

Monday 30 July 2018

Thousands to delight in Young Tassie Scientist shows

From exploring the brain to discovering the Earth, 27 enthusiastic scientists are taking to the road this week to spread the word about their research and careers as part of the Young Tassie Scientists program.

Over the next fortnight, they will be giving presentations to more than 8,000 students in 83 schools across Tasmania, from Beaconsfield to Geeveston, Collinsvale to Smithton and everywhere in between – even King and Flinders islands.

The Young Tassie Scientist program aims to inspire Tasmanians by showcasing local research and demonstrating what a career in science involves.

In celebration of National Science Week, the Young Tassie Scientists will share their passion for science and <u>learning</u> with more than 25,000 Tasmanians at various National Science Week events in schools, science festivals and expos state-wide during August.

Co-ordinator Dr Adele Wilson from the University of Tasmania said the program was about encouraging young people to see the many different aspects of science beyond the lab coats.

"We aim to inspire Tasmanians by sharing science stories from our young scientists who are working and researching right here in Tasmania, in disciplines from astrophysics to zoology, neuroscience, genetics, shark science and plenty more," Dr Wilson said.

"School students always ask lots of great questions and going into schools and meeting students face-to-face makes a real difference. We see everyone from kindergarten to year 12, in big schools and small!"

Dr Wilson said the Young Tassie Scientists program was not only a fantastic opportunity for schools, but it also allowed talented young researchers to share their experiences in science and engineering with other Tasmanians.

"Tasmania is a living laboratory and attracts world-class researchers conducting exciting scientific research. Our bright young scientists are passionate about what they do, and their enthusiasm is infectious," Dr Wilson said.

The Young Tassie Scientists give fun and interactive presentations, talks and hands-on activities to students in schools.

They will also give after-school science workshops for the Children's University and will be appearing at Science Week festivals state-wide – including TastroFest in Ulverstone and the Festival of Bright Ideas in Hobart.

Today the scientists begin their tours across the North-West Coast and Southern Tasmania, before hitting the road in Northern Tasmania later in August.

The Young Tassie Scientists program is made possible by funding from the Australian Government through a National Science Week grant and is supported by the University of Tasmania's College of Sciences and Engineering.

More information about the Young Tassie Scientists, including scientist profiles, can be found at youngtassiescientists.com

Media opportunities and interviews can be arranged by contacting: Dr Adele Wilson on 0449 013 689.

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