

University of Tasmania

sustainability bulletin



ISSUE 10 November – December 2019



AT A GLANCE

Ride2Work days North & South

Sustainability Study Trip

5 easy ways to improve your wellbeing and the environment on campus!

When we heal the earth, we heal ourselves ...

The northern Sustainability team recently strutted (or pedalled) their stuff during Wellbeing Week celebrations at Newnham campus in mid-October. Our mission: To remind students of the ways that they can improve their wellbeing and the environment at the same time.



This student is pedalling up a banana-flavoured smoothie during Wellbeing Week celebrations at Newnham.

Here are some ways to get started!

1 **Connect:** Sign up to receive the [Sustainability Bulletin](#)

Connect on Facebook with other like-minded staff and students interested in sustainability. Check out these pages: [Students for a Sustainable UTAS](#) and [Sustainability at UTAS](#).

2 **Be active:** Walk or cycle to university

Consider cycling to campus. If you are unsure about cycling between campuses, check out [Decide Your Ride](#), a series of online videos showing safe and 'bikeable' introductory routes in Hobart and Launceston. If you use public transport to travel between your home and campus, why not get off one or two stops early and enjoy a little extra walk?

3 **Take notice:** Practise mindfulness when walking, i.e. bird watching and listening

Spend more time in nature to reduce stress and absorb the connection. Go for a walk around campus. Check out the various natural areas within easy reach around your campus or just sit on the lawn for a few minutes and watch the clouds go by. Enjoy the environment. Just watch out for those plovers on the playing fields! If you want to actively engage with nature join the many clubs and societies including the [UTAS Avian Club](#),

the [bushwalking club](#), the [Tas Uni Dive club](#) and the [UTAS fishing and camping club](#)

4 **Keep learning:** Attend lunchtime Sustainability workshops

While our student-led Sustainability workshops have ended for 2019, they will return in semester 1 2020. If you have a topic or idea for those workshops, share them with us via sustainability.utas@utas.edu.au.

5 **Give:** Volunteer your time for the environment

There are many UTAS groups offering opportunities for volunteers keen to do their bit to improve the environment: [UTAS Cares](#), UTAS biology volunteers, [IMAS volunteers](#), and [UTAS Life](#) volunteers. Alternatively, you may like to get involved in your local community garden on campus. Check out the [UTAS Food Revolution Society](#) or [Source Community Wholefood](#) for example.



Gabrielle Stannus, Sustainability Projects Officer (North), talking with interested students about how to improve their wellbeing and the environment.



Global movement calling for climate action... SEE PAGE 3



FOR UPDATES, INCLUDING SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE INFORMATION, NEWS AND EVENTS
utas.edu.au/sustainability

Ride2Work Day at Inveresk

Close to 50 people attended the Ride2Work Day breakfast at Inveresk campus where they enjoyed a delicious BBQ breakfast cooked by Duncan Maxwell from the School of Architecture & Design, washed down with banana smoothies produced on the pedal-powered Blender Bike.

Usually held at Newnham, this year's Ride2Work event at the Inveresk campus was a first, attracting a diverse mix of staff, students and other community members. This campus is the site of the Northern Transformation Project which aims to provide better connections with the Launceston CBD. Judging by the welcome reception we received, we guess it will not be the last!

Students from the Launceston Big Picture School's Bike Repair group provided bike maintenance advice and showed off upcycled bicycles to be sold to raise funds for the UN Refugee Agency UNHCR. Volunteers from the Tamar Bicycle Users Group (TBUG) were on hand to share their knowledge of local cycling routes and regulations.

Special thanks...

A big shout out goes to Ryan Lottering, our northern SIPS intern who helped coordinate this event. Well done Ryan!



The Launceston Big Picture School's Bike Repair group conducted minor maintenance to help staff and students.



Duncan Maxwell powering the Blender Bike, ably assisted by Ryan Lottering, SIPS intern.

Pancakes for cyclists at Ride2Work Day in Sandy Bay

Wednesday October 16 was another beautiful day to ride your bike to the University and attend the Ride2work breakfast in Sandy Bay.

