

Saffire's time to sparkle



Saffire's first guests are now experiencing the pure luxury of high-end tourism in the world-class natural setting of Coles Bay. The imposing \$32 million develop-

ment was officially launched at the Australian Tourism Exchange in Adelaide in late May. A media walk-through, as well as an open day for Coles Bay residents, were conducted on 29 May and the resort's fulltime staff of 40-plus began welcoming the first guests during the following week.

Rooms at the resort, overlooking Coles Bay and the Hazards, start at \$1,250 a night, increasing to \$2,250 a night for an executive suite, which includes a private courtyard with plunge pool, complimentary mini-bar and a 120-minute spa treatment. Federal Hotels Corporate Affairs Manager, Brendan Blomeley, said overseas markets, including London, New York and Los Angeles, were showing keen interest.



Federal Hotels had been required, under a 2003 Deed of Agreement with the Crown, to build a premium resort at Coles Bay as one of the conditions for receiving exclusive rights to operate Tasmania's 3,680 licensed poker machines until 2018.



The resort is being run by General Manager, Matt Casey, who previously operated the Federal Group's international award-winning Henry Jones Art Hotel in Hobart.

Describing Saffire as the Jewel of Tasmania, its website says: "Saffire is a luxury coastal sanctuary on Tasmania's East Coast, capturing the essence of this unique



region and connecting with its environment to generate an authentic, enriching, rejuvenating and uplifting experience. Distinct in its design, exclusive in its features and set apart by its approach to tailored, one-on-one experiences and service, Saffire's approach is not constrained by traditional five-star ratings and standards, but instead sets a bold new direction for holidays and accommodation in Australia."

For further information: www.saffire-freycinet.com.au

Tassie vodka is lifting spirits

Tasmanian vodka is being exported to Russia and has won a gold medal at the World Spirits Competition in San Francisco. Following stellar international achievements by Tasmanian single-malt whisky, the successes of Strait



Vodka and 666 Pure Tasmanian Vodka are enough to make a loyal Tasmanian quite light-headed.

Strait Vodka is the flagship product of Strait Brands which operates the Tamar Distillery at Beauty Point. Its vodka is produced by blending fine Australian wheat grain spirit with Tasmanian spring water drawn from the Permian Springs at nearby Yorktown. The water is naturally filtered through rock laid down during the last Ice Age. Strait Brands adds charcoal filtering and ozone treatment.

The Russians have approved the Tasmanian approach to their national tippie and are importing a minimum of 50,000 litres of Strait Vodka a year.

Strait Brands is progressively introducing a range of fruit and herb vodkas using Tasmania's renowned horticultural products.

Vodka was chosen as the flagship Strait brand because of its capacity to be used as the base for other spirits and liqueurs. Strait Dry Gin (like the vodka, 40 per cent alcohol by volume) has become another significant brand within the portfolio, winning a bronze medal at the International Wine and Spirits Competition in London.

The Strait range now includes Strait Vodka, unflavoured or with hibiscus/vanilla; Strait Dry Gin, plain or with hibiscus/guava or hibiscus/pineapple, Strait Tasmanian Native Pepperberry Vodka with hibiscus and Strait Sloe Gin (22% alcohol by volume).

Noted Melbourne restaurateur Dean Lucas is President/CEO of Burnie's Pure Distillery Company. Following the stunning success of his 666 Pure Tasmanian Vodka in San Francisco in April, the product had a gala Australian launch at his Spice Market restaurant in Melbourne in May.



The 666 Pure Tasmanian Vodka had outscored an international field of 115 vodkas to take the coveted medal and was then launched globally in Los Angeles. The Tasmanian spirit is now stocked in some of L.A.'s leading bars, clubs and restaurants, including Hyde, M16, Katsuya and IVX.

Lucas said: "It is fantastic that a 100 per cent Australian owned and produced vodka has been recognised as one of the best in the world. 666 Pure Tasmanian Vodka is made from using the world's purest rain water from Tasmania's Cape Grim and distilling Tasmanian barley in a triple copper pot distillation process including charcoal filtering.

"I always believed that if Australia could produce some of the best wines and beers in the world, then why not a vodka," Lucas said. "After three years in development it is gratifying to see our hard work rewarded. We are off to a great start."

Both Tasmanian vodkas exhibit the same clean and fresh taste as the State's single malt whiskeys.

