

MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

DATE: TUESDAY 28 AUGUST 2012

ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors



School students compete for science prizes

Hobart's best and brightest high school and upper primary (5-6) science students will be competing today (**Tuesday 28 August 2012**) in the annual Science Investigation Awards.

The awards are hosted by UTAS, sponsored by the UTAS Faculty of Science, Engineering and Technology and the Primary Industry Centre for Science Education (PICSE), based in the UTAS School of Agricultural Science.

Approximately 160 students from nine schools will be participating with more than 100 separate projects. The judging will take place in the Tasmanian University Union Activity Centre on Churchill Avenue from 9.45am to 1pm today.

The winning projects will be presented with awards at a ceremony in Lecture Theatre 1, UTAS Life Sciences Building, from 7-8pm this evening.

Prizes include \$500 for first prize for best agriculture project, with other place prizes, along with a \$50 for the People's Choice Award where the student participants pick their favourite project in each year.

Some students have been working on their projects since the beginning of the year, others for a month. It is an extended investigation of their choosing.

PICSE activity centres, including the one based at the Sandy Bay campus of UTAS, run the investigation awards with science students throughout the year.

"The Science Investigation Awards are a terrific way for students to investigate an idea that they are interested in and present their findings," said PICSE Science Education Officer Kelly Spence.

"With the wide diversity of entries, you can see what inspires students and how they see themselves contributing to the world."

The Science Investigation Awards have been running for more than seven years in Tasmania and have gradually increased the number of schools and students participating.

In attendance at the awards evening, will be Rebecca White, Parliamentary Secretary for Small Business and Cost of Living, the Director of the UTAS

Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture Professor Holger Meinke, school principals, selected Members of Parliament and many of the financial supporters of the PICSE Science Investigation Awards, including Tasmanian Women in Agriculture.

Who: Hobart high school and upper primary (5-6) students.

What: The annual Science Investigation Awards.

When: Tuesday 28 August 2012, 9.45am to 1pm.

Where: Tasmanian University Union Activity Centre on Churchill Avenue (across the road from UTAS campus).

Visuals: Students will have their science projects displayed and will also be doing activities such as designing their own parachute.)

Information Released by:

The Media Office, University of Tasmania

Phone: (03) 6226 2691 or 0447 537 375

Email: Media.Office@utas.edu.au