

# MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

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ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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## UTAS to showcase its research excellence

Research Week kicks off at the University of Tasmania's Sandy Bay campus today (**Monday 3 September**), an annual event invigorated this year by UTAS' jump in world university rankings and a growing energy within its academic community.

In mid-August the 2012 Academic Ranking of World Universities was released. UTAS rose 80 places from the 2010 result to its highest level for a decade. It was placed 10th in Australia.

"We are beginning to see the broader impact of UTAS' renewed focus on research," the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), Professor Paddy Nixon, said. "We're also seeing encouraging signs in the Australian Research Council funding rounds. This year UTAS has won \$2.2 million in ARC Linkage Projects funding, the best result since 2007, and \$4.3 million for six Future Fellows, our best performance to date in this scheme.

"Research Week is a timely opportunity to showcase our research excellence."

This afternoon Prof Nixon will launch a new edition of the flagship publication *Research to Reality*, which focuses on UTAS partnerships with the State Government, a cornerstone of our research mission. Tomorrow he will present on the drive to improve research performance at UTAS.

Some of UTAS' Future Fellows will give presentations this week. They include Dr Penny Edmonds, who received the first ARC Future Fellowship to be hosted by the Arts Faculty; Dr James Weller (School of Plant Science); Dr Elizabeth Leane, Deputy Head of the School of English, Journalism and European Languages, and Dr Zanna Chase (Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies).

Assoc Prof Natasha Circa, Director of the Inglis Clark Centre for Civil Society and an inaugural recipient of a 2012 Sidney Myer Creative Fellowship, will also feature.

Prof Doug Paton (School of Psychology) will present today a paper on building disaster-resilient communities. Prof Paton has worked with New Zealand authorities on community rebuilding after the Christchurch earthquakes and in Taiwan after earthquakes and typhoons there.

A leading practitioner and researcher in cognitive behavioural coaching, Hugh Kearns, will lead two workshops on Thursday and Friday respectively. His areas of expertise include self-management, positive psychology and work-life balance.

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