

# Media Release

## Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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### Innovative, creative students rally to be the Tasmanian Science and Engineering Challenge State Champions

Eight schools will compete against each other tomorrow (**Thursday 8 May 2014**) for the chance to represent Tasmania at the Science and Engineering Challenge national final in SA later this year.

Teams competing for the chance to represent Tasmania are the winners from each regional competition held last month: Mount Carmel College, Ogilvie High School, Launceston Christian College, Riverside High School, Devonport High School and Burnie High School.

The two highest scoring second place teams, New Town High School and St Patrick's College, also qualified for the Tasmanian Super Challenge.

Some of the challenges faced will be: to design and build a tower from paper that can withstand earthquakes; build and remotely control a hovercraft; and build an Eco-Habitech model home to withstand fierce tests and be as ecologically friendly as possible. The value of materials and their 'carbon cost' are also counted. Students will also build a light-weight car whose only propulsion is by a balloon's deflation and build a small bridge from balsa, pins, tape, paddle pop sticks etc. Points are awarded for the bridge's strength and load-carrying capacity.

The activities are designed to show students the practical side of science and engineering and are aimed at inspiring young people to consider a career in the sciences, engineering or other technology-related areas.

Entry to the Tasmanian Challenge Series is free due to the generous financial support from the University of Tasmania, Department of Industry, and the Tasmanian Education Department. The Challenge in Tasmania is also supported by Rotary International clubs (in Hobart, Launceston and North West Tasmania) and Engineers Australia (Tasmania Division), in collaboration with the University of Newcastle.

There have also been more than 200 volunteers assisting throughout the competition.

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