



▶ TIPS FOR TEACHERS



▶ STUDENT ACTIVITIES

▶ SCIENCE ADVENTURES WITH IGOR (INTERACTIVE CDROM)



▶ LOCAL INDUSTRY - CURRICULUM IDEAS

▶ SCIENTIFIC INVESTIGATION

Science Links

TEACHERS AND LOCAL INDUSTRIES

Science Teaching Resource

There is a growing recognition of the need to promote science in schools, and particularly in rural and remote regions of Australia. These regions, and especially those in Tasmania, have lower rates of retention into post-compulsory education and training. A paper released recently by the Australian Council of Educational Research (ACER) suggests that science education in Australia is in a state of crisis and that students are turning away from science at the very time the nation is moving towards a technologically driven future of a 21st Century knowledge economy. The report indicates that because of the rapidly changing nature of scientific knowledge the focus of schools should be on "teaching students to think scientifically, learning to investigate, find information and assess it based on examples from their own lives and communities".

It is this approach to science and science teaching that ASISTM "Regional Partnerships in Science and Education" and *Skilling the Cradle Coast for the 21st Century* are promoting, by engaging teachers and students with local industries. This resource pack – Science Links is a cooperative effort between two programs hosted by the School of Agricultural Science at the Cradle Coast campus, University of Tasmania, and has a common theme of "Scientific Investigations for Students".

www.utas.edu.au/scienceskilling/publications.htm



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