

# national science week 2013

## Reyne Pullen

Chemical Education Researcher

UTAS School of Chemistry

I have always found subjects such as maths and science to be more to my liking. To begin with it was due to finding the subjects easier but later I developed a real interest in science itself. One thing that stood out for me was the process of photosynthesis in particular. I can't remember if it was the way it was presented or simply the fact that a bright green compound can convert sunlight to energy but it got me interested in science and how everything works.



Even from an early age I always intended to go to university. Other pathways did not interest me because I had a real desire to continue to learn. My goal has always been to teach Science and/or Maths so I undertook a Bachelor of Science and Education as a combined undergraduate degree. After the first year I decided to switch to straight Science and later on I intend to complete a separate degree in Education. I mainly studied Maths and Chemistry subjects and this allowed me to focus on my knowledge of the topic rather than splitting between both science and education.

By far my most important influences were my teachers. I had the incredible luck of having fantastic teachers in both Maths and Science which continued from Primary School all the way through to the University level. Not only were they genuinely good teachers, they always had a smile and most importantly were excited not only about what they were teaching but about teaching it to us.

Currently I am undertaking a PhD in Chemical Education at UTAS. The drive of my project is to improve the experience and understanding of students undertaking chemistry laboratories. My project is a comparative study of different teaching styles when used within the chemistry laboratory with analysis of the advantages/disadvantages. In addition to this, I am completing a Graduate Diploma of Education by distance education.

I would like to continue participating in science events such as Young Tassie Scientists. I would also like to experience teaching at various levels of education, starting at a younger age and potentially ending up teaching at University. There are also many opportunities to teach overseas which is an interesting option.

Science is a constantly changing field where explanations for the most simple or complex of things can be given. It gives a perspective into how the world works and interacts with surroundings.

**For further information: [www.utas.edu.au/Chemistry](http://www.utas.edu.au/Chemistry)**