

MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

DATE: WEDNESDAY 16 JANUARY 2008

ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors



Astronomical Summer School is out of this world

The universe is taking centre stage in Tasmania this month.

Internationally renowned researchers are joining post-graduate students for the inaugural Astronomical Society of Australia and Australian National Institute for Theoretical Astrophysics Summer School.

The school is the first of its kind in Australia with the UTAS Cradle Coast campus in Burnie hosting the 10-day conference.

“This is a great coup for Tasmania,” UTAS School of Mathematics and Physics lecturer and event co-ordinator Dr Melanie Johnston-Hollitt said.

“We have the world’s best astrophysicists attending the school, where they will be joined by post-graduate students from not only Tasmania and Australia, but overseas.”

The summer school is designed to provide post-graduate students with an opportunity to explore, in-depth, topics surrounding theoretical astrophysics.

This year the school’s particular focus is on relativistic astrophysics – particles which travel near the speed of light.

The summer school began on Sunday, January 13 and will run until Thursday, January 24.

“The aim of the school is to provide students with the most relevant and up-to-date information to further their research and training,” Dr Johnston-Hollitt said.

“It also offers a platform for students to build international relationships with researchers and student colleagues which is vital to their careers.”

The intensive 10-day program includes lectures on cosmology, particle acceleration and relativistic jets, along with a number of practical workshops including X-ray data analysis and astrophysical visualisation.

Guest speakers include Professor Annalisa Celotti (SISSA, Italy), Professor John Kirk (Heidelberg, Germany), Professor John Peacock (Edinburgh, UK), Dr Zdenka Kuncic (USyd, Australia) and Dr J-P Macquart (Caltech/NRAO, USA).

The summer school is the first in a series of four to be held over the next eight years and is organised by the Astronomical Society of Australia and the Australian National Institute for Theoretical Astrophysics.

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