

Remember me?

Dementia affects 245,000 people in Australia and is growing at an alarming rate, with a staggering 69,600 new cases in 2009. It is predicted 1.13 million Australians will suffer from dementia by 2050.

Tasmania, being home to Australia's oldest population, recorded around 6,000 cases in 2009. These figures are expected to grow to 14,300 by 2050, with numbers slightly higher for women than men.

Dementia now represents the most significant cost in residential aged care with up to 80 per cent of residents in high care experiencing some form of cognitive impairment.

Researchers at Menzies' Wicking Dementia Research and Education Centre are developing new ways of improving services for carers of dementia patients. Research Associate, Sharon Andrews, is looking at how nursing staff and personal carers can make positive changes to their practices – to improve care provision for dementia patients.



Gillian Groom (centre), grand-daughter Sophie (left) and her late mother, Peggy (right)

"We are creating appropriate tools to measure family carer's and aged care staff's knowledge of dementia," Ms Andrews said.

"These tools will be really useful for future research in residential care in Australia. By identifying knowledge related needs we can implement targeted interventions to ensure improved information sharing and collaboration between staff and family caregivers," Ms Andrews said.

Peggy Crisp was a witty, well-educated and fiercely intelligent person. For many years, Peggy desperately tried to hide her dementia from the outside world. Gillian Groom, her eldest daughter says one of the first signs we noticed was a decline in managing her personal affairs.

"She was always beautifully dressed and with an engaging manner towards others, but slowly signs began to appear that things just weren't right," Gillian Groom said.

"Eventually we had to stop her driving. There were cognitive issues with roundabouts and traffic lights."

"When mum was first diagnosed with dementia I didn't have the 'tools' to cope. I knew I was sailing into uncharted waters. One thing I learnt very quickly is you have to keep them engaged in life."

"We would pick mum up from the nursing home every Friday and take her to the hairdresser, then out to lunch, followed by some fresh air and sunshine. Mum also really enjoyed listening to music, so younger sister Mary and I would regularly take her to TSO concerts."

"Before mum died, she lost a number of friends through a lack of tolerance for the condition, which was regrettable, as her wit and her good humor lasted almost until the end."

"You have to find the generosity to enjoy the changed state and cherish the good times." 1

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Director's message



Professor Simon Foote

Welcome to the first edition of the *Bulletin* for 2010. 2009 was an eventful year with our 21st anniversary celebrations and the move into our new building, Medical Science 1 (MS1).

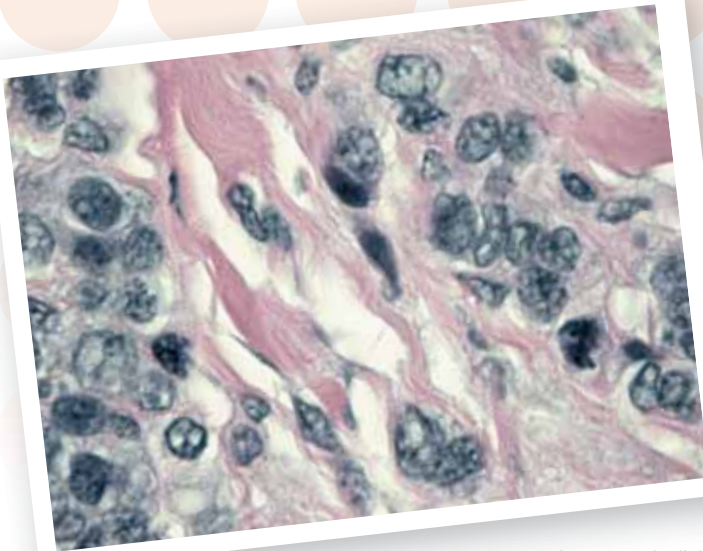
It is an enormous improvement to find ourselves in our new premises, with all staff, students and volunteers working under one roof. This will increase productivity enormously.

We now look forward to the expanding research opportunities MS1 will bring and the commencement of site works in April this year for the second stage in the building program, Medical Science 2 (MS2). The development of MS2 will assist in the growth and expansion of clinical research in the state.

