

Media Release

Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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From krill to kiln: University of Tasmania secures \$12.4 million in federal and industry funding

University of Tasmania researchers have secured \$12.4 million in federal and industry funding in the latest round of the Australian Research Council's Linkage Projects scheme.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) Professor Paddy Nixon said nine collaborative research projects will foster innovation in areas including forestry, fisheries, water quality, hops, krill and colonial history.

"The University has a strong and growing reputation in collaborative research, a reputation confirmed today with this outstanding result," Professor Nixon said.

"With nine out of 16 applications for Linkage funding successful, our success rate was 56 percent, well above the national success rate of 36 percent and the second highest of any university in the country.

"This is a reflection of the standard of research undertaken here at the University of Tasmania and the global impact of our work.

"These projects will keep the University of Tasmania at the cutting edge of forestry, fisheries, brewing and the rapidly expanding krill fishery."

The Linkage Projects scheme provides funding to support collaborative research between higher education, industry and business, focusing on innovation.

The University's industry partners in this funding round ranged from Forestry Tasmania and the Inland Fisheries Service Tasmania to Roar Film and Hop Products Australia.

Professor Nixon said today's success follows on from an announcement two weeks ago that the University had secured a \$17.4 million research hub which will drive improvement and excellence across the nation's mining sector.

The new ARC funding round included three separate University of Tasmania separate projects focusing on forestry sciences and two linked historical studies projects.

The full nine projects funded are:

- The development of new low-cost sensors to quantify a range of water nutrients for continuous automated water monitoring in the agriculture and aquaculture industries (lead researcher Associate Professor Michael Breadmore), \$600,00 in ARC funding;
- The use of three innovative approaches to biodiversity assessment to help develop decision models to underpin sustainable forest management plans (lead researcher Dr Gregory Jordan), \$411,000;
- Two separate grants for the mammoth Founders and Survivors colonial project being driven by Associate Professor Hamish Maxwell-Stewart. One involves an examination of convict bank accounts to measure the relationship between capital formation and post-sentence marriage, migration and reconviction rates. It will also result in improved archival search engines enabling members of the public to access international records. The second, which includes development of a computer game for children, aims to explore the impact that penal reforms had on the diet and health of convicts. Total ARC funding nearly \$500,000;
- The testing of a 'gene to plantation' approach for the management of bark-stripping mammal pests in the softwood forestry (lead researcher Dr Julianne O'Reilly-Wapstra), \$470,000;
- The development of applied genetic strategies to eradicate *Gambusia*, a serious invasive pest fish species from a Tasmanian estuary (Dr Jawahar Patil), \$476,000;
- A study of the quantitative genetic architecture of *Eucalyptus globulus*, the most important plantation eucalypt in Australia (Professor Bradley Potts), \$295,000;
- A project to explore the flavour potential of hop – the overarching aim being to offer smart breeding strategies leading to novel flavours for existing and emerging breweries (lead researcher Associate Professor Robert Shellie), \$355,000;
- Research to aid the expanding krill fishery by predicting the factors governing omega 3 oil levels and biochemical composition in krill (lead researcher Dr Patti Virtue), \$492,000.

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