

Media Release

Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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Time of celebration for University graduands

More than 3500 University of Tasmania graduands will celebrate the completion of their studies at graduation ceremonies in Hobart and Launceston this week.

The celebrations follow on from the Cradle Coast ceremony, where 149 people graduated from the University and 14 primary school students became the first to graduate from the Children's University Tasmania.

University of Tasmania Vice-Chancellor Professor Peter Rathjen said the graduation ceremonies were a chance for the community to join with graduands to celebrate their academic success.

"Graduation is a very special time of year for the University, as we join together to celebrate the enormous achievements of our students and their efforts, often over a number of years," Professor Rathjen said.

"The University community wishes them every success as they embark on the next chapter of their lives, whether that be entering a new career or taking on the challenge of further study in their chosen field."

As in Burnie, primary school students who will be graduating from the Children's University will join the Town and Gown processions in Hobart and Launceston, wearing traditional caps and robes.

Hobart ceremonies begin **tomorrow** (Tuesday, 13 December), and continue on Wednesday, 14 December and Thursday, 15 December.

Launceston's Albert Hall will host three ceremonies on **Saturday, 17 December**.

Graduation celebrations will also take to the streets with a Town and Gown procession in each city.

Hobart's will begin at **2.15pm on Wednesday**. The procession will start at the IMAS building on Castray Esplanade before proceeding to the Federation Concert Hall. Launceston's procession will begin the day's celebrations, departing from Civic Square at **10.30am on Saturday**.

Media information:

- Media are welcome to film and photograph graduations.
- Graduands and their family, friends and guests, gather *at least* 30 minutes before the ceremonies and afterwards for refreshments at the venue. Each ceremony is expected to last for approximately one hour.
- “Graduand” refers to someone about to graduate. After they receive their degree or diploma, they are then a graduate.
- The hats that graduands wear are called “mortarboards” or “caps”. The floppy velvet hats are called Tudor bonnets and indicate the wearer has a PhD. The black academic gowns are robes. The robes with longer sleeves mean the wearer has a Masters degree or higher. Different institutions have different styles and colours of academic dress.
- The coloured silk on academic robes refers to the wearer’s degree.
- “Testamur” refers to the physical degree or diploma a graduate receives, i.e. the folder/piece of paper they are handed on stage.

For specific dates and times for each faculty’s graduations, please visit:

<http://www.utas.edu.au/graduation/>

****Best times for media interviews and photos are usually before the ceremonies begin, where students are outside the graduation venue with family and friends.****

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