



NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA, AUSTRALIA

Media Release

Chiefs of Staff, News Directors
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Musical artistic residency will result in major community initiative

North-West musicians will perform music inspired by our region as part of the University of Tasmania's 2016 Cradle Coast Campus Arts Residency.

Hobart-based musician, songwriter and composer Dean Stevenson has been selected for the second year running as the winner of this year's University of Tasmania Arts Residency. This is the first time that the grant has been awarded to the same applicant twice since the program began.

Mr Stevenson's project *Facing North* builds on his successful 2015 residency when he worked with musicians from the North West to develop the first phase of the dynamic performance piece inspired by sounds and stories of the region.

"Last year's residency enabled me to work with a broad range of musicians in the North West to produce a comprehensive body of work with three key themes; industry, war and the Cape Grim story."

"During the 2016 arts residency I will develop the composition into a major community initiative that celebrates the people, landscape and history of the North West coast, I'm hoping to engage around 300 local musicians," Mr Stevenson said.

Artist in Residence Coordinator at the University of Tasmania Cradle Coast Campus, Joanna Gair, said that the arts residency has created a great opportunity to showcase the great musical talent in North West Tasmania.

"We are delighted that *Facing North* has been selected as part of the Ten Days on the Island Festival 2017 program, it's an exceptional outcome for Dean but also a rare opportunity for

musicians in our region to work with a musician of Dean's calibre and perform as part of a major international arts festival." said Joanna Gair,

Starting in June 2016, Mr Stevenson will be based at the Makers' Workshop in Burnie whilst he completes *Facing North*.

"I'll be including musicians of all ages and abilities from local schools, choirs, bands and orchestras," Mr Stevenson said.

Mr Stevenson's previous work includes several significant commissions, including music inspired by the poetry of Timothy Walsh and a musical score for the film "16 Legs" which is currently in production.

Mr Stevenson has also collaborated and performed with musicians including UK musical arranger John Metcalfe (Coldplay, Peter Gabriel), Mick Thomas from Weddings, Parties, Anything and the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra.

Now in its sixth year, the University of Tasmania Cradle Coast Campus Artist in Residence program attracts strong interest from Tasmanian, interstate and international artists.

The residency supports artists to explore new perspectives on the North West region and is open to artists working in multi-media, performing arts, curation, visual arts, design, craft and literature.

Funding of up to \$5000 is provided through the residency to support travel, accommodation, living expenses and the production of work.