

## Media Release

### Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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## Talented designers make finals of GOTYA awards

Two University of Tasmania 2014 graduates from the School of Architecture & Design are finalists in their respective categories of the Design Institute of Australia's Victoria/Tasmania Graduate of the Year Awards (GOTYA) to be held in Melbourne on Wednesday, April 29.

Belinda van Donselaar of Launceston is among the leaders in the Interior Design category having submitted three projects from her final year of study.

Her major work was a "dispersed hotel" to address ways unused premises in Launceston could be reused as a hotel.

The concept involved a central building that houses reception, restaurant, retail and other more common activities but the rooms had to be situated or dispersed in various places around the inner city within walking distance.

The task for the students was to provide a unifying concept for this approach and Belinda's concept was directed at youth and a more hostel/backpackers user group.

Some of the fun aspects of her design include a slide and climbing wall in the reception area and a more communal design in not only the public areas but the dispersed rooms themselves.

School of Architecture & Design Program Director Interior Design Kirsty Máté said that the school is very proud of Belinda and the consistent presence of the School at the awards.

"Being a finalist is a wonderful achievement and acknowledgement of her skills as an interior designer," Ms Máté said.

"Since our first graduating year in 2011 we have had our students in the finals for this prestigious award nearly every year (except 2013) and won the award in 2012, with a second student as runner-up.

"This reinforces our program in interior design as being equal to the top universities in Victoria."

In the Furniture Design category, which has seen University graduates highly commended or winners every year since 2012, Launceston-based Andrew Baston-Graham is also in contention for the top prize.

Andrew trained as a sheet metal fabricator for many years in diverse industrial fields and

while exploring and refining his craft he developed a love for fine furniture and objects.

The design projects he entered in the awards included the “Sacabi Light”, a stunning statement piece suited to a residential interior space made from hand-polished and welded stainless steel, and the “Hydrowood Bench”, which was made to tell the story of how the timber was salvaged by divers who used underwater chainsaws to bring to the surface this rare Tasmanian timber which had been preserved at the bottom of Lake Pieman for more than 30 years.

GOTYA is a unique awards program created to support designers in the early stages of their career.

Established by the Design Institute of Australia, the awards recognise excellence in emerging designers in the disciplines of interior design, interior design and decoration, industrial design, furniture design, jewellery design, fashion design, textile design and graphic design.

For more information on the awards go to <http://www.dia.org.au>

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