An exciting future for Makers’ Workshop

The University of Tasmania is progressing a new chapter for Makers’ Workshop. The space will continue showcasing the North-West region’s strengths in making through a new range of learning, research and industry opportunities.

This will be enabled by bringing together our Original Equipment Manufacturing (OEM) facility, Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture (TIA), a new Business Incubator, and a public demonstration space inside the building.

Activities will focus on technology, innovation, manufacturing, design, and food production, with a program of events to be offered for the community to experience and enjoy.

Makers’ Workshop will become:

A place of innovation

The Business Incubator will be led by Cradle Coast Authority. It will help aspiring entrepreneurs, and new and existing start-ups, small businesses and enterprises to become established in the region and leverage their innovations. Collaborative spaces inside the building will support this activity.

A place of research

The Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture (TIA) will be conducting nation-leading agricultural research, laboratory science, and developing agricultural technology inside Makers’ Workshop. This will help in addressing regional food production and processing challenges.

A place of education

Leading technology training and industry-partnered projects will come to Makers’ Workshop through the Original Equipment Manufacturing (OEM) facility. It works with local businesses on prototyping equipment, solving industry problems and training students in technology and design.

A place of community

Makers’ Workshop will be open to the community on a programmed basis with a public demonstration space allowing people to see and connect with making through learning, teaching and research. Industry can also get involved in skills-based workshops, networking and partnered projects.

Next steps

Over the coming months, the interior will be refurbished to prepare Makers’ Workshop for its new functions. Contractor activity will commence in the second half of 2022 and we expect Makers’ Workshop to be fully operational in its new form in 2023.

Find out more

Want to get involved or ask a question? Email: campus.transformation@utas.edu.au

Further information can be found at: utas.edu.au/cradle-coast
**Original Equipment Manufacturing (OEM) Facility**

The OEM facility trains professionals in Equipment Design and Technology and works with businesses on practical projects. Currently co-located with industry at the Tasmanian Minerals Manufacturing and Energy Council (TMEC) facilities in South Burnie, students rub shoulders with industry professionals as they learn.

The OEM provides hands-on experience in designing and producing equipment using leading technology such as 3D scanners, laser cutters, 3D printers and virtual/augmented reality. Extensive industry involvement ensures graduates have the skills and knowledge that makes them job-ready and highly employable.

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**Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture (TIA)**

TIA is a research partnership between the Tasmanian Government and the University specialising in research, development, extension and education to support innovative and sustainable agricultural production and food processing in Tasmania.

TIA supports dairy, horticulture and beef producers to stay at the leading edge of agricultural practices with the integration of sophisticated technology in production systems. Its training and extension work also supports producers in making management decisions and ensuring the sustainable use of resources.

On the Cradle Coast, TIA’s work has been focused around providing support for the dairy industry, vegetable growing (particular focus on potatoes), and supporting the creation of the pyrethrum industry.

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**Business Incubator**

The new Business Incubator will be led by Cradle Coast Authority. It will help stimulate and facilitate new start-ups, support existing start-ups to develop and grow and help established companies to further innovate. It will comprise flexible co-working and collaborative spaces that enable creation, design and prototyping while hosting events, workshops and informal meetings.

The Business Incubator will be engaging and supporting businesses specifically in North-West Tasmania with extensive connections and networks across sectors in the region. It will arrange mentoring of business operators by local innovators and connect businesses with key support organisations and the University.
Indicative Makers’ Workshop floorplans