

MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

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ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors



Tennis balls, dung beetles and grey water: in-depth science investigations hit Cradle Coast campus

The science investigation projects of 400 students from Year 5 to Year 12 will be on show at the UTAS Cradle Coast campus in Burnie tomorrow as they are judged in the UTAS Science Investigation Awards 2009.

The whole Burnie campus will be taken over by the students, their projects and their teachers as the projects are judged and viewed by the public.

At 6.45pm the awards ceremony to announce the winners will begin.

Projects on display include:

- **Wynyard High School's** *Are your balls worth the money?* – Which brand of tennis ball stands up best to rigorous testing.
- **Burnie High School's** *Does using grey water = grey plants?* – Plant growth and survival in recycled water.
- **Tasmanian Academy Don Campus'** *The Effect of light intensity on carbon dioxide sequestration in algae.*
- **Wynyard High School student Samantha Flight's** *Can dung beetles remove manure from pastures and increase nitrogen levels in soils?*

Primary Industry Centre for Science Education national manager Paul O'Halloran said the students' projects show they understand the relevance of their investigation and relate it to real life, using a multitude of skills.

Grade Nine student Samantha Flight tested dung beetles' action on horse, dog, sheep and cow manure.

"The reason I didn't test possum poo was because I needed two kilos of dung a week for each of the trials and I just couldn't get that amount of possum pellets," she said.

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