

MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

WEDNESDAY 19 MARCH 2014

ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors



Launceston to experience colour and culture at UTAS Harmony Day

At the University of Tasmania's Newnham Campus this Friday the wider Launceston community will be able to experience the multicultural colour and fun that diversity adds to the city at the annual Harmony Day celebrations.

Starting at 3.30pm with a friendly soccer match between the Launi Allstars and a group of Australian Maritime College international students at the Newnham Campus football field, this exciting game will be followed by an extensive program of family-friendly activities, entertainment and food.

Ethiopian students will conduct a traditional coffee ceremony, wearing elaborate dress and using a fascinating array of age-old equipment to roast, grind, strain and pour the coffee into tiny, ornate cups.

UTAS computing student Dawit Abera has sourced the coffee from his home country through his parents and said that coffee lovers will be impressed with the smoothness and flavour of the coffee, which is traditionally served with sugar, no milk, and sometimes a bowl of nuts or popcorn.

"The coffee ceremony is about socialising with people, taking the time to talk face-to-face, and in Ethiopia it generally takes around two hours from start to finish," he said.

The 26-year-old from the Ethiopian capital of Addis Ababa came to Tasmania four years ago to study information technology at the Polytechnic in Launceston, and then he enrolled at UTAS where he is expected to graduate in December with a Bachelor of Computing.

Visitors to Harmony Day will be able to purchase international food from the food stalls, Three Wishes wines and be entertained by Taiko drummers, Egyptian belly dancers, Indian tribal dancers and even a Japanese Shakuhachi flute player.

The Lion Dance from the Chinese community, a Bollywood performance and Philippine bamboo dance and song will also add to the multi-cultural atmosphere plus there's much more on the program.

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