MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA
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ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

Cool science for summer holidays

Instead of hitting the beach this summer, high-school students from Burnie to Berriedale are swapping their bathers for lab coats.

60 grade 10 students from 20 different schools around Tasmania will descend on the University of Tasmania Sandy Bay campus from **tomorrow** (Tuesday 13 January) to take part in the Siemens Science Experience, a three-day program which inspires students about the fascinating worlds of science and engineering. The Launceston campus event will be held next week.

Students will be learning about Tasmania's lizards, examining the micro-textures of rocks under the microscope, looking at the effects of bushfire on vegetation, using computers to create movie animations, investigating evolution and artificial intelligence, and studying the stars at the UTAS radio telescope facility, as just some examples of the many activities happening over the three days.

UTAS program co-coordinator Jeannie-Marie LeRoi said the aim of the Siemens 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.

"The program also provides information about further studies in science, engineering and technology and encourages students to continue their studies in these areas," she said.

Now in its 19th year, the Siemens Science Experience has influenced over 52,000 Australian high school students to enter higher education courses. The program is sponsored by Siemens and supported by the Australian Science Teachers Association, Rotary and universities around the country.

Photo Opportunities:

Sandy Bay campus 13- 15 January
Tuesday 13 Jan.
9.45 - 10.30am Zoology Lab, Life Sciences Building – learning about Tasmania's lizards and effects of climate change;

11.00 – 12.00am Agricultural Science Labs, Life Sciences Building – identifying fungi, investigating food poisoning, testing essential oils, measuring sugar content of fruits and drinks;

2.00 - 3.00pm Chemistry Labs, Chemistry Building - Making slime; growing crystals; separating mixtures.

Wednesday 14 Jan.
10.00 - 10.30am Earth Sciences building - Testing seismographs; using microscopes to look at multi-coloured rock structures;

12.30 - 1.00 pm Engineering workshops - Students have to build a structure to drop an egg the greatest height without breaking it!

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

For more information/interviews please contact Jeannie-Marie LeRoi, University of Tasmania: Ph. 6226 2125

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