Media Release
Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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A grand occasion for Children’s University student

Adella Jackson has a few butterflies in her tummy today, but her overriding emotion is anticipation rather than nerves.

“I am really excited,” the Year Five student from Collinsvale Primary said.

Adella will be among the students from nine Southern Tasmanian schools who will lead the University of Tasmania Town and Gown procession through the streets of Hobart.

She will then deliver the Welcome to the Children’s University Tasmania Graduation at the Hotel Grand Chancellor in Hobart.

The large audience will include Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Kate Warner, AM, Governor of Tasmania.

That might be a bit overwhelming for many 11-year-olds, but Adella met Her Excellency during a Children’s University visit to Government House in October, and knows “she is just like a normal person”.

Adella and her sister Zailee, 8, later produced an impressive PowerPoint presentation about the visit. It featured an image of Her Excellency sitting on the floor with a cup of tea chatting to the girls during the lunch break.

“She is very friendly,” Adella said. “She tries to get to know you a lot – it makes you feel special.”

“We went back home and made a PowerPoint presentation of who she is and what she does. That was really good to do because we earned more stamps on our passports.”

Children’s University Tasmania - which is operated by the Peter Underwood Centre under the auspices of Children’s University Australia - creates opportunities that build confidence, encourage and celebrate learning outside school hours.
Each child is issued with a *Passport to Learning* from their school in which the hours of validated activity are recorded by Learning Destinations.

Once they have reached the required number of hours children graduate from Children’s University. The activities are chosen by the participants and the emphasis is on experience as a powerful learning tool.

Adella was also among the Children’s University participants at Collinsvale who made their small screen debuts as extras in the hit ABC TV comedy series *Rosehaven* earlier this year.

“That was a lot of fun,” Adella said.

“What I like about Children’s University is all the different activities and learning destinations, and the different types of people you meet of all ages. You feel like part of the community.”

Since being launched in July 2015, Children’s University Tasmania has grown to include 16 schools, and is being extended to schools on the North-West Coast thanks to a $350,000 Tasmanian Community Fund grant.

Launched in February 2015, the Peter Underwood Centre is a partnership between the University of Tasmania and the Tasmanian Government in association with the Office of the Governor of Tasmania.

**Graduation Day Schedule:**

2:15pm - Town and Gown procession departs IMAS, 20 Castray Esplanade, Battery Point.

3:00pm-4:45pm - Children’s University Tasmania Graduation Ceremony and celebration, Hotel Grand Chancellor, 1 Davey St, Hobart.

Interviews - by arrangement.

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