

## Action stations

There are good reasons why approaching the warmer months in the southern hemisphere has the University of Tasmania's global fire ecology expert, Professor David Bowman, 'utterly depressed'. Not least of which is the fact that July 2023 was officially the **hottest month on record**.

Our sustainability actions - big and small - carry more weight as each day goes by and we acknowledge the myriad of seemingly small choices made across our University community that add to the larger, crucial, positive movement towards protecting our planet and its biodiversity.

Below is a snapshot of a few of the most recent sustainability actions around the University of Tasmania.

The student association (TUSA) recently opened the **Food Hub** on Sandy Bay campus to provide free produce for students struggling to afford the basics. Next issue we'll take a look at what sort of impact they've achieved during their first few months of operation, both on our students' food security and on sustainable food systems here in Hobart.

This year's University **Open Days** are taking some mindful steps toward zero waste. Instead of printed flyers, there are QR codes at each booth leading to all the information on that course or program and team members can email specific information packs on request. This constitutes dramatic waste reduction across the Hobart and Launceston events. Attendees also receive UTAS goodies in a certified Fairtrade tote bag.

We've welcomed new worms to the Hobart City Apartments with no fewer than six new worm farms at 42 Melville St. They're a vital element of our edible campus system.

Certified Fairtrade hoodies and t-shirts will soon be available from the **Unistore**, thanks to a project underway by SIPS student, Trisha Striker - a finalist in this year's **Green Gown Awards**.

Our sustainability data specialists have just submitted the University's first barometer report to the **Climate Action Barometer for International Education (CABIE)**, which will add to this large-scale, rolling global benchmark for sustainability actions in our sector. And in the spirit of connecting for impact across the world, University of Tasmania is also a proud new member of the **International Sustainable Campus Network**.

The **UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN)** have excitingly included the University of Tasmania's unique **Green Bonds** program as a case study in their **Net Zero Universities Guide**.

And finally, the University has just been named a top performer internationally in the **AASHE 2023 Sustainable Campus Index**. The SCI reflects innovations, trends and top-performing universities in the **Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS)**. In the SCI, we have also been highlighted as a top performer in impact areas including research, air and climate, coordination and planning. These achievements reflect the work of hundreds of staff across the University whose research, teaching, operations and engagement work contributed to our STARS submission in 2022.



## Super heroes in training

Upskilling the next generation to take on the challenges of our time requires some creativity and the ability to tap into some pretty supernatural powers! A perfect opportunity for super hero training arose back in July, when the **Children's University** held some highly sustainable school holiday activities for local children and their parents at our Cradle Coast campus.



Our bold Sustainability Projects Officer at Cradle Coast, Cathy Walker, took the brave participants on a Climate Action Super Hero quest which involved learning about the Sustainable Development Goals, getting to know 8 excellent **Climate Action Super Heroes** and testing their skills at waste sorting.

The kids loved learning about these unique heroes: Truth Talker, Veggie Vindicator, Recycle Ranger, Green Guide, Fashion Fixer (my personal favourite), Water Wizard, Energy Expert and Fume Fighter. The most popular choice on the day was Energy Expert (though Cathy suspects it was the purple ninja get-up).



Developed by the UN as part of their **SDGs ACT NOW** campaign, the Heroes are on a mission to empower kids around the world to understand the social and ecological challenges we face and to believe that their actions can make a real difference.

These intrepid junior-heroes were rewarded with cool activity sheets and a showbag from **Rethink Waste Tasmania** and started showing their powers before the day was done.



## Built to last

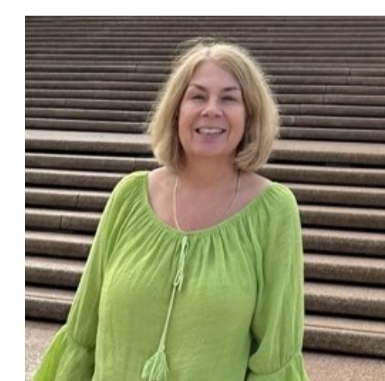
You may recognise this gentleman if you've spent much time around the University's Sandy Bay campus. Andrew Southern, Maintenance Supervisor, has been working here for more than 40 years. Recently, while walking through the Sustainability Team's new southern digs - the beautiful Arts Lecture Theatre - Andrew uncovered the unknown history of one of our prized bits of office furniture.

Andrew noticed the lustrous golden timber boardroom table sourced by our own Cheryl Wickham from another corner of the campus and remarked, 'oh, I made that table!' He pointed to the finger joints and reminisced about the machine he used to create them. The University has had a long history of on-site carpentry and construction for furniture and buildings.

When Andrew started here in 1981 as an apprentice in the workshop - later UniPrint and now Hill St - a team of six carpenters created every piece of wooden furniture needed across the whole University. Painters and electricians were also employed here on-campus and before Andrew's time there were even in-house builders to handle whole new constructions. He tells us extensions were still handled in-house right up until the early 2000's.



The quality of the woodwork ensures that tables such as this one have a long life ahead of them and can continue to be used for many years to come.



## New to the team

Speaking of Cheryl, the Sustainability team has been hugely excited to recently welcome her to our ranks. Cheryl brings years of UTAS experience and knowledge to the team - she's one of those teammates who always knows who's who in the zoo and how everything works!

Her new role is to coordinate the day-to-day operations of the Sustainability team and major projects such as conferences.

'What I love about the role is the diversity. Every day is different, from providing executive support for committees and working groups, coordinating building decanting, working with students and one of my favourites, creating an event, from the smallest morning tea to large scale University wide events such as the end-of-year thank you for staff, and all the logistical challenges which can occur!

Great to have you on board, Cheryl.



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