Welcome Home Week program will bristle with the spirit of contest and competition

The inaugural Welcome Home Week, which starts Friday, will include a strong focus on sport and other contests, including a north-versus-south rowing race held for the first time in more than a decade.

The Vice-Chancellor’s Challenge will pit men’s and women’s crews from the Northern Varsity Rowing Club (Launceston) and Tasmania University Boat Club (Hobart) over a gruelling, five-kilometre course.

The challenge sprang spontaneously as a result of Welcome Home Week when Northern Varsity posted an open challenge to the south online.

Welcome Home Week is a key part of celebrations for the University’s milestone 125th year. It will feature a packed program cultural events, public talks and community celebrations.

University Executive Director (Advancement) Young Dawkins said the rowing challenge was one of a number of contests with historic roots.

“Universities are by their nature steeped in history and are defined by not just the contest of ideas and intellect,” Mr Dawkins said. “Societies and sporting groups are an intrinsic part of the fabric of these institutions and the University of Tasmania is a fine example of this.

“It is terribly exciting that Welcome Home Week – designed to allow alumni to reconnect and celebrate their ties with the University – has inspired our clubs and societies to play an active part.”

Other sporting events during the week include:

- TUU Rugby Union Football Club Heritage Game from 10.30am-3pm, August 29, University Rugby Ground, Grace Street, Sandy Bay. University Rugby take on traditional rivals Taroona.
- Welcome Home Week Big Game – TUFC Rainbows v Hutchins Old Boys FC, 11.30-5pm, August 29, Queenborough Oval, Lambert Avenue, Sandy Bay. Reserves from 11.30, seniors from 2pm.
- University Premier League Hockey Club matches for Welcome Home Week, from 1pm on August 29 at Tasmania Hockey Centre.
• Welcome Home to TUU Soccer Club Day, from 10.30am on August 30 at Oldina Grove Soccer Grounds (1, 2 and 3), Mt Nelson. Details

• Welcome Home Week Highland Games, 10am-4pm, University Rugby Ground, Grace Street, Sandy Bay. A full range of traditional events including throwing, sprint, jumps and headlined by the toughest of them all, the caber toss.

• AMC Sailing Club 125th sailing festival, September 3-6, Sandy Bay, Hobart.

• Vice-Chancellor’s Challenge Race, 10am-12.30pm, September 5.

For a full program of Welcome home Week Events:
http://www.utas.edu.au/alumni/welcome-home-week

Media contacts for the Vice-Chancellor’s Challenge:

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