

MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

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ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors



Hundreds of students celebrate sustainability at UTAS

Students from southern Tasmanian schools will explore sustainability, biodiversity and climate change at the 2011 Kids4Kids Conference, to be held at the University of Tasmania on 15-16 November.

More than 800 primary and secondary school students will be participating.

Guest speakers at the 2011 conference include celebrity gardener Costa Georgiadis, from SBS television program *Costa's Gardening Odyssey*, and Andrew Hughes, founder of the innovative education organisation Expedition Class.

The winners of the Alcorso Foundation/Keep Australia Beautiful Annual Awards will be announced during the conference. The six successful schools will each receive \$1000 to fund further sustainability initiatives at their school.

Minister for Education Nick McKim will attend the conference on 15 November between 1.15 and 1.45pm to take part in a roundtable discussion with student representatives from each of the attending schools.

Many students will conduct workshops for their peers, sharing their knowledge and experiences of taking part in the Australian Sustainable Schools Initiative (AuSSI).

They will be joined by presenters from industry and community organisations, including Greening Australia, Veolia, Source Community Wholefoods and the Forest Education Foundation, who will present talks and workshops on an extensive range of issues and topics associated with sustainability practices.

Conference delegates will also have the opportunity to take part in a "Swap Meet", experiencing a fun way to recycle unwanted goods, as well as a poster competition that celebrates one of the focus themes of the conference, "2011: Year of the Forests".

The Tuesday 15 November program will be attended by more than 350 students from Kindergarten to Year four and Wednesday 16 November will be attended by more than 250 students from Years four to 10.

The program will begin at 9.45am and conclude at 2.20 on both days.

**For additional information, please contact Jenny Dudgeon, AuSSI-Tas
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