"The thing about Oxford is that it expanded my intellectual

horizons," he said. "For me this was a combined intellectual, spiritual and social revolution.

"At the same time I was a devotee of Martin Luther King, and became convinced that the way they were waging war in Vietnam was immoral and unjust, which meant that I gravitated towards the Australian Labor Party."

Upon his return to Tasmania, Father Tate embarked upon a long and distinguished career as a federal politician. From 1978 he was a Labor senator for Tasmania for 15 years, and held the position of Minister for Justice from 1987 to 1993 in the Hawke and Keating governments.

In 1992 he was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Laws by the University of Tasmania and has been an Honorary Professor since 1997.

In 2011, Father Tate was recognised by the University with a Distinguished Alumni Award, and he is now Cygnet Parish Priest in the Huon Valley.

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The Michael Tate Oxford Scholarship is intended for a University of Tasmania student or graduate undertaking studies in theology at Oxford University and will cover fees and associated expenses, travel costs and living allowances. It will open for applications in early 2017. For more information, please contact the University of Tasmania Scholarships Office on 1300 361 928.

# WEST IS BEST

By Peter Cochrane

AN EXCITING NEW EDUCATIONAL PRECINCT IS STARTING TO TAKE SHAPE.

**In the City of Makers the University of Tasmania is making its presence felt, in a move that will have far-reaching benefits across the North-West.**

A vision shared with state and local government for a new educational precinct at West Park is starting to take shape as part of the University's ambitious northern transformation project, which will also similarly see the Newnham campus shift into Launceston's CBD (see pp6-11).

Up to 2,000 new students will be able to attend the Cradle Coast Campus when it relocates to the West Park, on the foreshores of the Bass Strait, from its current, suburban site on Mooreville Road.

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed in

February by the University, the State Government, TasTAFE, Burnie City Council and the Cradle Coast Authority encompassing agreement about the need to facilitate educational and economic change for the region.

Partners in the project are committed to expanded course offerings at the West Park site, and ensuring that current activities there, such as the Makers' Workshop, continue.

"Our aim is for the new city campus to complement present infrastructure at West Park, but to also incorporate cutting edge contemporary education facilities that will allow us to increase our capacity to deliver higher education to students, as well as the number of available courses," the then Pro-Vice Chancellor (Community, Partnerships and Regional Development), Professor Janelle Allison, said in April when announcing the initial community consultation sessions.

"This will include course offerings in the exciting new associate degree program right through to bachelor and postgraduate level."

(Professor Allison has since been appointed to a new role, that of

Principal charged with leading a northern-based academic unit that will create and deliver the suite of associate degrees. Professor David Adams has assumed her former role).

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Peter Rathjen, spoke of the need to boost educational attainment, and how this might be achieved, at the signing of the MoU.

"The University recognises this region has lower school retention rates and we will address that with courses delivered more intensively and with strengthened industry focus and links, producing job-ready graduates in areas of regional demand.

"Growing industries and businesses of the future on the North-West will require a workforce more equipped in the STEM disciplines of science, technology, engineering and mathematics."

Two options for a master plan to develop the site over the next 10-15 years were released for public feedback. Both involve a main building for teaching, learning and research, as well as student accommodation, car parking, a greenhouse and landscaping.



**Inspiring location:** The new educational precinct at West Park is part of the University's ambitious northern transformation project.

ARTIST IMPRESSION

# SAUL ESLAKE

THE RESPECTED  
ECONOMIST  
DISCUSSES THE  
CHALLENGES  
FACING TASMANIA  
AND HOW TO  
BOOST EDUCATION  
OUTCOMES.

Writer: Jodi De Cesare



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**A self-proclaimed childhood oddity, Saul Eslake has global appeal as an economist and social commentator of such magnitude that he has a four-year waiting list of people keen to hear his insights on the public speaking circuit.**

The University of Tasmania alumnus (BEC Hons 1979, Hon LLD 2012) and inaugural Vice-Chancellor's Fellow is hailed as a rarity in the economics world in that he delivers insights in a way that audiences without an economics background can not only understand, but enjoy. His speeches are injected with humour, usually the self-deprecatory type.

"It's usually a way of establishing a rapport with the audience and keeping them engaged, and checking whether they're still on task," he

**Rarity in his field:**

Economist Saul Eslake (second from right) discusses the Federal Budget at a public forum at the University in May.

laughs. "One of the criticisms often made of economists ... is that they can tend to write and speak in ways that are inaccessible to people who don't have at least some training in economics, and I've always thought that it's important to try to speak to people about economic issues in ways they can understand."

As a television and radio journalist (with no economics training), I benefited from Saul's particular skills in this area during several interviews – not only would he deliver his commentary concisely and with clarity, but would tackle the many challenges facing the Tasmanian economy in a respectful manner, while not avoiding the reality.

"Perhaps because I grew up here and continued even after I left to take an interest in what was happening here, I'd like to think I

had a reasonable understanding of why Tasmania's economic position is as it is and what could be done to change it," he says. "It's easier to paint a bleak picture of Tasmania than it is to paint an optimistic one, nonetheless I have always thought that unless you can find some reasons for people to have a hope or some reason for hope that things could improve, they'll probably give up trying altogether."

Saul grew up on the far North West coast, and in late 2014 fulfilled an ambition of returning to live in Tasmania after a long and distinguished career. Although he was born in England, where his Sydney-raised parents were living, he happily considers himself Tasmanian.

He came to Australia at eight, about the same age and almost

# I was a bit of an oddity ... being short, wearing glasses, having peculiar first and second names



ASA STAR BETT

the same time as Tony Abbott and Julia Gillard, but as his parents were Australian, they weren't tagged "Ten Pound Poms". "I have a letter found in my father's papers from the then Agent-General Sir Alfred White, in effect apologising to him that he had to pay full fare for all of us to come out to Australia because we weren't eligible for the 'Ten Pound Pom' program," he laughs.

From London, one of the biggest cities in the world, Saul's family settled in Smithton, population 4,000. A young Saul was "monstered a bit" for having an English accent (having earlier suffered the same fate when he first went to school in England for his Australian accent he picked up from his parents).

"I remember changing that fairly quickly," he says. "I was a bit of an oddity in some ways, not only coming from England, but being short, wearing glasses, having peculiar first and second names and not being particularly good at sport. They were all challenges throughout my entire time at school both on the North West Coast and in Hobart.

But I have to say I came to feel very attached to the North West Coast."

Upon graduating from the University of Tasmania, Saul embarked on an esteemed career in both the government and private sector, serving as chief economist to the ANZ Bank and the Australian branch of the Bank of America Merrill Lynch. This, however, came after what he terms "capital punishment" in Canberra: "I really hated living there and spent a lot of time thinking about ways I might be able to come back to Tasmania."

His appointment to the University's Institute for Social Change provides a new platform to target social and economic challenges facing the local community and nation as a whole, in particular issues relating to education in Tasmania.

"From an outsiders' perspective, it's not difficult to paint a picture of Tasmania's economy that highlights its poor performance, [but] we don't always do a good job in advocating for our cause," he says. "Some of our problems are self-inflicted."

A major example, he says, relates to educational opportunities and Tasmanians' willingness to take them up. He blames the "structural flaw" of the education system – the break between high schools and colleges – as a major reason for low retention rates to year 12 and below average participation in tertiary education.

"If Tasmania's system was so much better in making available educational opportunities than the systems in every other state, why is it that over the last 50 years none of the other states have copied us? You have to ask could they be

right and we're wrong? Yet we seem unwilling to do that."

He cites research by University of Tasmania Adjunct Professors Eleanor Ramsay and Michael Rowan highlighting the culture entrenched in Tasmania which doesn't value education in the same way as other states. "That's not true of every Tasmanian, of course, but as a general observation it appears to be the case, and it's probably in part related to longstanding fears that many Tasmanians have – that if their kids do get a full secondary education and a tertiary education they'll have to go to the mainland in order to get jobs and they'll lose contact with their families," he says. "To some extent, that's people putting their own interests ahead of their kids' and it is part of the island experience that people grow up with a yearning to discover what's on the other side.

"What we ought to be devoting more resources to ... is thinking about how do we better keep in touch with our alumni, how can we better give people who have left reasons to think about coming back at different stages of their lives ... and what can we do to bring people from other parts of the world to Tasmania in order to replace those who've left.

"If we devoted more time to each of those three things and less time bemoaning the fact so many talented young people leave, or trying to prevent them from leaving, Tasmania as a whole would be much better off."

**Hail Fellow:** Saul Eslake (centre) with Professor Richard Eccleston (left) and Vice-Chancellor Professor Peter Rathjen.



KIM EISEL/ENEMSPX

THE UNIVERSITY IS EMBRACING A  
ONCE-IN-A-GENERATION OPPORTUNITY  
TO DRAMATICALLY BOOST THE NUMBER  
OF TASMANIANS IN HIGHER EDUCATION

# TRANSFORM

By Professor Peter Rathjen, Vice-Chancellor

**In the long and proud history of the University of Tasmania, June 2016 will come to be viewed as a major milestone, a moment in time when a powerful set of ideas, supported by broad community sentiment, met with political will.**

This was the historic point at which Tasmania united across the political spectrum around the idea that education is the answer to some of its most pressing challenges and that attracting more Tasmanians into higher education will create a more prosperous future for us all.

The bipartisan federal commitments of \$150 million for our plans in the north and north-west of the state were an endorsement of an ambitious and transformative agenda that aims

**Future vision:**  
Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull announces the \$150 million funding for the northern transformation.



JASON EDWARDS/NEWSPIX

to address the economic deficit by fixing the education deficit.

The Education-Driven Economic Revitalisation of Northern Tasmania is a partnership between the University, the State Government, TasTAFE, the City of Launceston Council, the Burnie City Council and the Cradle Coast Authority. It is predicated on a strong foundation of government, industry and community support. Alongside the Federal Government's contribution of \$150 million, the State Government and the University are each contributing \$75 million, while local councils are making strategic land allocations and investment in associated public infrastructure.

We believe the project represents a once-in-a-generation opportunity to increase dramatically the number of Tasmanians in higher education through more attractive and accessible programs and campuses. At the same time it will act as a major economic stimulus in the north and north-western cities.

The project's multi-partisan support reflects the significance of the University to the state's economic revival and the strong business case for our plans.

Because we are not just about research and teaching, as important as those planks are. We were established by state legislation with a social mission, committed to providing access to a broad, tertiary education curriculum for the whole state.

The University has both a responsibility and an opportunity to help tackle the low levels of education that are stalling economic growth and placing existing industries at risk.