Our first official function at MS1 was the 21st anniversary symposium in December 2009. This was a great success with some of the early students and employees of the Institute returning for the day. The official opening of MS1 is scheduled to take place in March/April this year.

We are looking forward to new research discoveries that will enrich the lives of those around us. Thank you for your support and I hope you enjoy reading our latest edition of the *Bulletin*.

New development in devil research



Devil facial tumour cells

The tale of the demise of the Tasmanian devil has made headlines around the world for many years now. The insidious Devil Facial Tumour Disease (DFTD) has been attacking devils for over a decade and more than 60 per cent of the entire devil population is now infected. This has put the Tasmanian devil on the endangered species list and scientists predict it could be extinct in as little as 35 years.

Associate Professor Greg Woods from the Menzies Research Institute Tasmania is part of a team of international scientists searching for the origin of, and a cure for DFTD.

Earlier this year a breakthrough was announced when it was found that Schwann cells, which protect peripheral nerve fibres, are the likely target cells that develop into DFTD. As a result, the team

has identified a genetic marker that could potentially diagnose the perplexing cancer.

Genetic analysis also provided the best evidence so far that the tumours are genetically identical and transmitted from animal to animal. DFTD is one of only two known cancers that can be spread

between individuals by the transfer of live cancer cells.

Associate Professor Woods said the Schwann cell find was not a cure but another step in the process to further understand the disease.

"Devils develop tumours of all different types and the genetic markers we have identified are useful for telling apart the tumours that occur in DFTD from other kinds of tumours," Associate Professor Woods said.

Associate Professor Woods and his cancer and immunology research team are excited by the findings and the hope this offers for the future of the devil.

"To save a unique animal from extinction is obviously our principal goal here and the most recent scientific findings are a huge step in the right direction. This is exciting news and gives us hope that the devils can be saved," Associate Professor Woods said.

Young Tassie scientists awarded

At Menzies we are always excited to show off our wonderful young talent. Two of our current PhD students had some of their hard work rewarded in December last year at the fifth joint meeting of the Societies for Free Radical Research Australasia & Japan, and the Mutagenesis & Experimental Pathology Society of Australasia (MEPSA), hosted in Sydney, Australia.

As student members of MEPSA, Mr Cesar Tovar was a joint winner of the best oral presentation and Ms Gabby Brown was awarded the prize for best poster.

Mr Tovar's presentation was titled *A tumour-specific diagnostic marker for transmissible facial tumours of Tasmanian devils: immunohistochemistry studies,*

produced in association with David Obendorf, Alexandre Kreiss and Associate Professor Greg Woods.

Ms Brown's winning poster was titled *DFTD – can we kill it? Apoptosis in DFTD cells and cytotoxic T lymphocyte responses*, and was produced in association with Alexandre Kreiss, Kai Hong and Associate Professor Greg Woods.

As a member of Young Tassie Scientists (www.youngtassiescientists.com) Ms Brown has also had the opportunity to visit young people in schools and other associations to talk about her research with Tasmanian devils and how to get involved in the fight to save them.

Foote

Young researcher meets Prince William

It's not every day you get to lunch with a prince, but for Menzies' Research Associate Sharon Andrews, this became a reality.

In January this year, Ms Andrews was invited by the Governor-General, Her Excellency, Ms Quentin Bryce AC, to a luncheon at Sydney's Admiralty House Kirribilli, in honour of His Royal Highness, Prince William of Wales.

Ms Andrews was the only Tasmanian in attendance at the royal luncheon for 20 high achieving young Australians. Joining her were a number of young Australians who have made significant contributions to Australia, including singer Delta Goodrem and cricketer Michael Clarke.

Ms Andrews is a registered nurse, PhD student and Research Associate with the Wicking Dementia Research and Education Centre at Menzies. Her PhD work is centred around developing palliative care practices of aged care staff in nursing homes. She was nominated by the aged care facility, Southern Cross

Care Tasmania, who put her name forward as a high achieving young person in Tasmania.

