

MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

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ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors



North-West women capture India in new Campus exhibit

An Indian orphanage and school is the focus of an upcoming photography exhibition at the UTAS Cradle Coast campus.

The Mona Lisa Project: Living, loving and learning in India features photographic images of some of the 12 orphans and 100 children living and learning at a school in India.

The images were taken by UTAS associate lecturer in the Education Faculty, Donna Harris along with North West Coast women Jess Jacobson and Allison Davies, all of whom travelled to India to volunteer at the school.

The school and orphanage were developed by the Mona Lisa Project, initiated by Devonport resident Angela May after a chance meeting with Indian woman Jyoti Jahnavii and an orphan in her care, Mona Lisa, while she was travelling in India.

The Mona Lisa Project has operated since 2003, with the aim to fund the building and running of a home and school for Mona Lisa and children like her.

Ms Harris, who teaches science, ICT and visual arts, took time away from her teaching at the Cradle Coast campus to help at the school.

“It was such a touching and humbling experience. The children are living in a happy, loving family environment, sheltered somewhat from the very harsh reality of poverty which surrounds them,” Ms Harris said.

“This experience has made me aware of the huge difference we can make to the lives of children and their communities. I hope this exhibition enables people to connect in some small way with these beautiful children and consider the impact that we can all have in the world.”

The exhibition will be opened by Ms Harris on **Friday 1 May at 6 pm** and will be on display in the Campus Gallery foyer on Mooreville Road Burnie from 1-22 May from 9-5 weekdays. Entrance is free. For more information/interviews contact: Donna Harris.

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