



UNIVERSITY *of*
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Country spirit on show at Children's University Tasmania graduations

Bothwell might be a small country town, but it will have an almighty presence at the Children's University Tasmania graduations in Hobart TODAY (**Thursday, 14 November**).

The bus transporting the Bothwell District School graduands and family members to the Sandy Bay Campus this morning is full, and Bothwell Children's University school coordinator Jessie Byers said anticipation levels are high.

"The children are all very excited," Ms Byers said. "Many of the parents have never been to the University before, so they are also keen to see the campus."

Bothwell joined Children's University Tasmania in term three last year, and the program was immediately embraced with great enthusiasm.

"We had 27 children sign up and 21 graduated in 2018, and this year we have 42 participating in the program and 36 are graduating," Ms Byers said.

"They have amassed 1,657 hours of extracurricular learning between them."

Bothwell has a total student population of 66.

Ms Byers said country spirit was the key to the school's success.

"Our school chaplain leads activities at recess and lunchtimes; one of our teaching assistants also works at the Link and runs activities; mums have been coming in after school ... the community is very good," she said.

Children's University Tasmania helps develop children into adaptable, lifelong learners by providing quality learning activities outside the classroom, and thereby builds bridges to employment and higher education.

The program – which is offered by the Peter Underwood Centre at the University of Tasmania – has close to 900 active members in 42 schools around the State.

Five schools on the West Coast were among those to join the program in 2019, and seven schools in the Huon Valley have signed up for next year.

The program has outgrown the capacity of three graduations in Hobart, Launceston and Burnie each year.

A total of 244 southern students will graduate at two ceremonies in Hobart today.

The morning graduation will involve 113 students from six primary schools – Bagdad, Brighton, JRLF Herdsmans Cove, Kempton, New Norfolk and Westerway – Bothwell and Glenora district schools, and home-educated children.

A total of 131 students from seven primary schools – Austins Ferry, Bowen Road, Collinsvale, Goodwood, Rokeby, Rosetta and Windermere – and Ogilvie High School will graduate in the afternoon.

The students, in full graduation regalia, will be led by a pipe band and joined by academics for a procession through the heart of the Sandy Bay Campus, ahead of ceremonies at the Stanley Burbury Theatre.

Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Kate Warner AC, Governor of Tasmania, and University of Tasmania Vice-Chancellor Professor Rufus Black will attend both ceremonies.

Professor Black will deliver the occasional address and present the graduates with their certificates.

Photos/ filming opportunities:

Who: Children's University Tasmania graduates;

When: 10:30 am (morning) and 2:30 pm (afternoon) TODAY (**14 November**);

Where: Sandy Bay Campus (map attached).

Interviews:

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Information released by:

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