

# **MEDIA RELEASE**

**NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA**

DATE: FRIDAY 3 AUGUST 2012

ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

---



## Weekend wilderness challenge awaits UTAS med students

Around 40 UTAS medical and paramedic students from Hobart will head into the wild at Dover this weekend for two days of problem-solving and skills development in adverse conditions.

Students will learn a range of skills in scenario-based sessions, including trauma and disaster management and the management of medical emergencies.

The wilderness medicine weekend has become an annual event at the Hobart Clinical School.

Course director and Associate Professor of Emergency Medicine at UTAS, Dr Geoff Couser, said the event had numerous benefits for students.

"Learning problem-solving skills and applying their knowledge outside of their usual scope of practice, in the Tasmanian environment, helps the students to work together and utilise their knowledge in new and creative ways.

"This is exactly the sort of medical and paramedic graduate we are aiming to produce," he said.

"Learning as a part of an interdisciplinary team foreshadows how students will be working once they graduate."

Dr Couser added that the weekend promotes collaboration for the staff as well, with faculty members from UTAS, the Royal Hobart Hospital, Ambulance Tasmania, the Australian Antarctic Division and the Huonville SES working together at the weekend event.

"It's a great opportunity for everyone to get together, learn new skills and have fun in the process.

"Most importantly, it's our current and future patients who will ultimately benefit by receiving improved care."

The MAIB Injury Prevention and Management Foundation is generously supporting the event.

**Media opportunity:** The best times for filming and photos will be on Saturday 4 August, from 9am-1pm, when students and the Huonville SES will be conducting simulated rescue operations using real vehicles with actors playing entrapped people. Location: 247 Narrows Road, Strathblane (near Dover).

**Information Released by:**

**The Media Office, University of Tasmania**

**Phone: (03) 6226 2124 or 0447 537 375**

**Email: [Media.Office@utas.edu.au](mailto:Media.Office@utas.edu.au)**