

Media Release

Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

Thursday, 9 June 2016

Academic's book sheds new light on regional Australia

The significant challenges being faced by communities in regional Australia, including those in Tasmania's North-West, have been defined in a new publication authored by a University of Tasmania academic.

Regional Development in Australia: Being Regional is the latest book by Associate Professor Robyn Eversole, Director of the University's Institute for Regional Development, based at the Cradle Coast campus.

The book, which will be officially launched today (**Thursday**), documents Associate Professor Eversole's 15 years of research and observations from living and working in different regional communities across Australia.

The publication contains case studies of regional towns and their industries, universities and institutions. It also includes an in-depth portrayal of on-the-ground innovation in Tasmania, with a particular focus on agriculture and manufacturing on the state's North-West.

Associate Professor Eversole said she hoped the book would provide a new approach to regional development and shape future policy in the area.

"I observed a gap in how regional development is understood in Australia and overseas, which tells us a lot about why regional policy solutions borrowed from elsewhere so often miss the mark in Australia.

"This book takes an anthropological approach to regional development, looking at common issues as they play out on the ground in regions and localities across Australia. In my analysis I unpack these common regional development issues and propose practical solutions, drawing on the ingredients that are already there, and the hidden innovation that is often present but unrecognised in places like Tasmania."

Pro Vice-Chancellor Professor Janelle Allison (Community, Partnerships and Regional Development) congratulated Associate Professor Eversole on her latest publication.

“It is exciting to see the impact which University of Tasmania staff are having beyond campus. This book builds upon the high level of cutting-edge research and projects conducted by Associate Professor Robyn Eversole through the Institute for Regional Development, and reinforces the important work that is being led by our academics in forging positive global change,” Professor Allison said.

Associate Professor Eversole is the author of five internationally-recognised books on regional and community development, including the recent *Knowledge Partnering for Community Development* (2015), in addition to her extensive publication list in other genres which include children’s books, journal articles and industry reports.

The North-West launch of *Regional Development in Australia: Being Regional* forms part of the two-day Cradle Coast Innovation *IDEAS Festival* which began yesterday.

The Northern launch of Associate Professor Eversole’s book will be integrated into a Regional Development Showcase in Launceston tomorrow evening (Friday).

“The showcase is a public event which will profile leading applied research on regional issues at the University of Tasmania, and the Institute for Regional Development is delighted to host Emeritus Professor John Martin (La Trobe University) who will speak on regional development research and innovation,” Associate Professor Eversole said.

MEDIA OPPORTUNITIES:

North-West launch

What: *Regional Development in Australia: Being Regional* launch at Cradle Coast Innovation IDEAS Festival

When: TODAY, Thursday, 9 June, 1pm

Where: Gawler Room, Ulverstone Civic Centre, Patrick St., Ulverstone.

Northern launch

What: *Regional Development in Australia: Being Regional* launch at the *Regional Development Showcase*

When: Friday, 10 June, 5pm

Where: Academy Gallery, Inveresk, Launceston.

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