

# **MEDIA RELEASE**

**NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA**

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ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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## Tasmanian timber at heart of Aboriginal artwork

The beautifully polished wood sculptures and carvings of 61-year-old self-taught Tasmanian Aboriginal artist Will Stackhouse will feature in *Tebrakunna Dreaming*, an exhibition of two and three dimensional art, opening on **Thursday, April 10** at the Riawunna Art Gallery at the UTAS Newnham Campus.

Originally from Flinders Island, Stackhouse has been working with wood since he was a child, and he utilises mainly Tasmanian native timbers to depict the people and traditions of his heritage.

This was particularly evident in his 2012 sculptural collection titled *Hunters and Gatherers – the Tebrakunna Dreaming*, which highlighted his own North-East Tasmanian Aboriginal group and its social and survival activities.

For more than 30 years Stackhouse lived at Mt Isa, Queensland, and since returning to Tasmania nine years ago has enjoyed an enthusiastic response to his exhibitions and considerable commercial success with his artwork.

“Since returning to Tasmania I have been sculpting Huon pine, blackwood and other unique Tasmanian timbers in the hope that I can exhibit my works in galleries whose clients have an appreciation of the true value and distinctiveness of the wonderful timbers, some of which are only found in my home state,” he said.

“More recently I have taken to digital painting as an art form and have produced a number of works that I’ve sold.

“I have also discovered the vibrancy of Inktense pencils, which when utilised with water produce permanent and lightfast watercolour and ink paintings.”

Stackhouse is only the second professional Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artist to exhibit at the gallery, which opened only a few months ago to provide a permanent showcase for the work of Murina Pathway Program students at UTAS who study art in the Riawunna Centre.

### **“TEBRAKUNNA DREAMING” ART EXHIBITION**

**WHAT:** Work of Aboriginal artist Will Stackhouse

**WHERE:** Riawunna Centre, Building K, Newnham Drive, UTAS Newnham Campus, Launceston.

**WHEN:** April 10 - May 8, 9am-5pm weekdays

**OPENING:** April 10, 6pm

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