

Media Release

Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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Open Day shows what's cool about school

If the world is your oyster then the University of Tasmania can show you how to get a pearler of a job when it showcases its learning and research facilities, staff and students at its annual **Open Day on Sunday, August 31 between 10am and 3pm.**

Visitors to the University of Tasmania's Open Day in Launceston will have the opportunity to see autonomous robots in action at a display featuring the work of a group of Australian Maritime College (AMC) engineering students.

In recent months, members of the student-run AMC Autonomous Technologies Society have designed and built a number of autonomous vehicle platforms, some of which will compete in upcoming national and international competitions.

These include:

- A remote-controlled octocopter – like a quadcopter with eight propellers
- A smart robot programmed to complete a seed planting mission that will face off against teams from Australia and New Zealand in the upcoming National Instruments Autonomous Robotics Competition in Sydney
- A remote-controlled hovercraft

Student Zac Pullen said the octocopter was designed for a number of applications that have evolved over time.

“There is camera capability and a live video feed that can be linked to a computer or a screen. At the moment it has a Go Pro attached to it but in the future we are developing it to hold professional-grade photography equipment,” he said.

“The ultimate goal is to develop a stable and reliable platform for survey work and communication that can be used in conjunction with a surface vessel that AMCAT is currently developing for a competition in Singapore later this year.”

The Launceston campuses will give everyone the chance to find out about admission, accommodation, scholarships and careers with minimum effort and maximum fun.

For the very first time the amazing new Launceston Clinical School in South Launceston will open its doors to the public and to make life easier shuttle buses will run between this venue, Newnham and Inveresk campuses.

Food outlets, including the newly refurbished The Walk Cafe at Newnham will be open for visitors and fun family-friendly activities will be held throughout the venues, including the popular children's corner for preschool and primary-aged children in the Education building.

And just by talking to a Student Ambassador on the day and sharing favourite Open Day highlights through an online survey, there is the chance to win one of two mini tablets.

To get the most out of Open Day visitors are advised to:

1. Choose a campus - and utilise the free shuttle buses to visit each venue
2. Get answers to questions by visiting the information expo in the Sir Raymond Ferrall Centre at Newnham
3. Be involved in the wide range of activities and demonstrations
4. Take in a presentation - you never know what subject might appeal
5. Join a tour to see first-hand the University from a student's perspective including world-class buildings, teaching and research facilities, laboratories, student amenities and accommodation
6. Soak up the atmosphere and enjoy performances and demonstrations presented by the Tasmania University Union, student clubs and societies, partake in the free barbecue, view an art exhibition or let the kids loose on the bouncing castle.
7. Share you experience through social media at #UTASopenday, grab a selfie at one of the Selfie Spots or fill in the online survey for the chance to win a mini tablet.

The full program for Open Day in Hobart, Launceston and Burnie is available at www.utas.edu.au/openday

Information released by:

University of Tasmania, Communications and Media Office
Phone: (03) 6226 2691 or 0447 537 375
Email: Media.Office@utas.edu.au