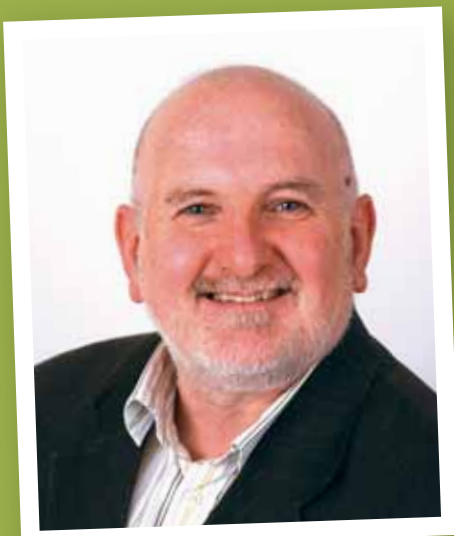
Ms Andrews said she was delighted to be in Prince William's company and enjoyed talking with other attendees about her research on aged care facilities for people with dementia.

"Prince William was charming, very personable and very easy to have a conversation with. He was really interested in what all the different people were doing and genuinely wanted to hear about what young Australians are doing," Ms Andrews said.



Sharon Andrews

Researcher profile: Professor Andrew Robinson



Professor Andrew Robinson

What is the current focus of your research?

My focus is on aged care research and exploring the translation of research findings into practice. We have a thriving multi-disciplinary aged care research program in Tasmania. As Co-Director of the Wicking Dementia Research and Education Centre I oversee projects spanning health services, clinical and biomedical research, and education and workforce capacity. These projects tackle

the leading issues related to the increasing numbers of people with dementia.

What are some of the recent findings from your work?

Findings from my health services research highlight a general lack of capacity among health care providers to utilise the findings of evidence in practice.

Our research demonstrates that the deployment of collaborative research methods facilitates the creation of multi-disciplinary practitioner based research communities. This will establish a common purpose for action, a shared understanding of the issues and an improved knowledge of the evidence. This reinforces a collaborative approach to taking action in ways that challenge traditional hierarchies. This approach fosters the belief that the translation of evidence into practice is both important and achievable.

What is the biggest challenge in your area of research?

The biggest challenge in our research is to engage all levels of health care organisations in the translation endeavour. Too often managerial approaches lack synergy with those of care provision. This can frustrate the translation

endeavour because even with the best of intentions, health care organisations often lack a capability to support innovations in evidence based practice when this challenges traditional approaches to management.

What is the most interesting aspect about your work?

We are developing our collaborative methods to pursue a 'whole of organisation' approach to health service development. This approach has a focus on concurrently researching the development of organisational leadership, clinical leadership and workforce competence. This is a complex task that requires engagement from all sectors of the organisation and a coordinated interactive approach to service development. Trialling strategies to facilitate such developments is a highly stimulating and interesting aspect of my research work.

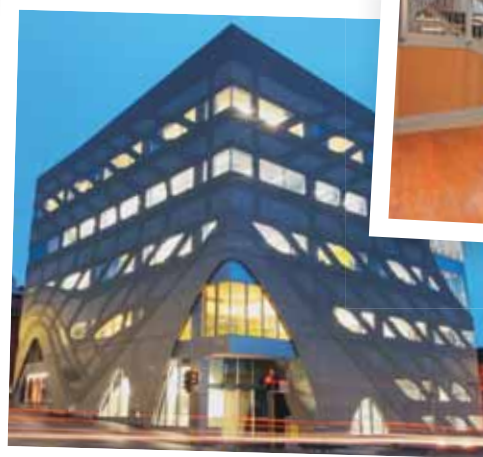
What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?

When I am not at work I enjoy escaping to our shack on the east coast, hiking around the Freycinet Peninsula, fishing, reading, and generally relaxing after a busy week.

