

# MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

DATE: MONDAY 8 JULY 2013

ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

---



## Small island, big science: Hobart to host ANZAAS conference

More than 40 students from year 10 to 12 are gathering in Hobart to get hands-on with science through the Australia & New Zealand Association for the Advancement of Science (ANZAAS).

ANZAAS, founded in 1888, has a long history of promoting science: fostering public interest in science, facilitating communication and interaction between scientists of different disciplines, and encouraging the curiosity of youth in science.

One way ANZAAS promotes science is through the annual Youth ANZAAS conference, a residential conference where year 10 to 12 students come together for a week to participate in science activities.

In 2013 Tasmania will host Youth ANZAAS. This is the first time since 1998 that Youth ANZAAS has been held in Tasmania. Students have signed up from all states and territories as well as from New Zealand for four days on science excursions and hands-on activities.

Current and former University of Tasmania staff have been involved in the organisation of Youth ANZAAS 2013 and three UTAS students will assist during the week. The Dean of the Faculty of Science, Engineering and Technology, Professor Margaret Britz, is the current Chair of the Tasmanian Division of ANZAAS.

The conference theme is *Small Island, Big Science*. Students will learn about Tasmanian devil facial tumour disease, including the immunology and vaccine research being undertaken at the UTAS School of Zoology and Menzies Research Centre Tasmania.

The students will visit Bonorong Park to see the science behind Tasmanian devil conservation and the role of captive management in trying to save the devil from facial tumour disease.

They will also visit the School of Earth Sciences and Central Science Laboratory, Nyrstar zinc refinery, Norske Skog Newsprint mill, the Mt Pleasant radio telescope and the Australian Antarctic Division, and tour the Aurora Australis to see the vastly different career contrasts in science, technology and engineering.

And just to show that creativity is an important aspect of science the Youth ANZAAS students will visit MONA for an architectural tour.

**What:** **Annual Youth ANZAAS Conference 2013 (Youth Science Conference):** More than 40 year 10-12 students at a residential science conference.

**When:** July 8-13.

**Media opportunities: Tuesday July 9**

- 9am – 11am, UTAS School of Zoology, Sandy Bay campus. Hands-on experience, focus on devil facial tumour disease, and ecological and epidemiological research.
- 12pm – 1pm, Bonorong Park tour. Special emphasis on devil conservation and the role of captive management.

**Information released by:**

**Communications and Media Office, University of Tasmania**

**Phone: (03) 6226 3218; 0438 510616 (Sharon Webb)**

**Email: [Sharon.Webb@utas.edu.au](mailto:Sharon.Webb@utas.edu.au)**