

MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

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ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors



Sixteen schools to celebrate the wonders of science

The University of Tasmania will welcome more than 500 students from 16 rural and urban primary schools to take part in the annual Science Fair on **Tuesday 30 August 2011**.

UTAS Vice-Chancellor Professor Peter Rathjen will officially open the event at 11.15am.

Prof Rathjen said the event would be helping to inspire a new generation of young science enthusiasts.

“The young students involved in this event will get the chance to be scientists for a day and it is our hope that this will encourage them to further their interests later on in their education,” he said.

“It is wonderful also that more than 50 of our pre-service teachers from the University’s Master of Teaching program will plan, prepare and present science concepts to the visiting Year four, five and six students, giving them the opportunity to see that science and learning can be fun and rewarding.”

Twelve activities will be on offer, each one exploring a different science concept through hands-on activities, demonstrations, models and puzzles.

Topics range from polymer bouncing balls, identifying nutrients in food, investigating levers, creating CO₂ and much more.

Each activity involves a mini investigation. Students will make observations, test out ideas and ask questions - just like real scientists.

The Science Fair will close with *The Garbage Bag Spectacular*, a visual and exciting experiment involving hair dryers, lots of hot air and a sky full of mini hot air balloons.

The UTAS Faculties of Science, Engineering and Technology and Education are holding this fantastic extravaganza celebrating the wonders of science as part of National Science Week activities.

Background notes and explanations are available for all teachers to take back to their schools.

The Science Fair will take place in the activities centre, located on the 2nd floor of the Union building, UTAS Sandy Bay campus, Churchill Avenue.

The best time for photos and filming will be at about 10.55am, when The Garbage Bag Spectacular will be on.

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