

MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

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ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors



Geology rocks: just ask CODES

The University of Tasmania's ARC Centre of Excellence in Ore Deposits (CODES) is celebrating its 20 years of research and achievement with a symposium tomorrow and Saturday.

People from all over the world, including CODES alumni, industry professionals, researchers and academics, will be attending the symposium, which will showcase internationally significant research on ore metals, including lead, gold and iron. (Research highlights on second page.)

UTAS Vice-Chancellor Professor Daryl Le Grew said CODES is one of the jewels in the UTAS crown.

"CODES sits at the pinnacle of national research reputation, a position it richly deserves with its pre-eminent geoscientists in ore exploration, first-rate student and postdoctoral fellows and the support of the mining and related industries," Prof Le Grew said.

"Academic and industry researchers from all over the world seek CODES out as their destination- it is a place of intellectual vigour and innovative flair."

CODES was established in 1989 to conduct research aimed at developing better understanding of the geological, structural and geochemical controls on ore deposition and has since developed into a major international research centre.

CODES also began a graduate training program that included a new professional Masters degree and has since fostered close collaborations with the minerals industry.

Students and researchers travel the globe for their research and graduates often maintain ties with the Centre long after they leave.

Director of CODES, Professor Ross Large said it was exciting to see the Centre reach the 20 year milestone.

"From small beginnings CODES has grown rapidly into one of the world's best centres of research into economic geology," Prof. Large said.

"As Director, I am pleased to celebrate the numerous achievements CODES has had over the past two decades."

Significant achievements from CODES include:

- 50 projects in 25 countries
- 42 academic research staff
- Eight professors
- 9.8 million worth of funding per year
- 48 PhD students
- 66 total Masters graduations
- 74 PhD graduations

Research highlights

Topic: VHMS research: ancient and modern

- Professor Bruce Gemmell will be presenting the results of more than 20 years of research on volcanic-hosted massive sulfide deposits conducted at UTAS. The Mt Lyell, Rosebery, Hellyer and Henty mines are examples of these types of deposits. Research at CODES has developed improved exploration models to find new mineral deposits on land and also has investigated the modern seafloor where similar concentrations of metals are being formed in association with underwater volcanoes.

Topic: Beyond the crinkly tuffs

- Professor Jocelyn McPhie has led research and teaching in volcanology at UTAS since 1990. This research includes studies of modern and ancient volcanoes on land and under the ocean. Volcanoes play a central role in the formation of ore deposits because they concentrate heat, fluids and metals. Seafloor volcanoes are the "new frontier" of this research because they have only relatively recently become accessible to direct study and are less well understood than volcanoes on land.

Topic: Advances in understanding gold ore paragenesis

- Professor Ross Large will be presenting his team's new ideas on the formation of major gold deposits. His controversial theory is based on five years study of one of the world's largest gold deposits in Siberia, Russia. His team is now working with mining companies in applying the new ideas to a study of gold formation in the Bendigo district, Victoria.

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