

MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

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ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors



Estate of former Cressy farmer gives a helping hand to young people in higher education

Funding from the estate of former Cressy farmer, Bruce Wall, has boosted a scheme which encourages disadvantaged young people into college and tertiary education.

The Vice-Chancellor of the University of Tasmania, Professor Daryl Le Grew, said that the extra funding to the UTAS Springboard to Higher Education bursary would now enable all Tasmanian State high schools to be involved in the program.

“It’s most appropriate that the Bruce Wall Estate makes it possible for young people who may not otherwise be able to continue their education to get financial help to study at college and university,” he said.

“Bruce Wall used the latest methods and practices to breed Corriedale sheep and Poll Hereford cattle on his farm, Lake House, at Cressy.

“In life he supported research and development in agricultural studies at the University, as well as the State agriculture department and the CSIRO.

“And now Bruce Wall’s estate not only supports this bursary but also two perpetual memorial scholarships in agriculture or aquaculture. His contribution is critical to the expansion of the program so that a bursary can be awarded to one student in every Tasmanian State high school. ”

Springboard to Higher Education recipients receive \$750 a year for each year of Years 11 and 12, and the first year of university.

“UTAS developed this program to address Tasmania’s poor retention rates, which are among the lowest in Australia for Years 11 and 12,” Prof. Le Grew said.

“The University is committed to helping students at every level of their education to achieve their full potential.

“It’s unusual for university programs to target students still in high school but we believe the situation calls for an innovative solution.

“We recognise and value the generous support of this program’s sponsors in ensuring it survives.”

Other major supporters of the Springboard to Higher Education bursary program include MyState Financial Community Foundation and the Sylvia and Charles Viertel Foundation.

Since it began in 2002 Springboard to Higher Education has helped more than 135 students to continue their education, often as the first member of their family to do so.

Over the past five years, the program has supported students with more than half a million dollars of funding.

Information Released by:

Media Office, University of Tasmania

Phone: 6324 3218 Mobile: 0438 510 616

Email: Media.Office@utas.edu.au

Springboard fast facts:

The Springboard to Higher Education Program operates by:

- Recognising, rewarding and supporting deserving young students who are at risk of leaving the education system and not realising their full educational potential;
- Establishing a partnership between the sponsors, young people from the target group, participating schools, parents, and the University of Tasmania;
- Focusing on the value of continued education in high schools and colleges in Tasmania and so encouraging many other students to undertake further education through their own efforts;
- Building and maintaining the program to offer ongoing bursaries and scholarships to the participating students;
- Working to break the cycle of low continuing education rates by changing the community culture, reversing the loss of intellectual capital from Tasmania and the development of the 'can do' attitude necessary to create wealth, economic renewal and personal and community growth.

Students are identified by their schools for bursaries on the basis that they:

- Need financial assistance to continue to further education;
- Are likely to be successful in years 11 and 12 and university, if given support and encouragement;
- Are from a family with no tradition of participation in tertiary education;
- Merit the support, in the opinion of the schools.