Currently, less than 15 per cent of Tasmania's population have tertiary qualifications, the lowest of any state or territory. The picture is even worse in the north and north-west: just over 10 per cent of people in the northern electorate of Bass and just over 8 per



## Economic stimulus:

Above, the planned Creative Industries and Performing Arts development in Hobart, from a Collins St perspective; right, the proposed Inveresk Campus in Launceston.



# We aim to attract 12,000 more students to the northern campuses

boost wages even for those without a degree, this will have a flow-on effect for the entire region.

Many of these students will be studying a new associate degree - shorter and therefore more affordable, flexible and directly relevant to regional industry.

Professor Janelle Allison, an accomplished and inspiring senior leader in the University, has been appointed to lead the development of the associate degree program and deliver the first courses in 2017.

Relocating our campuses at the heart of the cities will add life, dynamism and economic opportunity to the CBDs. A highly visible celebration of students and student life will bring greater awareness of university education to those Tasmanians for whom it has never been on the radar.

Our research will be tailored more acutely to the needs of local industry and the professional workforce, aligned with opportunity for industry innovation and economic growth.

The \$300 million infrastructure



ARTIST IMPRESSION

cent in the north-west electorate of Braddon have tertiary qualifications.

With education so closely correlated with employment and salary, it's not surprising that Tasmanians earn the lowest weekly full-time wages in the country and that the youth unemployment rate is 16 per cent.

The University's plans for Launceston and Burnie are part of a broader vision for Tasmanian communities rebuilt around knowledge and learning.

We aim to attract 12,000 more students to the northern campuses over the next 10 years. With a recent report demonstrating that higher levels of tertiary education in the community



ARTIST IMPRESSION

# The multi-partisan support reflects the significance of the University to the state's economic revival



ARTIST IMPRESSION

for Marine and Antarctic Studies on the Hobart waterfront are both complete. Restoration of the Domain site – the University's original home – continues and 430 student apartments are under construction on the corner of Melville and Elizabeth streets.

The Hobart City Council has approved the development application for the \$90 million Creative Industries and Performing Arts Development, to be built on the corner of Collins and Campbell streets. Another great illustration of the power of partnership, this project is a collaboration between the University, the State Government and the Theatre Royal, which adjoins the site and will benefit from vastly enhanced performance spaces and technology.

And finally, Infrastructure Australia this year endorsed a science and technology precinct that will boost Tasmanian graduates in STEM subjects – science, technology, engineering and maths.

This is not just a list of buildings. They are our investment in the future prosperity of Tasmanians helping to bridge the education deficit, providing the engine of innovation for new and existing industries and equipping the professional workforce of the future.

They are part of a broader plan for the University of Tasmania to play a more central and strategic role in social and economic development than Australian universities have traditionally sought.

We think it can be a model for change not just in Tasmania, but for other regions in Australia facing similar challenges.

ISSUE 48 program in northern Tasmania is projected to generate 3,100 new full-time jobs during and after construction, and \$1.1 billion in economic impact for the north and north-west regions.

To do this we need better, more visible, more connected campuses than those currently at Newnham and Mooreville Road.

We are excited about the designs emerging for new campuses at Inveresk in Launceston and West Park in Burnie. They will offer the high standard of teaching and research facilities that our staff and students deserve.

Inveresk has easy pedestrian, bike and public transport access, high visibility and integration with community and industry. A new pedestrian and cycle bridge will further increase accessibility.

The new campus will be able to house up to 16,000 students, researchers and staff, and includes student hubs and an innovation space. One part of the campus will be devoted to teaching, while another part is earmarked for state-of-art research facilities, including a new School of Applied Science and Design.

The new developments

**Young at heart:**  
Artist's impression of the student accommodation project in Hobart's CBD.

will complement the School of Architecture and Design, the Tasmanian College of the Arts and the 120-bed student accommodation development already situated at Inveresk.

The Australian Maritime College will remain at the Newnham Campus, the foundation of a new hi-tech design, engineering and manufacturing precinct.

West Park will house up to 3,000 teachers, researchers and students. The first stage of this development is complete – in the shape of student accommodation and teaching facilities in the old Home Economics Building and the iconic Makers' Workshop.

These developments in the northern part of the state complement our progress in the south. The University's new buildings are changing the skyline of Hobart and contributing to the city's modernisation.

The Medical Science Precinct and the award-winning Institute



You can read more about our plans on the Transforming Lives, Transforming Cities website: [utas.edu.au/transformation](http://utas.edu.au/transformation)

# REVITALISING OUR CBDS

NEW HOUSING ENHANCES UNIVERSITY EXPERIENCE.

## Key building projects in the heart of our cities are promising to redefine the relationship of the University of Tasmania to its communities.

They include three completed studio apartment accommodation projects plus a fourth under construction, all partly federally funded under the National Rental Affordability Scheme (NRAS), with State and local government support.

Construction of another major new project, the \$90 million Creative Industries and Performing Arts Development, in Hobart's Wapping area, next door to Australia's oldest theatre, is expected to begin in November.

Once complete, the project will encompass the Theatre Royal, the Conservatorium of Music, and the Creative Exchange Institute, a new research institute which will focus on performance, design and creativity. It will employ about 280

people at the peak of construction and about 60 ongoing. The latest student accommodation project, also in Hobart, on the corner of Melville and Elizabeth streets, comprises 430 apartments, a University shopfront, cafe and car park. It is being built at a cost of more than \$68 million. The project will also house the Peter Underwood Centre for Educational Attainment.

University research, skills and training have featured in at least one of the projects: the 120 new apartments on the banks of the North Esk River at Inveresk, which was realised with input from the Centre for Sustainable Architecture with Wood (CSAW). It was Tasmania's first timber-framed, multi-storey residential development, with traditional steel and concrete eschewed in favour of prefabricated, lightweight timber framing and modular construction combined with structural cross-

laminated timber. Apartments were built in specialist facilities and transported to the building site.

"We are pursuing a vision in which education is in the very heart of these communities," Vice-Chancellor Professor Peter Rathjen explains.

"In the great university cities of the world, the life of the university carries on in and around the landscape of the city.

"We also see these as important projects to bring new life, energy and economic stimulus to the hearts of these cities."

Apart from economic benefits, the projects enhance the student experience for those living at the apartment complexes.

"Projects such as Inveresk, West Park and the yet-to-be completed Melville Street greatly enhance our students' experience – both academically and socially," Professor Rathjen says. "We see these as creating a new dynamic. In Hobart, for instance, the student body will move between the Medical Sciences Precinct, the Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies, the Arts Faculty in Hunter St and the Creative Industries and Performing Arts Development when it comes online."

These Hobart CBD sites may be joined one day by a science and technology precinct.

The proposal has been endorsed by Infrastructure Australia, which has listed it among the 100 National Priority Projects for the next 15 years in the Australian Infrastructure Plan.

"The future of our State and its economy will be delivered through a series of new and reimagined industries, and will require a greater number of graduates in the disciplines of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics," says Professor Brian Yates, Dean of the Faculty of Science, Engineering and Technology.

"Tasmania currently has a deficit of graduates in this area and a modern, leading-edge centre of this type would not only draw more Tasmanian students to the disciplines, but many from across the country and overseas. We forecast the potential for an additional 1,500 graduates a year."

– Peter Cochrane

## NEW STUDENT ACCOMMODATION

**Newnham:** 180 apartments, cost \$18.2 million, completed February 2014

**West Park:** 40 apartments, \$4.6 million, completed February 2015

**Inveresk:** 120 apartments, \$16 million, completed in February 2016

**Hobart:** 430 apartments under construction, \$68m+, scheduled completion by Semester 1, 2017



SAM ROSEWALDEN/NEWSPIX

### New digs:

Underwood Centre director Professor Elaine Stratford outside the site for the new headquarters in Elizabeth Street, Hobart.



## DAVID WARREN

A TECH GURU'S  
\$2.6 MILLION GIFT  
TO THE UNIVERSITY  
WILL HELP ATTRACT  
WORLD-CLASS  
TALENT TO THE  
INSTITUTION

Writer: Lucy Poskitt

ISSUE 48

**The first moon landing, the state's second school computer and a backyard battery experiment all fired the imagination of young David Warren of Launceston – and set him on the path to success.**

Now a businessman, researcher, inventor and University of Tasmania alumnus, Dr David Warren (BSc Hons 1980; Hon DSc 2008) has given a \$2.6 million gift which will enable the first Endowed Chair in the institution's 126-year history.

The gift will make possible a \$5 million Warren Chair in the field of astrophysics. It is a field in which he studied as an undergraduate, honours and postgraduate student in the late 1970s and early '80s.

Dr Warren is an energetic advocate for the power of education, growing up in the 1950s in the then-new Launceston suburb of Kings Meadows, attending Punchbowl Road State Primary and Kings Meadows High schools, and Launceston Matriculation College (now Launceston College).

His father worked for the Department of Main Roads and his mother worked part-time as a comptometer (business calculator) operator, before training as an infant teacher.

"My dad was a tradesman who spent 30 years painting the white

**Generous gift:**  
Dr David Warren's \$2.6 million donation will enable the first Endowed Chair in the University's 126-year history.

lines on the roads," he said.

"He was pulled out of high school at 12 to work in his parents' guest house in Wynyard and always resented not having any further education."

It was during his school years that three events fuelled Dr Warren's interest in electricity, the heavens and computers.

He recalls watching his father melt a coat-hanger using an old truck battery in the shed; watching the moon landing on a television set up in an assembly area; and his college receiving only the second school computer in the state, a Digital Equipment PDP8 with a Model 33 Teletype.

"The kids were so enthusiastic about it, they would break in at the weekends to use it," he said.

Dr Warren's parents had always



ALISTAIR BETT

told him he would have to go to university to make something of himself, and supported his move to Hobart at 19 to begin his undergraduate degree.

“My parents knew enough to know the way out of poverty was education – that I would lead a more exciting and more prosperous life if I had an education,” he said.

Dr Warren recalls the arrival of eminent physicist and now

**Early enthusiasm:** This Digital Equipment PDP8 with a Model 33 Teletype fuelled Dr David Warren's interest in computers.

University of Tasmania Emeritus Professor Robert Delbourgo in 1976 from London's Imperial College, when Dr Warren was an undergraduate student.

“It was an amazing breath of fresh air,” he said. “The stimulating effect for students and staff alike of recruiting world-class talent to further the University of Tasmania's academic pursuits should not be underestimated.”

Dr Warren's studies led him into the world of software and electronic design. He was a founding member and now non-executive director of tech company Altium Ltd, which creates Computer Aided Design (CAD) software used by engineers to create printed circuit boards. Altium Ltd is now the world's leading provider of such CAD software, with clients including Space X, NASA and BMW.

