

MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

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ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors



Free Statewide lectures to address tumour disease threatening Tassie Devil

A series of lectures aimed at raising awareness, and understanding of, the facial tumour disease will be held across the State over the coming months, with the first to be held in Hobart tomorrow night. (Tuesday)

In partnership with the State Government and the Tasmanian Devil Facial Tumour Disease Program, the University will hold the free lectures in Hobart, Launceston and Burnie.

The first lecture will be held tomorrow night, Tuesday May 22, at 6pm in the Stanley Burbury Theatre, Sandy Bay campus, followed by one in Launceston on Wednesday evening.

The Launceston lecture will be held at the Queen Victoria Museum & Art Gallery Inveresk Theatre, commencing at 6pm.

A third lecture will be held at the Burnie civic Centre on Thursday May 31, commencing at 7pm.

The series will continue across the State in July and September.

The aim is to provide comprehensive updates on the state of knowledge of the fatal and infectious disease threatening the Tasmanian devil, and what is being done to save the species in the wild.

The first series will cover the impact of DFTD on the Tasmanian devil and the ecological impacts of the devil's decline, while the second series will address the question "is the devil doomed?"

The third series will cover issues such as what is being done to save the devil, wildlife management practices and the potential of offshore islands to house devils.

Keynote lecturers include Professor Hamish McCallum, Professor of Wildlife Research at UTAS and senior scientist of the DFTD program, Dr Clare Hawkins, head of the Devil Disease Project monitoring team.

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