

MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

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ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors



Celebrating harmony with new spice

A new student dining experience is being launched at the UTAS Sandy Bay campus as part of the celebrations for Harmony Week.

Harmony Week (16-21 March) celebrates diversity, understanding and acceptance by enjoying the cuisine of other nationalities.

Pepperz Cafe & Bar and Pepperz Restaurant have multicultural facilities open to all students, with special discounts for those living on campus.

UTAS Vice-Chancellor Professor Daryl Le Grew said it is particularly appropriate to launch the new café during a week celebrating Australia's cultural diversity.

“As we mark Harmony Day at the University of Tasmania with a series of events and functions, including a public lecture on the importance of multiculturalism, I think it is important to reflect on the enormous benefits to Australian life as a result of the diversity of cultures living here,” he said.

“A clever society is a diverse society – one that encourages and embraces difference and that, I believe, is what UTAS represents to the Tasmanian community.”

Prof Le Grew said a flexible approach to dining has been pursued because of the broad range of student needs now at the University.

“There are approximately 1200 students living on campus in UTAS owned accommodation this year,” Prof Le Grew said.

“With many more interstate and international students now staying in accommodation, there has been a need for a greater variety of food, delivered in a culturally sensitive way.”

“It is of great importance to us that our international students are provided with affordable, enjoyable meal options which suit their budget and help them to feel at home.”

Pepperz has a design-your-own-noodles bar, sofas, a pool table and an outside dining area.

Director of Accommodation Services at UTAS, Jacinta Young, said when the colleges and halls of residence were first built in the 1960s, the only option for students was to eat their meals in dining halls three times a day from a set menu.

“Now students have opportunity to cook for themselves or buy a meal when it suits them, whether they live in a college, apartment or hall of residence,” Ms Young said.

“Students now also only pay for what they consume and can choose how they want to spend their food dollars, on campus or off.”

The Launceston campus equivalent, Saltz, is located in the Australian Maritime College communal area and is also open for business.

UTAS also has two more upcoming events celebrating Harmony Day:

Monday 23rd March

A public lecture on the future and importance of multiculturalism will be held in the Stanley Burbury Lecture Theatre, Sandy Bay campus from 6.30pm-9pm.

The speakers will be:

Lisa Singh (Tasmanian Labor MHA and Minister for Workplace Relations)

Cassie O'Connor (Tasmanian Greens MHA)

Eric Abetz (Australian Liberal Senator for Tasmania)

Associate Professor Keith Jacobs (UTAS School of Sociology and Social Work) will MC the event with Saleh Bin Talib, International Student President, Tasmania University Union.

Wednesday 25th March

Official welcome to Harmony Day events, international students and visitors on the steps of the refectory building, Sandy Bay campus. 12-2pm with entertainment by student societies and food stalls.

To find out more about Harmony Day, visit:

<http://www.harmony.gov.au/harmony-day/>

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