The Warren Chair will enable a permanent professorship in astrophysics under a model used for centuries by some of the world's most prestigious universities such as Oxford and Cambridge. It will

be offered to an academic leader with an outstanding research track record, who will bring the University into global collaborations, lead research and supervise select PhD students.

Dr Warren said the creation of the position would enable the University of Tasmania to attract an academic of international standing, to further the achievements of the physics department in which he first began working as a student in the mid-1970s.

“There's very few endowed chairs in Australia and it's something we need to consider in modern times to provide security to particular posts regardless of broader economic considerations,” he said.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Peter Rathjen said the gift was the largest single private donation in the history of the University.

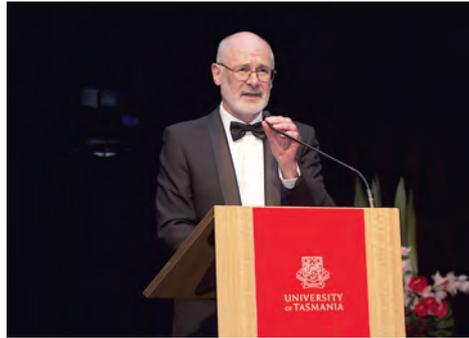
“Dr Warren is an inspirational example of the power of education,” Professor Rathjen said.



SUPPLIED

# Kids were so enthusiastic about [the PDP8], they would break in at the weekends to use it

Honoured:  
Professor Roger  
Byard AO PSM,  
left, and Dr  
Clare Smith  
receive their  
awards at the  
Hobart dinner.



IMAGES: KAREN BROWN

# AWARDS ON THE MENU

THE UNIVERSITY HONOURS TWO ALUMNI FOR THEIR GROUND-BREAKING ACHIEVEMENTS IN RESEARCH.

**Two of the state's pioneering researchers returned to Tasmania mid-year to receive one of the University of Tasmania's highest accolades.**

Alumni Professor Roger Byard AO PSM and Dr Clare Smith attended a University Dinner in Hobart to be awarded the 2016 Distinguished Alumni Award and 2016 Foundation Graduate Award, respectively.

Professor Byard is one of Australia's foremost experts

in forensic pathology and has contributed to a range of international and Australian groups aimed at preventing child accidents and deaths.

At just 27, Dr Smith became a leader in research into malaria through her discovery of a new antimalarial compound while she was a PhD student at the Menzies Institute for Medical Research.

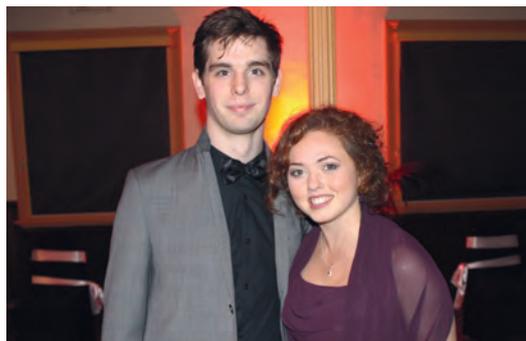
Her discovery has had global impact, with clinical trials on the patented research now underway.

The Hobart event was the second of three University Dinners for 2016, the first being held in Launceston (with Burnie on November 10 to round off the year).

In Hobart the student speaker was Laura van Galen, the Don Gaffney Memorial Scholarship recipient; in Launceston, it was Genevieve van Den Bosch (Robert Fergusson Family Foundation Scholarship in Architecture and Design).

ISSUE 48

## Launceston 19.05.2016



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## RESEARCH PIONEERS

# OUR FOUNDATION

Writer Anna Osborne

## DR CLARE SMITH

(BBIOTECH HONS 2007; PHD 2012)

**Dr Clare Smith is the first to admit science was never on her radar as a viable career option.**

"Science didn't really click for me until I did a week-long work experience placement at the Menzies Institute for Medical Research in high school," Dr Clare Smith said. "I was 15 and it was the first time I experienced the real application of science.

"I followed around research scientists and talked to the local public who had come in for blood tests or bone-density testing.

"Seeing research and community involvement, that's what really struck me."

Fortunately, for the science community, it has paid dividends. By the age of 27, Dr Smith had become a leader in research into malaria through her discovery of a new antimalarial compound while a PhD student at Menzies.

Her discovery has had global impact, with clinical trials on the patented research now underway.

"I loved my whole time studying at the University of Tasmania," Dr Smith said. "The whole experience was just great for me as there are not that many degrees that will offer you that much hands-on time in the lab, and that much exposure to world-leading research."

Dr Smith is the 2016 recipient of the Foundation Graduate Award, presented at the Hobart University Dinner. Her research career began studying a Bachelor of Biotechnology (Hons) before pursuing a PhD at Menzies, under

the guidance and mentorship of Professor Simon Foote (former Menzies Director).

"Simon was an inspiration to work with during my PhD," Dr Smith said. "It's never just one person who makes breakthroughs, it's a team effort.

"That's where Menzies was fabulous. It was the collaboration which helped to achieve a breakthrough."

Her achievements have been recognised with a number of awards over the years including Tasmanian Young Australian of the Year (2014), Tasmanian Premier's Young Achiever of the Year (2013) and the 2009 Australian Society for Medical Research Awards (Tasmanian winner).

She has also received the Bede Morris Fellowship from the Australian Academy of Science, and the Australian-European Malaria fellowship to collaborate with leading infectious disease researchers in Lisbon and Paris.

Her research focus has taken her abroad where she is a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Massachusetts Medical School in eminent microbiologist Professor Chris Sassetti's lab, working to find new treatments for tuberculosis.

"I got to meet Chris Sassetti and was really excited by the opportunity to work with him on tuberculosis," Dr Smith said.

"He is world-renowned for his



**That's where Menzies was fabulous. It was the collaboration which helped to achieve a breakthrough.**

work on pathogens, and my work to date has focused on how hosts operate. Together, and with a team of researchers, we are trying to understand the relationship between the host and pathogen and where we can intervene with vaccines and drugs.

"I've been really fortunate again to find a great mentor in Chris. Like Simon and James Vickers (Faculty of Health), having great mentors is crucial to early career scientists."

## PROFESSOR ROGER BYARD

AO PSM (MBBS 1978; BMEDSCI 1975)

**Not many parents of today would know they have a special relationship with Professor Roger Byard.**

As one of the country's leading paediatric forensic pathologists, Professor Byard's work for more than 30 years has looked at the various causes of sudden infant and childhood death.

His pioneering efforts to help save the lives of babies and young children has led to the introduction of life-saving legislation and warnings on hazards relating to accidental child deaths in areas including dangerous cots, bed sharing, safe feeding and Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS).

"My work over the years has looked at how we can prevent accidental infant and childhood deaths from happening," Professor Byard said.

His approach to his work has been most appreciated and recognised by those directly affected by such personal tragedies.

"In my view, as a paediatric pathologist it is really important that we take the time to talk to families," he said.

"Not only to inform them of what we found, or didn't, but they also need to, and like to know, that their child was cared for in the end.

"That someone took the time. It helps to bring a lot of comfort to the families."

Professor Byard's achievements were recognised this year with the University of Tasmania's Distinguished Alumni Award.

"Of all awards I have received, this is the most meaningful," Professor Byard said on returning to Tasmania to receive the award.

"It's a homecoming for me as I've been away from Tasmania for more than 30 years."

Professor Byard grew up in Wynyard on the north-west coast of Tasmania and pursued his medical studies in Hobart. His career started in family practice medicine before venturing further afield, specialising in paediatric pathology.

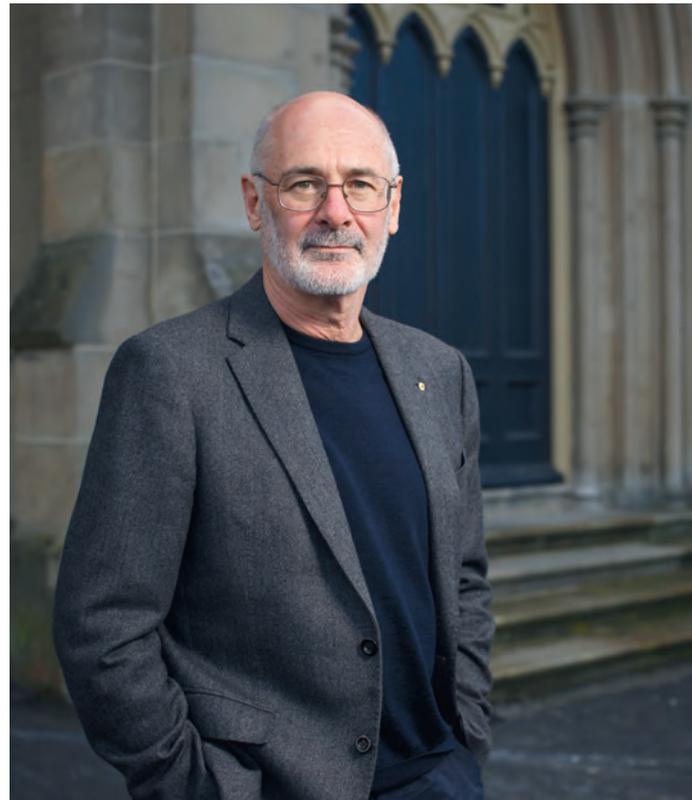
"My interests really started to surround and question, 'Why do children die?'," he said.

This questioning has led him to become one of Australia's foremost experts in forensic pathology.

Along with holding a number of national and international fellowships, he is a registered expert with the International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague.

He was awarded the Humanitarian Overseas Service Medal (HOSM) and the Australian Federal Police (AFP) Operations Medal for disaster victim identification work in Bali after the bombings in 2002, and in Thailand after the tsunami in 2004.

In 2013, he was made an Officer (AO) in the General Division of the Order of Australia for distinguished service to medicine in the field of forensic pathology as an academic, researcher and practitioner.



**As a paediatric pathologist it is really important that we take the time to talk to families.**

Early last month Professor Byard was presented with the Distinguished Researcher Award (shared with his collaborator Professor Hannah Kinney from Harvard) at the biennial International Conference on Stillbirth and SIDS held in Montevideo, Uruguay.

He has published extensively on sudden infant and childhood death including more than 670 papers in peer-reviewed journals. He has also published the book, *Sudden Death in the Young*.

"One of the aspects to my work has been the need to share what I find," he said. "It is crucial that by contributing to a range of national and international groups we can prevent child accidents and deaths. That is of the utmost importance in this field of research."



**For more information about the awards visit: [utas.edu.au/alumni/our-alumni/alumni-awards](https://utas.edu.au/alumni/our-alumni/alumni-awards)**



'BRIDGE' ACROSS THE SEA

# A FAMILY AFFAIR

Writer Peter Cochrane

**The ties that bind are often forged at school – the links made at university in particular can span generations, and in the case of Dr Tan Sri Dato Seri Effendi Norwawi, form a link between countries.**

Dr Norwawi graduated from the University of Tasmania in 1972 with a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) majoring in Development Administration. It helped springboard him into a stellar career as an administrator, politician and businessman.

