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Media Release:

Local science fans bubbling with excitement about SMART

The University of Newcastle's inspirational SMART (Science, Maths and Real Technology) program is hitting the road over the coming weeks, delivering science shows at primary schools across the Upper Hunter region, thanks to its long-term partners, Yancoal Australia's Mount Thorley Warkworth and Ashton Coal mine operations.

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).

In the coming weeks, budding scientists will be excited to experience the new 'Balloons & Bubbles' shows, where the students will explore the 'States of Matter' using balloons, bubbles, and liquid nitrogen. The 50-minute show promises to be interactive, educational and loads of fun.

Shelley Wilson, SMART Program Team Leader, University of Newcastle said, "Our partnership with Yancoal enables us to connect with Upper Hunter schools, offering them the opportunity to take part in activities like our SMART Shows and the Science and Engineering Challenge. We recognise that a passion for STEM starts at a very young age, and we are honoured to be there to support students in their education journey, wherever it may take them."

Professor Steven Weller, School of Engineering, Director of Science and Engineering Challenge, University of Newcastle said, "Being ranked number one in Australia for industry collaboration, here at the University of Newcastle, we strive to build greater connection with communities, a key focus of our 'Looking Ahead' Strategic Plan 2020-2025. Our partnership with Yancoal illustrates how this can be accomplished through connection with industry."

SMART is one of the outreach programs delivered by the University of Newcastle's College of Engineering, Science and Environment, alongside the Science and Engineering Challenge. The Challenge's award-winning National events introduce students in years 5 - 10 to elements of science and engineering that would not normally be encountered in a classroom.

Mount Thorley Warkworth General Manager David Bennett was delighted to help fund this amazing program.

"The SMART science shows provide primary school students in our region a fantastic opportunity to get involved in science, mathematics, and real technology related activities in a meaningful and hands on way.

“We are proud to support initiatives like this that make a positive difference to the lives of local students,” said David.

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

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