To encourage a diverse range of students to participate in the event, the Sustainability Team partnered with TAS-X, a society for exchange and study abroad students led by Global Engagement's Patrick Foley-Donoghue.

"It was great to have a range of new cyclists and committed riders attend the breakfast this year. Partnering with the International Students' Society TAS-X attracted students from all over the world who were keen to ask questions about cycling in Hobart" said Sustainability Projects Officer, Varunjani Jayaseelan.

The student led event celebrated cyclists and walkers who enjoyed fresh vegan pancakes and bananas with honey and muesli. More than 60 people joined the event encompassing a diverse group of staff and students.

Great work was carried out by I-PREP intern Jie Wen to create colourful posters, engage volunteers and coordinate with the Bicycle Network team who donated bananas for the breakfast.

Being involved in this national event, Australia's biggest celebration of cyclists is just one part of our commitment to promoting active sustainable transport through the [University's Sustainable Transport Strategy 2017-2021](#).

A big thank you goes out to our student volunteers who helped at the event, the University Club for offering cyclists a discounted coffee as part of their Ride2Work breakfast and Patrick Foley-Donoghue from Tas-X. Finally, we would like to thank everyone who attended the event, we hope you enjoyed some delicious pancakes. See you next year for another Ride2Work breakfast!



Celebrating active transport (walking and cycling) at Ride2Work breakfast in Sandy Bay.



Talking all things cycling at the Ride2Work breakfast in Sandy Bay.

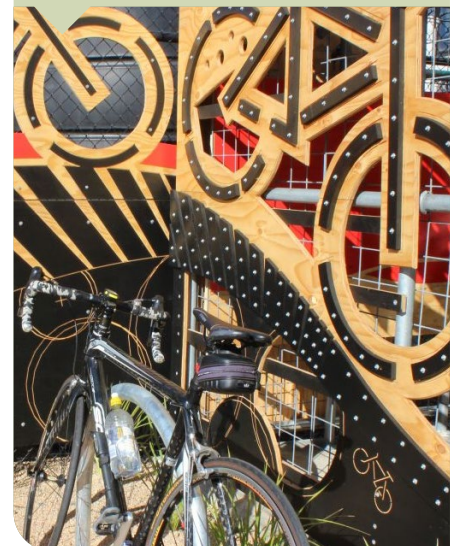


DO YOU NEED AN AFFORDABLE BICYCLE TO CYCLE TO CAMPUS?

Would you like to cycle to campus but do not have a lot of cash to spare to purchase a new bike? Contact the Launceston Big Picture School via lbsps@education.tas.gov.au or 03 6335 1500 to find out how you can purchase one of their upcycled bikes for as little as \$20! Or in Hobart, you can check out the [Hobart Bike Kitchen](#).

NEED A SAFE ROUTE TO GET TO CAMPUS?

If you are thinking about cycling to campus, check out our online tool: [Decide Your Ride](#). This tool was created by SIPS students and helps cyclists decide on the safest routes to campuses in Launceston and Hobart. Decide your Ride is an online buddy with videos and commentary showing safe and 'bikeable' routes. The tool also shares tips on route riding, including taking advantage of footpaths, passing parked cars, and dealing with intersections.





The UTAS Marketing Division representing the sustainable future UTAS is heading towards at the strike.

Global movement calling for climate action

On Friday 20 September 2019, Australia saw its biggest climate mobilisation with over 300,000 students and workers taking to the street for more climate action.

Thousands of individuals in lutruwita (Tasmania) rallied together asking the government to commit to no new fossil fuels, 100% renewable energy and funding a just transition and job creation for all fossil-fuel industry workers and communities. A global snapshot of the event saw all 7 continents participate with over 150 countries and millions of people taking to the streets for a sustainable future.

The University of Tasmania joined the strike, with the Vice-Chancellor Rufus Black supporting freedom of speech and encouraging both staff and student participation at the strike. The TUU (South) mobilised student participation by providing students with re-useable cups and organising a walk from the University to join the strike.



Sustainability Manager Corey Peterson taking time off work to attend the strike.

