Media Release
Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

Monday, 16 January 2017

School holiday program sparks scientific minds

Tasmanian High School students will be heading back to the classroom this week to explore and experiment with the fascinating world of science.

The *Science Experience* is returning to the University of Tasmania Cradle Coast campus tomorrow (Tuesday, 17 January), showcasing science, engineering and technology along with career options to Year 9 and 10 students from the North-West.

The national three-day program will allow local students to participate in hands-on activities with experts to learn about geology, chemistry, zoology, agricultural science, medical sciences, engineering, and marine and Antarctic studies.

Coordinator Dr Adele Wilson said it was exciting to be welcoming the students onto campus for a diverse number of engaging events.

“This year’s highlights include handling medical equipment, a slime making session, seeing what lies beneath the scales of fish, discovering drones, excursions to TIA’s Dairy Research farm and a local lobster pond, with the program culminating in a spectacular finale, the Flashbang Chemistry Show on Thursday,” Dr Wilson said.

“The program also allows young people to learn about the world-class research being led by the University’s scientists and engineers, while seeing what their work involves first-hand.”

Professor Brian Yates, Dean of the University’s Faculty of Science, Engineering and Technology, said the program would also inform students about the opportunities higher education presents.

“Students get hands-on experience in the University’s labs while being guided by our expert science tutors to experiment with new things and make discoveries that are both educational and fun,” Professor Yates said.

“Programs like these empower the next generation of scientific minds to forge a lifelong interest in the STEM disciplines, and we hope the Science Experience will inspire these students to one day return to the University of Tasmania to study with us.”
This week’s Cradle Coast campus Science Experience will be attended by almost 20 students from Burnie High, Devonport High, Marist Regional College, Penguin District School, St Brendan-Shaw College and Wynyard High.

The program will also take place in Hobart on 23 – 25 January.

*The Science Experience* is supported by ConocoPhillips Australia, the Science Schools Foundation, the Australian Science Teachers Association, Rotary, and universities around the country.

**MEDIA OPPORTUNITIES:**

**Tuesday, 17 January**

10am – 11am  
Physics and Astrophysics, Cradle Coast campus, room D201  
Students will learn what it takes to become an astronaut and head into space as TastroFest founder Brittany Trubody shares stories from NASA.

11.30am – 12pm  
Engineering Challenge, Cradle Coast campus room D203  
Students will get thinking outside the square during a team building challenge.

2pm – 3pm  
Marine Science, Cradle Coast campus, science laboratory  
The Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies will show students what lies beneath fish scales during a dissection in the lab.

**Wednesday, 18 January**

9.30am – 10.30am  
Rural Clinical School visit, Brickport Road, Burnie  
Medicine meets science: students will get hands-on with medical equipment to learn about ultrasounds, blood pressure, diabetes, and heart and eye health.

11:45am – 12:30pm  
Lobster Ponds Haven visit, 241 Robin Hill Road, Flowerdale  
Students will learn about the endangered and threatened freshwater lobster while seeing ecology, conservation, biology, and environmental science in action.

2pm – 3pm  
TIA Dairy Research Facility, 124 Nunns Rd, Elliott  
Students will travel to Elliott to visit the Tasmanian Institute for Agriculture Dairy Research Facility consisting of 220 hectares and 350 cows where they will learn about the latest research in calves.
Thursday, 19 January

10am – 1pm
Chemistry experiments, Cradle Coast campus, science laboratory
Students will be donning lab coats as they synthesise aspirin and indigo dye in lab with Chemistry PhD student Jeremy Just, followed by a slime making session.

3.30pm – 4pm
Flashbang Chemistry Show – Cradle Coast campus
Jeremy Just will facilitate fiery chemistry demonstrations for students and their families to wrap-up the Cradle Coast campus Science Experience program.

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