I sincerely hope everyone is enjoying a smooth start to the 2016 school year. There are a number of key projects currently in the pipeline all aimed at improving the provision of agricultural education opportunities in Tasmanian schools and learning outcomes for Tasmanian students. Projects include:

- A round table discussion in April involving representatives from TasTAFE and DoE to explore improved connections between TAFE supported Ag Ed options and schools.
- A second UTAS Agricultural Education Forum in April hosted by Richard Warner at Government House. This is a follow-up gathering from the UTAS forum held at the same venue in October 2015.
- The planned re-ignition of a Tasmanian chapter of the National Association of Agricultural Educators (NAAE). This is being led by newly elected National Vice-President, John Lehman and national conference attendees, Jill Bennett and Liam Fox. More on this soon!
- A key Centre for Ag Ed funded curriculum project designed to improve the collection of evidence of student learning. More information on this below.
- A continuation of the developing Ag Ed Network Fronter room to facilitate connections with the Australian Curriculum, sharing of resources and collegial support. DoE teachers in our network can access Fronter at https://casas.tas.edu.au (DoE logon details required)

I look forward to keeping you updated on these projects throughout the year.  

Andrew Harris

Anyone Interested? For 8 weeks from week 3 of Term 2 …

Lead Teacher Agricultural Education, Hagley Farm Primary School, Learning Services (Northern Region), Learning Services
Lilydale District School
NRM North and Lilydale Landcare Seed Information Day

Allison Hugo from NRM North and Sue Wilson from Lilydale Landcare conducted a seed information day at the Agricultural Science department. They worked with three classes from grades 5 to 10. Students looked at a number of seed related issues including; seeds from our garden, weed seeds and how seeds travel. We looked at a huge variety of seeds that Alison brought in and then we planted some native seeds.

We used: sterilised pots, some donated re-used egg cartons, good quality seed raising mix and we watered with a spray because the seeds are so fine.

It was an extremely informative, hands on day and it follows on from our work on bees.

Thank you NRM North and Lilydale Landcare for your continued involvement in our school. It is very much appreciated.

Grade 7 Students, Lilydale District School

“The destiny of nations depends on how they nourish themselves” – Brillat Savarin

Umami, delectable, fragrant, piquant, crispy. Are these words your students understand and regularly use when talking about their food?

While there are many messages sent to children about what to eat and not eat, there is often a lack of practical help on how to recognize and appreciate these foods.

Here at Week of Tastes, we believe we can help children make smarter food choices by giving them an understanding how they use their five senses, helping them develop a rich food vocabulary, and connecting them to a local food producer.

This August the Week of Tastes will be delivering a food education program to grade 4 students by providing an interactive and multi-faceted program where your students:

- learn how they use their 5 senses through actual contact with food - experiential learning and active participation
- learn that it is fun trying new and unknown foods - overcome food neophobia
- improve their food literacy - develop a rich vocabulary
- learn about other food cultures and food careers and that there are passionate food producers in their community eager to share their food knowledge - connecting with REAL people.

To Find out more contact Helen - hcampbel@ihug.com.au . To Register visit here – Register
Students love From Paddock to Plate experience

It was very exciting to see Timboon P-12 School on ABC Landline! This amazing school, located in the Western District of Victoria, uses the national From Paddock to Plate (FP2P) Schools Program in many of their classes. It is wonderful to discover the student retention rates as a result of incorporating food & fibre education into the curriculum. As Brenda Schoepp says "...once in your life you need a doctor, a lawyer, a preacher but every day, three times a day, you need a farmer." The FP2P Schools Program builds food and farming education into all school subjects right up to Year 10, while still meeting the curriculum requirements for students. Let's start educating all children, in every school in Australia, about farmers and why they are so important!

Click the link above to sign up and start using the FP2P Schools Program today. It's that easy.

Louise FitzRoy
Founder of From Paddock to Plate

The award winning Spatial Discovery program is a collaboration between the Tasmanian Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment (DPIPWE) and the Tasmanian Department of Education (DoE) with additional assistance from the University of Tasmania (UTAS).

Spatial Discovery provides high quality resources to support Ag Ed programs in schools. It also highlights the important role technology plays in modern agriculture.

The DPIPWE staff are very keen to support Ag programs in schools and very willing to discuss how they can do this with individual schools.

Keep an eye on our Fronter room for Spatial Discovery resources.

Visit Spatial Discovery Here:

Spatial to Find Out More Contact Scott Strong (DPIPWE)

scott.strong@dipwe.tas.gov.au

2016 Agricultural Education Network Professional Learning and Workshop Dates

Thursday, April 7th at Hagley Farm School

Friday, October 21st – (venue TBC)

For further details please contact Andrew Harris

andrew.harris@education.tas.gov.au
Livestock Bio-Security Network

An Example Learning Activity

Focus: How a pest or disease can be introduced to, and spread within, a flock of sheep.

**Purpose:** Act out the spread of an infectious pest/disease, e.g. lice and footrot, within a flock. Each student will represent a sheep, one of which is infected, but there are no visible signs. The sheep that is infected may have strayed into the flock from a neighbouring property, or might be a ram brought in on purpose. The pest/disease will spread by the exchange of an inch of clear liquid (all water except one which is white vinegar) contained within clear plastic cups. Students will exchange cup liquid with three other students. The teacher will then explain that one of the cups represents an infected sheep before placing a drop of pH indicator into each cup. The liquid of sheep that have since become infected through contact with the original sheep will turn yellow. Those sheep that aren’t yet infected will turn green or purple – depending on the pH of the water. A range of questions can be used – adapted to the level of the students, for example:

- **What is a pest?**
- **What can cause a disease?**
  - Virus (e.g. foot-and-mouth disease), bacteria (e.g. footrot), fungi, prions (e.g. mad cow disease).
- **How can a disease spread?**
  - Airborne, blood-borne, direct contact, water-borne, sexual transmission, insect-borne, fomites (e.g. clothing, footwear), etc.
- **What biosecurity practices could have stopped the spread of the pest/disease?**
  - Keep new sheep separate from flock until sure they are free of pest/disease. Remove a stray sheep as soon as possible and inspect them for signs of pest/disease. Continuously monitor flock for signs of pest/disease - lice may not be visible until six months after infection.

Jess can be contacted on 0488 400 209 or jroad@lbn.org.au. You can find out more about LBN at www.lbn.org.au.

Next Issue: Week 9, Term 1 (March 31st)

Remember to visit www.casas.tas.edu.au to become familiar with our emerging Fronter room.