

MEDIA RELEASE

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Sounds of yesterday to help dementia sufferers cope with the present

A ground-breaking new art project explores therapeutic soundscapes for the benefit of people with dementia, as well as giving us an insight into their world.

The project sees the Wicking Dementia Research and Education Centre at the University of Tasmania teaming up with Tasmanian sound artist Jane Baker.

“We are using sound, which has the ability to inspire strong reminiscent memories and emotions,” she explained. “Reminiscence therapy has been used widely in the aged-care industry to fulfil the emotional and engagement needs of people with dementia, whose short-term memory is compromised.

“This project will offer a revolutionary new medium with ‘era-appropriate’ reminiscent soundscapes, especially for those high-needs people living in aurally restricted environments,” says Jane. “I am also very excited to see how the soundscapes come to life through collaboration with dementia sufferers, scientists and professors.”

Professor Andrew Robinson, Co-Director of the Wicking Centre, added: “We are very excited to have a sound artist working with our researchers, and seeing how this may benefit people with dementia”.

Jane has been awarded a Synapse Scholarship from the Australian Network for Art and Technology to support her creative partnership with the scientists at the Wicking Centre through a residency program.

The Wicking Centre is at the forefront of translational research and support for issues confronting people with dementia and their carers. More than 30 projects are being carried out in Tasmania and internationally.

Information released by:

The Communications and Media Office, University of Tasmania

Phone: (03) 6226 8518; 0429 336 328 (Peter Cochrane)

Email: Peter.Cochrane@utas.edu.au

