



# **MEDIA RELEASE**



## **NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA**

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ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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### **Epic sea-kayak journey to be beamed into Tasmanian classrooms**

Tasmanian teacher and adventurer Andrew Hughes today announced a 4000km sea-kayak expedition around Papua New Guinea. Beginning by paddling more than 800km down the remote Fly River, Hughes will continue to the capital Port Moresby and Milne Bay before embarking on long stretches of isolation to the northern border with Irian Jaya.

The journey, to be beamed live on the internet through [www.expeditionclass.com](http://www.expeditionclass.com), is expected to take six months, starting in May next year. It is co-sponsored by the UTAS School of Science, Technology and Engineering and the Australian National Geographic Society.

“The idea is to get students engaged in the journey by following it in real time via the website,” Andrew said.

“Their teachers can use the lesson plans we’ve developed - it’s a great way of getting students motivated to learn.”

In 2006, Andrew paddled nearly 5000km from Hobart to Thursday Island, with the journey broadcast through a blog. The interest it generated among schools indicates that adventure learning has a bright future in the classroom.

“New technologies are always presenting opportunities to extend the bounds of the traditional classroom,” Andrew said.

Hobart IT business Skeers Jerrim has partnered with website Expeditionclass.com to produce the learning resource website that will document the epic journey. Peter Jerrim, from Skeers Jerrim, said it had been a “delightful challenge” building the site.

“I think it opens new doors for teachers and adventure-loving-people in general. We’re excited to be involved,” he said.

Andrew teaches part-time at Campbell Street Primary School, taking classes from Kindergarten to grade four.

**Photo opportunities** with Andrew Hughes and his kayak are available until 1pm today at 214 Melville St, West Hobart or by arrangement.

Phone Andrew on 0437 668 537 for further information and interviews.

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