Media Release
Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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Holiday program sparks scientific minds

High school students from the State’s south will head back to the classroom early next week to explore and experiment with the fascinating world of science.

The Science Experience returns to the University of Tasmania’s Hobart campuses on MONDAY, 23 January, showcasing science, engineering and technology along with career options to Year 9 and 10 students.

Around 40 students will attend the three-day program, from Clarence High, Dominic College, Dover District High, Emmanuel Christian School, the Lambert School, MacKillop Catholic College, New Town High, Rose Bay High, St Mary’s College, St Michael’s Collegiate, Tasman District School, the Big Picture School, Woodbridge District High and the Tasmanian eSchool.

The program allows students to participate in hands-on activities with experts to learn about geology, chemistry, zoology, agricultural science, medical sciences, engineering, environmental science, geography, and marine and Antarctic studies.

This year’s highlights in the Southern program include:

- seeing how drones are used to collect scientific data
- identifying animals from their skull alone in Zoology
- building biomechanical hands in Engineering
- investigating water samples up close at the Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies,
- getting hands-on with brains at the Medical Sciences Precinct,
- synthesising aspirin in the chemistry lab
- feeling the Earth move in geology

The Hobart event follows last week’s at the Cradle Coast Campus, attended by around 20 students from Burnie High, Devonport High, Marist Regional College, Penguin District School, St Brendan-Shaw College and Wynyard High.

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

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“The program allows young people to learn about the world-class research being led by the University’s scientists and engineers right here in Tasmania, as well as seeing what their work involves first-hand,” Dr Wilson said.

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

“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.”

The Science Experience is supported by ConocoPhillips Australia, the Science Schools Foundation, the Australian Science Teachers Association, Rotary, and universities around the country. The next Science Experience programs will be held at the University campuses in Hobart, Launceston and Burnie in December 2017.

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