

# **MEDIA RELEASE**

**NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA**

DATE: TUESDAY 19 FEBRUARY 2008

ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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## **Quenching a thirst for renewable energy research**

One hundred first-year engineering students will experience their first drop of renewable energy research tomorrow (Wednesday 20 February) as part of Orientation Week.

The students' introduction coincides with the announcement of a \$50,000 donation from Frucor, the producer of h2go bottled water, to the UTAS School of Engineering to support its research into renewable energy.

The donation is the first stage in what will be ongoing support from the company to support the University's Centre for Renewable Energy and Power Systems (CREPS), within the School of Engineering.

CREPS is a world-class research centre and specialises in developing renewable energy to help the power industry meet the challenges of the 21st Century.

The CREPS research conducted at UTAS includes:

- Mixing hydrogen with diesel to lower emissions and pollution;
- Hydrogen powered vehicles;
- Creating maximum energy from solar panels;
- Wind prediction to maximise wind power generation.

Two enthusiastic young UTAS science students, Jess Andrewartha and Jonathan Culburg, are using blogs to track how the support of h2go is helping the work of CREPS at [www.h2gogreen.com.au](http://www.h2gogreen.com.au).

Jonathan writes about using artificial intelligence to better control the efficiency of turbines, while Jess tracks ways of improving the efficiency of hydro-electric power schemes including pipelines, canals, dams and power stations.

**Photo opportunities at tomorrow's introductory session:**

- Post grad Engineering student Jess Andrewartha will demonstrate some of the ways of researching renewable energy, using a system of pulleys
- Head of Engineering, Professor Chris Letchford will speak at the presentation
- Engineering students will hand out free bottles of h2go water

**WHEN: 11.45am**, Wednesday February 20

**WHERE:** Lecture theatre 1, Engineering building, UTAS Sandy Bay campus.

[The Engineering building is across the road from the Law Faculty, which is at the sports oval end of the campus. Walk through the main Engineering entrance doors (three sets of glass doors.) The lecture theatre is on the immediate left, through the double yellow doors.]

**Media contact at the event is Lisa Morisset: 6226 2053**

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