

# MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

DATE: THURSDAY 14 MAY 2009

ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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## FRESH! ideas to tackle climate change

Young people, scientists, artists, environmentalists and policy makers will engage in lively conversation about creativity and climate change this week.

Tasmanian Regional Arts and the University of Tasmania are holding a free public forum to kick-start a new statewide arts project, *FRESH!*

The forum will include an informal discussion and also show filmed short vox-pop stories from young people around the State.

The *FRESH!* project, funded by the UTAS Community Engagement Fund and Arts Tasmania, will see local and international artists working with young Tasmanians to gain new perspectives on how creativity and the arts can contribute to resilience in tackling climate change.

*FRESH!* will eventually result in new media artworks being exhibited as part of the National Regional Arts Conference in Launceston in August 2010.

Associate Professor Elaine Stratford, head of the UTAS School of Geography and Environmental Studies, said the forum will provide an opportunity for a range of Tasmanians to engage in fresh discussions about climate change in a way that is not solely academic and scientific.

“Young people have high levels of awareness about climate change and sensitivity to their environment,” Assoc Prof Stratford said.

“Those of us involved in *FRESH!* want to bring young people together with scientists, policy makers, environmentalists and artists and see what creative works emerge from their conversations.

“*FRESH!* is about finding the good news in climate change and about ensuring we approach this challenge with positive energy.”

Panel experts at the forum include:

- Peter Boyer (climate change advocate and writer)
- Associate Professor Elaine Stratford (head of the UTAS School of Geography and Environmental Studies)
- Nicholas Low (international visual artist)
- Kristen Warr (associate lecturer in UTAS School of Geography and Environmental Studies and Young Green Cross Climate Change Citizens Panel Member)

**Date:** Friday 15 May 2009

**Time:** 4pm to 5:30pm

**Venue:** Peacock Theatre, Salamanca Arts Centre, Hobart

For more information or to arrange interviews with panel members, please contact project coordinator Kate McDonald on (03) 6426 2344.

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