

## *Tasmanian Science Talent Search 2008*

(an initiative of the Science Teachers' Association of Tasmania)

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### *Newsletter No 2 – 2008*

#### Important dates, and how to get started.

Another school year is beginning, and the Science Teachers Assoc of Tasmania is finalising the many awards for the successful students from TSTS 2007, to be presented at the

Sir Raymond Ferrall Centre, University of Tasmania, Newnham, Sunday March 16.

Meanwhile, we look forward to another keen group of teachers and students eager to use TSTS 2008 as a forum for creative science teaching and learning, and to reward enthusiasm and interest in science through the various TSTS sections which accommodate the many learning styles preferred by different students.

The TSTS booklet will be available on March 16, at the Presentation Day, and will be distributed to schools soon after. It will also be available soon online through the STAT website:

<http://www.key.org.au/stat/>

Meanwhile, all necessary information for Term 1 is included below, or for further enquiries contact The Director, TSTS (Margaret Hosford) at: [stsearch@bigpond.net.au](mailto:stsearch@bigpond.net.au)

#### Theme 2008: “Planet Earth: Planet of Change”

With the current debates, both locally and worldwide, on climate change and other major environmental issues, teachers will find this to be a stimulating, diverse and interesting theme for students of all ages, with lots of embedded pure science as well as vital links to world futures problems.

As in the past, TSTS provides different sections for students with different learning styles.

A dedicated classroom unit linked to some aspect of our Changing Planet Earth can then be followed by a student task involving a poster, creative writing piece, computer presentation, or photographic essay, or an attempt at the Technology Challenge. As in the past, sections for science games and research investigations can be centred around any topic: not restricted to the Planet Earth theme. (Note: There is no longer a section for Working Models.)

Consider the wide diversity of science units which can incorporate the Changing Earth theme, appropriate to different student ages and abilities, and applicable to all scientific disciplines.

We can consider “change” on our planet from many different perspectives: geological, biological, meteorological, technological and sociological (with no doubt others as well).

See Newsletter 1 on the website outlining many suggestions for topics and classroom ideas.

Also re-read STATIC # 4 2007 (Nov) for some earth science websites with innovative classroom activities.

#### Closing dates for the Sections are as follows:

- **May 16** Posters and Creative Writing
- **July 18** Computer Presentations, Science Games, Photographic Essays
- **August 17** Judging date for North (date for North West TBC)
- **August TBC** Judging of Technology section (South) in conjunction with National Science Week
- **October 17** Research Investigations (As in 2007, all major winners will automatically be entered in the BHP Billiton national science competition)

In 2008 entries are to be forwarded to:

THE DIRECTOR Tasmanian Science Talent Search  
(via any of the following delivery methods)

- **Personal delivery** to : Cosgrove High School, 286 Main Rd Glenorchy (Attention: Rob Thomas)  
or: Launceston Church Grammar, Button St., Mowbray Heights (Attention: Marg Hosford)
- **OR**
- **via Redline** (delivery pre-paid by you includes pick-up from your school and delivery to 454 Windermere Rd, Windermere) or
- **via mail** c/- TSTS, P.O.Box 3053, Launceston Delivery Centre, Canning St., Launceston 7250

**Remember:** Watch Infostream and SciNet for further newsletters.

For those who are not registered with SciNet, (an excellent science email network) follow the steps below to join and get ALL the TSTS information before even Infostream comes out!

Go to this page: <http://lyris.education.tas.gov.au:8080/read/about/?forum=sci-net>

Click on the subscribe button

Enter your email address and name (optional)

Click on Subscribe button

On the new screen that appears click OK

**Drop in on March 16 and view the display of winning entries at the Presentation Day in Launceston. Come along to CONSTAT April 11/12 which will include workshops and hints on involving TSTS in your science program.**

## **Submitting Entries For Posters and Creative writing**

Due Date: May 16<sup>th</sup> 2008

### **Posters:**

- On one aspect of the topic “Planet Earth: Planet of Change”
- Clear scientific message
- Max size A2. Preferably mounted on a backing sheet for sturdiness and ease of display
- 2D only: Suitable for wall display
- If using cut-out lettering, please ensure this is well glued on!
- Remember: a poster is NOT a scientific chart or project. It should clearly convey a relevant and significant scientific message with visual impact, usually with simple images and a catchy slogan, to grab the viewers attention, even from a distance!  
Please pack posters FLAT rather than rolled

### **Creative Writing:**

- On one aspect of the topic “Planet Earth: Planet of Change”
- May be prose or verse. May be illustrated as well
- Max size ONE side of A4 sheet
- Clear scientific message conveyed through creative use of words
- Mounting on a backing sheet enhances appeal for display
- Packaging in a “plastic pocket” gives protection to the work
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**All good scientists “don’t work in a vacuum”. They read widely and learn from others.  
Encourage your students to go to the TSTS website and read the  
Judges’ Comments on Posters and Creative Writing from 2006 and 2007  
for some great tips and ideas.**

Every entry MUST be accompanied by an entry form signed by the student's teacher, and entry fee of \$5 per entry (NOT per student), or a request from the school that all fees be billed at the end of the year. The entry form will be printed in the TSTS Booklet (distributed to all schools) and it will also be available online through the **STAT website**: <http://www.key.org.au/stat/>

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