

# **MEDIA RELEASE**

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

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ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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## **Life in Launceston inspires summer school course in art and architecture**

Emeritus Professor John Webster's love for Launceston and expertise in architecture and town planning obviously qualify him to run next month's UTAS Creative Arts Summer School course in City Art and Design.

But less obviously his eclectic and eccentric interest in people, literature and art is the springboard from which he facilitates the course, which he is offering for the third time.

"The students involved re-evaluate what the city is all about from their own unique perspectives," Prof. Webster said.

"We use the city itself as a resource – the streets, the buildings, the view from the roof of the old post office - as well as the QVMAG's extensive photo collection capturing how the city has grown and changed over the past 120 years.

"It's not dry history; it's *real* history.

"Last year a Chinese student found some old Examiner articles about Launceston's Chinese 'ghetto', as it was described then. In the library's local history room he also found a poem written in Chinese and found in an old house, and he wrote about this experience for the Summer School's final exhibition."

Another student created her art work around ideas based on a report of a shop fire in central Launceston where burning mannequins were seen falling from the windows.

"Cities are complex organisms and the students in this course meld their own past lives, experiences and values and explore the prognosis for what city life might be," Prof. Webster said.

“For the final student exhibition, which is the culmination of the whole Summer School, the students create a manifestation of their experience in relating to the city of Launceston – a poem, a painting, an installation.”

The Tasmanian Creative Arts Summer School will be held 14-23 January at the Academy of the Arts at Inveresk.

The 20 courses and workshops offered cover areas such as arts history, arts business, ceramics, glass, design, drawing, painting, photography, public speaking, sculpture, textiles, theatre, furniture design and history.

They are open to current UTAS students and to the general public; some courses are already full. For more information see [www.acadarts.utas.edu](http://www.acadarts.utas.edu) or contact Summer School manager, Jana Harper ph. 63244423.

*To interview Prof. John Webster or for more information contact Sharon Webb, University of Tasmania, ph. 0438 5106.*

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