

MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

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ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors



The educational value of jamming with your mates

The school year's over and your teens are hanging out with their mates in garage bands. Don't tell them but they're actually involved in a disciplined approach to learning.

PhD candidate Jane Baker, from the UTAS School of Education, has investigated the way teenagers in garage bands learn (outside of formal education).

After studying five Tasmanian bands, the surprising results include the fact that the young people had a disciplined approach to learning within the band. They set goals and made plans during rehearsals - one group even used a whiteboard!

Many of the students in the study did not perform well in formal education, but this research suggested they have the ability to do so in an informal or alternative setting.

Ms Baker's study is one of the projects showcased in the new issue of *Research to Reality*.

Professor Paddy Nixon, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), said the range of research being undertaken at UTAS - from personal air conditioners to contraceptive trials on feral horses - is a reminder of the possibilities that emerge when you think outside of the square.

He added that research today has become increasingly global and, with that in mind, UTAS is delighted that the \$5.46 million Bisdee Tier Optical Astronomy Observatory will begin operation early next year.

"The unique location of this telescope, in the Southern Midlands of Tasmania, will allow astronomers to access regions of the sky that are difficult or impossible to see from more northerly latitudes," Prof Nixon said.

"It's another example of our distinctiveness and the opportunities for researchers that set UTAS apart."

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