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## Media Release

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### **TasWater's Steve Balcombe Scholarship turns 20**

This year's Steve Balcombe Scholarship presentation marks a very welcome and significant milestone for the scholarship, on the occasion of its 20th presentation.

It honours the inaugural Chairman of Hobart Water, Steve Balcombe who had a distinguished career in both the public and private sectors in Tasmania before his premature death in 2001.

The scholarship is offered by TasWater to support a student studying in an area relevant to the water industry such as engineering, environmental science and earth science.

This year's recipient is Morgan Wye from Launceston.

Morgan has just completed year 12 at Launceston College and is enrolled to study Engineering at the University of Tasmania.

Morgan will receive \$6,000 for each year of her university course along with professional and mentoring support through work placements and upon graduation will have the opportunity to take up a graduate position at TasWater.

Congratulating Morgan, TasWater Chairman Dr Stephen Gumley said TasWater is proud to be part of the scholarship to encourage and develop career paths for young water industry professionals.

"It allows the recipient to gain insight and experience in the water industry and participate in projects with real outcomes to improve the delivery and quality of water, protection of the environment and to improve the essential services," Dr Gumley said.

Morgan said "Winning the scholarship came as a great shock, but I was pleased that my hard work throughout college and high school had paid off and was recognised. The financial support this scholarship offers will enable me to better focus on my studies and will greatly relieve financial pressure when I relocate to Hobart. The work placement offered is an amazing pathway into the engineering field and will provide me with an insight into real-world applications of engineering processes."

Chairman Dr Stephen Gumley said it a great privilege this year to also be celebrating the twentieth anniversary of the scholarship which honours Steven Balcombe.

"We are very appreciative of his family for their continued support in enabling us to encourage and support talented students to follow in Steve's footsteps in playing a pioneering role in developing the water industry in the state as we know it today."

"The scholarship also helps ensure Tasmania has the skills base to develop long-term sustainable water and sewage sector to service the community and protect the environment."

TasWater is delighted to be able to carry on this tradition, which started with Hobart Water, of supporting some of the brightest young minds in science and engineering at UTAS.

"Many of our past recipients are now working in exciting leadership positions across Australia and overseas. We're lucky enough to have some of them still with us here at TasWater," Dr Gumley said.

Members of the Balcombe family along with former scholarship recipients attended today's celebration and presentation event in Hobart.

This year 68 applications were received for TasWater's Steve Balcombe Scholarship with all applicants of a very high standard, making the decision very tough as usual.

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