

MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

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ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors



Excitement builds for Launceston graduations

To the celebratory strains of the University of Tasmania Wind Orchestra 203 graduands will congregate in Launceston's Albert Hall on **Saturday (17 August 2013)** to receive their hard-earned testamurs.

A sea of caps, gowns and smiles will fill the traditional venue before UTAS Vice-Chancellor Professor Peter Rathjen welcomes participants and guests at the mid-year ceremony and congratulates everyone who achieved their educational goal.

Professor Rathjen said that graduation was a special day for graduands and a proud moment for academics, family members and friends who witness the achievement of individuals.

"The academic achievement of our students is acknowledged on this day. The ceremony promises a bright future and hopefully will inspire others to pursue their dreams.

"I know the University's staff and students and the wider community join me in congratulating our graduands and wishing them every success in their future endeavours."

Squeezing onto the historic balcony in the hall and enhancing the formal but festive atmosphere will be up to 45 members of the wind orchestra. They will play a range of music from the reflective Percy Grainger piece *Irish Tune from County Derry* (better known as *Danny Boy*) to *The Earl of Oxford's March* by William and the theme from the movie *Raiders of the Lost Ark*.

Musical director Stephen King will not only be in charge of the score and conduct the orchestra, but he will also witness his wife and fellow orchestra member Heidi graduate with a Master of Education.

The total number graduating with UTAS this month, including the Hobart graduates from last week, is 1592.

Media Opportunity

The Launceston graduation ceremony takes place in the Albert Hall, corner Tamar and Cimitiere St, Launceston, starting at 11am and finishing approx. 12.15pm.

The best time for media interviews, photos and footage is generally before the ceremonies from 10am when students gather with their families and friends outside the Hall.

Media are able to go into ceremonies for footage and photos of students accepting their degrees and diplomas.

For more information on graduations and ceremonies, visit:
<http://www.utas.edu.au/graduation/>

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