



STORIES FROM THE TOWER

Edited by
Debra Adelaide,
Paul Ashton &
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in a live project where their work makes a real difference. They give back to the community through the process of learning. They're contributing to these communities, educating people and making their lifestyles sustainable,' says Wearing.

Through his community projects, Wearing

is promoting responsible tourism that is both ecologically and culturally sensitive. He is currently assisting the Papua New Guinean and Australian governments to obtain World Heritage listing for the Kokoda Track.

Izanda Ford — U: (June 2008 pp 8-9)

The Chinese Medicine Clinic

by Mary Garvey

The UTS Chinese Medicine Clinic opened with a bang in 1996. The clinic was first located on Broadway in the Terraces and the opening ceremony took place outside and behind them, near where the Loft is now. After the speeches, the Chinatown Lion Dancers and Drummers kicked off the celebration. A key part of their role is to bring good fortune and chase away evil spirits, and as we all know, evil spirits do not like firecrackers. The Lion, the Drummers and the firecrackers didn't hold back and the effect was deafening. I mean that quite literally. My ears were ringing for the rest of the afternoon, and it wasn't until a few days later that I heard — that I was able to hear — that we nearly killed the dean.

Our generous and courageous dean of Science at that time was Professor Tony Moon. He and another spectator were overcome not just by the noise but the smoke. Professor Moon was able to rescue them both from smoke-induced asthma using the Buteyko method — nothing to do with Chinese medicine but we were all really pleased anyway. It was thanks to people like our dean and Professor Tony Blake (Deputy Vice-Chancellor at the time) that UTS adopted the Chinese medicine bachelor degree course. Professor Blake supported the professionalisation of

Chinese medicine, and the Faculty of Science must have spotted the infallible logic that, to develop any medical and healthcare discipline, an evidence-based approach was the way to go.

The Chinese medicine academic team and postgraduates immediately got going with their research and seeding grants, and some of them could be seen from time to time in the clinic conducting their projects. But the clinic is primarily an educational and health care facility. The clinical training program is a major feature of the Chinese medicine degree at UTS. To that extent, the clinic embodies both the UTS strategic model and the Chinese medical tradition of practice-oriented learning. The Chinese medicine degree lecturers and tutors practise in the clinic on a regular basis. Our clinical sessions are the chief means by which Chinese medicine undergraduates observe and assist professional clinicians, practise their own clinical training, and experience the outcomes and potentials of their learning.

The degree program includes training for Chinese acupuncture, herbal medicine and massage, and all three modalities are run in an integrated setting in the UTS Chinese Medicine Clinic. The first- to third-year students observe and assist their lecturers' acupuncture and herbal clinical sessions. In addition,

David Goodman:

My background is not in the University of Technology. My background is in the kind of university that's just up the road, the kind I usually describe as under-achieving, colonial universities. The kind of subjects I work on are perfectly at home there but they fit better here because a university of technology doesn't just go around saying, 'We're of the real world.' It gets out and gets involved in it. This university tries to make its walls permeable to the outside community. A university like Sydney puts a wall around itself and says, 'We're the top of the tree; you come to us.' It's a world of difference. So, there are different kinds of universities, but they're essentially all about knowledge and understanding.

third-year students conduct their massage internship clinics and fourth-year students run their own acupuncture and herbal internship clinics, which are supervised by Chinese-trained doctors – some of the university's quiet achievers and national treasures. According to our records, since 1998 the clinic has seen over 16 000 clients, aged between one and 94 years, and conducted almost 92 000 treatments.

The clinic is much more than a teaching and research facility. It is a UTS-wide community resource, and an interface between the university and the general public. And it's not just a caring and sharing resource/interface. It represents a nexus of professional knowledge and clinical expertise and has become a focal point for the Chinese medicine profession nationally. This reputation plays out professionally and educationally, and in terms of

breadth of clinical practice. Whilst the majority of clients present with musculo-skeletal, digestive and respiratory problems, the practitioners deal with a wide range of illnesses because some clients elect to try the UTS Chinese acupuncture or herbal medicine clinics as an avenue of last resort.

The clinic models best-practice methods and research that have paralleled some significant socio-political milestones. I refer of course to the national registration of Chinese medical practitioners that took place in July 2012 – a move made possible by, for one thing, the assimilation of practitioner training into several universities in Sydney and Melbourne, and the consequent development of a Chinese medicine research culture in Australia. Sure enough, only by being in the university environment has the profession been able to develop the resources and expertise to contribute to the growing body of scientific evidence that now supports Chinese medical practices.

The growth and success of the UTS Chinese Medicine Clinic over the years parallels other important healthcare changes: private health fund rebates, the employment of Chinese medicine graduates into multimodality medical clinics, and an increasing acceptance of Chinese medicine by the general public. All this has happened in a short time really, but only after about 20 years of tireless work on the part of the late Associate Professor Carole Rogers. Carole developed the courses and ran the private college, Acupuncture Colleges Australia, which preceded our move into the university system. All our achievements since then are a tribute to her vision and dedication to the Chinese medicine profession in Australia.

Mary Garvey is Lecturer in the School of Medical and Molecular Science (Faculty of Science) and a clinician in the UTS Chinese Medicine Clinic

For more information on the UTS Chinese Medicine Clinic, see <http://www.science.uts.edu.au/tcm/about.html>

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UTS Traditional Chinese Medicine Clinic (Courtesy Mary Garvey)