

# **MEDIA RELEASE**

**NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA**

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ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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## Climate change hot topic at Polar Week lecture

The importance of polar research in understanding climate change will be the focus of a free public lecture to be held at the University of Tasmania next week.

UTAS and the Antarctic Climate & Ecosystems Cooperative Research Centre (ACE CRC) based at the Sandy Bay campus are hosting the lecture to mark International Polar Week.

Associate Professor Tom Trull, from ACE CRC, will speak about how the Southern Ocean is changing and what the implications are for Australian and global climate, now and in the future.

Also up for discussion will be how sea ice and the Antarctic ice sheet will respond to changes in climate and how rapidly will the acidity of the ocean increase if the Southern Ocean continues to remove CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere.

Assoc Prof Trull said he will also talk about what the impacts of Southern Ocean and sea ice changes on Antarctic ecosystems and fisheries are likely to be.

Through his work with ACE CRC, Assoc Prof Trull is leading a program to monitor how much carbon dioxide the ocean removes from the atmosphere and has travelled to Antarctica as part of his work.

International Polar Week runs from October 4-9 and focuses on polar issues and organisations. The Week arises from International Polar Year, which was a world-wide collaborative research effort into polar regions.

The ACE CRC is a partnership dedicated to the study of the ice, atmospheric and oceanic processes of the Southern Ocean and Antarctic regions, their role in global and regional climate change and their impact on marine ecosystems and the sustainable management of the Antarctic.

**What:** Free public climate change lecture

**Where:** Centenary Lecture theatre one, Sandy Bay campus. (The Centenary building is opposite the sports oval.)

**When:** Monday 5 October 2009 at 6pm

**For more information/interviews, please contact: Assoc. Prof. Tom Trull: (03) 6226 2988**

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