

## TASMANIA DOMINATES AUSTRALIAN GEOGRAPHIC'S BAYERBOOST ENVIRONMENTAL SCHOLARSHIP

Tasmanian students have dominated at the 2011-2012 BAYERboost environmental scholarship scheme taking five out of the seven places on offer this year.

In partnership with Bookend trust, four bright and enthusiastic year 12 students have beaten students across Australia to be awarded the shared 10 week, \$10,000 research fund.

Originally a fund of \$5,000 given to one student, the Bookend trust offered an extra \$5,000 and opened the opportunity up to two teams of year 12 students.

The winning students, all from Rosny College, are Bridget Dickenson, Aden Handasyde, Katie Mulder and Sophie Warren.

The students will be undertaking an impressive summer scholarship program of Tasmanian wilderness surveys investigating altitudinal climate change, threatened species and plastic pollution issues.

Lily Leahy from the University of Tasmania was also awarded, receiving a \$6000 scholarship to work with Dr Menna Jones studying the impacts of Tasmanian devil decline in shaping ecosystems and maintaining biodiversity.

Dr Niall Doran of the Bookend Trust said that the students had an exciting summer ahead of them, including jumping out of helicopters. Their work will also be filmed to help inspire other students.

The annual scholarship scheme is aimed at giving senior secondary school and undergraduate tertiary students experience in environmental research or restoration during their summer break.

The BAYERBoost scholarships are funded by innovation and research company Bayer Australia, and administered by the Australian Geographic Society.

The scheme is open to Year 11 – 12 school students and tertiary undergraduate students from all Australian academic institutions.

The scholarships are designed to enable students to gain experience in working with an accredited organisation involved in environmental research or restoration.

The Tasmanian BAYERBoost summer scholarship program will be launched at a public presentation night by Bookend on Monday 12 December in Hobart with Tasmanian Education Minister Nick McKim. The night will also showcase other Bookend work from 2011. More information on the event is available at [www.bookendtrust.com](http://www.bookendtrust.com)

For more information or to arrange media interviews with the Tasmanian students, contact:

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**ADEN**



**BRIDGET**





**SOPHIE**



**KATIE**