He has served as a Sarawak State Assemblyman, a Member of Parliament, a senator and a minister in charge of the Economic Planning Unit, and is Chairman of both Bloomberg TV Malaysia and the investment holding company ENcapital.

His connections to the University of Tasmania were consolidated in 1998 with the conferral of an Honorary Degree of Doctor of Laws and in 2008 when he was made Adjunct Professor of the Faculty of

**Sense of appreciation and belonging:** Effendi Norwawi (right) pictured with his son Dani and wife Tiara during a recent visit to the Sandy Bay Campus.

Business (now the Tasmanian School of Business and Economics – TSBE).

Now the family links are being established. His son, Dani Effendi, is in his foundation year of business studies here.

“My family is a very good example of the power of international education in providing a bridge between Tasmania and the world, creating ties which are strategically important, socially and economically,” Dr Norwawi said during a recent visit to the Sandy Bay Campus with his film actress and stage producer wife Tiara. “As most people do for their alma mater, I have a great sense of appreciation and belonging as a result of my experiences with the University of Tasmania.

“In that context, I’m particularly excited about the direction of the University under the current Vice-Chancellor Professor Rathjen, and the Dean of TSBE, Professor Earley, who has ambitious plans for the School.

“Professor Earley is pursuing a model for the school which has the characteristics of some of the most esteemed business schools in the world and that means we are navigating an immensely exciting period ahead, both for the University and Tasmania more broadly.”

Dr Norwawi will help navigate this exciting period, as he is a member of the school’s global advisory board.

He is also the driving force behind a proposed partnership between MUST (the Malaysian University of Science and Technology), a private university modelled after MIT that he established in 1997, and the University’s School of Social Sciences’ journalism discipline.

A proposal for the creation of a Bachelor of Media was recently submitted to the Malaysian Qualifications Agency for approval.

This proposal will allow students from Malaysia to study part of their degree in Tasmania and vice-versa.

Dr Norwawi’s media background dates back to 1998, when he established the television channel NTV7.



IMAGES ALASTAIR BERT



PROFILE

# MICHELLE SOMERTON

From the Cradle Coast to Kazakhstan, this alumna is passionate about inclusive education

**A University of Tasmania alumna and lecturer formerly based on the North-West Coast is helping shape educational outcomes in Kazakhstan, the world's largest landlocked country.**

In July, Dr Michelle Somerton (BEd Hons 2011), who taught Inclusive Education Practices in Educational Settings at the Cradle Coast Campus, swapped winter for summer, views of the Bass Strait for that of the Steppe, when she took up her appointment as an Assistant Professor at Nazarbayev University in the country's capital, Astana.

"Nazarbayev University was established six years ago in conjunction with the World Bank, and has since built strong partnerships with some of the leading universities around the world," Dr Somerton said. "The Graduate School of Education partners with Cambridge and Pennsylvania State universities. As part of the interview process, I felt privileged to have discussions with some of the global leaders in educational reform."

Entering tertiary education later in life, Dr Somerton's success through the University of Tasmania paved the way for the appointment.

"I grew up in the North-West of Tasmania and had always intended to become a teacher, but felt at the time there were limited opportunities. Instead, I pursued alternative employment and established a career with Tourism Tasmania which led to me moving interstate," Dr Somerton said.

"In 2008, I returned to the region and enrolled in a Bachelor of Education at the Cradle Coast Campus. Amid the challenges of being a single parent to two young children, I took a course overload and graduated with Honours. As a result I was successful in being awarded an Elite Scholarship and in March this year was admitted to my PhD. For the past four years I have also been grateful to be able to teach in inclusive education which is a field that is central to my research."

During her thesis, Dr Somerton developed a reading app known as Billy Possum's Interactive Comprehension to support the development of students with Autism Spectrum Disorder. The app, which allows them to learn at their own pace, is being used by several schools in the US.

"I would not have been able to achieve anything without the Cradle Coast Campus and its support," Dr Somerton said.

"The location of the campus in this region is so critical in supporting individuals who are unable to travel or do not feel confident with online study."

**WRITER: SHANTELE RODMAN**

IMAGE: HEATH HOLDEN

July 2016



## WANDERLUST

By Shantelle Rodman

THIS GLOBETROTTER IS NEVER AT HOME FOR LONG, AND THAT'S JUST THE WAY SHE LIKES IT

**For Brooke Saward (BA 2013), country and continent-hopping is a constant in her career. The University of Tasmania alumna is the founder of World of Wanderlust, an online source of travel tips and inspiration followed by millions from all corners of the globe.**

At 24, the Bachelor of Arts graduate has the world at her feet through the travel blog she established in 2013.

"I wanted to create a hub, my own little piece of the internet, where one could be inspired to go somewhere new or try something new," she said. "A place that gave you that little push you needed to go out, chase your dreams and see the world."

This year alone, Brooke has visited Tanzania, New Zealand, the Maldives, Italy, France, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and Norway, and has intermittently travelled the world for the past four years, covering 70 countries and six continents. "Sometimes I'm in three time zones in one day," she said.

Even before her cap and gown ceremony, Brooke was busily laying the foundations of her blog.

"In my last year of university I was already working on World of Wanderlust and sharing my travels and photos with a growing audience.

Continued page 22



**On the move:**  
Brooke visits a national park in Finland.

From page 21

"I even started distance education so I could travel and study simultaneously."

Initially enrolling in a Bachelor of Arts/Law, Brooke's global inclinations were cemented after representing Australia at the Harvard National Model United Nations conference in January 2013.

"This was my first trip as World of Wanderlust. Before the conference began I spent two weeks in Los Angeles and San Francisco on my own, taking photos and visiting countless places to cover these destinations on my blog.

"It was during the 'debate' at the conference that I realised my passion lay with International Relations, my Arts major, so I decided to drop Law and complete university that year."

On her graduation day in 2013, Brooke booked a one-way ticket to London and that's when her blog began to take off.

"Being in a new city or country every other day was really fascinating to people and I'm sure that is when I gained most of my lovely loyal readers."

Today, World of Wanderlust attracts one million social media followers and six million readers. Brooke makes her living through

brand collaborations, campaign contracts, sponsorships and online advertising, a world away from the 60-hour weeks she worked as a hotel receptionist and cleaner during her studies.

"It's a funny concept to most people that you can make a career out of travel blogging.

"I've also been offered a contract with Penguin Random House for my book World of Wanderlust: How to Live an Adventurous Life, which is an absolute career highlight for me."

But despite spending 80 per cent of her time abroad, Brooke still calls Tasmania home.

"I live on a farm 10 minutes out of Launceston with my partner and I'll be returning in September to open my new business Charlie's Dessert House. After that I will try and split my time equally between both worlds.

"My idea is to bring some of the inspiration and ideas I have seen around the world back home."

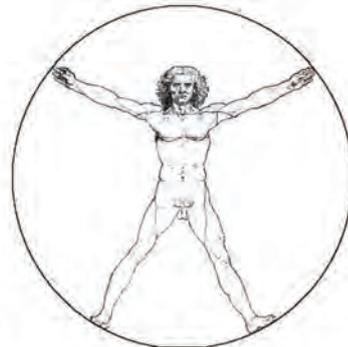
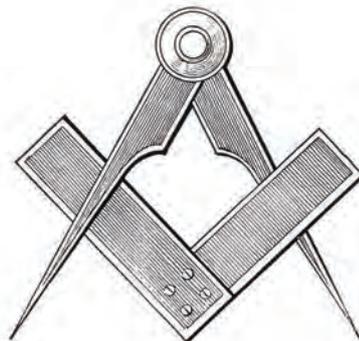
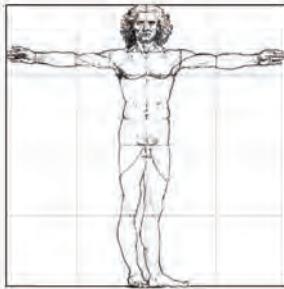
Brooke's World of Wanderlust book will be published on October 31, and the blogger will also host book signing events in Tasmania.



Visit [worldofwanderlust.com](http://worldofwanderlust.com) for details of dates and locations.

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PROFILE

# DAVID KEELING

The talented artist credits two lecturers with inspiring him to pursue a career in art



**Art of the matter:** Alumnus David Keeling still has many ties with the University, including the occasional teaching stints over the summer.



**For artist and two-time Glover Prize winner, alumnus David Keeling, the University of Tasmania has had many influences on his life and his career.**

Born and raised in Launceston, Keeling was always interested in pursuing an artistic career, despite opposition to the idea from his father.

After initially studying film and television in Melbourne, he decided to return home and enrolled at the University of Tasmania's School of Art, which encouraged him to continue to pursue a career in art.

"I was inspired by two lecturers in particular, Geoff Lowe and Dusan Marek," he said.

After graduating from the University (DA Vis.Art Teach, 1976; BA Vis.Art, 1978), Keeling travelled for several years.

He returned to Tasmania in the mid-1980s to find a dynamic contemporary art scene, greatly driven by the introduction of a Masters in Fine Arts by the University.

"This gave an enormous boost to contemporary art in Tasmania as artists from all over Australia moved to Tasmania and many stayed on after completing their degrees," Keeling said. "This was the time when a number of interesting artists began to establish professional careers as artists living in Tasmania."

It was then Keeling began painting seriously.

Keeling still has many ties with the University, including the occasional teaching stints over the summer.

He also held a major exhibition at the University's Academy Gallery in Inveresk as part of last year's 125th anniversary celebrations, and was recently commissioned to paint former Chancellor Damian Bugg's portrait.

Keeling's association with the University also created many important social ties for him. "If I think back I am struck by how much has changed, and how friendships with people I first met in those days have endured - none more so than that of my wife Helen Wright, who I met in a printmaking class when the School of Art was at Mount Nelson," he said.

Taking out his second prestigious Glover Award for landscape earlier this year was an unexpected honour for Keeling.

"I think it's recognition of the fact that artists may win a prize at a certain time but that doesn't mean they stop working or stop developing, and that's just great," he said.

**WRITER: ELIZABETH STACEY**

ALUMNUS BRODIE NEILL IS  
MAKING WAVES WITH HIS UNIQUE  
AND INVENTIVE DESIGNS

# PLASTIC FANTASTIC

By Lucy Poskitt



SAMEERA HANIF

**Worldwide acclaim:**

Brodie Neill with Australian Foreign Minister The Honourable Julie Bishop during her visit to the Biennale.

