

MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

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ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors



Orchids, botox and a thesis in three minutes: UTAS Research Week Hobart

The annual University of Tasmania Research Week (**Monday 2 September - Friday 6 September 2013**) is coming up and there will be a variety of events across all UTAS campuses.

The program includes more than 70 events and is designed to showcase UTAS research while also giving staff and higher research degree candidates access to helpful seminars and forums.

UTAS Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) Professor Paddy Nixon said Research Week is not just for academics.

“One of the most pleasing aspects of Research Week is that we are able to share events with members of the community- we encourage anyone who is interested in finding out about the exciting research conducted at the University to join us for the program’s public events.”

Prof Nixon said Research Week was also a chance to meet with stakeholders and foster collaborations.

The public is invited to the following Hobart Research Week events:

The big issues in oral health

Learn about important developments in oral health care research and the new Centre of Research Excellence (CRE) in Primary Oral Health which is forging a link between dental care and primary health care.

Time: Monday 2 September, 12-1pm

Venue: MS2 115 Lecture Theatre, Medical Science Precinct, Hobart

RSVP: Christina.lsham@utas.edu.au

Bees, babies, bioterrorism and botox

Clostridium botulinum is a germ that produces the world’s most potent poison. It is a neurotoxin that causes paralysis and is considered to be one of the most credible agents for bioterrorism- it’s also used for cosmetic treatments under the name “botox” and also for relief from certain neurological diseases.

Occasionally *Clostridium botulinum* contaminates foods and, if it grows in the food, it can produce the poison and can kill people - or at least leave them paralysed for months. Recently, a large dairy company announced that some of its milk powder was contaminated with *C. botulinum*. Honey is also sometimes contaminated with *C. botulinum* spores and can be a particular risk to babies. So, what is the risk to consumers from milk powder and to consumers in general? This talk is presented by Associate Professor Tom Ross, Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture Food Safety Centre.

Time: Monday 2 September, 1-2pm

Venue: Lecture Theatre 3, TIA (Life Sciences Building), Sandy Bay Campus

RSVP: Amanda.Cromer@utas.edu.au

Celebrating UTAS Research Fellows forum

UTAS has more than 60 research fellows, including many recipients of highly competitive Australian Competitive Grants awards. Who are our research fellows, how did they get to where they are now, and what is their vision for UTAS' research culture?

Time: Monday 2 September, 3:30pm-5pm

Venue: University Club, Dobson Rd, Sandy Bay Campus

RSVP: Catherine.Dwyer@utas.edu.au

Menzies Research Institute Tasmania student showcase

Hobart Community groups, supporters and interested others are invited to meet and converse with Menzies' research students to find out about their work. Research posters will be on display and laboratory tours available.

Time: Tuesday 3 **AND** Wednesday 4 September, 10am-12pm

Venue: Medical Science Precinct, Menzies Research Institute,

RSVP: reception.MSP@utas.edu.au

Research forum: Schools of Business and Earth Science

This forum will feature five researchers from the Schools of Business and Earth Science presenting their latest research. Topics covered will include:

- Economics of No-Take marine reserves
- Acid Rock Drainage Prediction: Protecting the environment of mining
- Inference with weak and invalid instruments
- Mental health in the workplace
- Valuing the ore body at Olympic Dam

Time: Wednesday 4 September, 11am-12pm

Venue: University Club, Dobson Rd, Sandy Bay Campus

Innovation research in Tasmania

The forum, held in collaboration with DEDTA, will focus on innovation research of relevance to the development of Tasmania's public and private sectors. The forum will be followed by networking.

Time: Wednesday 4 September, 3:30-5pm

Venue: AIRC Seminar Room, Research House, 1 College Road, Sandy Bay Campus

RSVP: Sarah.Gatenby@utas.edu.au

Hot topics in IMAS- Oceans and ecosystems in a changing climate

This series of short talks (15 minutes each) will outline some of the exciting research within the Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies covering aspects of oceans and marine ecosystems.

Time: Thursday 5 September, 2-4pm

Venue: University Club, Dobson Rd, Sandy Bay Campus

RSVP: Anita.Gowers@utas.edu.au

Three minute thesis competition finals

In the Three Minute Thesis Competition candidates literally have three minutes to present a compelling oration on their thesis topic and its significance to the world. The winner of the UTAS final will go on to compete at the national 3MT Competition at the University of Western Sydney in October.

Time: 3:30pm-5pm

Venue: UTAS Tasmanian College of the Arts, Dechaineux Theatre and Foyer, Hunter St, Hobart

“The secret life of orchids” presentation by Dr Nigel Swarts, TIA

Dr Nigel Swarts from the Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture (TIA), will discuss about how we can best use science to understand orchid rarity and how to conserve Tasmania’s threatened orchids. This presentation will also include visits of the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens research laboratory and nursery.

Venue: Riverview Room, Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens, Hobart

Time: 10am-12pm

RSVP: Amanda.Cromer@utas.edu.au

For more information on Research Week events across the state, please visit: <http://www.utas.edu.au/research/researchweek>

Information Released by:

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