

MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

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ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors



New Vice-Chancellor starts at UTAS

The University of Tasmania has welcomed its new Vice-Chancellor Professor Peter Rathjen.

UTAS Chancellor, Damian Bugg, said Prof Rathjen was an exciting appointment for the university and the Council was very much looking forward to working with him over at least the next five years.

“We are very fortunate to have attracted a university leader who has such a strong background in the tertiary sector and who is also a leading researcher in his own right,” Mr Bugg said.

Prof Rathjen said he intends to make meeting University staff and students, as well as University Council members, key political representatives, and business and community leaders and groups, a priority.

“I am looking forward to meeting as many people as I can and adding to what I know about the University and Tasmania,” Prof Rathjen said.

“I can already appreciate that the University has a central place in the Tasmanian community and I will be working to strengthen those already strong links.”

Prof Rathjen, formerly the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) at the University of Melbourne, was appointed Vice-Chancellor by the University Council after an extensive search both nationally and internationally.

Mr Bugg also thanked Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor David Rich, who has been Acting Vice-Chancellor since the beginning of this year.

“I believe that Peter will be leading a very strong senior management group for the University, with excellent appointments in recent times adding to the skills and expertise of the already established team. This new team will work with the University Council to shape the University’s future,” he said.

Prof Rathjen, a Rhodes Scholar, is a biochemist who has specialised in embryonic stem cell research. With his wife Dr Joy Rathjen, Prof Rathjen established an internationally recognised research program into stem cell biology and stem cell therapies.

Prof Rathjen is an Honorary Visiting Professor at his alma mater, the University of Adelaide; is the Patron of the Australian Institute of Political Science: Tall Poppies Campaign, and was the winner of the inaugural [Victorian] Premier’s Science Excellence Award in the category of Research Leadership in 2005.

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