**London-based alumnus Brodie Neill not only earned a place at the table of leading world designers last month – he also provided the table.**

Representing Australia, Neill unveiled a new installation, *Plastic Effects*, at the inaugural London Design Biennale. He collaborated with Dr Jennifer Lavers of the University's Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies in preparing the installation.

Dr Lavers' research interests include the impact of plastics on ocean ecology and wildlife.

The installation included photographic works and a specimen table, titled *Gyro*, which is constituted from ocean plastics and developed by the designer and his collaborators.

Born in Hobart, Neill graduated from the University of Tasmania in

2001 with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Furniture Design with Honours. He then took a Masters at the Rhode Island School of Design.

In 2012 he returned home to receive the Foundation Graduate Award. The citation read in part: "At University, it was quickly recognised that here was an extraordinary individual with unlimited potential. As a student he excelled consistently, always applying twice the effort of his peers, with twice the result. His work was wholly inventive, rigorously researched and masterfully executed.

"Since graduating, Brodie has pursued his professional life with the same inventiveness, rigour and masterful production, successfully integrating digital technologies with the sensitivities of the hand-made. Furthermore, he has shown the

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**Take a closer look:**

The Gyro table is made from ocean plastics.



IMAGES SUPPLIED

## His student work was wholly inventive, rigorously researched and masterfully executed



courage and conviction to test these ideas in the fiercely competitive international arena.”

Many of the reasons why Neill’s works stand out on the international scene, he explained to *Alumni* in 2010, relate back to his University of Tasmania education.

“The course at UTAS gave me an edge,” he said.

“I travel the world, going to New York, London and Milan. The designs I see have been created by pen and paper and computer. But UTAS encouraged a hands-on, sculptural approach.

“We had to build the objects ourselves, which meant we got to

understand the materials that go into the process. One day, it may be making a chair out of wood, and the next, something out of steel. I’ve always had a bit more of an industrial design outlook, but my creative roots are definitely Tasmanian.”

According to University Vice-Chancellor Professor Peter Rathjen, Neill’s story was a striking example of one of the institution’s guiding principles. “The University of Tasmania believes that we must offer higher education which is world class so that our graduates can compete in an increasingly competitive global workforce,”

**Thoughtful work:**

Brodie Neill’s unique table is a collaboration with Dr Jennifer Lavers from IMAS, titled *Gyro*.

Professor Rathjen said. “We have many good examples of that, but Brodie Neill is among the best of them.”

The London Design Biennale attracted 37 countries, from South Africa to Pakistan, as well as some of the world’s leading design museums, including Cooper Hewitt, the Smithsonian and the Victoria and Albert, as well as the National Gallery of Victoria, responding to the theme ‘Utopia by Design’.

It was attended by 90,000 visitors, including key industry leaders and representatives of the University – which supported Neill’s exhibition.



## JOAN WEBB

NOW SHE HAS HER PhD, THIS 90-YEAR-OLD IS TURNING HER ATTENTION TO RESEARCHING THE MOST USEFUL POLITICIANS TO LOBBY

Writer: Ben Wild

ISSUE 48

Joan Webb is just getting started. In August, at the University of Tasmania's winter graduation round in Launceston, she crossed the stage at the Albert Hall and claimed a new honorific. Mrs Webb became Dr Webb, and at only 90.

Though she admits her desire for a Tudor bonnet – the floppy velvet hat Doctors of Philosophy wear at graduation ceremonies – was at least part of the motivation behind her PhD studies, Dr Webb is not content with merely a chapeau and a sense of accomplishment.

"I want to do something useful with this PhD," she said.

Titled *I only look forward to Mondays: Facilitating Creative Writing Groups – Ageism, Action and Empowerment*, Dr Webb's thesis examined the impact of creative stimulation – "making the brain work" – among the residents of two Tasmanian aged-care facilities.

Now she has her hat, she's turning her attention to researching the most useful politicians to lobby.

She aims to influence government policy, to agitate for changes in practice and programs at aged-care facilities, and to challenge ageism wherever she finds it.

"Ageism is frighteningly widespread; it's in people's blood," Dr Webb said. "Somehow, old people are put into a different box, like they're not real anymore."

Dr Webb is real. She's a quick-witted, strong-willed, often mischievous rebuttal to the assumptions that lie beneath ageism. She may be old, but she's no little old lady.

Born in London in 1926, Dr Webb completed her original teaching qualification in 1963. Twenty years later, after visiting her then Tasmania-based daughter, she moved to her new home in Launceston.

She first volunteered as a teacher at a School for Seniors, and taught literacy in a program for the long-term unemployed. She taught at the Mount Arthur Family School, started the West Tamar Action Group, was elected to the West Tamar Council, ran a B&B, wrote and published a novel and two books of poetry and was placed



CHRIS CERRAR

**No slowing down:**  
Dr Joan Webb  
(second from left)  
says it is easy to  
become fascinated  
by university study.

## Ageism is frighteningly widespread; it's in people's blood

on the Tasmanian Honour Roll of Women. Among other things.

In 2009, in her 80s, Dr Webb decided to head back to university and enrolled in a two-year Graduate Certificate in Education, which she completed in 2010. A year later, she'd finished her Masters.

When it came time for her PhD, she found her subject in the classes she had recently established in aged-care homes. She'd started them in an effort to take the School for Seniors to those who couldn't get their on their own.

"The School for Seniors was for everybody over 50 but the people in my groups were usually in their 70s and 80s. And they were so enthusiastic, so creative, so bubbling over with wonderful ideas; it was a joy to read their work.

"Then I started to wonder about people who went into aged-care homes, about whether they had this sort of opportunity. So I made some calls and I arranged to work at two different places."

Dr Webb particularly wanted to work with high-care residents, people who struggled to move unaided, but who needed creative stimulation.

Initially, the utter lack of response shook Dr Webb. For the first few weeks, she said, they just sat there with their heads hanging down.

"I did not want this to turn into me reading poems to people. I tried absolutely everything but I couldn't seem to get through."

Then, one day, she saw one of the ladies in the group holding a piece of paper.

"And I said, 'You've written something, haven't you? Can we hear it?' And she said, 'No, it's much

too cheeky.' And I said, 'Oh, I like a bit of cheek.' So she read it. And it was just fantastic."

---

**WORDS by Heather**

*"Write me some prose or verse," she said.  
Our leader must be off her head.  
Brainless I am with naught to say,  
No prose or verse has come my way.  
My nails are bitten to the quick,  
I've thought so much my brain is sick,  
Odd words float just above my head,  
Solid as rock, heavy as lead,  
"Have pity" is my anguished cry,  
All words are dying, let them die!*

---

"Isn't it just marvellous?" Dr Webb said. "And everything opened up after that. The work that they did was extraordinary – the sensitivity and the humour.

"The groups were small. One lady was almost blind, and only one person was physically fit enough to get around on their own. But the ideas were gorgeous!"

The story of unlocking this creativity is at the heart of Dr Webb's thesis. And it forms the core of what she believes needs to happen in aged-care homes around the country.

"It seems to me that the very best institutions make sure that residents get their regular showers, and regular meals, and their activities, such as someone playing them the piano, or bingo. But there is nothing that is treating them like individuals and that stimulates the brain.

"It will not cost the world to introduce a system whereby creativity is part of the program. But it has to be done properly."

If one thing's for sure, it's that Dr Webb will be doing her part.

She has enjoyed this recent run of celebrations – her 90th birthday in June, her PhD conferred in August – but now she's turning her mind to the tasks ahead.

There's a chapter she's been asked to write for an upcoming book about action research, and her supervisor at the University, Associate Professor Rosemary Callingham, has suggested she rework her thesis for publication.

And then there are the politicians to lobby, the ageism to challenge.

Joan Webb is just getting started.

Launceston  
20.08.2016



CHRIS CREER

## NEWLY MINTED GRADUATES

NEARLY 2,000 STUDENTS WERE INVOLVED IN THE UNIVERSITY'S WINTER GRADUATION ROUND.

**Eighty-four police officers were among nearly 2,000 students to graduate during the University of Tasmania's winter graduation round.**

The police officers are the first to complete the Associate Degree Arts (Police Studies) as part of a unique partnership between the University and Tasmania Police.

Under the partnership, Tasmania Police officers are the only officers in Australia given the opportunity to align their careers with the Bachelor of Social Science (Police Studies).

All recruits must complete the Associate Degree as part of their recruit training and then have the

opportunity to complete the full degree qualification throughout their career and promotion path.

A total of 1,270 graduands featured in the four Hobart ceremonies, held at the Federal Concert Hall, while more than 650 claimed their degrees in two ceremonies at Launceston's Albert Hall.

The first of the Launceston ceremonies saw Patsy Cameron receive an honorary degree, before delivering the occasional address.

Dr Cameron received a Doctor of Letters, honoris causa, for her extraordinary and longstanding contribution to Aboriginal education and for fostering and promoting Aboriginal culture in Tasmania.

In July, 314 students graduated at a Shanghai ceremony. The ceremony marked the 11th year of graduations for students of joint degree programs run by the Shanghai Ocean University and the University of Tasmania through the AIEN Institute.

Hosted by the Chancellor of the University of Tasmania, the Honourable Michael Field AM, and the President of the Shanghai Ocean University, Professor Cheng Yudong, the ceremony conferred degrees on students who completed a Bachelor of Information Systems/ Bachelor of Management and Bachelor of Business/Bachelor of Management.



IMAGES: KAREN BROWN

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LUCY POSKITT



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TOP-RANKING OPEN ONLINE COURSES  
FOCUS ON DEMENTIA CARE AND  
MARINE AND ANTARCTIC SCIENCES

# MASSIVE RESPONSES

By Elizabeth Stacey and Andrew Rhodes

The University of Tasmania has built on its reputation as a global leader in dementia research and education with the introduction of its Preventing Dementia, a new Massive Open Online Course (MOOC).

The course follows on from the international success of the University's Understanding Dementia MOOC, which has attracted more than 70,000 participants over the past three years. It was recently listed among the top 50 online courses of all time by the aggregator Class Central, which examined user ratings from more than 6,000 MOOCs delivered by more than 600 universities worldwide.

**Shedding light:**  
Preventing Dementia provides practical steps people can take to minimise their risk for this condition.

Both MOOCs were developed by the Wicking Dementia Research and Education Centre, part of the University's Faculty of Health.

The new MOOC, Preventing Dementia, brings to light international research on potentially modifiable risk factors and provides practical steps people can take if they wish to minimise their relative risk for this degenerative condition.