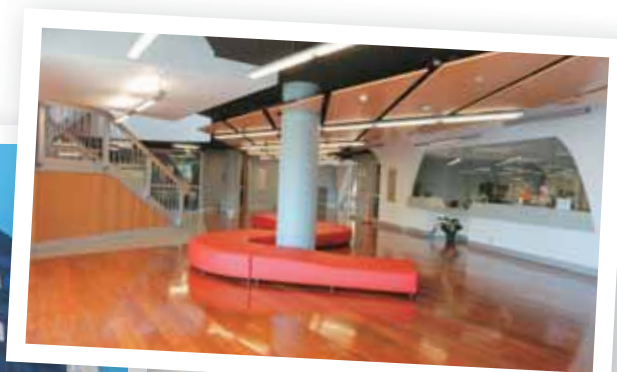
Menzies moves into Medical Science 1

It took eight weeks, a convoy of removal trucks and countless tons of sweat and patience, but it was worth it. Staff, students and volunteers from Menzies' five locations are now gathered together in Medical Science 1 (MS1) – the new comprehensive premises for the Menzies Research Institute Tasmania and the University of Tasmania's Faculty of Health Science and School of Medicine.

It is enormously satisfying to be in a lovely new building with lots of light and space, panoramic views of Hobart city, and state-of-the-art medical research facilities. With all our researchers now working in the one location, the goal is for research staff across all research themes to work collaboratively. The new building will facilitate this interaction.



Menzies' new premises, Medical Science 1



The Student Hub

Thank you to our valued supporters

Thank you to all of our donors for your ongoing financial support and commitment to Menzies.

Listed below are new individual and community supporters of Menzies for November 2009 to January 2010:

Individual donors

Anonymous (6)
Ms Janet Avery
Mrs Elizabeth Crowther
Mrs Ann Doble
Mrs Janet Donohoe
Miss Jennifer Glover
Mrs Vicki Knox
Mr David Lancaster
Ms Diane Lyons
Mr Phillip Powe
Mr Alan Quigley
Ms Olive Reardon
Mr Herbert Steele
Mrs Margret Stewart
Mr & Mrs Ray and Ann Ward
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Community support

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Sponsorship

John Holland Fairbrother
Joint Venture

Menzies healthy community fund

Mr & Mrs Leon and Sue Morrell

Family tree

Gwen Hardstaff
Clive Pearce

Listed below are our Everyday Angels – our monthly supporters who make regular gifts to Menzies.

Everyday angels

Anonymous (11)
Mr Tim Albion
Mr Bill Avery
Mrs Pamela Blunt
Dr David Boadle
Dr Catherine Bulman
Ms June Butler
Mrs Emma Claridge

Mrs Anita Clarkson
Mr & Mrs Don and Lillian Cornish AO
Mrs Elizabeth Darvell
Mr Brendon Davidson
Miss Matty June Doering
Mr & Mrs Josh and Felicity Ey
Ms Kerry Forrest
Mrs Margaret Goff
Mr Geoffrey & Miss Julia Goss
Mrs Judy Grant
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Mrs Pat Vallance
Mr & Mrs Walter and Robin Verth
Mrs Anne Warren
Mr & Mrs John and Kathlyn Wheatley
Mrs Margaret Williams
Ms Barbara Zimmerman and Prof John Dickey

Medical Science 2 concept plans unveiled

As we settle into our new home, Medical Science 1 (MS1), it is exciting to see plans for the development of Medical Science 2 (MS2) are well underway.

The Parliamentary Secretary for Health, the Hon Mark Butler MP visited the new Menzies' premises in February to officially sign over \$44.7 million in Health and Hospital Fund Funding, for the building of MS2.

The \$90 million project will be developed adjacent to MS1, on the corner of Liverpool and Campbell streets. MS2 will house the clinical research facilities of the Royal Hobart Hospital, as well as Menzies' expanding research program.

Menzies' Director, Professor Simon Foote says the co-location of Menzies with the clinical research area of the Royal Hobart Hospital will transform the north-eastern end of the city into a health and medical research precinct.

