

## Media Release

### Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

Monday 19 January 2015

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#### Presentation of the 12<sup>th</sup> Tim Hawkins Memorial Scholarship

The annual Tim Hawkins Memorial Scholarship will be presented today (Monday 19 January 2015) to University of Tasmania graduate Laura McIlhenny.

The scholarship honours the memory and celebrates the life of University graduate and lawyer Tim Hawkins. The prestigious award allows a Law graduate to take up a position of Research Assistant in the Prosecutor's Office for six months at the International Criminal Court in The Hague.

Ms McIlhenny, who holds a Bachelor of Arts/Laws with First Class Honours in Law, became interested in International Humanitarian Law when she was selected as a delegate for the Oaktree Foundation's 2011 study tour of Timor-Leste and West Timor, visiting educational projects, as well as meeting with individual who had experienced the conflict first-hand.

In 2012 Ms McIlhenny travelled overseas as an exchange student and chose to study at Utrecht University, where she studied under Daniel Saxon, a Senior Prosecuting Trial Attorney at the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia.

Meeting survivors of the conflict in the Former Yugoslavia and reading their testimonies in the course of her work made her acutely aware that many millions today face the reality of conflict on a daily basis and reinforced her determination to forge a career which would enable her work towards a fairer and more just world.

Her dream would be to one day lead the Australian Red Cross' humanitarian law program in the position of National Manager of International Humanitarian Law, Movement Relations and Advocacy. Ms McIlhenny is looking forward to continuing the work of previous recipients of the Tim Hawkins Scholarship at the International Criminal Court and to making a contribution to the important legacy in Tim's honour.

University of Tasmania Vice-Chancellor, Professor Peter Rathjen, congratulated Ms McIlhenny on receiving the scholarship.

"The recipients of this particular scholarship always stand out as students who strive not only for academic excellence, but who have the admirable goal of devoting themselves and their future careers to improving international humanitarian concerns.

"Their ultimate aim therefore, is to improve life for others, particularly those who are vulnerable. The University community is extremely proud of these individuals and the positive example they provide. I have no doubt Ms McIlhenny will go on to achieve great things in her chosen field."

**About the Tim Hawkins Memorial Scholarship:** This scholarship is provided in memory of Tim Hawkins, an outstanding young Tasmanian. Tim was an international oarsman and had completed a building apprenticeship before graduating in the combined degrees of Commerce and Law with Honours in Law from the University of Tasmania. Tim was admitted to the Bar of the Supreme Court of Tasmania. His tragic death in Bali in October 2002 was a result of a terrorist act. Family, friends and associates of Mr Hawkins and members of the wider community, have endowed a scholarship at the University of Tasmania, as a fitting memorial to this fine Tasmanian. The recipient receives an allowance of \$13,000 and a return economy fare to The Hague.

**Information released by:**

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