



LAUNCESTON TOYOTA



Issue 4  
Week 4, Term 4  
6/11/2015

**Schools Featured  
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*The Centre for Agricultural Education gratefully acknowledges the support of e-Learning through funding from the e-Strategy for the regional workshops*

Andrew Harris

**New Partnership**

I am very pleased to announce the signing of a significant agreement between the **Centre for Agricultural Education, Roberts Ltd.** and **Launceston Toyota**. This 3 year partnership will provide a safe and reliable vehicle to support our work state-wide as well as access to expert agricultural sector staff to enhance students learning programs. Further details on this important development will follow an official partnership launch later this term. In the meantime, please contact me to arrange a Roberts staff member to talk with your students.

**Higher Education in Agriculture Developments**

UTAS is currently reshaping course opportunities in Agricultural Education, including the launch of a new degree, Bachelor of Applied Science (Agriculture and Business), and the exploration of new associate degrees in agriculture (2 years). These developments were amongst a suite of initiatives discussed at a recent forum held at Government House. It is planned to re-convene the forum in the near future. I will keep you informed.

**Frontier PL Catch-up Sessions**

I am currently making arrangements with those staff members who missed our Term 3 Frontier workshops to conduct half day, at the elbow, sessions (at your site). The manager of IT Services, IT Support and Infrastructure has agreed to support this initiative through e-Strategy funding and thereby ensure the best possible use of our Ag Ed Network Frontier room. Please contact me ASAP if you haven't already heard from me and would like to take advantage of this opportunity ... my calendar is filling fast!



## Smithton High Ploughs into Ag Ed

During 2015 many students have been working on a few agricultural projects that are all located on the northern end of the school campus. These projects include rearing calves, looking after egg-laying chickens and the major project of designing and building a community garden.

There have been a variety of students involved in these tasks, but it has been the Grade 11/12 Everyday Maths class that has been mostly responsible for the garden. They have designed, costed and constructed the hothouse and several raised garden beds.



During Term 3, all Grade 9 students have been working tirelessly on a program called Cows Create Careers (CCC). This is a program designed by Dairy Australia to promote the Dairy Industry in schools. At Smithton High School, we have mapped this program to the Grade 9 Science Curriculum. The school was given two dairy calves to rear for three weeks by local farmer, Brett McGlone. During this program students learn not only how to rear calves, but also the science behind being a top-level farmer. The students have entered Research Projects, Science Reports and Letters into a competition where they compete against students from other schools across the North West Coast of Tasmania.



As a part of this CCC program, the students got to listen to Leigh Schuurig, a local farmer, who spoke to the students about his experiences in the industry. Leigh and his wife Kellie have also donated three of their own calves (and other supplies) to support the schools growing Ag Ed programs.

Another guest speaker was Kanon Lockett from MG Trading. He provided the students with a discussion about career options in agriculture and painted a very positive picture of primary industry in Circular Head.

Currently, SHS does not have an official Agriculture Course, but if student engagement continues to increase, the school will aim to offer a 'Paddock to Plate' options course in 2016.



Josh Smith, Teacher - Smithton High

### LAST CHANCE!!

National Association of Agricultural Educators conference In Western Australia  
January 10-15, 2016

#### 6 great reasons to go!

- Learn about the very successful WA agricultural education model
- Hear from a range of industry, research and education presenters
- Visit food production systems
- View some of the beautiful south coast region of WA
- Network with other teachers from across Australia
- Get some PD hours for teacher registration

If you are interested please contact Alysia Kepert immediately!

[Alysia.kepert@education.wa.edu.au](mailto:Alysia.kepert@education.wa.edu.au)

## Burnie High School Farm News

There comes a time in the life of all creatures (four legged and fleecy) great and small when we need a haircut. Francine the Alpaca is no exception. Given the exceptional job several boys did last year on Frank we decided to relieve Francine of her fleecy burden and give her a trim whilst we also performed pedicures, vaccinations and vitamin injections. It had been two years between dos for Francine as she was pregnant for the last 2 seasons, so it was tough going – the mechanical shears were not going to do the job so, with the support of her family and our friendly farm hands from TAPP we gathered around and clipped her manually. She looks a little moth eaten but at least the knots are gone and this week we will tidy up her trim.

We also paid Fernando and Felicity a visit at Harri's farm and they are doing very well at their new home. This week Frank will take up residence at his new digs in Takone with new owners Jenzy and Roman.