Celebrating student initiatives in the Sustainability Integration Program for Students (SIPS)

October 21 was the end of Semester celebration for our SIPS students who presented their project findings to their peers, SIPS mentors and members of the Sustainability Committee. Presentations were held simultaneously across the state in Sandy Bay, Newnham and Cradle Coast Campus.

In semester 2 the Sustainability Team has hosted 25 students from a broad range of areas of the University, with projects ranging from active transport, reducing waste to landfill, climate change strategies for universities, sustainable procurement, food gardens for students, biodiversity on campus, drinking water access for students, herb gardens for students in accommodation services and climate change resilience for students.

The Sustainability Team would like to wish all our enthusiastic SIPS students the very best for their exams and future studies.

In addition to the interns, SIPS includes in-class student projects. For example, for the fifth year, over 125 final year engineering students completed 24 group projects focused on improving UTAS sustainability with projects such as bike hubs, green rooftops, solar power arrays, sustainable cafes and stormwater management in an age of climate change.

We are looking forward to many more engaging and exciting projects for the future. If you are interested in finding out more about the SIPS program please contact SIPS.utas@utas.edu.au or connect with other students through the [Students for a Sustainable UTAS](#) Facebook page.



SIPS interns and Sustainability staff (South) celebrating after the Semester 2 SIPS presentations.



SIPS interns and Sustainability staff (South) joining PARKING Day in Elizabeth Street.

Staff initiatives across the University through Green Impact

Staff across the University are sharing their actions towards sustainability through the Green Impact program. The current league table continues to be championed by staff on the Cradle Coast Campus through the TUU, TIA and Rural Clinical School teams, however it has been good to hear about the work from staff in the South at IMAS, the Morris Miller Library and the Reach Out! School Engagement team.

Although the closing date for 2019 is fast approaching, with planning underway for next year staff are encouraged to begin thinking about setting goals and targets for 2020.



Find out more about the program on [our webpage](#) and find examples from teams in [our Yammer group](#).

Opportunities for students through Green Impact Auditor Training Day

Students from all disciplines are attending Green Impact Student Auditor Training day on November 21. This training program was originally created by the National Union of Students (NUS) in the UK for university students and is accredited by the [International Society for Sustainability Professionals \(ISSP\)](#).

Students can register for places through Eventbrite for training on Sandy Bay (sold out), Newnham (sold out) and [Cradle Coast Campuses](#), and find more details on the [Students for a Sustainable UTAS](#) Facebook page.

Attendees will receive a certificate from the International Society for Sustainability Professionals and will also benefit through:

- learning about sustainability initiatives and challenges at the University of Tasmania
- gaining skills and knowledge associated with environmental auditing and behaviour change theory
- the opportunity to provide staff with feedback on their sustainability actions
- meeting the Sustainability Team at the University and fellow students with interest in sustainability

What have other students said about the Green Impact Program?

Jess Flint is a SIPS Intern at the Cradle Coast Campus who has been working with two of the Green Impact teams:

It can be overwhelming to deal with large scale problems caused by our lifestyles of consumption from an individual viewpoint. I was interested in Green Impact because it allowed me to make impactful small change to daily routines.

The program promotes actions that we as students and community members can continue to undertake for the rest of our lives and develop the skills to engage others in sustainable lifestyle decisions.

In the program you can meet staff and students across all campuses who are committed to making positive environmental changes; you can learn how these small actions can add up when a collective group takes an interest in sustainability, and you develop an understanding of other people's values, priorities, and skills.

Will Plaister is a SIPS Fellow on Newnham Campus:

[In the Green Impact Program] the scope that is left to the teams means that it's up to them as

to how far they want to take their green impact actions. Some of the efforts in this year's green impact program have been truly inspiring.

A lot of people are genuinely passionate about sustainability and sometimes just need an avenue to express it. I've also learned to never underestimate the power of preparation – specifically in regard to a Green Impact Audit.

I can see the real long-term benefit of Green Impact, to the point where conscious small actions now will hopefully just become second nature in the future.

If you are keen to learn more before the day, you can find webinars on Green Impact through [Australasian Campuses Towards Sustainability](#). The most recent webinar features staff from the University of Tasmania!