"Most of an individual's risk of dementia is related to their age as well as genetics," Wicking Centre Co-Director Professor James Vickers said. "However, it has been recently determined that about 30 per cent of cases could be effectively prevented by attending to potentially modifiable risk factors at all stages of life – such as vascular



IMAGE: ISTOCK



# We're delighted that so many people in Australia and around the world have taken an interest

food webs, ecosystems such as the Antarctic and kelp forests, climate change, the impact of human activities such as fishing, and marine stewardship.

"The MOOC is a great introduction to marine and Antarctic science and we're delighted that so many people in Australia and around the world have taken an interest," explained IMAS Professor Craig Johnson, who organised and co-presents the MOOC with Dr Jess Melbourne-Thomas from the Australian Antarctic Division and the Antarctic Climate and Ecosystems Cooperative Research Centre.

"Just over one-third of the MOOC's students have been Australian but there has also been strong interest from the United States, UK, India, Spain and New Zealand. More than 60 per cent of those taking part have been female, and while people aged from 18-34 account for more than half of the uptake we're also pleased to be making a contribution to lifelong learning, with more than 10 per cent of those interested aged 55 and over."

As with Wicking's dementia course, IMAS is exploring the option of allowing those who complete the MOOC in future to gain credit towards a Bachelor or Associate Degree.



**In top 50:**  
Understanding Dementia MOOC developer Dr Carolyn King and senior lecturer Dr Matthew Kirkcaldie.

PETER MATTHEW

health and mental stimulation. The goal of this MOOC is to encourage approaches and behaviours that may contribute to reducing risk, and hopefully to reduce the incidence of dementia in our ageing population."

A second successful University of Tasmania free online course offering involves the Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies (IMAS), with

its marine and Antarctic science MOOC. Nearly 13,000 people have enrolled in this course over the past two-and-a-half years.

The course covers a wide range of topics, including marine life and



To enrol or find out more about these courses go to [utas.edu.au/wicking/home](https://utas.edu.au/wicking/home) or [imas.utas.edu.au/study/mooc](https://imas.utas.edu.au/study/mooc)

# NURSING AN AMBITION TO HELP EDUCATE THE NEXT GENERATION

By Elizabeth Stacey

**For nurse Lee Woods, receiving the University of Tasmania's District Nurses Elite Research Scholarship in Nursing puts her closer to realising her dream of making a significant difference in the field of healthcare improvement.**

The scholarship was donated by the District Nurses as part of its 120th anniversary, to provide support for talented students undertaking research in the area of nursing.

A Clinical Nurse Specialist (Cardiology) at St Vincent's Private Hospital in Sydney, Mrs Woods (GradCertN 2009, BNurs 2016) is studying her PhD in Nursing at the University's Darlinghurst Campus, which she has found a rewarding journey.

"After 10 years of clinical nursing in the acute hospital setting, it's been incredibly empowering to embark on this research journey, highlighting gaps in current care and making positive change to improve this care," she said.

"As the PhD is a research degree with a healthcare improvement focus, I aim to improve the health of populations, not just the six patients I care for during one shift."

Mrs Woods said the scholarship of close to \$30,000 was a great benefit both personally and to her field of study, which focused on improving the wellness of adult out-

patients who had heart failure and wished to continue to live at home.

"The District Nurses Elite Scholarship financially supports me to study full-time," she said.

"It allows my release from ward duties to effectively and efficiently conduct my research project.

"Graduating within three to four years (compared to eight years part-time) benefits the people my research project is targeting, much earlier."

The District Nurses is a charitable, not for profit organisation which has been providing in home and community care services to Tasmanians for 120 years.

"The District Nurses are a unique collection of experienced, highly qualified healthcare professionals committed to equality in healthcare, supporting the patient voice and delivering excellent care," Mrs Woods said.

"It is such an honour to be selected as the Elite Research Scholarship recipient."

In the long-run Mrs Woods hopes to use her studies to make a difference to the health system and to continue research into improving the experience of patients.

"When I graduate, I aspire to teach the next generation of nurses (such as being a Bachelor of Nursing lecturer) and continue in the research stream."

The District Nurses is also supporting two other University of Tasmania scholarships worth \$20,000, for students commencing a Bachelor of Nursing degree.

Applications for the District Nurses Scholarship in Nursing close on October 31, 2016.



**Caring nature:**

Nurse Lee Woods wants to make a significant difference in the field of healthcare improvement.

PETER COCHRANE

PROFILE

# LUKE McGREGOR

The accidental comedian is living his dream on his home turf

**Luke McGregor is serious about his comedy.**

When we meet, Luke is resting a sprained ankle he injured on set – running away from an imaginary dog.

The University of Tasmania alumnus has brought his own brand of comedy home, filming his latest TV venture – the buddy comedy *Rosehaven* – over seven weeks in the state, including the tiny Derwent Valley town of Lachlan and the University's Sandy Bay campus, in the Edge Radio studio.

"The weather's unpredictable, but otherwise it's great [filming in Tasmania]," he said.

*Rosehaven* debuts on ABC TV this month and McGregor is still pinching himself that this is his life now – writing and rewriting scripts (jokes included), then performing, recording and sharing them with Australia.

"We started with Celia [Pacquola] and I just wanting to do some sort of comedy around our friendship, some sort of buddy comedy where it was us against the world in some way," he said of *Rosehaven*.

"My parents are in real estate, and Celia grew up in a small town, so we've tried to combine the two."

The University's Sandy Bay campus is where it all started for the actor and comedian with his first stand-up gig in 2007.

"Comedy came to me by accident – there was a Raw Comedy final at the uni pub and I was a bit tipsy and someone didn't show up, and I said, 'Can I get up?' and they said, 'Yes', so that's how I got into comedy," he said. "I was only there because my housemate was in it and I was there to support him."

Fast-forward to 2016, and McGregor has TV's awkward redhead comedian

niche well and truly covered after roles in *Utopia* and his documentary *Luke Warm Sex*.

"Most of the characters I play tend to be a nervous wreck anyway, so if I had to play a tough love interest, or a bad guy, that would probably test my acting skills, I don't know if I'd be able to pull it off," he said. "If I'm playing kind of myself, it's fine."

McGregor spent seven years at uni, studying a range of subjects before graduating with a combined Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Economics degree in 2007.

"I enjoyed all the extracurricular stuff – I found uni clubs fun, and the uni pub fun," he said.

"What I liked about economics is that it gives you a good understanding of the world around you. Even though I don't really use it anymore, it's nice to be a bit more informed about stuff."

At one stage, McGregor began looking into a career in medicine.

"I think I just wanted to do it because I just liked the idea of being able to have that skill set, and being able to help everyone," he said. "It's just a cool skill to have, any sort of medical knowledge. I think in the end I should have just done a first-aid course."

Although he's now doing his dream job, McGregor said he still has to remind himself sometimes that it won't be all sunshine and skittles.

"It is amazing, but if you're acting, a lot of what you do is waiting around while they set up cameras and stuff, or if you're writing, sometimes you just don't feel like it, or sometimes you'll have two hours to write, but you don't come up with anything in those two hours," he said. "But I guess the secret is the good outweighs the bad, and that you do really love it in those key moments."



WRITER: LUCY POSKITT

IMAGE: ALASTAIR BETT



MICHAEL RAYNER

## FOR RICK, IT'S AN ENDURING APPEAL

By Anna Osborne

AS A YOUNG MAN IN COLLEGE, RICK SNELL DID NOT DREAM OF A CAREER IN ACADEMIA.

**“It was expected that I would go to work in the mines,” says the University of Tasmania alumnus who was born and raised on Tasmania’s West Coast. “I went to Hobart for college and, by the end of it, I had enough of being away from home. However, there was no job back there, as there were lay-offs at the mines, but I was qualified to go to university.”**

More than 30 years later, there is no doubt that Associate Professor Snell (BA/LLB 1982, BA Hons, 1983, MA 1995) made the right decision. He is now Deputy Dean of the Faculty of Law, internationally regarded in the field of Ombudsman studies, and a former member of the Tasmanian Administrative

Review Advisory Council and the governing Council of the University of Tasmania.

His academic and student experiences have instilled in him a deeply-held belief in the high value of tertiary education, and he is determined to help provide the same opportunity to others.

Associate Professor Snell has been a regular giver to the Annual Scholarship Appeal for many years. His contribution, along with many other alumni and friends, provides vital funding to offer scholarships to talented students with financial need students who otherwise would not have the means to attend higher education.

“There is a lot to be gained from the power of an institution, especially the power of higher education and especially in a Tasmanian context,” he said.

Every year close to 500 students are supported by scholarships, and excellence in research and teaching is strengthened by the gifts of alumni and friends to the University of Tasmania Foundation.



You can read more about Annual appeal scholarships at [utas.edu.au/giving](https://utas.edu.au/giving)

# IN THE BIG SCHEME OF THINGS IT IS BUT A DROP, BUT LET IT FALL WHERE I WISH AND CAUSE EVER WIDENING RIPPLES

By Elizabeth Stacey

**Female students will be encouraged to consider the field of neuroscience or neurosurgery, thanks to a generous bequest to the University of Tasmania.**

A \$290,000 scholarship was provided by the late Dianne Eerden, who in the ultimate gesture of generosity also willed her body to the University's bequest program for the study of the rare head and neck cancer she lost her life to.

Ms Eerden, who also battled splenic marginal zone lymphoma, hoped her estate and her life would better serve humanity.

Before she died Ms Eerden explained: "In the big scheme of things it is but a drop, but let it fall where I wish and cause ever widening ripples.

"I want to encourage a young person who has their mind set on a future in medicine, neurological cancer and research or blood cancers.

"I want what I have worked for and left to help a young female person with their heart set on improving the lives and living prospects of other Australians."

Ms Eerden, who was only 66 when she passed away, was born and raised in Adelaide. In later years she sailed to Tasmania, to retire to the Huon Valley town of Cygnet.

Throughout her working career Ms Eerden took up many roles involving caring for others, including fitting shoes for children with foot disorders, working as an aged-care nurse and taking riding classes for children living with disabilities.

Ms Eerden also had a strong creative side which led to her love of making character dolls, painting, pottery, writing

poetry and to complete a creative writing course at the University.

Young Dawkins, Executive Director, Advancement, and CEO of the University of Tasmania Foundation, said the scholarship would go a great way to encouraging top female students to consider careers in the sciences.

"The drive to attract and then retain more top women students pursuing careers in the sciences is a global effort," he said.

"This bequest from Dianne Eerden is just the sort of practical support that will help promising University of Tasmania students reach their fullest potential."

This Dianne Eerden Elite Research Scholarship was introduced earlier this year, with the successful applicant to be announced shortly.

The scholarship provides a \$9,500 per year living allowance for three years for the successful applicant.

Due to the significant amount of the gift, Ms Eerden's bequest will support the scholarship in perpetuity, making a lasting legacy for talented female neuroscience students.

