

Media Release

Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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Super Challenge for young science and engineering students

After battling it out through a variety of science and engineering activities, eight teams of secondary students will compete for the top honour at the Tasmanian Science and Engineering Super Challenge final this week (**Thursday 21 May**).

The Science and Engineering Challenge is an annual nationwide outreach program aimed at changing students' perceptions of science and engineering.

The Challenge is designed to address the skills shortage in science and engineering by inspiring young people to study mathematics, physics and chemistry in years 11 and 12. It also gives students an appreciation of what it would be like to work as a scientist or engineer and consider a future career in these disciplines.

This year 45 Tasmanian schools took up the Challenge. The final eight schools who have teams competing in the Tasmanian Super Challenge are:

- Devonport High School
- Launceston Christian School
- Mount Carmel College
- Riverside High School
- St Michael's Collegiate
- St Patrick's College
- The Friends' School
- The Hutchins School

The State Champions will have the opportunity to represent Tasmania at the National competition in Newcastle later in this year.

Tasmanian State Co-ordinator, Susie Haley, said all of this year's competitors had all done a wonderful job.

"Every year the level of the competition increases, and every year we see the students rise to meet the challenge. The activities are not easy, but our competitors approach them with enthusiasm and well-developed scientific reasoning.

“It’s wonderful to see the students develop their skills while at the same time enjoying themselves- we hope this increases their interest in science and engineering as options for study at a higher level into the future, and maybe even as their chosen future career.”

The Challenge runs in every state and territory of Australia, with approximately 26,000 students participating in 2015.

The Tasmanian Science and Engineering Challenge is supported by the University of Tasmania, The Rotary Clubs of Tasmania, the Tasmanian Government, Engineers Australia Tasmania Division, and Spirit of Tasmania, and is presented by the University of Newcastle.

More than 25 volunteers assist on each day of the Tasmanian competition, devoting around 2000 hours of their time to make the Challenge a success.

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