

MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

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ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors



Documenting the disappearance of the Burnie Pulp Mill

This year's UTAS Cradle Coast Campus Artists in Residence are developing work in reference to the industrial and natural landscape of Burnie, focussing on the now-closed pulp mill.

The project *Shifting Infrastructure* documents the demolition of the pulp mill, exploring the stories and functions of the mill and how the concept of "the mill" presents itself in other parts of the landscape.

The pulp mill was closed last year after dominating the city and its foreshore since the 1940s, creating thousands of local jobs over many generations.

The artists, Heidi Axelsen and Hugo Moline, will be discussing their project at the Cradle Coast Campus this Thursday, and will illustrate *Shifting Infrastructure* through a work-in-progress exhibition.

They have been based in the studios of The Makers Workshop during the research phase of their project.

"We have been looking at the traces of where people have been, and have been drawing on Burnie City Council 2010/11 writer-in-residence, Dr Pete Hay's stories and anecdotes to build pictures in our minds, and in our works of the larger-than-life characters who worked at the mill," Hugo said.

"To me the mill seemed like a living thing that has evolved and changed over time.

"Our work has focussed on mapping and diagrammatic works, to highlight the difference between the highly productive workplace, and the shell that is now left behind."

Heidi said the most striking impressions of the pulp mill are the abandoned nature and feel of the place.

"When you go to the site, you can't help but try to imagine how things would have looked in the busy, noisy working mill," she said.

"It has been like beach combing – picking up the flotsam and jetsam of a busy, productive workplace where hundreds of people spent their days. Now anything that is left is dislocated from its original use.

“You can only see things through their absence – pipes leading into space, ladders climbing into mid air, and silent parcels of machines, wrapped in plastic and ready to be removed.”

The artists hope to return to the region and continue their project later this year.

The artists will be discussing their project at the UTAS Cradle Coast’s Foyer Gallery, Building A, 16-20 Mooreville Rd, Burnie from 1.30pm on Thursday.

Shifting Infrastructure will be exhibited at the campus from 1 March until Easter.

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