

# Abalone Industry Reinvestment Fund (AIRF)

## Centrostephanus Exhibition

Lead Agency: Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies (IMAS)

Funding: \$6,500.00

Start Date: 1 September 2019

End Date: 28 February 2022

Status: COMPLETED

### Aims and Objectives:

This project is for a 3-month Centrostephanus exhibition in the public space at the IMAS Salamanca between Nov 2019 and Jan 2020.

The display will tell the story of the urchin problem in Tasmania and inform about control options. The exhibition will contain live urchins, photographic exhibition, public art, infoposters and brochures on impacts, video display of barrens and fishing, 360 VR setup.

There would also be launch and finale events which would include talks, urchin tastings, interactive displays, VR.

### Final Report:

The exhibition, Urchins Beware!, consisted of an array of mixed-media wall, free standing and floating info-panels intertwining descriptive writing, photography and graphically designed imagery. Two large aquaria depicted the change between healthy reef and urchin barren ecosystems. Physical displays included urchin waste utilisation and research equipment, while videos showed underwater footage of urchin barrens.

Content within the exhibit was largely compiled by John Keane and Louise Creely from IMAS, graphic design completed by Kelly Eijdenberg (Poco People) and exhibition printing and installation by Think Big Printing.

Urchins Beware! was installed in March 2020, but the Covid-19 pandemic prevented its opening to the general public. However, as the glass exhibition space fronted Castray Esplanade, Salamanca, the exhibition was able to be viewed almost in its entirety from the street was seen to be a valuable communication tool to passers-by during a prolonged period of Covid-19 restrictions.

Urchins Beware! was first opened to the public for the Beaker Street Sci-Art Crawl (7th August 2021) as part of science week. An official opening occurred on the 8th November 2021 with Guy Barnett (Minister for Primary Industries), Rufus Black (University of Tasmania Vice Chancellor), Ian Dutton (Director Marine Resources - Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania, and Dr John Keane (IMAS) giving speeches to over 50 invited delegates. The exhibition remained open to the public until February 2022.

## THE EXHIBITION

The exhibition consisted of the following elements

- 1) Large urchin decals on the glass facing Castray Esplanade.
- 2) Wall panels depicting the problem, current status of barrens, research in progress and key solutions: fishing, predators and culling
- 3) Two aquaria, one set up as a healthy reef ecosystem and one as an urchin barren containing live urchins.
- 4) Standing panels highlighting a) the Tasman Peninsula Take-All harvest and b) urchin barren distribution and overlapping fisheries.
- 5) Floating circular photos backed with key facts
- 6) Physical displays including urchin waste and research equipment
- 7) Video display of urchin barrens.
- 8) Take-away brochures on Longspined Sea Urchins and urchin waste utilisation

