

Media Release

Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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North-West students get BIG insight from Chief Economist

Students in Tasmania's North-West will this week have an opportunity to get "Up Close and BIG" with one of Australia's leading economists Ivan Colhoun, the Chief Economist for Markets at the National Australia Bank.

Mr Colhoun will participate in a Q&A being held at the University of Tasmania's Cradle Coast Campus tomorrow (**Thursday, 18 February**), involving students from the region's high schools and colleges.

With the support of the University, the event has been organised by community group BIG, a coalition of local businesses and educational representatives, which has a particular focus on helping young people value the importance and role of education.

The event is a rare opportunity for students with an interest in business, economics, and maths to participate in an open discussion with Mr Colhoun, and is aimed at giving them an important insight into his career, as well as advice to assist them pursue further study in these areas.

Mr Colhoun grew up in Hobart and is a University of Tasmania graduate who received a Bachelor of Economics with Honours. He has had a notable career to date with previous roles including Chief Economist and Head of Global Markets Research for Australia/New Zealand at Deutsche Bank, Chief Economist at Qantas, and most recently Chief Economist for Australia at ANZ Bank.

Pro-Vice Chancellor (Community, Partnerships and Regional Development) Professor Janelle Allison said his visit to the University of Tasmania Cradle Coast campus would encourage local students to start thinking about future careers.

"The Cradle Coast campus offers North-West students a world of higher education opportunities, especially through the School of Business and Economics," Professor Allison said.

"Ivan Colhoun is a tremendous inspiration for this region's aspiring next generation, and meeting him in person allows them to see how far studying at the University of Tasmania can take them in the professional world."

The Q&A Session will be facilitated by the Academic Coordinator of the Tasmanian School of Business and Economics Steve Allen, who said it was an exciting event that would have far-reaching regional benefits.

Chairperson of BIG, Vince De Santis, said the organisation is planning to run a number of similar “Up Close and BIG” events over the year.

“We want to expose our local students to leaders in various fields so they can gain a first-hand understanding of some career choices. We want to encourage students to dream big and aim high and to enhance their own appreciation of the key role that education will play towards achieving their goals.”

Information released by:

University of Tasmania, Communications and Media Office

Phone: 61 3 6324 3218

Email: Media.Office@utas.edu.au