**For information regarding making a gift in your will to the University, please contact Gaye French, Advancement Coordinator for the University of Tasmania Foundation at [gaye.french@utas.edu.au](mailto:gaye.french@utas.edu.au) or on 0428 377 164.**



SUPPLIED

**Legacy:** The late Dianne Eerden's generosity will help support talented female neuroscience students for years to come.



**For more information on the Dianne Eerden Elite Research Scholarship go to [utas.edu.au/research/degrees](https://utas.edu.au/research/degrees)**

# THE PLUS GENERATION

By Peter Cochrane

MEMBERS OF THE 40+ AND 50+ CLUB RETURN TO THE UNIVERSITY TO CELEBRATE THE PAST.

**Within the large and far-flung family of the University of Tasmania there are certain alumni who enjoy a special status.**

Among these are members of the 40+ Club – alumni who graduated as recently as the 1970s and have maintained ties to the University.

The 40+ Club members will next come together on Thursday, November 3, for lunch at the University Club on the Sandy Bay Campus. It follows on from a well-attended 50+ Club luncheon, held at the same venue as part of the 125th anniversary celebrations. The guest speaker was one of the University's most distinguished alumni, former

Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Tasmania and Governor of Tasmania, Sir Guy Green, who studied law here, graduating in 1960.

"Without wanting to make invidious comparison between different generations of graduates, I think that any detached observer ... would conclude that it's obvious that the 1940s, '50s and '60s were vintage years in the history of the University," Sir Guy began. "It was a period when the University saw changes of truly historic significance. Fundamental changes occurred in the University's relationship with the state and federal governments, and in the way in which it was funded and governed, and physically, of course, the University changed radically when it was relocated from its Victorian neo-gothic premises on the Domain to this much larger and more modern campus on Sandy Bay.

"50+ graduates also fall into a special category for another reason ... when we were undergraduates, there must have been alumni still living who were undergraduates in the 1890s, when the University started.



IMAGES: AARON SPURR

"That was brought home to me when I attended my first function at the Law School after my appointment as Chief Justice. Among those to whom I was introduced was an elderly lawyer named Thomas Archibald Scott, who started reminiscing about his early days at the University ... I asked Mr Scott when he had enrolled in the Law School. '1895', he replied. I blurted out, it so astonished me, 'My God, you must be a hundred years old!' 'Next month', he replied."



IMAGES: AARON SPURR

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# TASMANIAN DEVIL RESEARCH HEADS INTO THE WILD

By Anna Osborne



MATT NEWTON

## Ongoing research efforts to help save Tasmanian devils from extinction are now focusing on ground-breaking vaccine trials in the wild.

Over the past 18 months, two groups of immunised devils have been released into the wild in Tasmania in a bid to help save the threatened native species devastated by devil facial tumour disease (DFTD).

It is the first time a vaccine against the deadly cancer threatening the species has been tested in the wild.

The first release occurred in 2015, where 19 immunised devils were released into Narawntapu National Park in northern Tasmania. Most recently, 33 immunised devils were released on to Defence land at Stony Head, also in northern Tasmania.

Previous trials of the vaccine have taken place in the laboratory at the Menzies Institute for Medical Research at the University of Tasmania, where the research team

led by immunologist Professor Greg Woods has been able to activate an immune response against cancer cells.

“Since we started work on DFTD 10 years ago, our research has demonstrated a good immune response to tumour cells,” senior lecturer Dr Bruce Lyons said. “It is now time to test the vaccine in the wild.

“Together with the Tasmanian Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment, we wanted to release the devils back into the environment to help bolster local populations and give the species the best chance of survival.”

DFTD is a rare kind of transmissible cancer, first identified 20 years ago. The disease has decimated the devil population, wiping out more than 80 per cent of the local population in the state.

The devils are iconic to Tasmania. They not only play a crucial role in the state’s reputation and identity, but also to the landscape in helping to keep feral animals under control.

While the release program has

experienced devastating losses, with some released devils being hit by cars, they have also received heartening responses.

At Stony Head, 25 of the 33 released devils were fitted with GPS tracking collars, allowing researchers to monitor the devils for blood sampling and general health.

“While we don’t expect to gain major information in relation to the transmission of the cancer, what we are hoping to do is look closely at the behaviour and how durable the immune response is,” Dr Lyons said. “This will especially come into its own during the upcoming breeding season.”

Menzies is working in partnership with the Save the Tasmanian Devil Program, as well as national and international scientific collaborators, to help achieve the Tasmanian devil’s long-term survival in the wild.

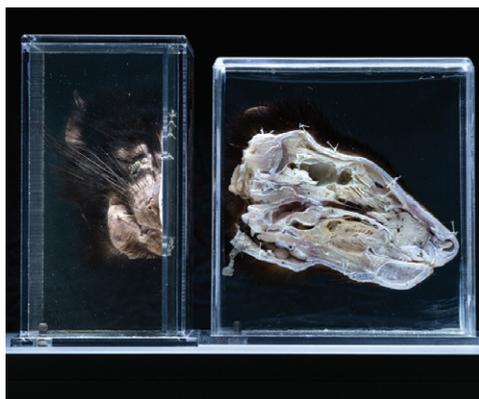
The most effective way to support the devil vaccine research is to donate to the Save the Tasmanian Devil Appeal.

Administered by the University of Tasmania Foundation, the appeal translates the incredible public interest in the Tassie devil into funding to help support the vital research.

“Right now we have an historic opportunity to take a proactive role in securing the future for the Tasmanian devil and I encourage everyone to be part of this exciting research,” appeal manager Rebecca Cuthill said.

### Best chance of survival:

A vaccinated Devil is released at Stony Head; below, Menzies researchers have been able to activate an immune response against cancer cells.



HEATH HOLDEN



To donate, visit the website at [tassiedevil.com.au](http://tassiedevil.com.au)

THE MOST COMPREHENSIVE TRACKING STUDY OF ITS KIND IS UNLOCKING VALUABLE INFORMATION ABOUT THE MOVEMENTS OF TOURISTS IN TASMANIA.

# YOU ARE HERE

By Lucy Poskitt



## Finally, there's tangible proof of what tourists get up to in Tassie.

The University of Tasmania's Tourist Tracking project is taking the industry by storm, providing the hotly anticipated data that every tourism operator wants to get their hands on – why visitors come, where they go and what they actually do while they're here.

It's the most comprehensive tracking study of its kind in the world, in terms of the length of time participants were tracked for – 10 days – and across the entire region.

It shows the attractions they visit, where they eat, the public amenities

they use and the hours of the day and night they're on the road.

Earlier this year, more than 450 visitors to Tasmania were recruited upon arrival in the state, given smartphones with a bespoke app which tracked their movement and surveyed for demographic information.

The project team is led by Dr Anne Hardy, Senior Lecturer in Tourism Studies and Director of the Tourism, Research and Education Network (TRENd) and Professor Richard Eccleston, Director of the Institute for the Study of Social Change.

The international multidisciplinary project team includes experts in GIS tracking and analysis, digital media marketing and decision-making, governance and evaluation, digital media use and economic valuation, and also includes collaboration from Hong Kong Polytechnic University and the University of Queensland.

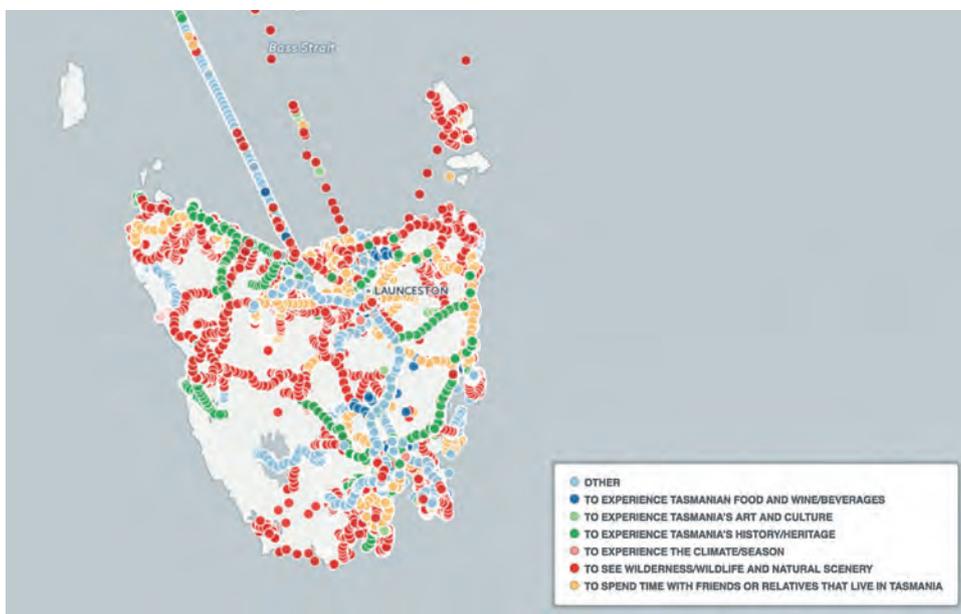
Tasmanian ICT company Ionata is a key partner and the creator of the technology.

"No other project has successfully tracked so many tourists over an entire region, for such long periods, making this one of the most innovative and extensive research projects ever conducted into tourist travel," Dr Hardy said.

"For the first time, we have the ability to track how travel patterns differ according to age, home country, length of stay and reason for travel.

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**Popular:** The tracking study revealed the top hotspots for visitors to Tasmania.





**Keeping track:**

Clockwise, from left, Horseshoe Falls in Mount Field National Park, a major drawcard; Ben and Ryan recruit arrivals at Launceston Airport; the spectacular Cradle Mountain; the app is available in various languages; and opposite page, tourist magnet Salamanca Markets.



SUPPLIED



PAUL HODGEN

“We can see detailed information on how long someone stands at a lookout, walks through a national park or browses an art gallery.”

The data could assist in infrastructure planning for tourist hotspots – for example public amenities and roadworks – and marketing campaigns targeting

specific demographics.

The project received a commendation in the Australian Information Industry Association's National i-Awards last month, the nation's biggest awards for innovation and technology.

“The awards place Tasmania firmly at the forefront of tourism research

in Australia, and will give our team the exposure we need to extend our research in Tasmania and also into other Australian and international jurisdictions,” Dr Hardy said.

# No project has successfully tracked so many tourists

**SENSE-T**

*Based at the University of Tasmania, Sense-T is a partnership between the University, CSIRO and the Tasmanian Government, and is also funded by the Australian Government.*

Sense-T was a first mover in “big data” in Tasmania. It uses data, sensing technologies and data analytics to help improve decision-making for business, government and industry.

