

MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

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ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors



New directions for research at UTAS

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Daryl Le Grew, has announced the appointment of one of the world's leading Antarctic researchers to the position of Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research) at the University of Tasmania.

Professor Johanna Laybourn-Parry will take up the position, which administers all UTAS research programs, in August. She is currently Executive Dean of Natural Sciences at Keele University in the United Kingdom.

Professor Le Grew said Professor Laybourn-Parry was a standout candidate.

“Professor Laybourn-Parry’s extensive leadership roles in the management of research will put UTAS on a strong path through the challenging research environment Australian universities are now facing.

“With her extensive background in the administration of research grants and development programs, Professor Laybourn-Parry will help UTAS charter a strategic course into the future as one of the top ten research universities in Australia.

“With a strong academic portfolio behind her, Professor Laybourn-Parry is well aware of the needs of researchers. Her experience in implementing government research strategies in the United Kingdom will be invaluable as UTAS heads into a research period dominated by the Australian Government’s Research Quality Framework.

“She has also shown a strong commitment to increasing the number of women in senior scientific and administrative positions through the UK’s ATHENA project.”

Professor Laybourn-Parry’s research background is as a polar scientist working on carbon cycling in lakes and glaciers. Her Antarctic research has been conducted with the Australian Antarctic program at Davis Station in the Vestfold Hills and with the United States Long Term Ecosystem Research Program in the McMurdo Dry Valleys. She studied honours in Zoology at Reading University in the UK, a masters in Animal Parasitology at the University of Wales and a PhD in Protozoan Ecological Energetics at Stirling University in Scotland. She has worked at some of the most prestigious universities in the world, including Stirling University, Lancaster and Nottingham Universities and Melbourne’s La Trobe where she was Chair of Zoology.

Information Released by:

The Media Office, University of Tasmania

Phone: 6226 2124 Mobile: 0417 517 291

Email: Media.Office@utas.edu.au