***Steph Prendergast, Burnie High***



## Mole Creek Primary Featured

A recent feature article appeared in the Meander Valley Gazette highlighting the rejuvenation of Ag Ed at Mole Creek Primary school. Principal, Nathan Rockliff, described how all seventy-five students at the school are now involved in regular Ag Ed and land care activities on the schools substantial farm. The farm has an important place in the school history and is much loved by the community. Student experiential learning is supported by further study in the classroom. Farm based activity includes;

- Animal handling (steers, heifers, sheep and chooks)
- Egg collection, shearing & raising orphan lambs
- Rehabilitation project of the creek area supported by a successful grant application
- Tree planting to encourage native species return

The school farm and Ag Ed program is heavily supported by the local community through donations of animals, supplies and volunteer help. Nathan says, "Without their help we couldn't run this farm".

***Nathan Rockliff, Principal***



Students Kaleb and Chloe, aged 6, with prized hens Simone and Monique

## Scottsdale Cattle Handlers Underway

Scottsdale Cattle Handlers Team commenced the show season at the Launceston Show, with a 15 strong team of cattle and students.

This year we are exhibiting cattle from the following Beef Studs:

Stronach View Angus – Scottsdale High School Stud  
Quarter-way Angus  
Corabil Red Angus  
Summerhill Simmentals  
North Eastern Shorthorns  
Kywong Dexter Stud  
Three Mile Springs Dexter Stud

In the lead up to the show season, students trained cattle after school, two nights a week throughout the whole of term 3, plus a couple of additional weekends too! We have prepared 11 heifers, 5 steers and 1 bull for Launceston, Sheffield and Westbury Show. We hope to add cows and calves to our team for Scottsdale and Deloraine shows later in November.

We wish to acknowledge generous sponsorship from **Elders Scottsdale**. We have also gained sponsorship from the following breed societies for our show cattle exhibits – Shorthorn Beef, Angus Australia and Simmental Australia.

Our school commercial angus herd has commenced calving, with the first to hit the ground, a lovely set of heifer twins!

**Kylie Rattray, Ag Studies Teachers**



## Off Shoots Program at Hagley Farm

Students and staff from The Northern Support School recently headed out to Hagley Farm School to share their expertise in seed propagation. Hagley Farm has received a grant through NRM North to rehabilitate two existing radiator pine stands with native species. NSS works with NRM to propagate and nurture trees until they are ready for planting. Four classes from NSS worked with four grade 3-4 classes at Hagley over 2 propagation sessions. Nearly 1000 trees were propagated. The trees will be planted later next year .. all going to plan! NSS will return and work with the Hagley students during the planting. The Hagley students were most appreciative of the guidance offered by the NSS students and staff, led by Garden Sue and NRM Project Officer, Alison Hugo. The biggest highlight of each visit for NSS was clearly the tractor ride ... and not just for the students!

*Andrew Harris*



## Exeter High Planting for the Future

On the 17<sup>th</sup> August Agricultural Studies students from all grades took part in a tree planting workshop organised by Alison Hugo from NRM North along with Ian and Janet Mitchelson at their property Colynn, at Quamby Bend. Students were shown the correct seedling planting procedure to allow it the best chance to survive and thrive. The workshop ties in with the work we will be doing on our school farm replanting native trees and creating a wetlands in the Tresca lane corner. The Mitchelsons and NRM North kindly put on a BBQ lunch for the students on the day.

Liam Fox, Ag Teacher



## News From Dover District High

Our herb and vegie garden is new this year and we have leucadendrons in their second year of growth having been purchased through a Huon Aquaculture grant last year. Calvert Bros have been very supportive in helping us in the orchard and storing some of our apples from this years and previous years harvests.



Tracey Cameron, Principal



## Newsletter Item Guidelines

- 60-80 words for the body of the newsletter - blurb (plus a photo – optional)
- Links to further information can be made available, so send supporting documents.
- Deadline for entries will be the Monday of weeks 4 and 9 each term.
- The distribution list will include members of the Ag Ed network plus key supporters, sponsors and any others interested as we grow.

You are most welcome to help grow the list by suggesting recipients

**Next Issue:**  
**Week 9, Term 4**  
**(December 9<sup>th</sup>)**

Remember to visit [www.casas.tas.edu.au](http://www.casas.tas.edu.au) to become familiar with our emerging VLE on Fronter