SIPS intern Jess undertaking a waste audit with staff from the Sustainability Team and TIA at the Cradle Coast Campus.



Sustainability Manager Corey Peterson learning about sustainability practises at the University of Edinburgh.

Sustainability study trip ✈️

Corey Peterson, Sustainability Manager

My recent study trip (or practitioner sabbatical as I refer to it) to the United Kingdom, Republic of Ireland and the USA to explore the challenges and successes at 14 universities that are excelling at sustainability was one of those quintessential 'experiences of a lifetime'. I also took the opportunity to conduct self-guided tours at 11 more universities (seems to be one in every town!) and have in-depth conversations with colleagues at two major conferences. The basis for my study trip recognised that the exploration and delivery of sustainability in higher education is best done with a comprehensive focus on sectoral and institutional activities in leadership and governance, teaching and learning, research, partnerships and engagement as well as facilities and operations. As evidenced through this study trip, most successful institutions embrace the knowledge that sustainability is everybody's responsibility. So it doesn't matter where you sit in an institution's organisational structure, there is something you can do to help to make that institution more sustainable.

In a nutshell, there are some great things happening in our sector around the world and I am working hard to share my experiences with one and all. My final report (82 pages with appendices) is available on the [UTAS website](#) (Note: If the link doesn't work refresh the page and click again) as well as on the websites from the funding bodies. In October I gave two presentations at the Tertiary Education Management Conference

in Adelaide focusing on i) facilities and operations and ii) integrating sustainability into higher education governance and management. I am also giving two lunchtime presentations for UTAS staff and students (see the calendar of events section) as well as a presentation at the Australasian Campuses Towards Sustainability (ACTS) conference in November.

That's all well and good I can hear you say, but what changes can we expect to see on the ground given the staff time, funding and carbon emissions investment. Well, the experiences will support my new role as the deputy chair of the recently revamped UTAS Sustainability Committee working closely with Professor Margaret Otlowski as the chair and Dr. Carmen Primo Perez as the secretary. We will be supporting the various Executive Deans, Executive Directors, student and staff representatives to take our sustainability activities to the next level. Outcomes will also include improvements in carbon, waste, transport, energy, built and natural environment, procurement, food culture and other operational initiatives. Check out my report, there is a wealth of information and opportunities to step up by emulating or learning from successes presented.

A sincere thank you for this incredible professional opportunity to the Association for Tertiary Education Management (ATEM) and the Tertiary Education Facilities Management Association (TEFMA) for the financial support through the ATEM Ian Chubb Career Development Grant and the

TEFMA Maurie Pawsey Scholarship. Thank you as well to UTAS generally and the ISD and Sustainability team in particular for supporting me throughout the application process and enabling me to be away for two months (was still working via email though!).

And finally, an acknowledgement also needs to be made recognising the 9.2 tCO₂e carbon emissions associated with the travel component of this study trip, consisting of approximately 6.2 tCO₂e for air travel, 1.1 tCO₂e for petrol, 0.3 tCO₂e for train trips and 1.6 tCO₂e for international accommodation.

As the University of Tasmania is a certified carbon neutral organisation through the Australian Government's [Carbon Neutral Program](#), greenhouse gas emissions associated with air travel and accommodation will be offset with Verified Carbon Standard or Gold Standard offsets with some having the added benefit of meeting the [Climate, Community and Biodiversity Standard](#). Details of offsets purchased in previous years are available at www.utas.edu.au/sustainability.

SIPS and I-PREP intern tackles Global Climate Change Week

As if the last week of semester 2 was not busy enough, one Newnham student was even busier that week than most, organising a series of events to celebrate Global Climate Change Week in Launceston.

Originating at the University of Wollongong in 2015, [Global Climate Change Week \(GCCW\)](#) has become an annual event around the world, aiming to bring together scientists, students, academics, policy-makers and the general public together to talk about climate change issues.

This year, Zhi Wen Neoh, a 2nd year Bachelor of Laboratory Medicine student, became involved in GCCW for the first time.

