

MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

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ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors



Retiring Provost one of three to receive UTAS honorary doctorates

The retiring Provost of the University of Tasmania will be one of three distinguished members of the Tasmanian community to receive honorary doctorates at UTAS graduation ceremonies over the next five days.

They will join nearly 3,500 students who will graduate at ceremonies in Launceston tomorrow and in Hobart on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

- The Provost of UTAS, Professor David Rich, is to be awarded Doctor of Letters *honoris causis* at the 11am ceremony in Launceston on Saturday 14 December.
- Emeritus Professor Michael Stoddart is to be awarded Doctor of Science *honoris causis* at the 3pm ceremony in Hobart on Monday 16 December.
- The Chairman of the Menzies Research Institute Tasmania, Dr Dan Norton, is to be awarded Doctor of Laws *honoris causis* at the 3pm ceremony in Hobart on Wednesday 18 December.

Prof Rich will retire on April 17 next year after six years as Provost and Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic). He has agreed, however, to take on a new part-time role, as coordinator of UTAS' 125th anniversary celebrations in 2015.

The Vice-Chancellor, Prof Peter Rathjen, said the University could not have made a more advantageous appointment than that of Prof Rich in mid-2007.

“The period since Prof Rich’s appointment has seen unprecedented change right across the institution. These challenges have included the integration of the Australian Maritime College into the University; reprofiling the University to achieve a high performance culture and enhanced learning and research output; and, growing higher education participation in Tasmania, particularly in the North West of the State.

“His leadership role in meeting these challenges and managing associated change cannot be overstated. He has worked with all stakeholders in a manner that is honest, forthright and fair, and shows his genuine concern for improving the working lives of those around him whilst seeking the best for the University,” Prof Rathjen said.

Prof Michael Stoddart, a specialist in vertebrate olfactory biology, is “the epitome of what one would imagine the perfect university professor to be – gentlemanly, considerate, eloquent, diplomatic, productive and, above all, astute and extremely clever,” Prof Rathjen said.

In 2009, following a distinguished academic career, Prof Stoddart was appointed as the inaugural Executive Director of the Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies (IMAS). He was appointed Chair of the IMAS Board in early 2011, a term of appointment which concluded at the end of September. During that time he has had a guiding influence over the development of the institute’s strategic plan and development of the new \$45 million IMAS building on Hobart’s waterfront.

The third honorary doctorate recipient, Dr Dan Norton, has made an outstanding contribution to the University, notably through his leadership of the Menzies Research Institute Tasmania Board.

“As Chair of the Menzies Board, he has been instrumental in developing and achieving a significant growth strategy that has consolidated Menzies firmly as a successful health and medical research institute in Australia,” Prof Rathjen said. “He also played an important role in attracting funding support for the Medical Science Two building.”

Prof Rathjen added that Dr Norton provided a broader and important contribution to the University through his expert advice around governance and strategy.

For further details on the Launceston and Hobart ceremonies:

<http://www.utas.edu.au/graduation/dates-times-and-locations>

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