

Media Release

Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

Tuesday, 18 October 2016

Australia's science and engineering whizz kids to battle it out in Tasmania

The top teams from schools around the country will descend on the University of Tasmania's Sandy Bay campus on Friday for the 2016 National Final of the Science and Engineering Challenge.

Having won their way through regional and state challenges, eight schools are sending some 250 students to the national finals, which are hosted by the University and the Rotary Club of Hobart.

Tasmanian State Coordinator for the Science and Engineering Challenge Susie Haley said the competition was a national outreach program aimed at changing students' perceptions of science and engineering.

"The hands-on, competitive nature of the Challenge provides an experience that cannot be easily duplicated in the classroom," Mrs Haley said.

"It's an exhilarating experience that helps students see that science and engineering involves creativity, innovation, problem solving and team work."

The schools competing in the Challenge this year are:

- Bendigo South East College (VIC)
- Georgiana Molloy Anglican School (WA)
- Immanuel College (SA)
- Launceston Christian School (TAS)
- Mount Carmel College (TAS - Wildcard)
- Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Catholic College (NT)
- St Mary's High School (NSW)
- St Peter's Lutheran College (QLD)

"These top schools will compete in a range of exciting hands-on STEM activities which will be kept secret until the morning of the competition," Mrs Haley said.

The Challenge is designed to address the skills shortage in science and engineering by inspiring young people to study mathematics, physics and chemistry (the enabling sciences) in years 11 and 12.

Open to year nine and ten students, it's a regular part of many schools' calendars, being highly valued by science and technology teachers as a means of raising the awareness of career opportunities in the sciences and engineering.

It runs in every state and territory of Australia, with approximately 30,000 students participating this year.

Mrs Haley said there was a lot of effort, enthusiasm and time given to the Challenge in Tasmania.

“Without the support of Tasmanian Rotarians, engineers, university students and local businesses, the challenge would not be possible. In Tasmania alone, well over 2500 hours have been donated by volunteers this year.”

The National Science and Engineering Challenge final is supported by The University of Tasmania, The Rotary Clubs of Tasmania, Tasmanian Government, CSIRO and presented by The University of Newcastle.

The 2016 National Final of the Science and Engineering Challenge is being held on **Friday, 21 October 2016**, at the University of Tasmania, Sandy Bay **from 8:15am to 3pm**.



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