Forest's future on the line

The Tasmanian forestry industry is in unprecedented crisis, forcing foresters and some conservationists to call a cease-fire in their decades-long, community-dividing confrontation. The underlying problem is the collapse of international demand for woodchips from mixed native forest, blamed by one side on Green proselytizing and by the other on inherent poor product quality and a failure by the industry to move towards Forest Stewardship Council accreditation. A step was taken towards a partial solution of the woodchip issue in May when Japanese paper-makers announced they would accept Tasmanian woodchips supplied by Gunns Ltd from areas not regarded by the Forest Stewardship Council as of "high conservation value."



The forest crisis has manifested itself in a number of ways:

- Tasmanian woodchip exports falling 30 per cent despite a recent 4 per cent increase in global demand and a recovery of exports from other Australian States;
- Gunns Ltd announcing a 98 per cent half-yearly profit slump in February, suffering a severe loss of value on the share market and moving into uncharted territory following the resignation of long-serving Chairman, John Gay;
- Many contractors facing severe financial pressure because of Gunns' sharply reduced woodchip export activity;
- Gunns putting its 28,000ha Tasmanian native forest estate on the market;
- Forestry Tasmania's disclosure that it is poised to incur its first operational loss since it was corporatised in 1994.

- The placing of Launceston-based managed investment scheme operator, Forest Enterprises Australia Ltd, in voluntary administration. The company runs a \$72 million timber mill at Bell Bay and owns 72,000ha of plantations in Tasmania, northern NSW and south-east Queensland.

The global financial crisis and the highly priced Australian dollar have quickened the industry's slide towards the brink, but Tasmania's unprecedented political situation, with two Tasmanian Green MPs in a Labor Cabinet, offers a rare opportunity for a solution. Indeed, the handling of this issue could be critical to public perceptions of the whole power-sharing concept.

The Premier, David Bartlett, said: "We need to get out of the trenches and say 'This is what we are going to do to get out of this mess'. We are never going to open new markets, re-establish markets or build on the markets we already have unless we have some fresh thinking and new ideas."

The Leader of the Tasmanian Greens and Minister for Climate Change, Nick McKim, told *The Mercury*: "I think we can achieve a meaningful outcome here: more jobs in the timber industry - that's the goal ... I'm not going to make any demands of this process. We all need to acknowledge the stress the timber industry, workers and their families are under. We need to understand the pain these people are in."

A series of meetings of industry leaders has been held in Melbourne and Hobart to try to chart a way forward. The Tasmanian Government has pledged \$3.6 million to help some of the 1,000 timber workers and forest contractors who have lost jobs or woodchip-based income during the past nine months. The money is on top of \$1.8 million committed during the State election campaign to cover wage bills, interest charges and equipment debt repayments.

The Minister for Resources, Bryan Green, and Mr McKim have been given the task of proposing names for a new forestry/conservationist round-table group. The first disagreement arose when Rob Woolley of the Forests and Forest Industries Council was nominated to chair the meeting. This idea was firmly rejected by environmentalists, who were having problems of their own reaching agreement on their representatives.

A great deal of political goodwill will be needed even to get a meeting started. The Chairman of the Australian Forest Contractors Association, Colin McCulloch, concurred that any solution would have to involve conservation groups. "The view is there needs to be a change and that does involve the Australian Conservation Foundation, the Wilderness Society and the World Wildlife Fund. We believe we have a lot to offer, particularly in the area of climate change and carbon abatement. There is a lot of common ground. The industry and opponents together have to find the best values to take the industry forward."

The Director of Environment Tasmania, Phill Pullinger, welcomed the prospect of constructive discussions. "We are very hopeful we can get to a place where the industry and environmental groups come to an agreed pathway forward," Dr Pullinger told *The Mercury*. "Essentially, conflict is an untenable situation."

While the changed political dynamic is encouraging, some observers have noted that the personalities seeking a solution are the same individuals who have presided over decades of community division. It may be time to act on Mr Bartlett's call for fresh thinking and move right outside that square.

Footnote: Gunns Ltd began selling its 28,000ha of native forest in May. Agents Harcourts Rural Tasmania advertised 106 separate blocks averaging 264ha each. The smallest block is 80ha. Uses suggested for the blocks included forestry, eco-tourism, conservation, grazing, development and hunting. Many of the blocks have lake or river frontages.

