

Media Release

Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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Crown Princess Mary honorary patron of University's 125th birthday

The University of Tasmania is pleased to announce alumnus, Her Royal Highness Crown Princess Mary of Denmark, as the Honorary Patron of the University's 125th Anniversary Celebrations, which commence next year.

"As a former graduate and from a family with strong ties to the University, it is with great pleasure that I serve as Honorary Patron of the University of Tasmania's 125th Anniversary Celebration," Crown Princess Mary said.

"Like each of you, the University holds a special place in my heart, and I applaud the initiative to celebrate this notable Anniversary Year."

University Vice-Chancellor Professor Peter Rathjen made the announcement at the University's gala Foundation Dinner in Hobart tonight, saying it was a wonderful gesture of support.

"This University is distinctive – we are locally-informed and grounded, with global connectivity and internationally recognised standards." Professor Rathjen said.

"The Crown Princess is proudly and identifiably Tasmanian. Crown Princess Mary and the Donaldson family's association with the University is deep and long. This legacy informs a life that is now global in presence, impact and connectivity."

Crown Princess Mary graduated from the University of Tasmania in 1994 with the combined degree of Bachelor of Commerce and Bachelor of Laws.

Prof Rathjen said the Crown Princess has continued to support her former island home through the creation of the Crown Princess Mary Scholarship.

"The Scholarship allows high-achieving students from any discipline, from Denmark or Tasmania, to undertake study on exchange to broaden their academic and cultural horizons," Professor Rathjen said.

The University of Tasmania was the fourth to be established in Australia

when it was founded in 1890 and has since produced more than 90,000 graduates.

The University's global reach stretches across more than 90 countries where exchange agreements allow students the option to pursue international experience as part of their tertiary studies.

A special 125th Anniversary organising committee, chaired by the University's former Provost, Professor David Rich, has been established to help co-ordinate, assist and support the numerous events and activities which will be held next year.

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