

Media Release

Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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Save the Tasmanian Devil Appeal grants celebrated at Agfest

Community support has allowed the Save the Tasmanian Devil Appeal to award \$424,000 in Devil Grants and Scholarships in the latest funding round.

This allocation included seven Dr Eric Guiler Research Grants, two Tasmanian Devil Honours Scholarships, one Tasmanian Devil Elite Research Top-Up Scholarship and funding towards the [devil vaccine research](#) being conducted at the University of Tasmania's Menzies Institute for Medical Research.

These grants represent support to significant, world-class research and management programs and are collaborations between the Tasmanian Government, the University of Tasmania and other leading research institutions.

Of particular note are the two young honours students funded this year, Jenna Kingi and Chrissie Ong who will both be working on vaccine research under the auspices of Professor Greg Woods and his team at Menzies.

Their Honours Scholarships were made possible by funds provided by the Tall Foundation and Tasmanian Alkaloids and the Devil Appeal is extraordinarily grateful for their ongoing support.

Since 2005, the Devil Appeal has distributed the funds its raises through a combination of public donations and corporate support.

Rebecca Cuthill, Manager of the Save the Tasmanian Devil Appeal said: "We are really pleased to be able to offer these Grants and contribute to the diverse range of projects being undertaken for our Tassie devil.

"The applicants were, once again, of an incredibly high standard and a great indication of the quality of the research being done for our iconic animal. These projects offer great hopes that we really may be able to secure their future."

The projects supported into 2016 and beyond include:

- Research to understand the evolutionary adaptations of Tasmanian devils and DFTD;

- Identification of early diagnosis of DFTD;
- Implementation of a genetic diagnostic test for DFTD;
- Refinement and improvement of the DFTD vaccine.

“Of course none of these projects would be undertaken if we did not continue to receive incredible community support for the cause. The funds we receive really make a significant difference,” Ms Cuthill said.

“With a vision to create a single vaccine that will give Tasmanian devils lifelong protection from DFTD we have a real challenge ahead to raise the funds required for this research.

“However I am hopeful that with the success we are seeing with the vaccine trials in lab and in the wild our support base will continue to thrive and grow.”

Full details on the successful applicants can be found here: [Grants and Scholarship allocations](#)

Jenna Kingi and Chrissie Ong will both be manning the Save the Tasmanian Devil Appeal stand at Agfest tomorrow (Saturday, 7 May 2016). The stand can be found within the University of Tasmania tent on site 404 along 4th Avenue.

For more information, contact Rebecca Cuthill on 0408 012 048.

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