

Vanishing Point



Friday 1 May 2015

Vanishing Point: "The Vanishing Point" through innovative art/science collaboration at IMAS Gallery, UTS

From the depths of the ocean, beautiful brooches made from ocean debris, amazing underwater scenes sullied by a red plastic Samurai, fine furniture and sculptures made from timbers, iron and other sea-age – they will make the public pause and absorb a story of devastating ecological and biological impact.

Vanishing Point, an arts/science collaboration which aims to raise awareness of issues surrounding the ocean, opens **TONIGHT, FRIDAY, MAY 1**, in the University of Tasmania's Institute for Marine and Coastal Studies exhibition space.

Vanishing Point is a collaboration between four other Tasmanian artists: **Bar Mann** (poetry), **Toby Muir-Wilson** (woodwork), **Sophie Carnell** (jewellery) and **Peter Welch** (photographer and IMAS Data Manager) in collaboration with Dr Heidi Auman, Dr Patti Virtue and Dr **Fredericka Oliveira**, three IMAS scientists who research the impact of plastics on marine life, to create what is hoped will become an expanding and travelling exhibition.

All have a long association with the sea and a shared passion for the creatures that depend on it for their continued survival, and they are determined to raise awareness in the community about the impact of the daily use of plastics and where they end up in the environment.

It is estimated around eight

million tonnes of plastic end up in the ocean each year, and at least 267 marine species worldwide are affected by entanglement or ingestion of, and the number of species of 90 per cent of all sea turtles species, 44 per cent of all seabird species and 43 per cent of all marine mammal species.

Each Saturday for the duration of the exhibition the University of Tasmania will also run its IMAS Saturday Public Lecture Series, beginning **TOMORROW, May 2**, waterfront building.

VANISHING POINT

WHAT: An exhibition of photography, woodwork, jewellery, sculpture and paintings that focus on the coastal environment.

WHERE: IMAS exhibition space, 90 Conroy Esplanade, Batters Point.

WHEN: Opens tonight, Friday night, May 1. The exhibition will be open Monday-Friday, 5pm-9pm and Saturday 10am to 1pm to the end of June.

FAST FACT: Available information indicates at least 77 species of marine wildlife found in Australian waters and at least 967 marine species.