

# **MEDIA RELEASE**

**NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA**

WEDNESDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> APRIL 2014

ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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## **Innovative, creative students rally for Science and Engineering Challenge**

This year's Tasmanian Science and Engineering Challenge series has begun today on the University of Tasmania's Sandy Bay campus.

"We have received entries from many schools throughout the state," the Tasmanian State Coordinator for the Science and Engineering Challenge, Susie Haley, said.

Hobart's three days of competition has 22 school teams competing. The competition then heads to Launceston and Devonport next week for four more days of Heats.

"All the schools are really looking forward to this year's event and the winning school(s) will be able to compete in the Super Challenge to be held in Devonport on the 8th May. Each year the level of competition increases, with new as well as experienced schools impressing us all with their abilities."

Last year's winner, Mount Carmel College, has set a high standard for this year's event. The school was third overall in the Australian Grand Championship held in Lismore.

"Preparation is going particularly well and it is nothing short of inspiring to see the way the students attack some of the difficult problems devised by the University of Newcastle," Susie said.

"Students will have to be innovative and creative as well as being focused on their own tasks. The hands-on, competitive nature of the Challenge provides an experience that cannot be easily duplicated in the classroom. The event gets bigger and better each year."

Last year, over the eight days of competition around Tasmania, more than 1670 students, from 43 schools competed, including five new schools. This year there are 50 schools competing.

Of the 24,564 students who competed Australia-wide, 6.5 per cent of them were from Tasmania. Of the 889 schools from all around Australia that competed, almost five per cent were from Tasmania.

The Challenge is now a regular part of the school year and highly valued by science and technology teachers. It runs in every state and territory of Australia, with approximately 25,000 students participating last year.

It is highly regarded as a means of raising the awareness of students regarding career opportunities in the sciences and engineering.

The Tasmanian Science and Engineering Challenge is supported by UTAS, Engineers Australia and Rotary. There are more than 25 volunteers assisting on each day of the competition.

**Media opportunities:** Interview and photo opportunities can be arranged through Susie Haley, Tasmanian State Coordinator, 0417 570 647;  
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