

Media Release

Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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Tasmania leading the way with new approach to resourcing science and maths teachers

Science, technology, engineering and maths teachers throughout Australia are about to receive a welcome boost of support and guidance following the launch tomorrow of the national STEMCrAFT Project Framework – a framework for selecting and analysing the best resources to help with the teaching of these critical subjects.

The STEMCrAFT Project is an Australian Department of Education, Australian Maths and Science Partnerships Program (AMSPP)-funded project to the value of \$378,000 that is managed by the University of Tasmania.

A team of academics from the University's School of Education, National Centre for Maritime Engineering and Hydrodynamics, School of Chemistry, School of Engineering and Centre for University Pathways have led the way in bringing together expert STEM teachers to reflect on their own practice and identify the processes they engage in when planning and implementing STEM teaching.

Education leaders, STEM teachers and students from around the State have been invited to the official launch tomorrow, to be held at the Launceston Community College at 9.45am, July 29, with guest speaker ABC Radio *National Science Show* presenter and science journalist Robyn Williams.

The STEMCrAFT project is about helping teachers critically appraise the resources available to them when teaching the STEM disciplines and also building capacity for teachers of STEM, specifically in rural and regional Australia.

University of Tasmania STEMCrAFT project officer Suzanne Crowley said that building capacity is important because there are not enough teachers trained in science, technology, engineering or mathematics to meet the growing needs of society and to maintain Australia's place as a prosperous and innovative society.

"Because we do not have enough teachers trained in these disciplines, teachers trained in other areas, such as physical education and drama, have to step in and teach in STEM areas," Ms Crowley said.

“If teachers don’t feel confident, they may struggle to inspire students in science, technology, engineering and maths subjects.

“Sometimes teachers don’t know where to access the best resources that are out there, and the range of materials available in itself can be overwhelming.

To develop the framework, the STEMCrAft project team asked expert STEM teachers to reflect on what it is that they do when teaching STEM, and then found ways of representing this practice so that it could be shared with other less experienced or those isolated from other teachers teaching in these disciplines.

The STEMCrAft Framework distils what it is that expert teachers know and do, and shares it with those who are still learning.

More information is available on the STEMCrAft project is available at <http://stemcraft.weebly.com/index.html>

Information released by:

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