



# TAFI Media Statement



**Friday 18 September 2009**

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**Prof Colin Buxton  
Tasmanian Aquaculture & Fisheries Institute**

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## **TAFI SCIENTISTS WIN A NATIONAL AWARD FOR WEBSITE**

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Tasmanian scientists have won a national award for their educational CD and web-based interactive guide at the annual Whitley awards, held today at the Australian Museum in Sydney.

The “Guide to the Marine Zooplankton of south eastern Australia,” gained a Whitley commendation certificate for the best CD ROM Electronic Guide.

The Guide features facts, figures, diagrams and photos of a wide range of tiny creatures from the sea.

One of the website authors, Dr Kerrie Swadling, from the UTAS School of Zoology, said it was an honour for the website to be nationally recognised.

“The website provides a comprehensive, fully-illustrated means of identification for the major zooplankton located in south east Australia via an interactive guide,” Dr Swadling said.

“It also provides an understanding of the role of zooplankton and its importance in the marine food chain and how it is the main diet for larger commercially important fish,” she added.

The team of scientists who produced the website guide include Dr Swadling, Anita Slotwinski and Dr John Gibson of TAFI, Assoc Prof David Ritz from the UTAS School of Zoology and Dr Graham Hosie of the Australian Antarctic Division.

Director of TAFI, Prof Colin Buxton, said the award recognised the importance of taking science to the community and would reinforce the website’s proficiency as an education and research tool.

“The website has been used by researchers in more than 80 countries and receives an average of 5000 page downloads each month,” Prof Buxton said.

The annual Whitley awards provide recognition for outstanding publications in print or electronic form relating to the fauna of the Australasian region. The Whitley awards commenced in 1979 and are a tribute to a renowned Australian zoologist, Gilbert Whitley and are hosted by the Royal Zoological Society of NSW.

The website can be viewed at: <http://www.tafi.org.au/zooplankton/>