Posties weigh up electric 3-wheeler

An electrically powered, three-wheeler bike developed by a Tasmanian inventor is under consideration by Australia Post, the nation's biggest motor-bike buyer.



Simon Williams, the founder of Concrete Dreams, spent a year designing the silent and energy-efficient conveyance, which has greater stability than the four-stroke motorbikes used at present. It is capable of reversing, going off-road and carrying larger loads. Australia Post has begun a three-year national trial and the tricycle has also gained the attention of the world's oldest postal service, Britain's Royal Mail. It has potential in other industrial applications and for police patrolling and military operations.

Mr Williams said he hoped his invention would make life easier for posties, not only in Australia but around the world. It was shown at Design Island, the State's annual showcase for Tasmania's designers, in May. Mr Williams told *The Mercury* the tricycle would be faster and capable of travelling longer distances than its petrol-powered predecessors. "It includes technologies like regenerative braking, battery management and a reverse gear," he said.

Mr Williams took a job as a postie for 18 months to ensure he had first-hand experience on which to base the development of his design. The tricycle was featured on the ABC's *New Inventors* program on June 2. One of the show's judges, Bernie Hobbs, said: "Electric vehicles are the future, and an all-terrain one with this carrying capacity has got grunt, good looks and green power in its favour. It also costs a fraction of my electric car."

Australia Post has been testing new bike options since 2008.

Concrete Dreams was among eight innovative Tasmanian businesses to graduate in May from the State Government's 10-week Market Ready Commercialisation Program. The Premier, David Bartlett, said: "The innovations, which include a sheep embryo breeding program suitable for Australian conditions, unique food produce; an eLearning system and an award-winning gourmet knife, all have potential to make a positive impact on our lives. Innovation is not just confined to the science and technology field. Innovative products, services and processes are important in all industry sectors and fields."

Market Ready has assisted more than 275 Tasmanian businesses and has generated more than \$2.5 million in product sales.

The seven businesses that graduated with Concrete Dreams were:

Anita & Luke Dineen	Minor Marvels	Award winning Glide Gourmet Knife
Diane Rae	Grandvewe Cheeses	Grandvewe dairy-sheep embryo-breeding program
Christine Green & Rebecca Bovell	Chrissy Green	Fresh salads and fully prepared meals packaged for the convenience food market
Andy Jackman	St Clair Farms	Gourmet cheese and milk products
James Burrows & Shelley Cuthbert	SConsulting	eLearning System: online training solutions for financial services organisations
Jenny & Gennaro Mazzella	Tasmadia	Premium preserves and fine food products
Robert Higgins	Brighton Council	Common services provision for local government

Vintage proves a talent magnet

By Graeme Phillips

Even before it delivered a new batch of wines for tasting, vintage 2010 had given Tasmania a new face to head up the peak wine industry body; a youthful new wine-making couple; and an impressive assembly of wine professionals from around the world eager to gain cool-climate experience.



Sheralee Davies has moved from heading a PR team at the world's largest wine company to a job in the nation's smallest wine region.

In the position of Chief Executive Officer of Wine Industry Tasmania for little more than a month, she's already bubbling with ideas and enthusiasm. "I see it as moving down from a global scale of operations to moving up in terms of Tasmania's pure premium focus. For me it's a very positive, progressive step and I'm caught by the excitement of the challenges and the potential I see ahead."

The achievements behind her are impressive enough - being part of the first international Wine Australia event in Sydney in 1996 and managing the event in 2004 and 2006 while serving seven years as the head of PR and Membership at the Winemakers Federation. Davies was then tapped on the shoulder by Hardy's (now Constellation Australia), where she played a global role in marketing, branding, brand building and corporate strategy. She rates the position as a really positive experience.

"The years running Wine Australia and with Constellation were a brilliant education for me; not only for the influential national and international contacts I worked with every day, but [I learned] the strategic importance of setting goals and measuring outcomes."

These are attributes that can only be positive for Tasmania as the industry moves from a developmental stage to one that will be more marketing focussed.

Youthful winemakers Gilli and Paul Lipscombe have also committed to Tasmania. They have recently moved from the Margaret River wine region and are in the process of buying a vineyard block in the Huon. When I met them, they were up to their knees in grapes and fermenting wines towards the end of vintage at Winemaking Tasmania in Cambridge. With vintages under their belts in Margaret River, Oregon and New Zealand, they say they chose to make their future here because of Tasmania's cool-climate prospects.

