



**MEDIA RELEASE: Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2009**

## The Weather Man Is Coming To Town!

AUSTAR for schools are very excited to announce that The Weather Channel's Senior Meteorologist Richard "Dick" Whitaker will be travelling to schools in Tasmania as part of the AUSTAR for schools Weather Month in August.

Dick will visit **Launceston Church Grammar School on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> August** to give students an insight into some of Tasmania's highly variable weather, taking a look at some of the extreme situations that have occurred in the past. Dick's presentation will highlight the impact severe weather can have on Tasmania and how people can prepare for severe weather conditions including what to look out for. The AUSTAR for schools Weather Month gives students the opportunity to present the weather in front of a blue screen, just like a professional weather presenter! Each student will also receive their very own weather kit jam-packed with weather activities where they will get to make their very own Barometer!

As a special bonus, The **Weather Channel skydiver will also land on a target at Broadland Park, adjacent to Cypress Street in Launceston**, a stunt which symbolises water droplets falling into dams highlighting the importance of water supplies and dam levels.

Meteorologist Dick Whitaker says that he is delighted to again be involved in the AUSTAR for schools program and is looking forward to visiting schools in Tasmania as part of the AUSTAR for schools Weather Month in August.

*"I'm excited to be teaching school kids about the types of hazardous weather we sometimes experience in **Tasmania** and giving the students an understanding as to how the weather instruments can be put to work in their very own backyard. I'm really looking forward to visiting schools in Launceston and Hobart and inspiring students about the weather and the effects it can have on our environment."*

The AUSTAR for Schools Weather Month is proudly supported by The Weather Channel and is an expansion of the existing curriculum based schools program including a subscription of 20 educational channels provided to schools in the AUSTAR service area free of charge. The program also includes exciting extracurricular activities with AUSTAR personalities visiting schools across the country helping to inspire students and further bring education to life as well as making learning fun.

One of the main objectives of the AUSTAR for schools program is to recognise and support the important issues and interests of the students, teachers, parents and wider community from a grassroots education perspective and address these with initiatives that are in line with the core values of the AUSTAR brand.

Upon completion of each school visit, AUSTAR will present a \$2000 grant to the participating school to be used by the school towards educational resources for students. The participating schools will also receive their very own Weather Station on behalf of AUSTAR for schools and The Weather Channel.

AUSTAR believes that quality education for regional Australian children is integral to the bright future of Australia and AUSTAR for schools is our way of making a positive contribution to this future.

#### **AUSTAR for schools channels**

- The History channel
- Discovery Channel
- National Geographic Channel
- The Weather Channel
- Sky News Australia
- ABC 1
- SBS
- BBC World News
- CNN
- The Lifestyle Channel
- Lifestyle Food Channel
- Ovation
- Discovery Travel and Living
- Discovery Home and Health
- Discovery Science
- Aurora Community Television
- National Indigenous Television
- Sky News Business
- Animal Planet

To find out more about the AUSTAR for schools program and the other exciting interactive activities planned for 2009, visit the AUSTAR for schools website [www.schools.austar.com.au](http://www.schools.austar.com.au)

#### **For Further Information:**

Kia Poolman  
PR and Community Relations Executive  
AUSTAR Entertainment  
Ph: 02 9394 9884 or 0405 031 080  
E: [kpoolman@austar.com.au](mailto:kpoolman@austar.com.au)