

MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

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ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors



Awards celebrate students' science projects

Students will pit their science projects against each other today at the Launceston leg of the PICSE UTAS Science Investigation Awards.

50 students from five Northern schools have entered their science projects in the Awards, hosted by the Primary Industry Centre for Science Education (PICSE) at the Queen Victoria Museum, Inveresk.

PICSE is a collaboration between universities, their regional communities and local primary industries, to encourage students to become researchers and industry scientists.

The student science projects will be judged by scientists and community members from a range of organisations and backgrounds.

The projects are in the running for cash prizes donated by science-based industry and community members with an interest in fostering science education in Tasmania.

Anna Paice, PICSE Science Education Officer, from the UTAS School of Agricultural Science, said the Awards had been running for six years in the Cradle Coast region.

"The Awards have since spread throughout Tasmania, as teachers and students are encouraged to undertake science inquiry projects.

"The students find it both challenging and fun to test their scientific questions through research," Anna said.

There are UTAS Science Investigation Awards Judging and Presentation Events happening over the next two weeks in Tasmania.

The Launceston PICSE UTAS Science Investigation Awards will be held at the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery (QVMAG) at Inveresk **today (Thursday 26 August 2010) from 11am to 12pm.**

Students will present their projects to Judges and experience science in action in the Phenomena Factory at QVMAG.

The Awards will be presented that evening by VIP Guests including politicians, University staff, school Principals, community members and industry who have donated prizes for students.

On Tuesday 31 August around 370 students from 17 schools in the Cradle Coast region will present 180 projects to 65 judges from the science and education community at the Cradle Coast campus. On Thursday 2 September at the Sandy Bay campus, 130 students will present 70 projects to 24 judges, with the Awards Ceremony that evening.

Please contact Anna Paice, PICSE Science Education Officer, (03) 6226 2668

<http://www.picse.net/HUB/index.htm>

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