

MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

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ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors



JON ENGLISH DONATES TO TAS DEVILS

Rock Legend Jon English is donating the proceeds of his Hobart and Launceston 'Rock Show' benefit performances to help save the Tasmanian devil.

The Rock Show is a concert theatre show starring Jon English and a cast of eight young multi-instrumentalists playing classic 60's and 70's rock music, which came to Tasmania in February 2010.

Jon has been performing the show around Australia, helping to boost awareness of the plight of the Tasmanian devils. The devils are suffering from the ravages of Devil Facial Tumour Disease which has seen a decline in their population of 80 per cent in recent years.

In Tasmania to film for a *Rock Show* promotional DVD he's hoping to release later this year, Jon said that he will continue to do whatever he can for the Tasmanian devil.

"I want people to understand just how urgently the devils need our help," he said.

"We in Australia have a terrible reputation for not saving our native species."

"It's bad enough that we lost the Tasmanian tiger-to lose the devil too would be tragic."

The performances were a promotional precursor to Devil Rock, a major rock concert fundraiser Jon is helping to organise, planned for late in 2010.

Devil Rock will be supporting a joint research program involving Dr Kathy Belov and other researchers from the University of Sydney Faculty of Veterinary Science and the Australian Reptile Park at Gosford, which has been involved with the Save the Tasmanian Devil Program's captive Insurance Population for the past three years and has successfully bred more than 30 devils.

Jon is available for interview. Vision and stills available.

Media enquiries: Jess Tyler, Manager, Save the Tasmanian Devil Appeal, T: 03 6226 2553

Information Released by:

UTAS Communications and Media, University of Tasmania

Phone: 6226 2691 Mobile: 0447 537 375

Email: Media.Office@utas.edu.au

The Save the Tasmanian Devil Appeal is administered by the University of Tasmania Foundation and is the formal fundraising arm of the Save the Tasmanian Devil Program. The University of Tasmania, in partnership with the Australian and Tasmanian State Government, launched the Save the Tasmanian Devil Program and Appeal to oversee the response to the disease and raise funds for vital research. The aim of the program is to maintain the Tasmanian devil as an ecologically functional species in the wild.



An initiative of the Save the Tasmanian Devil Program coordinated by the University of Tasmania Foundation