

## Media Release

### Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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## New zombie book urges readers to use mathematical brains

A new book including a chapter by a University staffer and an alumnus will ignite the imagination of readers by applying mathematical modelling to the scenario of a zombie apocalypse.

Dr Nick Beeton is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow in the University of Tasmania's School of Biological Sciences. He and a range of other academics contributed to *Mathematical Modelling of Zombies*, which is produced by the University of Ottawa Press.

Dr Beeton, Dr Alex Hoare (UNSW) and University graduate Brody Walker contributed the chapter: *Is There a Zombicidal Maniac Near You? You'd Better Hope So!*

Robert Smith? (*the question mark belongs there*), a professor of biomathematics at the University of Ottawa and a zombie enthusiast, edited the publication.

Chapters in the book include spatial diffusion of the undead; zombie swarming; and adaptive strategies for zombie attacks. By understanding how to combat zombies, readers will see an introduction to a wide variety of modelling techniques, which are applicable to other real-world issues, such as diseases and ecology.

The publication includes a foreword by Andrew Cartmel, former script editor of *Doctor Who*, author and zombie fan.

The University of Tasmania team's chapter discussed how the transmission of a zombie plague is unlike any other disease currently known, and how many armed people you would need to protect a susceptible population from zombies.

Dr Beeton said it was an exciting and worthy project.

"By bringing zombies into the mix, it's hoped the publication will show how mathematical modelling is really a fascinating area of science."

**Information released by:**

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