

MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

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ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors



Students learn how to apply science research to everyday living!

Tasmanian school students will now have a better understanding of how research into science, engineering and technology can be applied to real life situations, thanks to a new program developed by the University of Tasmania in conjunction with schools around the State.

The Minister for Education, David Bartlett, today launched the \$85,000 project, funded through an Australian Schools Innovation in Science, Technology and Mathematics (ASISTM) .

It links University of Tasmania (UTAS) research in science, engineering and technology to real life situations, through the collaborative development of learning sequences within the Tasmanian Curriculum Framework.

Teachers from six regional and rural schools around Tasmania worked with University staff and postgraduate students from the Faculty of Science, Engineering & Technology and the Faculty of Education to plan, trial and refine units of work covering marine and Antarctic science, forest science, environmental chemistry, agricultural science, aquaculture and physical science.

Mr Bartlett said the project supported the perspective of the new Tasmanian Curriculum Framework by providing real-life learning experiences.

“By working closely with researchers, students and teachers are able to get a first-hand understanding of what it means to be a scientist and the practical ways science can be applied in society.

“They also develop a greater understanding of how core science facts, concepts and skills relate to everyday situations.

“The project also provided a fantastic professional development opportunity for teachers who had the chance to work with researchers to develop practical teaching resources,” Mr Bartlett said.

The Australian School Innovation in Science, Technology & Mathematics Project (ASISTM) is a national initiative that aims to bring about real and permanent improvements to the ways in which science, technology and mathematics are taught in schools; it provides additional opportunities for schools to work collaboratively with universities, science organisations and industry, and encourages innovation in teaching and learning.

Schools involved were Woodbridge DHS, Geeveston DHS, Oatlands DHS, Deloraine HS, Flinders DHS and Huonville PS. The Marine Discovery Centre and the Tasmanian Science Teacher association were additional partners, and guidance for the project was supplied by Dr Caroline Smith, Trescowthick School of Education, Australian Catholic University.

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