

# MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

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ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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## Scientific summer for keen students

From tracking fauna in the wild to creating movie animations and star gazing, keen students of science will swap the beach for the University's Hobart campus this week.

The 53 Grade 10 students from 20 different schools around the State will conduct their own experiments and learn about the world of science and engineering as part of the annual Science Experience, which runs for three days.

This year is the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Experience.

UTAS program co-coordinator Jeannie-Marie LeRoi, from the Faculty of Science, Engineering and Technology, said the aim of the Science Experience is to give students with an interest in science an opportunity to engage in a wide range of fascinating science activities under the guidance of University researchers.

Activities will also encourage students to examine the micro-textures of rocks under the microscope, investigate how plants adapt to environmental changes and study the stars at the UTAS radiotelescope facility.

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

The Science Experience has influenced over 54,000 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.

A similar event will be held at the Launceston campus next week.

### **Photo opportunities Sandy Bay campus:**

#### **Tuesday 12 January:**

9.45 - 10.30am Zoology Lab, Life Sciences Building – learning about Tasmania's fauna and how to sample what animals are using the environment.

11 – 12am Agricultural Science Labs, Life Sciences Building – soil science, looking at how plants can adapt to environmental change.

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

**Wednesday 13 Jan:**

9.30 - 10.30am Earth Sciences building - Dating rocks and fossils; using microscopes to look at multi-coloured rock structures.

12.30 - 1pm Engineering workshops - Students have to build a structure to drop an egg the greatest height without breaking it.

2-4pm - UTAS Radiotelescope Facility and Grote Reber Museum at Cambridge. Students will discover the amazing world of radio astronomy and see an impressive 26m radiotelescope donated to UTAS by NASA.

**Jeannie-Marie LeRoi (03 6226 2125)** will be available for interview at all photo opportunities except the telescope activity.

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