

# **MEDIA RELEASE**

**NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA**

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ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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## **Grants to bring science to the community**

A \$45,000 Unlocking Australia's Potential grant from the Federal Government's *Inspiring Australia* initiative will fund a UTAS project aiming to increase community awareness of Tasmania's unique marine environments.

The grant was awarded to Mr Wayne Goninon (UTAS Office of the Provost) and Ms Jeannie-Marie LeRoi (UTAS Faculty of Science, Engineering and Technology, SET).

The project will have a state-wide program of activities designed to share knowledge of local marine environments and related cutting-edge Tasmanian marine research, via marine tours involving local marine tourism operators and marine scientists.

Marine tours will be complemented by display materials highlighting each of Tasmania's nine marine bio-regions (and research related to each region). These materials will also be used for promotion and information at local community events and festivals, and available on the web.

Special tours will be held for secondary school students with a focus on careers in marine research.

The grant is in partnership with the Department of Economic Development, Tourism and the Arts, the Australian Antarctic Division, Tasmanian Marine Tourism Operators and education providers.

The grant also includes two Honours scholarships for Marine Science and Education students valued at \$4000 each.

Australia-wide, 63 projects were funded through Unlocking Australia's Potential grants, with UTAS receiving two grants.

UTAS researcher Dr Gretta Pecl from the Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies received a \$500,000 Unlocking Australia's Potential grant for *Eyes on the Water: inspiring Australians through participation in science*.

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