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Media Release:

Budding scientists excited by SMART

The University of Newcastle's inspirational SMART (Science, Maths and Real Technology) program will hit the road over the coming month, delivering 25 science shows at eight primary schools across the Cessnock area, thanks to its long-term partner, Yancoal Australia.

SMART Science Shows support the K-6 science and technology curriculum and aim to inspire, inform and involve young people in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) through interactive science demonstrations, robots and multimedia.

Thanks to Yancoal's support, over 1000 'future scientists' will have the opportunity to experience SMART Science Shows at their schools and learn about exciting possible future career choices in STEM.

Yancoal's Hunter Valley Operations and Mount Thorley Warkworth mines have been a major sponsor of the University's SMART program and the Science and Engineering Challenge for over a decade.

Mount Thorley Warkworth General Manager Jason McCallum acknowledged the positive change the SMART program can make to the lives of local students.

"This initiative does a fantastic job at encouraging infant and primary school students to get involved in science, mathematics, and real technology related activities in a meaningful and hands on way. We are pleased to support its rollout to more schools across the Upper Hunter," said Jason.

"Every year the Science and Engineering Challenge conducts inspirational STEM events right across Australia. We are very proud to work in partnership with Yancoal in the Upper Hunter," said SMART Team Leader, Shelley Wilson. "The Hunter has some of the best and brightest students in the nation and we want to encourage them to consider STEM careers."

SMART is one of the outreach programs delivered by the University of Newcastle's Science and Engineering Challenge. The Challenge's award winning national events introduce students to elements of science and engineering that would not normally be encountered in a classroom.



For more information, please visit: www.newcastle.edu.au/challenge

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