Media Release
Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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Building projects redefine the relationship between University and its communities

As the University of Tasmania student population pours back onto campuses across the State, key building projects are promising to redefine the relationship of the University to its communities.

Speaking at the construction site of 430 student apartments in central Hobart, University Vice-Chancellor Professor Peter Rathjen said key projects also would bring new life and energy back into Central Business Districts.

Hobart’s Melville St site, currently the scene of an archaeological dig, has unearthed a series of interesting artefacts including coins, jewellery and a saddle.

Various University projects, federally funded under the National Rental Affordability Scheme (NRAS), with State and local government support, include:

- The Melville St project, which would include a University shop front, retail space and a park-and-ride bike hub.
- 120 apartments at Inveresk in Launceston, worth $19.6 million, and helping to redefine the city centre, producing a weight of population and activity either side of the river.
- 40 apartments at West Park in Burnie, a project worth more than $4 million, which are currently being opened for inspection by prospective tenants for the year.

“We are pursuing a vision in which education is in the very heart of these communities,” Professor Rathjen said. “In the great university cities of the world, the life of the university carries on in and around the landscape of the city.

“We also see these as important projects to bring new life, energy and economic stimulus to the hearts of these cities.”

Apart from economic benefits, the projects would enhance the student experience for those living at the apartment complexes.
“Projects such as Melville St, Inveresk and West Park will greatly enhance our students’ experience – both academically and socially,” Professor Rathjen said. “Complexes such as these will make the University of Tasmania experience comparable to that of any higher education institution across the country.

“We see these as creating a new dynamic. In Hobart, for instance, the student body will move between the Medical Sciences Precinct, IMAS (Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies), the Arts Faculty in Hunter St and ACIPA, when it comes on line.

“All within one of the most beautiful waterfront cities in the country.”

For more information about the apartments go to: http://www.accommodation.utas.edu.au/university-accommodation/studio-apartments

- The West Park apartments will be open for public viewing between 3pm-5pm on Friday, February 20.

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