Over the past five years it has pioneered data-led

translational research and innovation in the areas of agriculture, logistics, environmental management and data science, as well as sensor manufacturing.

Sense-T is now helping farmers improve yields, and assisting the wine industry to better

understand disease. It is helping people breathe easier and improving their quality of life. It is transforming Tasmanian food value chains, and helping the salmon industry improve environmental practices. It is also tracking tourists’

movements to provide industry insights and enhance visitor experience.

With more than 20 research projects due for completion at the end of this year, Sense-T is moving into the next phase of demand-driven research and innovation.

# MEET AND GREET

UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA ALUMNI GATHER TO DISCUSS PROJECTS, NETWORK AND RECONNECT.

→ **Sydney alumni seminar:  
Where did all the tourists go?**  
16.08.16

Sense-T's tourism tracker project was the focus of this event at the Mercure Sydney, which provided an opportunity for alumni to hear about the University's major research initiatives. Professor Richard Eccleston, Director of the Institute for the Study of Social Change, and lecturer Dr Anne Hardy were keynote speakers.



← **Regional Development  
Research and Innovation**  
10.06.2016

Presenter Emeritus Professor John Martin with Associate Professors Robyn Eversole and Laurie Bonnvey, and Dr Helen Norrie, armed with case studies. Associate Professor Eversole's book, *Regional Development in Australia: Being Regional*, was also launched.

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## Friends with benefits




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Go to [www.brandtasmania.com/join](http://www.brandtasmania.com/join) to become a friend with benefits.

Join us and:

- ▶ Keep in touch with all things Tasmanian.
- ▶ Have the chance to win our monthly newsletter prizes.











↑ **Open to Talent, Building Community**  
14.04.2016

New York area alumni enjoyed a casual networking opportunity at the offices of *The Australian*, hosted by Mark Habner, Acting Chairman of the University of Tasmania Foundation USA.

GRADUATES MAKING THEIR MARK

# HIGH ACHIEVERS

Writer Peter Cochrane

**DR GWEN FENTON**  
*BSc Hons 1982, PhD 1986*

*Dr Gwen Fenton became the Australian Antarctic Division's first female Chief Scientist in December 2015.*

Dr Fenton joined AAD in 2003, managing science planning and co-ordination for all projects within the Australian Antarctic Science Program.

Before this she spent seven years with the Tasmanian Government, managing the state's marine environmental policy issues within the Marine Resources Division of the Department of Primary Industries Water and the Environment. She gained her PhD in marine zoology

from the University and subsequently spent 11 years conducting post-doctoral marine research.

"My previous research used innovative technologies to study issues of practical importance, such as stable isotope analysis of marine coastal food webs, and radiometric ageing of deep-sea fish such as orange roughy, blue grenadier, oreo dories and deep-sea sharks," she said. "I also conducted ecological research on krill and mysid shrimps."

Dr Fenton is perhaps best known for the research she led to determine the age of orange roughy. This work revealed that the fish live to over 100.

**DOUG CLARK**  
*BA/LLB 1986*

*More than three decades after he first busked at Salamanca Market as a member of TUMS, Doug Clark recently found himself performing there once again, on a sun-blessed winter's day during the annual Festival of Voices.*

This time he was part of the Melbourne-based Men in Suits, a 20-man group whose repertoire ranges from deadpan originals to Georgian lullabies to classic pop songs with a twist.

Doug and his fellow performers dress as the group's name implies but display a lot more vocal and theatrical flair than the average corporate type.

It might therefore come as a surprise to discover that Doug's day job is as a prominent legal and compliance adviser and trainer to the



SUPPLIED



PETER COCHRANE

**Pitch perfect:** Top, Doug Clark (in sunglasses) busks at Salamanca Market in 1983; and with Melbourne-based Men in Suits.

stockbroking industry – so prominent that in late June he was inducted into the Australian Stockbrokers Foundation Hall of Fame.

Doug has worked in legal and compliance roles since 1989 with regulators, banks, stockbrokers and until recently was the policy executive at the Stockbrokers' Association of Australia. He now runs his own consultancy.

The invitation to perform at the Festival of Voices opened a door down memory lane for Doug, to a place where he spent five of his happiest years. "I found myself wistful almost to the point of melancholy as I remembered the good times in Hobart, doing my BA/LLB and living at Christ College," he said.

The FoV Salamanca Square performance, coinciding with the weekly markets, was particularly evocative. "In the early 1980s, a few of us would busk long enough to pay for some hot jam doughnuts to warm us up, concluding with 'refreshments' at Knoppies."



**Fish focus:** Dr Gwen Fenton is perhaps best known for the research she led to determine the age of orange roughy.



SUSAN CHITWOOD

**LISA CHUNG**  
**LLB 1983**

*Lisa Chung FAICD is chair of The Benevolent Society, Australia's oldest charity, and deputy president of trustees of the Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences, which runs Sydney's Powerhouse Museum, and a board member of APN Outdoor.*

She is a fourth-generation Australian, but the first born in Australia, as her family moved back and forth between Australia and China for many years. Her great-grandfather came to northern Tasmania as a tin miner, then moved to Hobart to start a market garden.

After completing her law degree at the University of Tasmania, Lisa joined a Hobart legal firm and became a partner before moving with her husband to Sydney.

She spent 20 years at Blake Dawson Waldron, as a practising lawyer specialising in commercial property and in senior management roles, before joining Maddocks, where she remains a consultant.

"It is a very enjoyable profession," she said. "It's quite fulfilling. It's intellectually very stimulating. I think people do get into it and then they find a niche and they find a path."

She joined the board of The Benevolent Society in 2011, when a colleague who had been approached suggested her. "Strangely enough they were looking for a lawyer with some property background because of a particular project that we had on at the time," she said.

The society provides support services for children and families in aged care, respite care and in education. "We're [also] proud to be operating one of Australia's first Social Benefit Bonds, to help keep children out of foster care."

**MATTHEW TRUMP**  
**BEng 2015**

*From a childhood obsession with sketching ships to a career in naval architecture.*

Matthew Trump is the first graduate of the joint Bachelor of Engineering program, which sees students spend two years at each of the Australian Maritime College, an institute of the University of Tasmania, and Edith Cowan University, Western Australia.

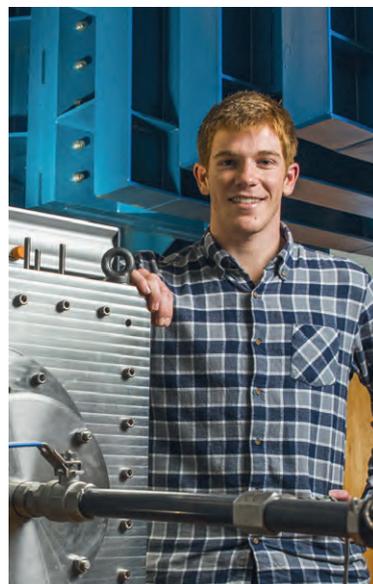
Growing up in the outback town of Kalgoorlie in Western Australia, Matthew's formative years were spent a world away from the ocean, ships, or any hint of the maritime world.

But during high school he moved to Perth, where he was excited to see "properly big" ships coming and going, and his hobby of drawing boats "turned into an obsession".

Fast-forward a decade and perhaps it's no surprise that Matthew has progressed from sketching ships to designing them in his job as a naval architect.

Having graduated in 2015, Matthew is now working for Southerly Designs, a naval architecture and marine design consultancy in Port Denison, Western Australia.

With a small but experienced team – who are happy to share their knowledge with him – Matthew feels he is laying the foundations for a bright career; a typical day includes creating structural drawings and carrying out 3D modelling and construction drawings.



SUSAN CHITWOOD

**Giving back:** Top left, Lisa Chung is chair of The Benevolent Society, Australia's oldest charity.



ANDREW TAYLOR/AAP

#### OUR OLYMPIANS

**Better than ever:**

Above, rower Kerry Hore made Australian history in Rio as the first female rower to have competed in four Olympic Games.

*The University's proud Olympics tradition continued at this year's Games in Rio de Janeiro.*

Javelin thrower Hamish Peacock (B Eng (Civil) Hons 2015) was among the students and alumni selected for Rio.

He had previously competed at the 2013 and 2015 IAAF world championships, and won bronze at the Glasgow Commonwealth Games. However his three qualifying throws in Rio were well short of his personal best of 84.39m set earlier in the year.

Hamish's father and coach, Dr Evan Peacock (PhD 1996), was selected as one of the team's coaches for Rio. Dr Peacock is the Director of the University's Central Science Laboratory.

Bachelor of Engineering/MBA student Meaghan Volker made her Olympic debut, joining the women's eight rowing after they were handed a last-minute spot.

Meaghan recently returned to Australia after spending three years in the United States, where she rowed and studied at UCLA.

This year's Olympics was the fourth for rower Kerry Hore (BPharm, 2005), who made Australian history as she became the first female rower to have competed in four Olympic Games (Athens, Beijing, London). As a member of the women's quad scull, she missed out on a medal by a heart-breaking 0.06 seconds.

**Ship to shore:**

Left, Matthew Trump has chosen a career in naval architecture.

# 5 FAST FACTS

## Tasmanian Devil Vaccine Trials

1

DFTD cancer cells are invisible to the devils' immune system.

2

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

3

At least 60 wild devils will take part in the 3 year trial.

4

The trials will take place within the Tasmanian wilderness.

5

Funding still needed:  
\$2.2 million.

Photo: Mike Calder



To help secure the future for the  
Tasmanian devil donate here:  
[www.tassiedevil.com.au](http://www.tassiedevil.com.au)





# THE HUTCHINS SCHOOL BUILDING GOOD MEN

We invite you to explore the opportunities we provide for boys to become their best.

The Hutchins School is an internationally accredited Anglican day and boarding school for boys from Pre-Kindergarten to Year 12. We provide an inspirational education where each boy strives to achieve his personal best and is willing to serve his community as an informed and active citizen locally, nationally and globally. Hutchins supportive learning community works together to build character of boys.

## ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Hutchins has a proud history of outstanding academic success, including 23 Rhodes Scholars. Our students consistently rank amongst the highest academic achievers both locally and nationally. We offer an outstanding education that is specifically designed for boys.

## AN EXTENSIVE CO-CURRICULAR PROGRAM

We have an extensive co-curricular program on offer including music, performing arts, debating, sports and the Duke of Edinburgh's International Award. The School offers a unique Power of 9 experiential learning program which aims to encourage students in developing the skills, passion, positive attitudes, values and knowledge necessary for planning a pathway to being successful through Years 10-12 and beyond.



To find out more visit [www.hutchins.tas.edu.au](http://www.hutchins.tas.edu.au)



**HUTCHINS**  
ESTABLISHED 1846