

MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

DATE: MONDAY 16 JANUARY 2012

ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors



Students prefer science to surf

Instead of going to the beach this week, science-minded high-school students from around the state will be heading for the laboratories at the UTAS Hobart campus.

Forty-four Year 9 and 10 students from 20 different schools around Tasmania will conduct their own investigations and learn about the world of science and engineering as part of the annual Science Experience, which runs for three days.

“The aim of the Science Experience program is to give students who have an interest in science an opportunity to engage in a wide range of fascinating science activities under the guidance of university researchers,” UTAS program co-ordinator Jeannie-Marie LeRoi said.

Some of the activities students will take part in include learning about Tasmania’s wildlife, exploring how the brain works, examining the micro-textures of rocks, using computers to create 3D games, applying forensic techniques, solving engineering challenges and visiting the UTAS Radio Telescope facility.

“The program also provides information about further studies in science, engineering and technology and encourages students to continue their studies in these areas,” Ms LeRoi said.

Now in its 22nd year, the Science Experience has influenced more than 58,000 Australian high-school students to enter higher education courses.

The program is supported by the Science Schools Foundation, the Australian Science Teachers Association, Rotary and universities around the country. In addition, some students are sponsored to attend by their local MP.

A similar event will be held at the Launceston UTAS campus on 31st January – 2nd February.

Photo/filming opportunities at the UTAS Sandy Bay Campus:

Tuesday 17 January

- 9.45 - 10.30am, Zoology Lab, Life Sciences Building – Learning about jellyfish and freshwater invertebrates;
- 12 – 12:45pm, Agricultural Science Labs (4th floor), Life Sciences Building;
- 2 – 3:30pm, Psychology, Psychology labs (directions can be obtained at School of Psychology Office).

Wednesday 18 Jan

- 9.30 - 10.30am, Geology building – Using microscopes to look at multi-coloured rock structures;
- 12 - 1pm, Engineering workshops – Working in teams to solve engineering challenges ;
- 2:45- 3:30pm, Visit to UTAS Radio Telescope facility, Cambridge.

Thursday 20 Jan

- 9:45am – 10:30, Computing Labs, Centenary Building Creating 3D games;

AND

9:45 – 10:30am, Plant Science Lab, Life Sciences building – Using microscopes to study pollen in honey in a botanical forensic activity;

- 2 - 3pm, Chemistry Labs, Chemistry Building - Making slime; growing crystals; separating mixtures.

Program co-ordinator Jeannie-Marie LeRoi (03 6226 2125) or Project officer Tanaz Jungalwalla (03 6226 7477) will be available for interview at all photo opportunities.

Handy maps available online here:

<http://www.campuses.utas.edu.au/campus-maps>

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