

MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

DATE: MONDAY 13 JANUARY 2014

ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors



Students sign up for summer science

Keen high-school students from around the state are giving up their summer holidays this week to get hands-on with science at the UTAS Sandy Bay campus.

From environmental sciences to astronomy to health sciences, 30 Year 9 and 10 students from 15 schools around Tasmania will take part in science activities, lab experiments and tours of research centres as part of the annual Science Experience, which runs for three days.

This year's special guest speaker is 2013 Tall Poppy Award Winner, Dr Geoffrey While from the UTAS School of Biological Sciences, who will be sharing his insights on animal behaviour.

"The aim of the Science Experience program is to give students who have an interest in science an opportunity to engage in a wide range of fascinating science activities under the guidance of University researchers," UTAS program co-ordinator Adele Wilson said.

Students will be learning about Tasmania's wildlife, creating their own chemicals, studying earthquakes, applying forensic techniques, solving engineering challenges, examining minerals and soils, and visiting the UTAS Radio Telescope Facility and Medical Science Precinct, to name some examples of the many activities happening over the three days.

"The program also provides information about careers in science, engineering and technology and encourages students to continue their studies in these areas," Ms Wilson said.

The program is supported by the Science Schools Foundation, the Australian Science Teachers Association, Rotary, ConocoPhillips Australia, and universities around the country. In addition, some students are sponsored to attend by their local MP.

A similar event will be held at the Launceston campus on 28 – 30 January.

Photo Opportunities at Sandy Bay Campus:

Tuesday 14 Jan.

9:30am to 12:30pm

Chemistry Labs, Level 2, Chemistry Building - Making polymers (slime, synthetic rubber), purifying aspirin

1.30 – 3pm

Geology building – Using microscopes to look at multi-coloured rock structures, simulating earthquakes

Wednesday 15 Jan.

9.30 - 10.30am

Zoology Lab Room 222, Life Sciences Building – Identifying vertebrate bones and skulls

11.30 - 1pm - Visit to UTAS Radio Telescope Facility, Cambridge

Thursday 16 Jan.

9:30 – 10:30am

Plant Science Curtis Lab, Life Sciences building – Using microscopes to study pollen in honey in a botanical forensic activity

1.30 - 3.30pm

Engineering tea room, Engineering Building – Working in teams to solve engineering challenges

Program co-ordinator Adele Wilson, (03) 6226 7477, will be available for interview at all photo opportunities.

Campus maps can be found at <http://www.campuses.utas.edu.au/campus-maps>

Information released by:

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