Friday 30 November 2018

Science showcase in Launceston to inspire future leaders

More and more school students are discovering the wonderful world of science, engineering and technology – and finding a huge variety of world-class science happening right here in Tasmania.

Year 9 and 10 students will be attending the University of Tasmania campuses for The Science Experience, a national three-day program that showcases different sciences and highlights career options.

Hands-on science lab sessions with expert scientists are featured in the program, exploring areas such as chemistry, information and communication technology, architecture and design, agricultural science, marine science, and human health.

“The Science Experience provides an opportunity for students to broaden their understanding of what science is and to discover the diversity of career options available. Participants engage in hands-on activities, tour university facilities and spend time learning from researchers, academics and university students,” Science Experience program coordinator Tanaz Knott said.

“This year’s program is focused on showcasing how science can be used to tackle complex challenges such as environmental sustainability, climate change and the human condition, at both a global and local level.

“Students are encouraged to reflect on their experiences over the three days and are supported in identifying their next steps towards tailoring their own meaningful and engaging career.”

The Science Experience programs are running at the Newnham and Sandy Bay campuses this December.

The program is supported by ConocoPhillips Australia, the Science Schools Foundation, the Australian Science Teachers Association, Rotary and universities around the country.

Media opportunities at the Newnham campus

Tuesday, 4 December

9:30 am-12:30 pm: Chemistry - teaching laboratory, Science Building (opposite oval). Students will be making some of the components of aspirin, analysing the Vitamin C in orange juice and making slime in the laboratory.

1:30 pm-4:20 pm: Arts Building (Room 141). Students will be working with the team from BitLink on an electronics and programming workshop with the Arduino circuitry kits.

Wednesday, 5 December

2:30-4:30 pm: Food Science**,** Science Building (opposite oval), Laboratory 106. Students will be learning about how your food choices impact the environment and working in the laboratory to discover the secrets of food fermentation in kombuchas.

Thursday, 6 December

9-10:30 am: Human Life Science**,** Building C, School of Health Science. Students will be participating in a sports-science focused mini-Olympiad and working in the laboratory on a nutrition activity.

2-3 pm: Marine Science, Science Building (opposite oval). Students will explore and quantify the types of plastic and other human-made debris in seabird boluses (regurgitated indigestible material) to assist Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies researchers with their on-going monitoring of Australia's seabirds.

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