

# MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

DATE: TUESDAY 29 NOVEMBER 2011

ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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## Mawson 100 years on: how things have changed

The second of December 2011 marks the centenary of the sailing of Dr (later Sir) Douglas Mawson from Hobart to establish his headquarters at Commonwealth Bay in Antarctica in the Australasian Antarctic Expedition.

The Antarctic Centennial Year (ACY) has been launched to coordinate activities to commemorate the occasion.

The Royal Society of Tasmania is holding a symposium - *Mawson 100 years on: how things have changed* - as part of the celebrations.

Professor Patrick Quilty, (Honorary Research Associate in the UTAS School of Earth Sciences and Institute of Marine and Antarctic Studies, and former President of the Royal Society), said the symposium topics are diverse and in-depth.

“Topics will cover the people, modern analysis and use of data and samples from the Australasian Antarctic Expedition, the legacy of the expedition, Macquarie Island (part of Tasmania), changes in medical practice, to mention a few.

“A highlight is the release of a new geological map of Cape Denison, made available by Geoscience Australia in Canberra.”

Prof Quilty said the Royal Society of Tasmania has a strong interest in taking science to a broader audience than just the scientific community.

“Mawson actually spoke to the Royal Society of Tasmania before he sailed in 1911, using his experiences with Shackleton as the theme,” he said.

“The Society also regularly publishes the results of Antarctic and sub-Antarctic research and also regularly has Antarctic/sub-Antarctic themes to its monthly meetings.”

### Media notes:

- The Governor of Tasmania, His Excellency the Honourable Peter Underwood AC, will open the meeting at 9.15 am on 30 November 2011.
- Members of the public are welcome to attend the symposium but will have to pay the registration fee.

- Most talks are accompanied by powerpoint presentations.
- The best times for interviews are during the morning and afternoon teas. (Program attached.)
- Many of the speakers are retired specialists and may not have formal institutional links. Those who are UTAS are marked on the program.

**For more information, visit <http://www.rst.org.au/education.html>**

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