MS1 and MS2 will be integrated into one world-class facility known as the UTAS Medical Science Precinct. UTAS Medical Science Precinct will be a centre of excellence for health and medical

research in Tasmania, attracting national and international leading researchers.

The concept design phase of the MS2 project is now complete. As part of this phase, architectural firm Lyons Architecture is consulting with Tasmania's research community, health sector and UTAS and Menzies' staff for their ideas and input into the building design.

It is anticipated that site works will begin in April and construction of the new building in January 2011. MS2 is due for completion in late 2012.

MS2 funding will be boosted with further financial support from the University of Tasmania, the Tasmanian Government and the US-based Atlantic Philanthropies.



From left: Federal member for Denison – Duncan Kerr; Deputy Premier and Minister for Health – Lara Giddings; Federal member for Franklin – Julie Collins; Federal Parliamentary Secretary for Health – Mark Butler and Menzies' Director – Professor Simon Foote tour MS1.

Showcasing research excellence

On Monday 14 December 2009, the Menzies Research Institute Tasmania celebrated 21 years of research excellence with a prestigious symposium and celebratory dinner.

The symposium offered the opportunity for Menzies' staff and students to meet with founding members and researchers, and to liaise with scientists from around the world.

It also represented the first official event to be held in Medical Science 1, the new home of the Menzies Research Institute Tasmania and the University of Tasmania's Faculty of Health Science and School of Medicine.

Guest speakers for the symposium included internationally renowned researcher Professor Stephen Leeder, Co-Director of the Menzies Centre for Health Policy, speaking on *Challenges facing Australia in preventing and*

managing chronic disease, and Professor Terry O'Brien, Head of the Department of Medicine, Royal Melbourne Hospital and Western Hospital, speaking on *Predicting outcomes of epilepsy and its treatment*.

Menzies' Director, Professor Simon Foote described the symposium as an important milestone for Menzies, showcasing Menzies' 21 years of research excellence and celebrating the future of medical research in Australia.

"We are entering into a new and exciting chapter in medical research. It is fitting that this new phase is celebrated in our new premises," Professor Foote said.

The 21st Anniversary dinner was held afterwards at the historic harbourside hotel, The Henry Jones Art Hotel.



Dr Dan Norton, Professor Simon Foote and Professor Daryl Le Grew



Dr Sue Pearson with PhD students Laura Laslett, Dawn Dore and Kylie Smith



Menzies
Research
Institute

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An Institute of
the University of Tasmania

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Classic Motor Show revs up support



The Post Vintage Car Club of Tasmania

Have you ever seen a pair of immaculate his and hers 1959 Holden FCs? These were just two of the cars on display at the Classic Motor Show, presented by the Post Vintage Car Club Tasmania Inc., which ran from 4-6 January at the Wrest Point Boardwalk Gallery.

Menzies is extremely proud to be the Post Vintage Car Club of Tasmania's adopted charity, with all proceeds from the gold coin entry being donated to our research. The event was very successful and raised in excess of \$1,200 for medical research.

Show coordinator, Alan Keogh said the club was more than happy to support Menzies, a decision made unanimously by the full committee and members of the Club.

The show allowed the public to wander among a fabulous array of classic motor

vehicles from the eras, including the oldest car on display, a 1911 French Léon Bollée.

The display of 28 cars and three bikes attracted a steady crowd over the three days. Alan said they had possibly the best turnout for many years, with record numbers attending, including overseas and interstate visitors.

The Motor Show was a prelude to the annual very successful Wrest Point South East Rally where over 100 classic vehicles toured southern Tasmania.

Menzies would like to thank all of the members of the Post Vintage Car Club for their outstanding support.

If you would like more information about community fundraising please contact Phoebe Sargent on (03) 6226 7707.

Gold standard support



Print Applied Technology's Sales and Marketing Manager, Mr Jonathan Eadie

Print Applied Technology (PAT) has a longstanding relationship with the Menzies Research Institute Tasmania. PAT has supported our major fundraising event, *The Art of Christmas*, since its inception by donating the printing of our Christmas Cards each year.

