

Steven Sexton  
Convenor  
Aurora Energy Otago Science & Technology Fair  
c/o College of Education  
PO Box 56  
Dunedin, 9054

February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Kia ora,

Last year was a bit of a shock to the system but we made the decision as soon as we came out of lockdown to continue with the Aurora Energy Otago Science & Technology Fair. As a result, we were able to hold one of the largest in the country. We are aiming to be positive again this year and are now starting the preparations for 2021. Last year was our third year in reaching out to Central Otago to participate in this event. We alternate between Wanaka and Alexandra and this year we are returning to Alexandra. We will bring the top display boards back to Dunedin so that they are able to compete for all prize categories.

- Central Otago will be in Alexandra in the Central Stories Building (Opposite the Community House on Centennial Drive) August 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>
- Otago will be in Dunedin at the Otago Museum August 9<sup>th</sup> through 15<sup>th</sup>
- Prize-giving will be on August 15<sup>th</sup> (St David Lecture Theatre)

Last year we were able to bring 224 display boards from 262 students representing 22 schools around Otago. This was down about 20% from the 2019 event, but with the disruptions to schools last year, we were very please this many schools and their students were able to complete projects.

There were several notable displays this year that generated media attention and national awards. Limited to only 40 students from schools in New Zealand, Maia Robertson and Olivia Charles were selected from Columba College and the Otago region for Powering Potential. They were invited to apply after being awarded the Premier Award Best in Fair at the 2020 Aurora Energy Otago Science & Technology Fair. Their project, which focussed on different methods of mummifying rats, formed the centrepiece of their application, see <https://www.royalsociety.org.nz/news/2020-powering-potential/>

On behalf of the committee and Aurora Energy who has agreed to continue with their sponsorship, I would like to invite Otago schools to continue its support for this event and look forward to working with you again this year.

Entry forms and details have been emailed out to schools.

Respectfully Yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'S. Sexton', enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

Steven Sexton

Convenor

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