

## Media Release

### Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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## Appeal mourns ambassador Jon English

It is with deep sadness the University of Tasmania received news of the passing of Save the Tasmanian Devil Appeal Ambassador Jon English overnight.

Jon had been a passionate advocate for the Tasmanian devil for many years, describing it as the “original rock and roll animal”. In 2009, Jon arranged a series of fundraising concerts, *Devil Rock*, and since this time his relationship with the Appeal has continued.

Over the past seven years, Jon helped raise thousands of dollars for the Appeal, raising awareness of the desperate plight of the iconic species across Australia and on the world stage.

Behind the scenes, Jon visited Tasmanian devil enclosures, met with the devil vaccine research team, devil scientists and many of the Save the Tasmanian Devil Program staff, and tirelessly advocated for the cause. His passion and commitment were unquestioned and many of those involved in saving the Tasmanian devil will mourn his passing.

In 2012, Jon raised more than \$10,000 for the Appeal with Launceston’s Encore Theatre production of *Jesus Christ Superstar*. This was recognised with a named University of Tasmania Scholarship for devil research, the Jon English Encore Theatre Tasmanian Devil Honours Scholarship.

Save the Tasmanian Devil Appeal manager Rebecca Cuthill said there had been an outpouring of grief from colleagues who were shocked and saddened by the news.

“Jon has long been acclaimed as a legendary Australian musical talent, however we also knew him as a man who supported the Tassie devil and took time to meet the many people who work with this amazing animal,” she said.

“We are incredibly grateful for his passion and the many years of advocating for our cause.

“We had plans to meet when Jon was next in Tassie and this morning’s news was completely unexpected. Our deepest condolences to his partner Coralea and Jon’s family.”

*The Save the Tasmanian Devil Appeal is administered by the University of Tasmania Foundation.*

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