

# **MEDIA RELEASE**

**NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA**

DATE: FRIDAY AUGUST 8 2008

ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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## **Young scientists urged to exercise their minds during Olympics**

As the Beijing Olympics launch into action, young Tasmanians are being encouraged to exercise their minds as well as their bodies.

National Science Week officially starts on Saturday August 16 but the University of Tasmania is already taking science to the people with its Young Tassie Scientists roadshows.

Four young scientists have already visited Table Cape, Burnie, Ulverstone and Devonport and more are set to tour the north from August 11 to 13 and the south from August 25 to 29.

During the roadshows, scientists visit primary and secondary schools to discuss their exciting research projects including devil facial tumour disease, galaxy formation, forecasting the weather and preventing lung disease.

Young scientists of the future have an added bonus to celebrate as part of this year's National Science Week, with the Federal Government's recent announcement that it will reduce the maximum HECS fees for new students studying science and maths at UTAS from \$7412 to \$4162.

UTAS Dean of Science, Engineering and Technology Professor Jim Reid said the \$3250 saving was being passed to students because of a looming skills shortage.

"The Federal Government has recognised a skills shortage in maths and science that will lead to economic, social and environmental impacts on the Australian community over the next few years," Professor Reid said.

"There really is no better time for those interested in a science career to pursue their dream and for those who may be curious about a science career, National Science Week will certainly help to whet their appetite."

This year there are more than 55 activities across Tasmania as part of National Science Week. For a full program visit [www.scienceweek.com.au](http://www.scienceweek.com.au). UTAS highlights below.

UTAS highlights include:

- August 13: The Great Big Science Gig, from 12.30 to 2.30pm at the Burnie Civic Centre. This show for grade 7 to 12 students discusses all things science.
- August 14: 90 Seconds of Fame. 90 seconds is all it takes to discover amazing science from the Young Tassie Scientists and others – featuring guest judge, Paul Willis from the ABC's *Catalyst* science show. 5pm - 6pm, University Staff Club, Sandy Bay campus.
- August 15: The Angry Mathematician, Simon Pampena. Heart-racing, high-jumping, fist-pumping mathematical comedy from stand-up mathematician Simon Pampena, direct from the Melbourne International Comedy Festival. 7pm. University Centre, Hobart campus.
- August 16: The Lion Tamer – Luke Hunter, from 11am-12 noon, then 1pm-2pm, at the UTAS Sandy Bay Campus. The executive director of the Panthera Foundation will talk to grade 7 to 12 students of his work to save 36 species of wild cats. Also appearing Sunday 17 August, 11.30am – 12.30pm, Sir Raymond Ferrall Centre, UTAS Newnham campus.
- August 17: Presented by CSIRO Education, this travelling interactive science program will get you using a range of equipment to explore electricity, magnetism, motion, time, chemistry and more! Suitable for the whole family. Newnham Campus.
- August 19 and 20: Australian Maritime College – No Guts No Glory, 10am-12 noon at the AMC Launceston Campus. Grade 9 to 12 students discover the inner workings of a fish.
- August 24: A Taste of Agricultural Science, Sandy Bay Campus. This event will demonstrate the importance of science in sustainable food production and the wide range of careers in Agricultural Science, by showcasing different examples of local agriculture in the form of tastings of local produce and hands-on activities.
- August 30: The Taste moves to Cradle Coast Campus, 11am-2pm.
- August 24: Grote Reber Museum and Radiotelescope tours. Discover the amazing world of radio astronomy and see an impressive 26m radiotelescope donated to UTAS by NASA. Find out why radiotelescopes are important, and explore the solar system through amazing 3D virtual reality shows. 11am-3pm. Grote Reber Museum, Mt Pleasant, Cambridge. Bookings essential, contact: Karen Bradford (03) 6226 2439.

**For further information:** Marketing and Communications Officer (Faculty of Science, Engineering and Technology) Jeannie-Marie LeRoi on (03) 6226 2125 or 0409 842 981.

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