

MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

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ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors



Scientific summer for keen students

Keen science students will give up their summer holidays and head for the science laboratories at the University's Hobart campus this week.

55 Year 9 and 10 students from 26 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-coordinator Jeannie-Marie LeRoi said.

Students will be learning about Tasmania's wildlife, examining the micro-textures of rocks under microscopes, using computers to create movie animations, solving engineering challenges and studying the stars at the UTAS radiotelescope facility. These are just some of the examples of the many activities happening over the three days.

"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 21st year, the Science Experience has influenced over 55,000 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 UTAS campus on 1st – 3rd February.

Photo Opportunities, Sandy Bay Campus:

Tuesday 18 Jan.

9.45 - 10.30am Zoology Lab, Life Sciences Building – Learning about jellyfish and freshwater invertebrates

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

Wednesday 19 Jan.

9.30 - 10.30am Earth Sciences building - Testing seismographs; using microscopes to look at multi-coloured rock structures

12 - 1pm Engineering workshops, Engineering building – Working in teams to building a structure to drop an egg the greatest height without breaking it

Thursday 20 Jan.

9 – 10am Plant Science lab, Life Sciences building – Using microscopes to study pollen in honey in a botanical forensic activity

A full program of activities can be found at www.utas.edu.au/set - Science Experience (Hobart).

Map of the UTAS Sandy Bay campus attached.

Program Co-ordinator, Jeannie-Marie LeRoi will be available for interview at all photo opportunities.

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