MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

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ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

Technology and education at The Edge of the World

Tech-savvy educators, librarians and IT professionals have converged on Hobart this week for The Higher Education Technology Agenda (THETA) 2013 conference, 'The Edge of the World.'

The biennial THETA conference, from 8-10 April at the Grand Chancellor Hotel, is jointly organised by the Council of Australian University Directors of Information Technology, the Council of Australian University Librarians and the Australian Council on Open, Distance and E-learning.

More than 500 local, national and international delegates are attending, with several high-profile international speakers.

UTAS Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) Professor Paddy Nixon is a keynote speaker at the conference and will present: *The Sensor Web – Bringing the World into the Classroom.*

"The convergence of ubiquitous broadband and low-cost sensing provides an unprecedented opportunity for innovation, in both the future of University research and the educational experience," he said.

Prof Nixon's presentation will provide an overview of how these technologies are evolving and consider the implications for universities.

"I will draw on two national projects, Redmap and Sense-T, hosted at UTAS to demonstrate the power of citizen science and pervasive sensing technologies."

Prof Nixon will give his personal perspective on the challenges and opportunities these innovations pose for universities and their technology strategies. He will deliver his talk at **2.05pm on Wednesday 10 April**.

THETA 2013 keynote speakers:

Alec Couros
Dr Alec Couros is a Professor of educational technology and media at the Faculty of Education, University of Regina. He has given hundreds of workshops and presentations, nationally and internationally, on topics such as

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openness in education, networked learning, social media in education, digital citizenship and critical media literacy. His graduate and undergraduate courses help current and future educators understand how to use and take advantage of the educational potential offered by the tools of connectivity. **Dr Couros will be speaking at 10.05am on Wednesday 10 April.**

Lorcan Dempsey
Lorcan Dempsey oversees the research division and participates in planning at OCLC. He is a librarian who has worked for library and educational organisations in Ireland, England and the US. Lorcan has policy, research and service development experience, mostly in the area of networked information and digital libraries. He writes and speaks extensively, and can be followed on the web at Lorcan Dempsey's weblog and on twitter. Before moving to OCLC Lorcan worked for JISC in the UK, overseeing national information programs and services, and before that was Director of UKOLN at the a national UK research and policy unit at the University of Bath. **Lorcan will be speaking on '[Reconfiguring libraries for a network environment: rightscaling, engaging and learnin](g' at 8.35am on Wednesday 10 April.**

Ted Dodds
Ted is the CIO and Vice-President for Information Technologies at Cornell University. He has been committed to higher education IT for more than three decades, including a dozen years serving as CIO at the University of British Columbia and previously holding senior management positions at the University of Windsor and the University of Guelph. Ted is responsible for the strategic direction of IT@Cornell, comprising the full breadth of central and distributed services and infrastructure. He is leading the development of Cornell's first IT strategic plan, and overseeing the rapid transition from legacy service-delivery models to contemporary, often cloud-based, strategies. Ted is a member of the board of EDUCAUSE, and served as chair in 2010. He served on the Kuali Foundation board and continues to serve on several Kuali project boards. He is a former board member and chair of both BCNET and CANARIE (regional and national research networks in Canada).**Ted is speaking on '[At the Edge of the World with a Compass but no Map](' at 4.15pm on Monday 8 April**.

Professor Marnie Hughes-Warrington
Professor Hughes-Warrington is the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) at the Australian National University. Prior to her position at ANU, Prof Hughes-Warrington was the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Learning and Teaching) at Monash University. Trained in the fields of history, philosophy and education at Oxford and UTAS, she has also worked at the University of Washington, Seattle and at Macquarie University. Prof Hughes-Warrington is a passionate teacher of history. The author of five books, she has played a global role in shaping how we think about history and teaching, and she encourages students to see themselves as agents of global change. **Marnie spoke on '[Navigating the Edge of the World](' at 10am on Monday 8 April.**

Dr Larry Johnson

Dr Larry Johnson is an acknowledged expert on emerging technology and its impacts on society and education, and has written five books, seven chapters, and published more than 65 papers and research reports on the topic. He speaks regularly on the topics of creativity, innovation, and technology trends, and has delivered more than 100 keynote addresses to a long list of distinguished groups and organisations all over the world. He is the founder of the Horizon Project, which produces the acclaimed series of Horizon Reports that are used by more than 1.25 million educators in 150 countries. Dr Johnson currently serves as Chief Executive Officer of the New Media Consortium, an international not-for-profit consortium dedicated to the exploration and use of new media and new technologies, and Director of the Edward and Betty Marcus Institute for Digital Education in the Arts (MIDEA). The NMC's and MIDEA's hundreds of member institutions constitute an elite list of the most highly regarded universities, museums, and research centers in the world. **Larry is speaking on '[The Network is Us](#)' at 9.35am on Tuesday 9 April.**

For the full conference program, visit http://theta.edu.au/program/

For further information on the keynote speakers and more, visit http://theta.edu.au/