

# Maths & Science



Wednesday 12 August 2015

## All things sea and science get students excited

Are penguins warm or cold blooded? How could koala become extinct? Are there any sea creatures and how many animals? What are the most interesting sea creatures?

These are the kinds of questions that Cayne Layton, a University of Tasmania PhD researcher with the bright students at Goodwood Primary School, Hobart.

It's a marine ecologist who moved from Canberra to Tasmania to study koalas. He's also a member of the GOALS (Geography, Mathematics in Schools) program and tomorrow he will be a special guest teacher at Goodwood Primary for the sixth time in as many years.

Principal Goodwood Primary School, Sue Pullen said that Cayne is an integral part of the school's science curriculum and that his next visit co-incides with the start of National Science Week.

awareness of science-related careers," she said.

"He's also helped our students and teachers improve inquiry for about 10 years. It's all communication - all critical 21st Century skills.

"Every time Cayne visits, the students develop a growing appreciation and love of the natural environment - he talks with such passion about his favourite lobster and crab, snails, prawns, sea crabs and sea birds and the students are captivated."

At the school, Cayne has been a regular visitor for the last few years. He has been a regular visitor to the school and has been a regular visitor to the school.

They are also shown underwater footage collected by Cayne and he has come up with some fun ways to explain the most common question of them all . . . what's a marine ecologist?

Throughout the fun and excitement of hands-simple but important messages to his young audience.

“Everyone is a scientist and science is about questions.” he said.

“And Tasmania, with its amazing and unique plants, seaweeds, animals and environments is an incredible place to do science.”

“The aim of SMiS is to demystify science and illustrate how science is part of our everyday lives.

“It isn’t just something that happens in a faraway laboratory by old men in lab coats, science is everywhere – it’s when students go bushwalking or fishing, it’s when students look at the stars.

“Not all of these students will want to study science at university when they’re older and that’s fine. But I think it’s important that the community becomes more engaged and understanding of science and the amazing world around them”.

Throughout Tasmania there are 80 schools participating in the SMiS program, which has 128 active partnerships where a STEM professional and a teacher pair up to provide a

the opportunity to have a positive impact and make a difference engineering and maths (STEM) education in schools.

“For my students it’s different from what we’ve learned at university, it’s about making their own style and create their own story” she said.

For more information on the SMiS program go to: [www.csiro.au/education](http://www.csiro.au/education)

## MEDIA OPPORTUNITY

**WHERE:** Goodwood Primary School, Elmleigh Rd, Maerch

**WHEN:** 10.30am.

**WHO:** IMAS PhD -6, Goodwood Primary  
School Officer in Charge Science, Elmleigh Rd, Maerch, TAS 7245  
Hemer.

### CONTACT

of STEM in education.

### Information released by:

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