"Tasmania has a huge, untapped potential," they said. "And we particularly love the challenge of working with the heart-break grape, pinot noir, and with making pure, cool-climate riesling."

Laurel Farris and Yannick Andrieux are winemakers from Italy and France, respectively. Farris has vintages in Sicily, Lombardy, the Veneto and California's Napa Valley on her CV. Andrieux - the fifth-generation of a wine-making family from the Dordogne - has experience in Bordeaux and Chateauneuf du Pape.

Both are working vintage at Winemaking Tasmania after time in the Yarra Valley and at Marlborough in New Zealand. They say they're here to learn new wine-making techniques, particularly in small-batch wine-making.

Also getting her hands wine-stained at Winemaking Tasmania, is Dr Freda Hanskens who has a PhD in plant physiology and is studying for a Masters in wine-making and viticulture through Melbourne University. She and her husband plan to buy a property on the East Coast and plant a vineyard specifically to produce sparkling wines.

Hobart-raised Sally Westbrook always planned to study agricultural science - until, she said, she got hooked on wine. So it was viticulture and wine-making at Adelaide University instead. Before graduating, she did a vintage at Kangarilla Road in McLaren Vale and in 2008 took her new qualifications to Stag's Leap, one of California's most highly regarded wineries. Now assisting winemakers Alain Rousseau and Nick Glaetzer at Frogmore Creek, she sees Tasmania as both her home and her future.

Daniel Daum is doing vintage at Frogmore Creek as part of a work experience requirement of his wine-making course at Geisenheim, Germany, one of the leading teaching and wine research institutions in the world. With over 100 years of family wine-making behind him, he says he chose Tasmania because of its climatic similarity to his German home region of Nahe.

Also at Frogmore Creek is Marissa Gagliardi, who grew up in Arizona, started work in restaurants, moved to Sonoma in California and fell in love - with wine. She now has a Level 2 qualification from the Court of Master Sommeliers and is extending her love affair by getting among the fermenting reds at Frogmore Creek.

Queenslander Rene Christensen has a BSc (Oenology) from Curtin University in Western Australia and worked at Yarra Burn, Quartz Reef in New Zealand and Chateau St. Michelle in Washington State, before her love of cool-climate wines and the Tasmanian styles of sparkling and pinot wines brought her to Moorilla in February. Following vintage here, she's off to the famed Dr Loosen's winery in Germany's Mosel Valley.

Obviously, it's a great time for young people interested in wine and travel.

Marinova develops swine flu blocker



Innovative Tasmanian business, Marinova, has used an extract from the introduced seaweed undaria to develop a natural preventative treatment for swine flu. Announcing the breakthrough in May, Marinova researcher Helen Fitton said it was a significant step towards protecting people around the world against swine flu. "With swine flu already becoming resistant to some other antiviral agents, we believe that the extract - known as Maritech 926 - offers a potent, natural alternative which supports the immune system against viral attacks."

The Cambridge-based biotechnology company has been researching fucoidans, sugar-based compounds extracted from undaria, for nearly eight years. Testing under contract by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases in the United States over the past nine months has confirmed that Maritech 926 can stop the H1N1 virus, the cause of potentially fatal swine flu, from entering human cells.

Marinova has filed a patent for Maritech 926 which is stable, water soluble and has an extended shelf life, making it suitable for inclusion in a wide range of delivery systems, including nasal sprays and hand wash.

It takes about 200kg of undaria seaweed, harvested near Triabunna, and the application of highly sophisticated laboratory techniques to produce 1kg of the valuable powder.

Marinova's Managing Director, Paul Garrott, said the environmentally sustainable product had immediate commercial potential. He expects pharmaceutical companies to take deliveries soon to begin human trials that would precede large-scale manufacture.

"It is ready to go. The commercial potential is enormous in nutritional supplements, hand washes and nasal delivery products which target the spread and prevention of viral conditions," Mr Garrott said. "We believe that this is the only natural certified-organic substance that has this [level of capacity] to inhibit swine flu. It is not a substitute for the swine-flu vaccination, rather it is a first defence against swine flu."

"It is conceivable that there could be a product on the market within months."

Dr Fitton said people who wanted to use completely natural products were a growing section of the health market. She said only millionths of a gram was needed to effectively inhibit H1N1.

