

# MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

Friday 6 December 2013

Attention: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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## NW artists part of first Riawunna Art Gallery exhibition

Riawunna Centre at the UTAS Newnham Campus in Launceston will be home to the first Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art gallery in northern Tasmania following its official launch on **Thursday, December 12 at 6pm.**

The gallery will showcase the work of Murina Pathway Art Program students from the UTAS Sandy Bay, Newnham and Cradle Coast campuses.

Riawunna offers the Murina Pathway Program to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to introduce them to university.

The program provides them with an opportunity to develop academic skills, and the chance to study a wide range of subjects. It also provides a source of cultural, academic and social support.

Bob Harris, a great grandfather from Burnie who is studying arts and computer units with Murina, Ollie Ralph from Somerset, a grandmother studying how to write life stories, art and computers with Murina, and Cheryl Ransom, from Elliott, who is combining part-time work with her Murina art studies, have all had artwork selected for the inaugural exhibition.

The gallery is expected to provide another avenue for education and promotion for the pathway program and Murina art tutor and gallery curator Brigitte Wolfe is thrilled that the school has a quality exhibition space for students as well as established Tasmanian artists.

She said she is proud of the quality of work her students produce, and feels they deserve public appreciation.

“To see their artwork displayed will be inspirational and very exciting for everyone involved,” she said.

A calendar of events has already been planned for 2014 including art exhibitions by Tasmanian Aboriginal artists Vicki West and Bill Stackhouse.

During NAIDOC Week an exhibition will be curated by living national treasure and Tasmanian Aboriginal Elder Aunty Lola Greeno.

A Cultural Projects Committee consisting of Aboriginal Elders Aunty Phyllis Pitchford, Uncle Murray Everett, Aunty Lola Greeno, and art workers Damien Quillam, Lionel Raines and Clair Andersen, will give direction for this project to the Riawunna senior executive officer Ms Jaime Cave and the Riawunna Art Gallery coordinator Ms Brigitte Wolfe.

The Riawunna Art Gallery will be officially opened by Attorney General Brian Wightman and will feature the work of Murina Pathway Program students together with music from local Aboriginal community members.

### **Riawunna Art Gallery launch**

**When:** December 12, 6pm for 6.30pm

**Where:** Riawunna Centre, Newnham Drive, UTAS Newnham Campus.

**Who:** Staff, students and official opening by Attorney General Brian Wightman.

**For more information:** Murina art tutor Brigitte Wolfe 0418 372 287 or email: [bcjwolfe@utas.edu.au](mailto:bcjwolfe@utas.edu.au)

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