

# **MEDIA RELEASE**

**NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA**

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ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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## **Research boosted by appointment of new Executive Director**

The appointment of Professor Andrew Wells as Executive Director within the UTAS Research Division is an exciting investment in the University's research culture, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Peter Rathjen, said today.

Prof Wells is currently Deputy CEO of the Australian Research Council (ARC). Prior to joining ARC in February 2009, he was Dean of the Faculty of Arts at the University of Wollongong for five years.

"Prof Wells comes to UTAS with an outstanding record, particularly in the field of research," Prof Rathjen said.

"He has held four ARC grants and has been a highly active Higher Degree Research (HDR) supervisor, with around 25 completions to his credit.

"In addition, he has a longstanding interest in interdisciplinary studies, substantial and longstanding management experience, and a great capacity for strategic thinking."

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), Prof Paddy Nixon, said Prof Wells will be responsible for providing strategic and operational leadership in the development and implementation of University research policy and plans.

"Prof Wells represents an investment by the University in enhancing its research environment with a distinct focus on improved research performance," he said.

"His exemplary background as a researcher and leader in the Arts and Humanities will provide a balance to the research division that is very exciting."

Professor Wells said he was "excited to be joining UTAS to assist with the task of enhancing its research focus, capacity and performance".

"My research management and leadership experiences, including three years at the ARC, have provided me with the necessary aptitudes, skills and knowledge to meet the challenges ahead. Working with the UTAS Executive provides me with a unique opportunity."

Prof Wells is a graduate of Monash University (BA Hons, MA) and the Australian National University (PhD). He has taught a wide range of undergraduate and

graduate courses in politics, history, economic history, Asian studies and Australian studies at Monash University, Melbourne University, the Australian National University and the University of Wollongong.

His current research interests concern comparative studies of Australian and South-East Asian labour history, most recently focusing on imperial hegemony and colonial labour.

Prof Wells is due to commence at UTAS in February.

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