In nature, the raw compound protects undaria from marine toxins and pathogens and offers similar protection against the type of viruses that affect human cells. "It has also shown very good antiviral activities against a range of influenza strains, HIV and herpes," Dr Fitton said.

ICT achiever joins Brand Tasmania Council

Darren Alexander, the founder and CEO of Autech Software & Design, has joined the Brand Tasmania Council, representing the Information & Communications Technology sector.



Autech was judged Australia's Most Innovative Company at G'Day USA in 2007. It produces colour-visualisation applications and e-tools designed to assist clients to provide better services to customers in the areas of colour and design. Client industries include paint, building, home furnishings and fashion. Autech has created world-first website designs and CMS (content management systems). The company, which has won many innovation awards, exports to more than 50 clients in 20 countries and produces software in four languages.

Mr Alexander is also Chair of the Small Business Committee of the Tasmanian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, a member of the Tasmania ICT Committee and Chair of the Tasmanian Breast Cancer Fundraising Committee. He was the driving force behind northern Tasmania's 5 Days of Innovation Festival in May.

Mr Alexander will attend his first Brand Tasmania Council meeting in Hobart on 16 June.

Cyclists shine in Giro d'Italia

Tasmanian road cyclists Richie Porte, 25, and Matthew Goss, 23, have broken through to the elite level of their sport with outstanding performances in the *Giro d'Italia* - rated second in prestige to the *Tour de France*.

Porte, a former swimmer and triathlete from Hadspen, finished seventh overall in a field of 198 top professionals after wearing the leader's pink jersey for three stages in the middle of the grueling 25-day, 3,485km race. Porte became the first Tasmania to lead a major touring race, only two days after Goss had landed the State's biggest success in the sport in nearly 30 years by winning the ninth of 23 stages.

While Goss slipped from prominence, Porte battled gamely through the mountainous final stages of the classic to finish two places behind fellow Australian Cadel Evans. Porte's unexpected success earned him the white jersey as the Best Young Rider.

Italy's Ivan Basso, recently returned to racing from a drug-related 18-month suspension, won his second Giro d'Italia. Evans won the Points category and fellow Australian Matthew Lloyd won the Mountain category.

Nant launches first single malt

The Nant Distillery at Bothwell will release its first single-malt whisky next month. Matured firstly in 20-litre French oak casks formerly used for port and then in American Oak ex-sherry casks, the whisky has been described by the Malt Whisky Society of Australia as "a very creditable and classy start."

The First Release Single Malt will be launched at an evening of matched food, whisky and wine on 3 July 2010 in the distillery's award-winning Atrium Lounge & Whisky Bar at the Nant Distillery. Virtuosi Tasmania will entertain guests. The Nant Distillery is housed in a meticulously restored 1823 convict-built sandstone flour mill. Further information: www.nantdistillery.com.au

Demand strong for premium seafood

Demand for Tasmanian aquaculture produce was strong and growing, delegates were told at the Australasian Aquaculture 2010 conference in Hobart in May. Tassal's Chief Executive, Mark Ryan, said: "The domestic market is fantastic. It's been growing at 10 to 12 per cent in the last three years ... We've had a warm summer but that's enabled us to use the supply-and-demand curve to increase pricing."

Petuna Seafoods' General Manager Sales and Logistics, Tim Hess, said the unusually warm weather had cut more than 20 per cent from the company's ocean trout production. Around 800 people from 40 countries attended the three-day conference.

Gunns sells its Mitre 10 chain

Gunns Ltd has sold its chain of Mitre 10 stores in Tasmania to John Danks and Sons, a hardware joint venture between Woolworths and Lowe's. The \$40 million deal gives Woolworths an opportunity to compete in the State's hardware sector with Bunnings Warehouse, which is in the same Wesfarmers stable as Coles, Target, Kmart and Officeworks. Gunns Chief Executive Officer, Greg L'Estrange, said: "Gunns has divested a non-core business to a group that is a world-class retailer and with whom we plan to have a long-term relationship as a timber supplier."

