

MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

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ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors



ARC funding boost for UTAS research

The University of Tasmania has attracted more than \$12.5 million in federal research grants in the 2013 Australian Research Council (ARC) grants round.

UTAS Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) Professor Paddy Nixon congratulated the researchers awarded funding.

“This exceptional performance by our research staff cements UTAS’ position as a real contender in the research community nationally and internationally.

“I know the UTAS community joins me when I say we are looking forward to continuing to innovate and excel with the research conducted here.”

The grants represent a consolidation of the university’s steady growth in attracting research funding. The five Discovery Early Career Researcher Awards are the most UTAS has ever received and indicate the strong research talent coming through the university.

UTAS was awarded five of the high-status Future Fellowships worth around \$4m over five years, with individual projects gaining \$700,000-\$870,000 in areas such as oceanography and analytical chemistry.

The university gained funding for 13 Discovery Proposal projects, each gaining \$200,000-\$400,000 over three years for subjects as diverse as sex allocation in mammals and genome law.

The Discovery Early Career Researcher Awards averaged \$390,000 each over three years and the university also attracted a Linkage Infrastructure, Equipment and Facilities grant of \$380,000 to develop a digital transmission electron microscope to be used by biological researchers.

The strong themes apparent in this funding round are climate and ecology, and food production:

- Drought ecology in plants by a team led by Dr Timothy Brodribb (\$348,000);
- Oceans’ effects on climate – Dr Andrew Bowie \$869,625; Dr Catia Domingues (\$709,920); Dr Guy Williams) \$755,320); Dr Andreas Klocker (\$394,585).
- Eucalypt genetics by Associate Professor Rene Valillancourt and Professor Bradley Potts (\$318,000).

- Growing legumes (worth \$1b to Aust economy) by a team led by Professor James Reid (\$436,000);
- The limits of seafood production by a team led by Professor Reginald Watson (\$223,000);
- Stomatal function in seed plants by Dr Scott McAdam (\$394,000).

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