

Media Release

Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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From biodiversity to climate extremes, University of Tasmania researchers partnering in major new Centres of Excellence

Five researchers from the University of Tasmania will play key roles in two new Australian Research Council (ARC) Centres of Excellence announced today.

Nine centres were announced, receiving a combined \$283.5 million in federal funding, with the University of Tasmania partnering in the ARC Centre of Excellence for Australian Biodiversity and Heritage and the ARC Centre of Excellence for Climate Extremes.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) Professor Brigid Heywood said the Centres were built on collaboration, and the University of Tasmania's involvement was testament to its position at the fore of such pioneering research.

"These ARC Centres draw together the best researchers in the field, and I congratulate all of our researchers who will bring all their expertise to bear in helping to answer some of the fascinating questions our scientific community is posing," Professor Heywood said.

University of Tasmania researchers involved in the latest round of ARC Centres of Excellence scheme are:

- Professors Barry Brook and Chris Johnson with the **ARC Centre of Excellence for Australian Biodiversity and Heritage**. A University of Wollongong-led project which will investigate the beginning of Australia's unique biodiversity and Indigenous heritage, while inspiring Australian children to engage with science. The Centre will bring together 20 institutions and museums worldwide to unlock the history of Australia, Papua New Guinea and eastern Indonesian from 130,000 years ago until the time of European arrival. The first of its kind in the world, the Centre will encourage budding young scientists through a unique outreach program at schools and museums throughout Australia and will focus on nurturing the careers of Indigenous and female researchers.

- Professor Nathan Bindoff, and Associate Professors Neil Holbrook and Peter Strutton with the **ARC Centre of Excellence for Climate Extremes**. A group of researchers, led by The University of New South Wales, will transform Australia's capacity to predict future climate extremes through data modelling, research collaboration and researcher training programs. The Centre's research is expected to make Australia more resistant to climate extremes and minimise risks from climate extremes to the Australian environment, society and economy.

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