

Media Release

Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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Science showcased through local communities

More than \$20,000 has been invested to help local Tasmanian organisations showcase science in their community.

The 2016 *Inspiring Australia* grants round attracted 38 applications from across the state.

Thirteen projects, incorporating 19 separate events, will be funded this year. Fifteen organisations will be involved in the direct delivery of these events which will be held across Tasmania.

“The aim of the Inspiring Australia Grants program is to support local organisations to run events that engage diverse audiences in any aspect of the sciences, including the traditional sciences as well as engineering, technology, mathematics and innovation,” Inspiring Australia Manager Sarah Bayne said.

The University of Tasmania is the principle partner of Inspiring Australia in Tasmania.

All events are free and open to the public.

- In March, Off This Planet will offer free planetarium visits to family audiences at the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery. The Kingborough City Council will develop a science engagement stall for patrons of their Love Living Locally Festival, and the Innovation Circle and Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery will collaborate to deliver a museum-themed ‘hackerthon’ in Launceston.
- In May, the University of Tasmania will deliver a public symposium, ‘Science Worth Seeing’, which will showcase current research from a variety of disciplines within the university. The Academy Gallery will exhibit a collaborative art/science project that explores the theme of disease and cancer. This exhibition will be displayed in Launceston and Burnie.
- In June, Wozzere will launch an interactive citizen science project based at the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens in Hobart. The Sustainability Learning Centre will deliver a series of hands-on workshops exploring the science of backyard environments.

- In September, the Bookend Trust will carry out two Bioblitzes in Devonport and Hobart, encouraging local communities to join a team of scientists and help collect data to contribute to threatened species research.
- In October, the Friends of Bruny Island Quarantine Station will host an innovative event incorporating hands-on science investigations into a competitive treasure hunt within the grounds of the Quarantine Station. Greening Australia will host a family field night, 'Big Night Out with Bats and Bettongs', on a farm in the midlands. The Rotary Club of Bellerive will launch "DroneFest", a public festival event highlighting the emerging applications of drone technology.
- In November, the 'Amazing Science Stories' art exhibition will travel to Deloraine and exhibit as a feature event at the Tasmanian Art and Craft Fair. The Tasmanian College of the Arts will host the 'Art, Architecture and Animals Community Day' in Ross, exploring the science behind landscape degradation, animal habitat and design.

Inspiring Australia is the national strategy for science engagement, recognising that a society which values and understands the sciences will support our aspiration to be an innovative and forward thinking nation.

For more information regarding these events, as well as many other public science events happening all over Tasmania, visit www.WhySci.org.au

Information released by:

University of Tasmania, Communications and Media Office
Phone: 6324 3218
Email: Media.Office@utas.edu.au