

## Welcomes

Welcome to **Eadaoin Tyrrell**, who commenced a 6-month posdoc with ACROSS, **Dave McGuinness** who commenced a 5-Year ARC QEII Fellowship, and to **Anissa Goemann** who will be working with Roos Guijt.

## National Science Week Activities (NSWK)



*Chemistry Honours Student, Ruth Amos, demonstrating lab techniques to some eager high school students during the Mini Degree sessions in Hobart.*

## NSWK Mini Degrees

Thanks to an initiative on the part of Andrew Seen, the School of Chemistry ran a series of Mini Degree sessions on the Hobart and Launceston campuses for grades 9-12 during National Science Week. It was pleasing to see students and demonstrators enjoying themselves in the lab!

## NSWK 90 Seconds of Fame

Congratulations to Nathan Newman, Russell McGifford and Eli Marshall for taking part in the '90 seconds of fame' competition in Hobart. These three PhD students also visited a number of schools during National Science Week and filled the students and teachers alike with enthusiasm for science.



*Eli Marshall enjoying his 90 seconds of fame!*

"We had a visit from Nathan Newman today and my class were fascinated and will long remember being scientists!!! The program Nathan prepared was excellent for the grade level. His presentation to the students was effectively delivered. We all loved making the slime. I would love to be part of this program again. Thanks." Rosanne Thorp, Moriarty Primary.



*Nathan Newman impressed the class at Moriarty Primary*

## NSWK

### Students give Science Fair the thumbs-up



*Primary school students giving the thumbs up to Andrew's Science Fair activities*

National Science Week in 2006 has seen primary and high school students in Hobart and Launceston given the opportunity to get hands on experience in the laboratory. The School of Chemistry ran Mini-Degree programs in Hobart and Launceston with 130 grade 9–12 students undertaking colorimetric analyses of iron in water, and the fun continued in Launceston with a Science Fair for grade 4–8 students. Approximately 450 students had the opportunity to test out the CSIRO Lab on Legs activities and try out some real science in the chemistry laboratories. Activities included testing out the effects of global warming, gaining an understanding of the techniques used to purify water, including the technology proposed for recycling sewage in Toowoomba, seeing what happens to a marshmallow in a vacuum, and learning why ice bergs float. Students also helped Barry the baker work out which of his ingredients were in the unlabelled containers and assisted in identifying who weed on the teacher's pot plant.

The Science Fair was a lot of fun, and also provided invaluable educational experiences for not only the primary school students, but also for the second year Bachelor of Education students who acted as demonstrators for the fair.

The Launceston Science Fair was developed and coordinated by Dr Andrew Seen with the aim to get kids interested in science and show them the relevance of science in the world around them, but most importantly the fair was setup to show kids that science can be fun. And by all accounts the fair was a success, getting lots of smiles and the thumbs up.

## NSWK St Aloysius Primary School Visit — Ice Cream and Slime Fun!!

On Friday the 25th of August 48 year 3 students from St Aloysius visited the school as part of National Science Week. The students had great fun making slime, rockets and their own pH indicator from red cabbage. They also enjoyed making coloured flames and separating colours by chromatography. It was hard to tell who was having more fun, the kids or Peter who was freezing flowers and brussel sprouts in liquid nitrogen. Without a doubt Emily's liquid nitrogen ice-cream was the biggest hit of the day. Thanks to all who helped make this visit possible and the feedback from teachers and parents has been fantastic.

How many off these kids will we see in another 10 years?



*St Aloysius students enjoying their first laboratory— proving you're never too young to start!*



*Peter giving the students some very important lessons on safety in the lab*

## NSWK Info Days—Hobart & Launceston

The University held Info Days in Hobart and Launceston during August to distribute information to the public. Thanks to Greg Dicoski and Adrian Blackman in Hobart and Andrew Seen, Trevor Lewis and Nathan Newman in Launceston for helping to run these sessions.

## Conferences

### Chris' European Jaunt

Chris Evenhuis had an exciting 3 weeks in Europe which included 8 days in Prague collaborating with Bob Gas' research group at Charles University. We hope to see 2 publications from this collaboration.

Chris also spent 4 days in Basel, Switzerland, visiting Peter Hauser's group, staying with Pavel Kuban who spent 6 months in Tasmania last year. He then spent a week in Copenhagen attending the International Symposium on Chromatography. **An ACROSS poster** entitled Post-blast Detection of Improvised Explosive Devices on a Portable Capillary Electrophoresis Instrument **gained 1st prize amongst a total of 259 posters!!**

The highlights of the trip were meeting wonderful people from the international scientific community and seeing beautiful scenery in Prague, Switzerland and Copenhagen. The lowlight was definitely the 40 hour transit time each way without sleep!

## RACI Careers Evening

The Tasmanian Branch of the Royal Australian Chemical Institute is holding a Career's Night on the 28th September 2006 at the School of Chemistry (Hobart Building), University of Tasmania. The night will be divided into two sessions with a pizza dinner supplied during the break. This will be open to university, TAFE

and college students and will benefit both students who are about to enter the workforce and those about to enter university.

Three recent chemistry graduates will speak about where their chemistry degree has taken them (Yvette Jones-Teacher, Alan William-Injury Prevention & Management, Owen Johnston-Moo Brew) and three industry representatives who employ chemists (Damien Norman-Analytical Services Tasmania, Matthew Double-Zinifex, Sven Nielson-Tasmanian Organics) will each talk about their recruitment practices and what they look for in a chemistry graduate. The evening will conclude with a mock job interview chaired by Peter Tatham (UTAS Career's Advisor).

For further information please contact Vicki Gardiner (Vicki-Anne.Gardiner@industry.gov.au). If you wish to attend please RSVP to Vicki by the 26th September.

## September Seminars

### Wednesday 13 Sept - Final PhD Seminar

Chris Evenhuis, University of Tasmania:  
"How cool is my CE? Temperature measurement and Joule heating effects in Capillary Electrophoresis"

### Wednesday 20 Sept - Introductory PhD Seminars

Jonathan Thabano, University of Tasmania:  
"Multidimensional electroseparation systems for the analysis of complex biological samples"

Mohamed Dawod, University of Tasmania:  
"CE analysis of pharmaceuticals in environmental samples"

### Wednesday 27 Sept - Royal Society of Chemistry Australasia Lecturer 2006

Professor D. Brynn Hibbert, University of New South Wales:

"All that SAMs is not gold – biosensor electrodes"