

## Media Release

### Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

Thursday 2 April 2015

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## Makers' Workshop goes blue for autism

The Makers' Workshop in Burnie will be turning blue this evening in support of World Autism Awareness Day.

The University of Tasmania is supporting Autism Tasmania with this awareness building initiative by illuminating the Makers' Workshop with blue lights between 6pm and 11pm.

Autism Tasmania Inc. is a Tasmanian based registered charity that is committed to improving the lives of individuals with this spectrum condition, their families and carers; and to improve community awareness and understanding of autism spectrum and related communication conditions.

Terry Burke, CEO of Autism Tasmania, said that autism is a lifelong developmental condition that affects how a person communicates with, and relates to other people, and how they make sense of the world around them.

"In the current trial of the National Disability Insurance Scheme autism participants represent over 30 per cent of those currently registered," Mr Burke said.

"This year, we are asking the public to support World Autism day by adding a splash of blue to their outfit, office, and car or, in Burnie, to the whole of the Makers' Workshop."

University of Tasmania's Pro Vice-Chancellor Community Partnerships and Regional Development, Professor Janelle Allison said the University of Tasmania strongly supports this initiative to raise awareness of Autism Spectrum Disorder.

"Autism Spectrum Disorder has such a major impact on so many people; we are delighted to be able to light up the Makers' Workshop to raise community awareness about autism."

Members of the general public are invited to come and view the blue from the board walk near the Makers' Workshop.

Rose Clark, part of the Autism Tasmania Information Team, will be onsite or you can visit the website [www.autismtas.org.au](http://www.autismtas.org.au) for further information.

**Information released by:**

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