

# **MEDIA RELEASE**

**NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA**

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ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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## UTAS awarded grant to preserve the past

UTAS has been awarded a \$6050 federal Community Heritage Grant to fund a Significance Assessment of the Grote Reber Collection.

A Significance Assessment helps explain the meaning and value of a collection and provides information for its management and interpretation.

Dr Grote Reber was the “founding father” of radio astronomy.

The Grote Reber Collection, which includes exhibits of Dr Reber's telescopes, his life's work and a virtual-reality theatre, is housed in a special museum next to the UTAS radio telescope at Cambridge.

The Grote Reber Museum was established by Karen Bradford from the UTAS School of Maths and Physics on the 19th January 2008. She was presented with the grant at the National Library of Australia in Canberra last week.

Karen also attended a three-day intensive preservation and collection management workshop held at the National Library, the National Archives of Australia, the National Museum of Australia and the National Film and Sound Archive in Canberra.

Karen said the grant was important in supporting the effort to preserve the Grote Reber Collection at the grassroots level.

“While the grant provides the funds, the workshop offers the expertise to help protect our collection and make it accessible while it remains in the local context,” she said.

The Community Heritage Grants Program is managed by the National Library. It is funded by the Australian Government through the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, Office for the Arts; the National Archives of Australia; the National Film and Sound Archive; the National Museum of Australia and the National Library.

This year, grants worth \$408,000 have been distributed to 82 community groups and organisations from around Australia to assist in the identification and preservation of community owned but nationally significant heritage collections.

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