Special workshop to inspire students into a career in STEMM

High school students will be encouraged to consider future careers in science, technology, engineering, mathematics and medicine (STEMM) at a workshop featuring Australian of the Year and neuroscientist Professor Alan Mackay-Sim tomorrow (Wednesday, 18 October).

The half-day student mentoring session, at the University of Tasmania’s Medical Sciences Precinct in Hobart, has been organised by 2017 Tasmanian Australian of the Year Rosalie Martin and her charity Chatter Matters.

Year 9 and 10 students from New Town High School, Hutchins, Collegiate and New Norfolk High School will hear from Professor Mackay-Sim and researchers from the University.

Ms Martin, a speech pathologist who was named 2017 Tasmanian Australian of the Year for her charity work in prisons, said the event had two key aims.

One was to inspire young people to take up STEMM careers and the second was to encourage STEMM leaders to learn the skills of communication that she said were necessary to provide more equitable career pathways.

“We are really hoping the students will walk away feeling inspired by the work and career of Professor Mackay-Sim, who is an amazing scientist and a generous person,” Ms Martin said.

“And we hope to have planted seeds of aspiration for careers in STEMM fields in the students’ minds, whether they are boys or girls.”

Ms Martin said that while more women were coming into fields of STEMM study, there were still challenges around them progressing equitably within their careers.

“I want to bring science and communication together to examine what are the communication needs that will allow women to flourish in their STEMM careers,” she said.
The event is sponsored by Chatter Matters and the University of Tasmania, with support from the University’s Institute for the Study of Social Change.

Professor Mackay-Sim will also give a public lecture on stem cells and regenerative medicine at Lecture Theatre 2, Medical Scenes Precinct (building 1), Liverpool St Hobart, **tonight** (17 October) from **6pm to 7.30pm**.

**Media opportunity**

There will be an opportunity from **12pm tomorrow** to interview Professor Alan Mackay-Sim, Rosalie Martin and University of Tasmania STEMM mentors. Some students will also be available for interview.

Media are also invited to film overlay and take photographs during tomorrow’s workshop, which will run from **9.30am to 12pm**.

**What:** Mentoring session for students from **9.30am to 12pm** and interviews from **12pm**.

**When:** Tomorrow, Wednesday, 18 October 2017.

**Where:** Dry Lab, Medical Sciences Precinct, Liverpool St, Hobart

For more information contact Liz Stacey on 0419 587 457.

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**Information released by:**
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