## NEWSFROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA, AUSTRALIA

## Media Release

Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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## Tasmanian scientists gearing up for Homeward Bound voyage of a lifetime

Two University of Tasmania researchers have begun preparing for an Antarctic voyage of a lifetime with the Homeward Bound program, which aims to boost the number of women in leadership positions in science.

Research fellow Dr Karen Alexander, from the Centre for Marine Socioecology, will join IMAS student Justine Barrett on the second Homeward Bound voyage, which sails in February 2018.

Homeward Bound is working to create a 1,000 strong global collaboration of women in science over the next decade by bringing together different participants for an Antarctic voyage each year.

With each voyager asked to raise \$25 000 towards their costs of their place, Dr Alexander and Ms Barrett have begun a crowd funding campaign to enable them to take part in what could be a life-changing experience.

part of something that is going to be a big movement, to meet like-

rn in terms of how to work with different people with very different backgrounds and perspectives.

I think it will be great for creating a strong support network for women in leadership positions in science

Ms Barrett said she was motivated to apply for the voyage by focus on addressing climate change and improving sustainability.

In 2016, IMAS researchers Nicole Hellessey and Molly Christensen joined a group of Tasmanian women who led or participated in the inaugural voyage.

Homeward Bound was co-founded by Australian businesswoman Fabian Dattner and Australian Antarctic Division scientist Dr Jess Melbourne-Thomas. The Governor of Tasmania, Professor Kate Warner, is a patron for the project.

oFundMe page is at: <u>https://www.gofundme.com/team-tassie-</u> <u>homeward-bound</u>. Follow their journey on Facebook at: <u>https://www.facebook.com/TeamTassieHB</u> For more information about the Homeward Bound project: <u>https://homewardboundprojects.com.au</u>

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