

Battle of the Bands competition to begin

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Students from six Sydney high schools will join musician Jon English and a top researcher from the Faculty of Veterinary Science at the University of Sydney on Wednesday (Aug 12) to launch a competition to select student bands to play at a concert to save the Tasmanian Devil.

The Battle of the Bands competition, run in partnership with the NSW Department of Education, will be launched at Sarah Redfern High School in Minto at an event featuring a performance by student bands.

"Young bands across Australia are being encouraged to write and perform a song about saving the Devil, with the winning band playing live at the Devil Rock concert on 6 March," says Dr Kathy Belov, a University of Sydney geneticist who is leading a research team trying to save the devil. Dr Belov will give a talk about the Devil to students on the day and introduce them to a real Tasmanian Devil from the Australian Reptile Park.

Ric Morante, Senior Curriculum Adviser Science 7-12, Department of Education, says: "This is the ideal opportunity for science to support and be supported by the entertainment community at large, and at the same time showcase the talents of young people. Nothing speaks to 'giving a fair go' more than saving this iconic Aussie battler, the Tasmanian devil."

The Devil Rock [fundraising campaign was launched](#) by Peter Garrett, Federal Minister for the Environment Heritage and the Arts, at the University of Sydney on July 2.

The first 'Devil Rock' will be held at the University of Sydney on 6 March 2010, followed by a concert on the Central Coast. Three bands - primary school, high school and all ages - will share the bill with some of Australia's leading rock bands.

While the final line up of artists for the Devil Rock Concerts is yet to be announced, English says everyone he's approached so far has been enthusiastic about taking part. "The music industry is just great when it comes to getting behind things like this," says Jon, "there will be something for every rock generation to enjoy".

The launch of the Battle of the Bands is part of National Science week and is an initiative of the Tall Poppy Campaign and the Department of Education.

Further information about Devil Rock is [available online here](#).

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