

# MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

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ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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## The jury's out on UTAS debate double

Two controversial topics, two debate nights and two panels of riveting speakers at each will make the Annexe Theatre at Inveresk the venue for stimulating discussion when *The Jury's Out!*, UTAS Alumni's annual double debate, livens up Launceston.

Members of the public can attend for free by registering online at [www.alumni.utas.edu.au](http://www.alumni.utas.edu.au) and then get prepared to listen, think, challenge and discuss some commonly-held but controversial beliefs.

The first debate on **Wednesday 12 September** is on public disobedience, with the House moving that "sometimes a good citizen must disobey the law".

Leading the team for the motion will be Barbara Etter APM, the principal/owner of B*ET*ter Consulting and a practising lawyer specialising in criminal law and integrity and justice issues.

Barbara was the inaugural CEO of the Tasmanian Integrity Commission and has had 30 years of policing experience in various jurisdictions and reached the rank of Assistant Commissioner.

On her side will be UTAS School of Accounting and Corporate Governance lecturer Kim Backhouse who has been admitted as a barrister and solicitor of the Supreme Court of Victoria, Supreme Court of Tasmania and High Court of Australia, and social justice lawyer and long-time WikiLeaks defender Elizabeth O'Shea, from Maurice Blackburn's Social Justice practice.

Against the motion will be Graham Wood, UTAS lecturer in philosophy, whose research interests concern the relationship between science and value.

He will be joined by Year 12 student and captain of debating at Scotch Oakburn College, Anna Crews, and UTAS graduate, writer and blogger Lyndon Riggall, who is working in partnership with the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery on his creative writing honours.

The second debate, on Monday, October 1, discusses video violence, with the House moving that "interactive video media violence leads to anti-social behaviour".

MC for the first debate will be ABC's Roisin McCann and both debates are free for the public to attend.

**Debate details:**

**Debate No. 1 The Jury's Out!**

**Wednesday, September 12**

Debate No. 1 – Public Disobedience

The House moves that sometimes a good citizen must disobey the law.

**Debate No. 2 – Video Violence**

**Monday, October 1**

The House moves that interactive video media violence leads to anti-social behaviour.

**Venue:** Annexe Theatre, Inveresk

**Time:** 7pm with post-debate drinks and finger food at 8.45pm

**Registration:** [www.alumni.utas.edu.au](http://www.alumni.utas.edu.au)

**Cost:** Free.

**Interviews with the speakers can be organised by contacting Sharon Webb at the UTAS Media Office on (03) 6324 3218.**

**Information Released by:**

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