

Media Release

Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

Wednesday 15 October 2014

University lauds the achievement of alumnus, novelist Flanagan

The University of Tasmania today lauded the achievements of alumnus and novelist Richard Flanagan.

Last night Flanagan's latest novel, *The Narrow Road to the Deep North* (Chatto and Windus), was awarded the 2014 Man Booker Prize for Fiction. The Man Booker is arguably the world's most prestigious literary prize and the recipient is awarded 50,000 pounds (more than \$80,000).

Flanagan was the only Australian writer to have his work chosen for this year's long list. He is the third Australian to win the prize since it began 46 years ago.

During his time at the University of Tasmania, Flanagan completed a Bachelor of Arts with First Class Honours. He went on to be awarded a Rhodes Scholarship, allowing him to study at Oxford University in the United Kingdom.

University Vice-Chancellor Professor Peter Rathjen said: "The consistent achievement of Richard throughout his career serves to inspire the next generation of young creatives, who look up to his significant literary and film-making accomplishments.

"His work has received numerous accolades, but throughout his success Richard has retained a quiet modesty, belying the heights his extraordinary achievements."

The Flanagan family has a strong connection to the University. Flanagan's brother Martin, who is a journalist, is also a University alumnus, and his children are both current University students.

"Richard's commitment to the artistic life of the Island is commendable," Professor Rathjen said.

"His devotion to Tasmania's past and present, both as his home and a source of inspiration, in turn serves as inspiration to other Tasmanians. In his literary renderings of our island home, we see ourselves and our home anew."

Information released by:

University of Tasmania, Communications and Media Office
Phone: (03) 6226 2691 Email: Media.Office@utas.edu.au