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# Media Release

Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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## Free Science Week talks: Why should we care about Antarctica and the Southern Ocean?

The changing Antarctic environment, and its influence on wildlife shifts in the Southern Ocean, is the subject of a concentrated research effort by Tasmanian scientists aiming to better understand the dynamics of the global climate.

In two free public talks in Hobart and Launceston during National Science Week three scientists will discuss their contributions to the latest research on the physical, chemical and biological changes inextricably linked to changes in Antarctica.

The talks in Hobart (16 August) and Launceston (17 August) are co-sponsored by the Australian Meteorological and Oceanographic Society, the Australian Marine Science Association, the University of Tasmania and the Australian

Dr Lannuzel said the annual expansion and contraction of sea ice constitutes one of the largest natural events on the planet. She will outline the how future changes will affect marine ecosystems.

More than 100 scientists and students are engaged in such research at the University of Tasmania, including IMAS and the Australian Maritime College, the Australian Antarctic Division, CSIRO, Southern Ocean Observing System, Integrated Marine Observing System, and the Commission for Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources.

Entry is free but registrations are encouraged at: [www.events.utas.edu.au](http://www.events.utas.edu.au)

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