

# **MEDIA RELEASE**

**NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA**

DATE: FRIDAY 15 MARCH 2013

ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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## **UTAS part of design showcase for Ten Days on the Island**

University of Tasmania staff and students have made stunning contributions to the Think.Make.Change exhibition being held at the Design Tasmania Centre, Launceston, as part of Ten Days on the Island.

They join a wonderful line-up drawn from Tasmania's vibrant community of contemporary designers who will be showing the visiting public how they have had to confront head-on the effect technological development has had on their creativity, on their production techniques and on the end-use of their products.

### ***Human Interface Technology Laboratory Australia***

One of the most obvious embracers of technology represented at the exhibition is UTAS' research and teaching facility the Human Interface Technology Laboratory Australia (HITLab AU) in the School of Computing and Information Systems at Newnham.

HITLab brings virtual/mixed reality technologies to the UTAS Launceston campuses with a focus on design, visualisation, simulation and practical applications of games technologies.

Years of research into the health of the Tamar River estuary by Natural Resources Management - North (NRM North) - was late last year brought to life by a phone/tablet app designed by the HITLab team.

The TamAR Augmented Reality app turns a smart phone or tablet into a portal to the Tamar River estuary.

Wildlife in and around the river, the water quality and various forms of human impact such as stormwater and treated water entry points, and various plant life above and below the water line, can be viewed on a virtual tour.

At the Think.Make.Change exhibition visitors can use the supplied iPad and printed maps to explore the five zones of the estuary from the upper estuary to its mouth and learn about the flora, fauna and the river's uses.

***Interior design honours students Alice Dwyer and Ngoc Khanh (Alfonse) Tran***

These two interior design graduates from the School of Architecture and Design have contributed models and drawings of a studio project completed as part of their honours degree.

The brief was to design a futuristic sustainable retail scheme for the iconic Door of Hope building (formerly the Coates Paton building) in Launceston.

Speculating on how we may 'shop' in 2022, the designs needed to include a strong sustainable focus.

Alice Dwyer's design advocates an inclusive community scheme, with local specialists and farmers offering a wide range of services and produce to the people of Launceston.

The centre incorporates advanced technology to best facilitate a clothing exchange service through the different stages of laundry, repair, sorting and sale, including a unique online and mobile technology to market and sell the garments.

Alice is a finalist in the VIC/TAS Graduate of the Year Awards (GOTYA), which will be judged in Melbourne later this month.

Ngoc Khanh Tran's take on the sustainable retail project is particularly sensitive to predictions about major trends which strongly impact the consuming habits of people in 2022.

These trends set the basis for the designed solution which generates space for indoor farming, vertical farms and markets.

Alternative energy solutions generating energy for the facility as well as the surrounding community have been included in both designs, complementing the social and ecologically sustainable aspects of the designs.

***School of Architecture and Design lecturer Matt Prince and UTAS graduate Gabrielle Phillips***

Having participated in *Monument* magazine's Create a Date series, where an architect and a designer joins forces to create a piece of furniture, Matt and Gabrielle decided to show the fruits of their collaboration - a desk - at Think.Make.Change.

They agreed that a successful desk is about a surface and a successful office is about teamwork, and set out to design a desk to facilitate the conversation of collaboration.

“Whether using a chisel or a computer numeric controlled router, it is ultimately the knowledge of the craftsman that defines the successful application and processing of material,” Matt said.

“Retaining this knowledge and connection to material is paramount regardless of the technology.”

The resulting Collaboration Station is based on a tessellated pattern that can be used with ease individually, as a long table or as an organic configuration that changes as the team’s size varies within a project or between projects.

***For more information contact UTAS Media Officer Lana Best on 0417 978 025***

**What:** Think.Make.Change.

**When:** From Friday, March 15 to Sunday, March 24 during Ten Days on the Island and extending until May 26.

**Opening hours:** Open from 9.30am to 5.30pm weekdays and 10am-4pm weekends.

**Where:** Design Tasmania Centre, Cnr Tamar and Brisbane Sts, Launceston.

**Official Launch:** Friday, March 15 from 6pm.

<http://www.tendaysontheisland.com/>

**Information Released by:**

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<b>Ten</b>	●	<b>Tasmania’s</b>	●	<b>15 – 24</b>
<b>Days on</b>	●	<b>International</b>	●	<b>March</b>
<b>the Island</b>	●	<b>Arts Festival</b>	●	<b>2013</b>