



UNIVERSITY *of*  
TASMANIA

Tuesday, 22 May 2018

---

## Media Alert

# Students test science and engineering skills in state-wide challenge

The Tasmanian heats of the 2018 Science and Engineering Challenge will kick off in Hobart **TOMORROW (Wednesday, 23 May)**.

The annual competition is a national outreach program, aimed at changing student perceptions towards both disciplines while fostering further engagement.

Students will be challenged to build a cost-effective bionic hand, power up a pretend city and design apartment towers that can withstand an earthquake.

They will also create a catapult that can launch a tennis ball, make a model water turbine, code messages along optic fibre rods and develop transport networks that link towns.

This year, there will be six state-wide heats, with representation from 52 schools and around 1,600 participating Year 9 and 10 students:

- **Hobart: TOMORROW**, Wednesday, 23 May, Thursday, 24 May and Friday, 25 May, Activities Centre, University of Tasmania Sandy Bay campus;
- **Burnie**: Monday, 28 May, Marist Regional College, Burnie;
- **Launceston**: Thursday, 31 May and Friday, 1 June, University of Tasmania Newnham campus;

Susie Haley, Tasmanian State Coordinator and University of Tasmania Outreach and Placement Officer (Engineering), hoped the competition would inspire participants.

"By taking part in the Challenge, students see that science and engineering involve creativity, innovation, problem-solving and team work," Mrs Haley said.

"The program will encourage students to consider a future career in science and engineering by studying subjects such as maths, biology, physics and chemistry (the enabling sciences) in years 11 and 12.

"In just a few weeks, registrations for 2018 were filled which shows the value and importance which Tasmanian schools are placing on this competition.

"This year, 110 volunteers are giving more than 2,000 hours to ensure the Tasmanian Challenge is once again a success.

"Without the support from engineers, University of Tasmania students, local businesses, Rotarians and other willing people, the Challenge could not continue."

In Tasmania, the Science and Engineering Challenge is supported by the University of Tasmania, Rotary Clubs of Tasmania and the State Government.

The State finals will take place on Tuesday, 5 June, in the Sir Raymond Ferrell Centre, University of Tasmania Newnham campus.

**Interview and photo opportunities can be arranged through Susie Haley, Tasmanian State Coordinator, 0417 570 647, or [Susie.Haley@utas.edu.au](mailto:Susie.Haley@utas.edu.au)**

**Information released by:**

Communications and Media Office

University of Tasmania

+61 3 6226 2124

[Media.Office@utas.edu.au](mailto:Media.Office@utas.edu.au)

Twitter.com/utas\_newsroom