

MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

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ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors



UTAS officially endorsed as a leading world research authority on Antarctic and Environmental Sciences

Tasmania today confirmed its growing reputation as one of the world's leading Antarctic research study centres, with the University of Tasmania being designated a prestigious UNESCO-Cousteau Ecotechnie Chair in Antarctic and Southern Ocean Environmental Sciences.

It is the only Cousteau endorsed Chair in Australia and the only UNESCO Chair in Antarctic Studies in the world.

The Chair was launched in Hobart today by Dianne Cousteau, daughter of the legendary Jacques Cousteau, who has established a number of Chairs, or worldwide network of fellows, to address future environmental ocean, and Antarctic, issues.

The endorsement of UTAS into this exclusive global "think tank" follows the establishment by the University of the world's only International Antarctic Institute, which will begin offering a Master in Antarctic Studies shortly.

The inaugural Cousteau Chair will be headed by UTAS Professor, Andrew McMinn, who has a wealth of experience in environmental research, Antarctic environmental research and the impacts of climate change.

"Through graduate student training programs and global research programs the Chair will facilitate the bringing together of nations, including countries with strong Antarctic research programs and non-traditional Antarctic research countries," Professor McMinn said.

"By establishing this Chair in conjunction with the International Antarctic Institute, we can pass on the knowledge and information needed by the next generation of researchers and policy makers to address sustainable resource management, climate impacts and other global environmental and social issues, as well as biotechnical opportunities associated with Antarctica and the Southern Ocean."

Information Released by:
The Media Liaison Office, University of Tasmania
Phone: 6226 2124 Mobile: 0417 517 291
Email: Media.Office@utas.edu.au