

# **MEDIA RELEASE**

**NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA**

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ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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## **Focus on parasites at Cradle Coast**

An exhibition featuring the most ingenious and disgusting of all life forms opens at the UTAS Cradle Coast campus tomorrow (Wednesday 19 May 2010).

Parasites in Focus includes photographs by scientists from the ARC/NHMRC Network for Parasitology, captures 26 images of the amazing microscopic world of the parasite, from common head louse to parasites found in the nostrils of deep sea fish.

Campus community engagement officer, Nicki Fletcher, said the images were both beautiful and abhorrent but provided a fascinating insight into the most common and manipulative of all life forms.

“This exhibition will appeal to anyone interested in science, photography or what they may be carrying around in their gut. It provides a totally different perspective on parasites such as tapeworms, roundworms, ticks and fleas which through the lens of the microscope, are transformed as into art forms,” she said.

The photographs are accompanied by easy-to-read information about parasites and their relationships with the infected hosts, a continual balance between life and death.

“This exhibition attracted great interest at the Imaginarium in Devonport and we are delighted to be able to bring it further west to coincide with the start of the school holidays,” Ms Fletcher said.

Members of the public are welcome to view the display in the foyer of the campus, Mooreville Rd entrance, during business hours until Friday 4 June.

This exhibition is sponsored by the ARC/NHMRC Research Network for Parasitology, ASP, Questacon and DEST and is touring nationally.

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