



NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA , AUSTRALIA



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University's science stars shortlisted in 2016 Australian Museum Eureka Prizes

Two University of Tasmania projects – one studying the complex ocean in our oceans and the other mapping the distribution of marine invertebrates – have been shortlisted for the prestigious 2016 Australian Museum Eureka Prizes, which celebrate excellence in science.

Distinguished Professor of Economic Geology Ross Large, from the Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence in Ore Deposits (CODES), and Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies (IMAS) – the successful teams, which have been announced as finalists today.

Professor Large led a collaborative team, including local geologists and palaeontologists from Curtin University's Flinders University – together with a group of international researchers – which has revealed the critical role of the trace element million years.

The team – including Professor Leonid Danyushevsky, Dr Jacqui Halpin and Dr Jeffrey Steadman – Interdisciplinary Scientific Research

Dr Large said that the shortlisting was welcome recognition for the efforts of the multi-disciplinary team, which covers the fields of geology, oceanography, palaeontology, toxicology and evolution biology, and their laboratories.

“It demonstrates we are doing world-class research in the important areas of understanding including the evolution of life”, he said.

Associate Professor Gretta Pecl and her team, including her research officer Dr. Lemina Stuart-Smith, communications officer Yvette Barr and senior technical – have been shortlisted for the Department of Industry,

Innovation and Science Eureka Prize for Innovation in Citizen Science for their Redmap Australia project.

Redmap (Range Extension Database and Mapping) encourages citizen scientists around Australia to upload photos and sightings of marine life not commonly found at their local fishing spots. Each photo is then verified by a taxonomic expert. These community observations help scientists track which species may be moving away from their usual home range in response to warming seas.

Professor Pecl said the shortlisting was a welcome acknowledgement of the significant contributions many fishers, divers, boaters and scientists around Australia made towards understanding the effects of marine climate change.

“Redmap Australia is an innovative collaboration between over 80 scientists, thousands of citizen scientists and 15 institutions around