Seven medals for Workskills team

A 23-strong team of Tasmanian apprentices and vocational trainees collected one gold, three silver and three bronze medals at the WorldSkills Australia National Competition in Brisbane in May. Halina Kaufman, of Joyce Jewellers in Burnie, won gold in the jewellery section. Ben Barratt from the Skills Institute in Hobart (bricklaying), Xavier McKinnar from the Skills Institute in Devonport (sheetmetal work) and Anthony Graham from Launceston College (VET in Schools food and beverage) were each awarded a silver medal. Brad Johnson from the Skills Institute in Hobart (automotive mechanics), Jai Maluga from the Skills Institute in Launceston (cabinet-making) and Josh Maass from Rosny College (VET in Schools automotive services) won bronze medals.

Platypus disease is waning

A deadly fungal disease threatening Tasmania's platypus population is on the wane. Mucormycosis infection rates, estimated at 30 per cent in the mid-1990s, have declined to 7 per cent according to a Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment project team. Spokesman Nick Gust said there were now tens of thousands of platypuses and most appeared to be in good health. "Platypuses are much more plentiful than a lot of people realise," he said. "We actually found one in the Hobart Rivulet near the Royal Hobart Hospital a couple of weeks ago, so it was right in the heart of the CBD."

Austal is weighing anchor

Shipbuilder Austal is to close its Margate shipyard in September, resulting in the loss of 116 local jobs, including 27 apprenticeships. In a statement to the Australian Securities Exchange, the West Australia-based company blamed reduced demand for its smaller vessels. "Based on Austal's current assessment of the global market, the forecast demand for smaller passenger ferries and small patrol boats can be fully serviced out of our Henderson facilities in Western Australia," Director, Sales and Australian Operations, Andrew Bellamy, said. The company took over the Margate yard from North West Bay Ships in February, 2007.

Festival to feature a Complaints Choir

The 2010 Festival of Voices will feature guest artists from the US and New Zealand alongside local performers and choirs, and will introduce new events, including a Complaints Choir. Conductor Kavisha Mazzella will work with choir members to transform their day-to-day gripes and grievances into light-hearted songs. The Complaints Choir will complement other popular events, including the Salamanca Bonfire and Big Sing. The Festival of Voices runs from July 7 to 11. More information: www.festivalofvoices.com.

Cradle Coast offers arts residency

The Cradle Coast campus of UTAS is seeking nomination for a new, fully funded north-west arts residency. The 28-day residency to the tune of \$5,000 is open to Tasmanian, interstate and international artists to spend time in the north-west, interpreting the region through their preferred choice of arts practice. Applications for the 2011 residency opened on 1 June and further information is available from Nicki Fletcher at Nicki.Fletcher@utas.edu.au

Fahey confirms his real tennis greatness

Tasmanian Robert Fahey clarified his position as the greatest real (or 'royal') tennis player in history by winning his 10th world championship in May. The 42-year-old, who learnt the arcane game at the Davey Street courts in Hobart, has won 47 other titles, including 10 French, 10 Australian, nine British and eight US opens. He has played professionally for 15 years in the indoor game that dates back to 12th century France and was the forerunner of both tennis and squash.

Jobs continue to edge upwards

More than 2,700 new jobs were created in Tasmania over the three months to 30 April, according to Australian Bureau of Statistics figures. Employment growth of 0.4 percent in April - 900 jobs - was accompanied by a 0.3 per cent increase in the labour force participation rate. As a result, the trend unemployment rate increased by 0.1 per cent to 5.9 per cent, compared to an Australian average of 5.4 pc.

Tapestries on show at the Mill

The Mill Providore & Gallery in Launceston opened an exhibition of Contemporary Artists' Tapestries from the Victorian Tapestry Workshop on 30 May. The gallery is collocated in Bridge Street with Stillwater River Café and Restaurant, which collected the Tasmanian Hospitality Association's 2010 award as the State's Best Contemporary Australian Restaurant.

Awards for two travel experiences

Maria Island Walk and the Port Arthur Historic Site were named among Australia's best travel experiences at the annual *Australian Gourmet Traveller* Travel Awards in Sydney in May. A panel of travel industry heavyweights named Port Arthur the Best Australian Heritage Experience, while the Maria Island Walk was voted Best Eco Adventure in the Readers' Choice Awards.

Hydro Consulting cuts jobs

Hydro Consulting shed eight jobs from its Cambridge headquarters in May, blaming a cyclical downturn in its business sector. The business, which employs 350 people in Cambridge, Melbourne, Brisbane, Adelaide and Indian cities, has not ruled out further job losses.

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