PAT is proud of its social conscience and chooses to support Menzies because of the diverse range of medical research projects undertaken for the benefit of the whole Tasmanian community.

Mr Jonathan Eadie, PAT's Sales and Marketing Manager, says this same social conscience extends to the environment.

Installation of world-class solvent recycling equipment and the use of vegetable based inks, as well as waste paper extraction and compaction units are all good examples of PAT's commitment to reduce its environmental footprint.

Complementing these and other initiatives is recent certification by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC).

"FSC is a globally recognised 'gold standard' for eco-forestry," said Jonathan Eadie.

"And as a 'chain of custody' certificate holder, we can now assure our clients that selected paper and wood fibre product sourced for our operations originate from responsibly managed forests."

The corporate sponsorship Menzies receives through local businesses ensures the ongoing success of our vital medical research. Menzies is very grateful to Print Applied Technology for their ongoing support – and our environmentally friendly printing!

Two miles to Random Lodge afternoon teas

They say many hands make light work, and at the Menzies Research Institute Tasmania we are frequently shown the truth of this old adage. Menzies is fortunate to have so many generous individuals supporting us with donations and fundraising throughout the community.

In November 2009, Gillian Cooley hosted an afternoon tea for 40 of her friends to help raise vital funds and awareness for Menzies.

Gillian's Lindisfarne home was a most apt venue as it was originally a tea room. Built in 1948 by Charles Culley, it was called Random Lodge.

"We use to have a sign that said two miles to Random Lodge afternoon teas, and it is nice to think I can keep the tradition going, especially for such a worthy cause," Gillian said.

Gillian charged an entry fee and supplied tea and coffee, as well as beautiful homemade cakes and biscuits. The afternoon was a fantastic success, raising almost \$600 for medical research.

If you are interested in holding a community fundraiser please contact Phoebe Sargent on (03) 6226 7707.



From left: Mary Donaldson, Gillian Cooley, Ronda Thomas and Phyl Hill

Gifts in memory and in honour

In Memoriam
November 2009
– January 2010

We gratefully acknowledge gifts made in honour of:

Mr Donald Belstead	Mrs Una Hazel
Mrs Charlotte Bissett	Hughes
Mr Frank Bolt	Dr John Hunter
Mr Terry Chopping	Mr Stanley Joiner
Marlene Coombes	Mrs Verna Jones
Mrs Iris Dawson	Mr Arthur Lycett
Mr Neil Trevor Dawson	Mrs Jane Nicholas
Mr William Dobson	Betty Margaret Nichols
Mr Peter Dunford	Gloria Piscino
Dr Bill Flux	Mr John Sluce
Mr Ronald Geard	Mrs Dianne Smith
Mr Samuel Gourley	Mr Peter Sorgi
Mr David Griggs	Mr Grant Kenneth Walker
Mrs E Barrie Heather	
Mrs Anita Higginson	

Society for the Future



"One sentence in your Will can fund life-saving medical research. Remember Menzies Research Institute in your Will"

If you would like more information please contact Barbara Zimmerman on 03 6226 7782 or email Barbara.Zimmerman@menzies.utas.edu.au

Bequests save lives by funding research.

Thank you!



Yes, I would like to help the Menzies Research Institute

I would like to make a one-off donation of \$ _____

I would like to have monthly donations of \$ _____ deducted from my credit card.

All donations over \$2 are tax deductible.

Please complete the following details:

Title: Mr / Mrs / Miss / Other _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

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Email: _____

Please accept my donation/s in the form of:

Cash Cheque/Money Order*

*Payable to the Menzies Research Institute

OR

Please debit my:

Visa MasterCard

Credit Card No.: _____

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Name on Card: _____

Signature: _____

I/We wish that my/our donation be used for research purposes at the discretion of the Menzies Research Institute, unless a particular research purpose is stated as follows: _____

Please do not publish my name in the 'Valued Supporters' section of Menzies' next *Bulletin*.

Please send me information on remembering Menzies in my Will.

Thank you for your support.

Please post to:
Menzies Research Institute
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