

Mumford's Pride: Students Partnering with Communities

Jane Skalicky, Sally Fuglsang, Kristin Warr Pedersen, and Pdraig Pearce.
University of Tasmania



Mumford the Lion is the University of Tasmania's (UTAS) mascot. In July 2016, northern Tasmania was impacted by floods, resulting in loss of life and devastation to the environment. UTAS' Vice-Chancellor called on staff and students to assist in the recovery process. Many answered the call and Mumford's Pride was formed. In consultation with students, Volunteering Tasmania and University staff, including Legal, WHS and Insurance, the Pride became a student-led, University-supported team to ensure it met volunteering standards and compliance. The Pride team consists of a project officer and campus events officers, who are mentored by University staff.

The Mumford's Pride team have created a movement ready to support the Tasmanian community in times of crisis, and collaborate with others to lend a paw and support community events. Students register to join the Pride and are invited to engage in training, such as mental health first aid and first aid, and gain accreditation including Working with Vulnerable People, to equip them to assist in times of need. Participation in the Pride is formally recognised through the Vice-Chancellor's Leadership Program, as well as during events in National Student Volunteer Week.

Flashmob Mental Health Awareness Week 2018

In May 2018, the University's Crisis Response Management Team mobilised the Pride as part of the response to an extreme flood that closed the University's Sandy Bay campus. A number of buildings were damaged



The Law Library was devastated with many priceless books destroyed, and Engineering laboratories were inundated with muddy water. Pride members set-up teaching spaces, cleaned equipment, and provided information pop-up stalls and online resources; directing students and staff to their new learning locations, welcoming all, and assisting in those spaces. Their response and friendly smiles enabled the University to return to full operation within a short timeframe.

