



Media Release

Monday, 7th December, 2009

NRM NORTH & UTAS SCHOLARSHIPS FORM PART OF MOU

NRM North and the University of Tasmania have announced four new scholarships for students studying at the Newnham campus.

The scholarships of five thousand dollars each are funded by NRM North and are the first outcome of a Memorandum of Understanding between the natural resource management organisation and the university.

The MOU was signed today by the university's Deputy Vice-Chancellor Professor David Rich and NRM North's Chairman Richard Ireland and Chief Executive Officer James McKee.

Mr McKee said NRM North was already working closely with the university but was pleased to begin the formal partnership by offering support to students through the scholarship program.

"The scholarships would be available for students studying in the National Centre for Marine Conservation and Resource Sustainability (NCMCRS) and the Human Interface Technology (HIT) Laboratory area with a focus on using new technology to understand environmental interactions better." Mr McKee said.

"Working with cutting edge technology and critical environmental issues such as climate change provides a new way of exploring how we can best look after our environment in the face of many significant and rapid changes.

"There is potential for students studying in areas outside computing, for example, environmental science, to use the HIT Laboratory, so these students would also be eligible for the scholarships.

"Another exciting part of this program is the potential for the students to work with NRM North on a research project. This would be of great benefit to both the students involved and NRM North." Mr McKee said.

Professor Rich said NRM North had been a great supporter of UTAS through provision of research opportunities, student internships and jobs, scholarship funds and a range of initiatives that have built knowledge and capacity in the Tasmanian natural resource sector.

"Well-managed partnerships can be powerful," he said.

"This formalised relationship enables us to share knowledge, skills, and resources which will deliver outcomes for students, the community and the environment."

Mr Ireland said the scholarships were just one example of what could be achieved through the new formal partnership.

"The MOU aims to support the responsible management of northern Tasmania's natural and social assets through the development and implementation of collaborative programs.

"This includes the sharing of information, resources and expertise." Mr Ireland said.

**** Professor David Rich, James McKee and Richard Ireland will be available to discuss the scholarships at the official MOU signing at 4.30pm TODAY at the University. The signing will take place at Executive Meeting Room 1. (map attached)**

Ends

For more information contact:
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