

Media Release

Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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Tasmanian represents Australia at the inaugural London Design Biennale

London-based Tasmanian designer Brodie Neill will be centre of the world stage with a new installation, *Plastic Effects*, at the first London Design Biennale next week.

A University of Tasmania alumnus, Neill collaborated with Dr Jennifer Lavers of the University's Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies (IMAS), in preparing the installation. Dr Lavers' research interests include the impact of plastics on ocean ecology and wildlife.

The installation will include photographic works and a specimen table, titled Gyro, designed by Neill, which is constituted from ocean plastics and developed by the designer and his collaborators.

University Vice-Chancellor Professor Peter Rathjen said Neill's story was a striking example of one of the institution's guiding principles.

"The University of Tasmania believes that we must offer higher education which is world class so that our graduates can compete in an increasingly competitive global workforce," Professor Rathjen said. "We have many good examples of that, but Brodie Neill is among the best of them."

University Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) Professor Brigid Heywood said the Neill installation brought into focus a number of important themes for the University.

"Our research strengths are distinctive, and we are very good at collaborating within and across disciplines in new and unexpected ways to develop responses to global concerns.

"Neill brings together traditional and artisan sensibilities with contemporary materials and the capacity for digital fabrication; something our creative practice disciplines are renowned for.

“We are immensely proud of the achievements our researchers and alumni, and the Biennale brings the strength of both together.”

The London Design Biennale will be held from September 7-27 and includes work from more than 35 countries responding to the theme ‘Utopia by Design’.

It will be attended by 90,000 visitors, including key industry leaders and representatives of the University - which is supporting Neill’s exhibition. A function to mark its opening will be hosted by University Chancellor Michael Field AC and Professor Rathjen on September 7.

The University of Tasmania has research strengths of national and world standing in a range of areas, including Southern Ocean oceanography and climate science (through IMAS) and design (through the Tasmanian College of the Arts and the School of Architecture).

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