

CTHB OUTREACH TEAM RETURNS TO NSW 2018

The DST-NRF Centre of Excellence in Tree Health Biotechnology (CTHB) Outreach team participated in the 2018 National Science Week (NSW) – an initiative driven by the Department of Science and Technology in all nine provinces from 30 July to 3 August. Pumped with enthusiasm for science and energy, the team travelled to the Mondi Science, Career Guidance and FET Skills Centre in Mkhondo, Mpumalanga.

NSW 2018 at the centre began with an opening ceremony to welcome all the participants, who were entertained by musical items by the South African Police Service (SAPS) National Band and the Ndlela Secondary School choir. About 10000 learners and educators from schools within the Gert Sibande District Municipality attended this event.



The team conducted a wide range of experiments showcasing knowledge in fields such as physics, biology and mathematics. Learners and educators often thought that the experiments were acts of “magic” and were blown away by the science principles behind the experiments, which are done using common household products. Some highlights were the “tangled couple” experiment, requiring the learners had to untangle themselves from each other; the “dry paper and water”, in which the paper stays dry even after placing it in a container of water and how a magnet attracts burnt matches in the “matches-magnet-magic” experiment.

The team returned to FABI at the University of Pretoria fulfilled and knowing that they could contribute towards a society that is knowledgeable about science, critically engaged and scientifically literate. The CTHB Outreach team this year included postgraduate students Juanita Avontuur, Angel Maduke, Modjadji Makwela and Fezile Mthunzi.