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Media Release:

Upper Hunter students engage in SMART science shows

The University of Newcastle's inspirational SMART (Science, Maths and Real Technology) program toured Upper Hunter schools recently, delivering eleven SMART Science Shows and STEM Workshops, thanks to its long-term partners, Yancoal Australia's Mount Thorley Warkworth and Ashton Coal mine operations.

The show's theme was "Force and Motion" - the students explored the effects of common contact and non-contact forces, including gravity, air-resistance, and magnetism.

Over 880 local budding scientists from St Mary's Primary School Scone, Merriwa Central School, Singleton Heights Public School, Muswellbrook Public School and St Joseph's Primary School Denman had a great time at the highly interactive shows.

The science shows are designed to captivate and educate primary school students, blending excitement with education in a way that resonates with young learners. Each show is designed to be visually stimulating and interactive, incorporating live demonstrations, audience participation, and captivating explanations that make complex scientific concepts accessible and memorable.

The SMART team's approach is aligned with the K-6 Science and Technology syllabus (NSW), ensuring that its content not only entertains but also complements the curriculum.

Olivia Clarkson, SMART Program Team Leader, University of Newcastle recognizes that the passion for STEM starts at a young age.

"We want to make science accessible, fun, and relevant so the SMART program continues to play a pivotal role in nurturing the next generation of scientists, engineers, and innovators.

"Our commitment to delivering high-quality, interactive science education ensures that children across NSW have the opportunity to explore, understand, and fall in love with the wonders of science," said Olivia.

SMART is one of the longest running outreach programs delivered by the University of Newcastle's College of Engineering, Science and Environment, alongside the Science and Engineering Challenge. SMART offers a variety of programs aimed at inspiring students to explore future careers in science and engineering.

Mount Thorley Warkworth General Manager Cris Shadbolt was pleased to help fund this amazing program for another year.

“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.

“Getting students excited about STEM at a young age, can help open their minds to a career in mining and engineering.

“The shows were well received, and we are looking forward to helping it reach more Upper Hunter schools next year,” said Cris.

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

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Media contacts:

Olivia Clarkson, SMART Team Leader

E: Olivia.Clarkson@newcastle.edu.au

Tracy Woodley, Yancoal

E: tracy.woodley@yancoal.com.au;