

Media Release

Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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Science students put to the test

Some of the state's best and brightest high-school science students will today (**Thursday 18 September**) compete in the prestigious University of Tasmania Science Investigation Awards, a state-wide competition.

More than 250 students are involved in the Awards in Hobart, with more than 150 projects being presented for judging, and more than \$4000 in prize money available, including Best Agriculture Project, and the popular People's Choice Award.

Students undertake a science investigation of their choosing and communicate their results to judges from science and industry.

Projects cover topics from animal biodiversity studies to wind-powered phone chargers, the effectiveness of sunscreens, and how music affects concentration.

"The Science Investigation Awards are a fantastic way for students to flex their 'investigating and communicating' muscles, and explore new ideas and a potential career in science," said University School Outreach Officer, Adele Wilson.

"The diversity of entries we receive reflects the interests of young Tasmanians and what inspires them," she said.

On the day, projects will be judged by 48 judges from over 20 different organisations to determine the best investigations in each year group.

Celebrating its 11th anniversary this year, the Awards continue to receive strong support from Tasmanian MPs, business leaders and industry stakeholders, who provide sponsorship for cash prizes for outstanding projects.

Prizes are awarded at the Presentation Evening, hosted by the Director of the Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture, Professor Holger Meinke. This is attended by winning students and their families, as well as teachers, judges and sponsors.

Statewide this year, there have been 340 projects from more than 600 students at 28 schools in the Awards.

This Science Investigation Awards event is run by the Faculty of Science, Engineering and Technology at the University of Tasmania and supported by Tasmanian Women in Agriculture and the Royal Society of Tasmania, as well as generous sponsors from across Tasmania.

Information released by:

University of Tasmania, Communications and Media Office

Phone: (03) 6226 2691 or 0447 537 375

Email: Media.Office@utas.edu.au