

Media Release

Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

Thursday 17 September 2015

High school students test out scientific theories

What is the best protection for tsunamis and uncovering the aerodynamics behind Frisbees are just some of theories to be put to the test **today (Thursday 17 September)** in the annual Science Investigation Awards.

The University of Tasmania's Sandy Bay campus will host more than 420 high-school science students as they present 240 projects for judging.

More than \$5000 in prize money is up for grabs with over 70 judges from more than 20 different organisations taking part in the day's event.

"These awards showcase the talents of the State's young, up and coming scientists," local coordinator Dr Adele Wilson from the University's Faculty of Science, Engineering and Technology said.

"Every year we see such innovative and inquisitive projects, some of which put age-old theories to the test."

Students have the chance to explore a topic of their own choice and present the findings to judges. Project topics this year include measuring heavy metals in the Derwent, snail racing and monitoring blood glucose levels.

"The awards also provide a great opportunity for students to discuss their own interests with people who are working in science, technology, engineering and mathematics" Dr Wilson said.

"It's fantastic to see so many students getting involved in this great event. The projects that we see are always amazing and to have so many local scientists come to judge the projects is a testament to the high standard of work."

Projects in each year group are judged during the day with a presentation evening held tonight, attended by winning students and families, as well as teachers, judges and sponsors.

The Presentation Evening is hosted by Jeannie-Marie LeRoi, Chair of the Tasmanian National Science Week Committee and Manager of Engagement and Outreach at the University of Tasmania's Faculty of Science, Engineering and Technology.

The awards celebrate its 12th anniversary this year and continue to receive strong support from industry stakeholders who provide sponsorship for cash prizes for outstanding projects.

More than 1000 students from 39 different schools have participated in the three regional Science Investigation Awards, with the Hobart, Burnie and Launceston University campuses hosting over 600 projects.

The awards are presented by the Faculty of Science, Engineering and Technology and supported by Tasmanian Women in Agriculture, the Royal Society of Tasmania, Inspiring Australia as well as numerous other sponsors across Tasmania.

Information released by:

University of Tasmania, Communications and Media Office

Phone: 6226 2210

Email: Media.Office@utas.edu.au