

MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

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ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors



National funding for University research projects valued at nearly \$12 million

The University of Tasmania will undertake research ranging from a major advance in the technology of bulk-ore transshipment to the development of a vaccine to protect Tasmanian devils following the announcement of national funding of projects valued at nearly \$12 million.

The funding includes \$3.4 million in cash from the Australian Research Council's 2013 Linkage Projects round, plus a further \$8.5 million in cash and in-kind support from industry partners, the University and government funding.

"The 10 grants awarded to the University by the ARC represent our biggest success in a single Linkage Projects funding round for more than a decade," the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Peter Rathjen, said.

"In these uncertain times for the higher education sector it is reassuring to see that the quality of our research continues to be recognised at a national and indeed, international, level. Much of this research has global application but the economic benefits for the Tasmanian economy are also clear."

Among the partner organisations involved in the University projects are companies and institutions based in China, Korea, the USA, Canada and Norway; major multinationals such as BHP Billiton and other leading Australian universities.

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), Prof Paddy Nixon, said this latest funding outcome follows last month's announcement of \$27 million in Industrial Transformation Research funding from the ARC.

"As with the Industrial Transformation Research funding, our success in the Linkage Projects round underscores the fact that the University of Tasmania is one of the leading industry-partnered research institutions in the country."

The 10 University of Tasmania projects to receive ARC Linkage funding are:

- Bushfires, smoke and people: assessing the risks and benefits from planned burning on the urban-rural interface (Dr Fay Johnston, Menzies Research Institute Tasmania), \$559,330;

- Restoring resilience in wildlife populations (chief investigator Dr Menna Jones, School of Zoology), \$497,261;
- Development of an immune-enhancing vaccine to protect Tasmanian devils against facial tumour disease (Associate Professor Greg Woods, Menzies Research Institute Tasmania), \$412,912;
- Resilience of lake ecosystems to water-level manipulation (Assoc Prof Leon Barmuta, School of Zoology), \$400,000;
- Calculus in the real world: transforming the way we teach mathematics in primary education (Dr Andrew Fluck, Faculty of Education/Australian Maritime College), \$150,000;
- The ship within a ship: new-generation transshipment of bulk ore products (Dr Gregor Macfarlane, Australian Maritime College), \$270,000;
- Understanding the evolution of fungicide resistance for durable control of fungal pathogens in pyrethrum (Dr Frank Hay, Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture), \$407,888;
- Gauging informed public opinion on sentencing sex offenders: a national study (Prof Kate Warner, Tasmanian Law Reform Institute), \$252,124;
- Telling it like it is: Aboriginal perspectives on Aborigines, Euro-Australians and race relations (Dr Daphne Habibis, School of Social Sciences), \$290,000;
- The supergiant Olympic Dam ore deposit: towards a new genetic model (Prof Vadim Kamenetsky, School of Earth Sciences), \$193,608.

Information released by:

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