

Media Release

Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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Excursion leads students down pathway to jobs in Aboriginal tourism, guiding and interpretation

A largely untapped world of work in tourism, guiding, interpretation and environmental conservation will be explored by a group of 15 TasTAFE students through a series of excursions being trialled through the University of Tasmania's Centre for University Pathways and Partnerships (CUPP).

The students, who are all enrolled in TasTAFE's Aboriginal Trainee Program, will **tomorrow, August 27**, take part in a pilot Aboriginal cultural excursion through CUPP's Pathways to Success program.

The excursion is to Tamar Island Wetlands near Legana, starting at 9.30am, and will be facilitated by Parks and Wildlife Services Interpretation and Education Officer Sam Cuff.

This will be followed by an informative lunch at the University's Riawunna Centre at Newnham Campus from noon.

At both venues there will be Aboriginal Elders present to provide insight and mentoring, along with Parks and Wildlife Services' Aboriginal trainee rangers.

Aboriginal Cultural Excursions is a series of day trips that will be held in four Tasmanian regions: north, north-west, south and far south, throughout the year.

University of Tasmania Pro Vice-Chancellor (Students) Professor Sue Kilpatrick said that the purpose of the excursions is to engage participants with Aboriginal culture and natural heritage sites throughout Tasmania, with a particular focus on tourism and food-related educational pathways.

"The project will demonstrate to participants the diverse study and employment opportunities that are available across these key industry sectors," she said

"Students will be introduced to university lecturers from tourism courses they can do after TAFE that will set them up for jobs in tourism in the future."

The initiative is a collaboration between University of Tasmania, Riawunna and Parks and Wildlife Services (PWS).

Building on PWS's current 'Discovery Ranger Program' the excursions will incorporate educational activities focusing on natural and heritage cultures and employment

Included on each of the day trips will be University representatives, Riawunna and industry representatives who will discuss pathway options and career possibilities and Aboriginal culture.

Participants will receive an information pack which will contain useful details about pathways to relevant educational opportunities, including the University's Tourism major.

Materials regarding University of Tasmania's Aboriginal support services through Riawunna, such as the Murina program, and Indigenous Tutorial Assistance Scheme (ITAS) will also be included.

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