Media Release

Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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Research into predatory bird species awarded top scholarship

A study into the effects of land-use change on predatory bird species and the future repercussions thereof in Tasmania has been awarded a prestigious University of Tasmania scholarship.

Faculty of Science, Engineering and Technology Honours student Matthew Fielding’s project is the 2017 recipient of the Governor’s Environment Scholarship.

Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Kate Warner AC presented Matthew with his prize at an awards ceremony at Government House today.

University of Tasmania Vice-Chancellor Professor Peter Rathjen congratulated Matthew on his achievement in securing the coveted award.

“IT is wonderful to see our students helping to protect and conserve Tasmania’s world-renowned natural environment through their research,” Professor Rathjen said.

“The scholarship enables this important research to be undertaken, with the award also being generously supported by industry.”

The scholarship will allow Matthew to complete his research into how birds such as forest ravens, magpies and butcherbirds affect other Tasmanian avian fauna, and potentially small mammals and reptiles.

He will also look at the potential invasion of more opportunistic predatory birds, including the Australian raven, from south-eastern Australia to Tasmania.

This year’s scholarship, valued at $7500 for one year, was presented to a student undertaking an honours or masters project, in any faculty, which relates to management of the environment.

The Governor is Patron of the award, which is supported by leaders in environmental policy in Tasmania.
Current donors include Bell Bay Aluminium, Hydro Tasmania, TasNetworks, Nyrstar Hobart and Norske Skog.

**Information released by:**
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