

MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

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ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors



UTAS puts science under the spotlight

Well-known Australian science presenter Dr Karl Kruszelnicki will kick start a month of science-focused events at UTAS this August.

While National Science Week is officially on from 14 – 22 August, the emphasis on science at UTAS has already started, with Dr Karl presenting a free talk at the Newnham campus tonight (Tuesday 3 August) from 7 to 8pm.

Dr Karl has degrees in Physics and Maths, Biomedical Engineering, Medicine and Surgery and has worked as a physicist, tutor, filmmaker, car mechanic, labourer, and a medical doctor. He is currently the Julius Sumner Miller Fellow at Sydney University and is busy spreading the word about science and its benefits.

UTAS Science Week state co-ordinator Jeannie-Marie LeRoi said there are more than 120 science events happening around the state this month.

“These include a range of talks, workshops, science shows, exhibitions, tours, films, fairs and open days,” Ms LeRoi said.

“Four enthusiastic young scientists are also taking to the road to spread the word about their research and careers as part of the Young Tassie Scientist program.”

“Over the next three days, they will be talking to around 700 students at schools in northwest Tasmania on everything from fungi to lizards to bushfire management.”

The Young Tassie Scientists program aims to broaden the profile of science and engineering to students and the general public throughout Tasmania and provide insights into working as a scientist.

The program involves early career researchers who are passionate about their work presenting talks and activities based on their research to schools and communities around Tasmania.

“These Young Tassie Scientists are widely profiled ambassadors for science during National Science Week,” Ms LeRoi said.

“They help engage and motivate students about science and science careers - and also provide teachers with the opportunity to strengthen their knowledge of current research.”

“By providing dynamic and inspiring role models, engaging hands-on activities and information on educational opportunities and future careers, the Young Tassie Scientist program encourages younger people to continue their studies in science and to make connections between studying science and resulting jobs and careers.”

This year, students can get involved by voting for their favourite Young Tassie Scientists on line. For more details about voting and about the Young Tassie Scientist Program generally visit:

<http://www.youngtassiescientists.com/scientists.html>

The full program of events for Science Week 2010 in Tasmania can be found at www.scienceweek.gov.au

Details of the four presenting Young Tassie Scientists and their topics:

Anne Garrett: *Helping communities move forward...*

Nikki Dinn: *Starting the fire - the influence of fire on native invasive species*

Dave Carpenter: *Look! There on that log, is it a plant? Is it an animal? No! It's a fungus!*

Tanaz Jungalwalla: *“If you can't stand the heat” - Effects of climate change on lizards*

For more details on the Young Tassie Scientists, including their itinerary, please contact Tanaz Jungalwalla on M: 0400152096

Dr Karl Kruszelnicki will present his talk *Great moments in science*

When: 7 – 8pm TONIGHT Tuesday 3 August,

Where: The UTAS New nham campus

For further information about National Science Week events in Tasmania contact Jeannie-Marie LeRoi on (03) 6226 7477 or E:

JeannieMarie.LeRoi@utas.edu.au

Information Released by:

The Media Office, University of Tasmania

Phone: 6226 8519 Mobile: 0418 510 121

Email: Media.Office@utas.edu.au