

MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

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ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors



New scholarship honours decorated Tasmanian soldier

Two University of Tasmania Honours students have been presented with a new scholarship honouring a highly-decorated Tasmanian soldier.

The inaugural Lieutenant Colonel Harry Murray VC scholarships were presented by the Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Scott Bacon MP.

The \$5000 scholarships are endowed by the Tasmanian Government and are available to two students annually from all disciplines, who intend to undertake an honours thesis examining an issue related to Tasmanians at war.

Dean of the UTAS Faculty of Arts, Professor Sue Dodds, congratulated the scholarship recipients, Jo Brodie and Emma Nicholson.

"The projects Jo and Emma are planning to undertake during their Honours focusing on the impact of war on Tasmanians are very worthy and exciting topics.

"I am pleased these students are continuing their studies within the UTAS Faculty of Arts and wish them every success in their research."

Jo Brodie will study her Honours in the UTAS School of History and Classics this year.

Her project will focus on the WW1 Red Cross Wounded and Missing Enquiry Bureau.

"Thousands of soldiers still remain unaccounted for and the focus of my thesis will be on the Tasmanian soldiers who remain missing," she said.

Jo plans to undertake postgraduate study.

"This area of study has so much to offer," she said.

Emma Nicholson is studying Honours in the UTAS School of Psychology, focusing on Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. She is an ex-RAAF service person.

“I am interested in Post Traumatic Stress Disorder research, particularly regarding the involvement of a molecule found in the brain’s fear hub called the Brain Derived Neurotrophic Factor (BDNF).”

About the new Lieutenant Colonel Harry Murray VC Honours Scholarship:

The inaugural Lieutenant Colonel Harry Murray VC Honours Scholarships (two awards per year) are provided by the Tasmanian Government – Veterans’ Affairs portfolio for honours study in 2012. The \$5000 scholarships are available to students from all disciplines with good results in their final year of their undergraduate degree and who intend to undertake an honours year of study with a thesis examining an issue related to Tasmanians at war.

Harry Murray, who was born in Evandale in 1880, became the most highly decorated ordinary allied soldier in the Great War. He enlisted as a private in 1914 and served in Gallipoli and on the Western Front in France. His bravery and actions in some key battles in the campaign earned him a number of awards including the highest, the Victoria Cross.

By war’s end he had reached the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. In 1920 he returned to Australia and settled in Queensland on a grazing property. He re-enlisted in World War II and served until discharged in 1944. He continued farming until his death in 1966 aged 85.

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