

## Media Release

### Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

Wednesday 26 August 2015

---

## Awards recognise young scientific minds

Hundreds of students around Tasmania have been postulating and investigating scientific hypotheses this year as part of the University of Tasmania Science Investigation Awards.

Now, the big day is here, with judging to get underway in Launceston tomorrow morning (**Thursday, 27 August, 2015**).

Judging for the North West Coast entrants will be held next week on **September 3**, with Hobart students' work examined on **September 17**.

The awards see individuals or teams of students present a hypothesis and investigate it in detail, presenting their findings to judges drawn from science and industry.

University Provost Professor Mike Calford said the awards were a longstanding and respected event with a number of past participants going on to win major national awards and even represent Australia at international events.

"These types of events undoubtedly inspire young students to consider science-based careers into the future," Professor Calford said.

"The Science Investigation Awards foster curiosity, develop students' critical thinking skills and, most importantly, help them become more persistent, a wonderful character trait of any scientist.

"I'm particularly excited to see the awards relaunched in Launceston, after building a strong base in Hobart and Burnie in recent years, and local schools have embraced the opportunity."

Some 200 entries involving close to 300 students from grades 5 to 12 have been received. They will come together on the Newnham campus with their findings to be judged by local scientists and industry experts.

The judging process will occur in the morning, with guest judges reviewing the students' work and putting them through their paces. The winners of the different categories and their families will be invited back to campus to attend an awards evening where their work will be showcased.

The awards have had strong support from the community with winners being presented with cash prizes donated by businesses and individuals.

**Information released by:**

University of Tasmania, Communications and Media Office

Phone: 61 3 6324 3218

Email: [Media.Office@utas.edu.au](mailto:Media.Office@utas.edu.au)