

## *Tasmanian Science Talent Search 2008*

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

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## *Newsletter No 3 – 2008*

### Important dates, reminders, and changes from 2007.

Last March 16 was an exciting day at the Launceston Campus of UTAS with the Presentation Day recognizing the 300+ award winners in TSTS 2007, along with a stunning display of the winning entries.

ATTENTION: Especially Southern Schools!!

The Presentation Day for TSTS 2008 will be held next March **in Hobart**, so this is the year to really encourage your students and they won't have to travel far if they win a prize! (We know the Northern schools will be there regardless!)

TSTS is all about encouraging and celebrating creative science teaching and learning. Be part of TSTS and gain many good ideas for inspiring classroom activities, as well as giving your students an opportunity to express their talents and understanding and further foster a deeper interest in science.

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

- **May 16** Posters and Creative Writing
- **July 18** Computer Presentations, Science Games, Photographic Essays
- **August 14** Judging of Technology section (South) in conjunction with National Science Week
- **August 17** Judging date for North (date for North West TBC)
- **October 17** Research Investigations (As in 2007, all major winners will automatically be entered in the BHP Billiton national science competition)

\*For a wide range of ideas for curriculum connections within this year's theme "Planet Earth: Planet of Change" see Newsletter 1 on the TSTS website: [www.key.org.au/stat/](http://www.key.org.au/stat/)

\* For details of criteria in the Posters and Creative Writing sections, as well as delivery options for entries, see Newsletter 2 on our website.

For schools entering these sections, please remind students to check out the Judges' Comments on the website to learn from past experiences and best practice. It is a pity if schools entering for the first time have to "reinvent the wheel and learn from their mistakes" rather than building on others' experiences. The old adage "If I see further it is because I have stood on the shoulders of giants", can be very helpful for new learners. **PLEASE ENSURE that students adhere to maximum A2 size for posters. Larger ones are too bulky for safe postage and handling, and limit display options.**  
**Larger entries WILL BE PENALISED this year.**

The TSTS Information booklet should now be in all schools. Further copies can be obtained by contacting the Director, Marg Hosford, [stsearch@bigpond.net.au](mailto:stsearch@bigpond.net.au), although the full booklet will also be available on our website by Mon. April 7<sup>th</sup>.

For "old hands of TSTS" please note the following changes this year:

1. The entry fee is still \$5 per entry, unless the teacher or school is a current financial member (prior to May 16) of STAT (Science Teachers Assoc of Tas), in which case the fee is \$4. Members get many other useful advantages, publications, and reductions at conferences and PD sessions, so consider joining up if you aren't already a member.

2. For groups of 3 or fewer, individual Participation Certificates will be printed. For larger groups, individual names will not be listed, although blank certificates will be provided for schools to print.
3. There is no longer a Class Entry category. Large groups (>3) will be processed as in 2. above
4. There is no longer a Working Models section.
5. Though entries are limited to 10 per school per age division (eg. Early Childhood, Upper Primary etc) per section (eg Poster, Computer Presentation..), there will be no limit to the number of Research Investigations a school may now submit for judging.

Remember: TSTS exists as an initiative of the Science Teachers association of Tasmania to benefit teachers and students alike.

Please contact us ([stsearch@bigpond.net.au](mailto:stsearch@bigpond.net.au)) if you want assistance, clarification, ideas etc.

Regards

Margaret Hosford

Director TSTS 2008.

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