"I applied for an I-PREP internship, which is designed to connect international students with an Australian employer and company as a "taster" of the Australian workplace culture. The IPREP coordinator, Leila Daniels, paired me with the UTAS Sustainability Team based on my skillset. Then, I was introduced to Kim Beasy, Fred Gale and Eve Croeser, and became part of the GCCW organizing committee," says Zhi.

Together with this committee, Zhi organised a daily lunchtime seminar series, inviting staff and student speakers to deliver presentations regarding sustainability and climate change.

"The Sustainability in the Pub event was mostly organized by Fred Gale and Kim Beasy, and marketed externally as the venue is in a pub, Saint John Craft Beer. They invited speakers from different backgrounds to give a casual speech, with the pub setting being the major attraction for people. Chloe McCann, one of the organisers of the Climate Strike in Launceston and also a full-time UTAS student, was invited to give a speech as well, which

added inclusivity and diversity to a topic which we normally associate with scientists and lab coats," says Zhi, "We also had a community panel titled 'Climate Change in Our Backyard', inviting speakers with different backgrounds from Tasmania to give a speech, followed by an open discussion."

What Zhi most enjoyed about GCCW was the sense of camaraderie he enjoyed with the organising committee. "I felt a sense of belonging to the committee even though I was the only person without a title, i.e. doctor or associate professor, and it proved to me that the people behind the title were just human beings as well. Every meeting would be full of joy and laughter, and they have made me feel just like an equal to them," says Zhi.

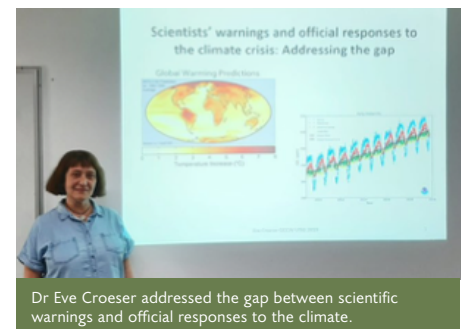
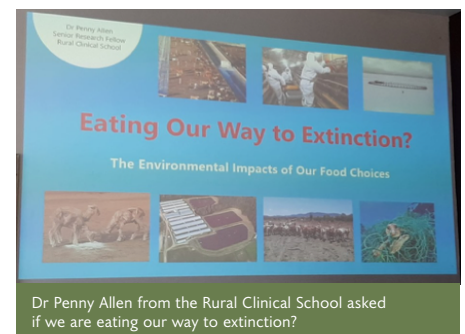
Zhi's call to action to the UTAS community

Through his experience organising the GCCW events in Launceston, Zhi learnt that climate change is posing more of a problem to society than he realised and that his future children would be affected directly. It was a wake-up call, stirring him to further action.

"Climate denialism is very real in the modern world, often in the form of apathy and ignorance. Working with other internal organisations in UTAS representing sustainability has made me realise that the acceptance of the reality of climate change is still not prevalent enough in our community. What we need to do is to spread the awareness on campus to change this way of thinking," Zhi concludes.

How can you be part of the change?

If you are like Zhi and would like to connect with other students and staff interested in making a (climate) change on campus, check out the [Sustainability at UTAS page](#) (staff and students) or [Students for a Sustainable UTAS group](#) (students) on Facebook or contact the UTAS Sustainability team on sustainability@utas.edu.au.



Upcoming Sustainability Events

Green Impact Toolkit closing: Monday 18 November

Sustainability Manager Mr. Corey Peterson presenting his study trip: Tuesday 19 November (Hobart)

Sustainability in the Pub at Shambles Brewery, Hobart for SDG # 14 Life Below Water: Wednesday 20 November 6:45pm

Green Impact student auditor training and team visits: Thursday 21 November

Sustainability Manager Mr. Corey Peterson presenting his study trip: Tuesday 26 November (Launceston)

Sustainability in the Pub at Saint John Craft Beer Bar, Launceston for SDG # 12 Responsible Consumption & Production: Tuesday 26 November 5:30pm

Green Impact awards celebration and Sustainability Reps meeting: Tuesday 17 December