

Tasmanian Agricultural Education Network

Issue 3 - December, 2017



TASMANIAN
agricultural
education
NETWORK

Food and Fibre Education Continues to Grow ...

The TAEN supports these events in 2018 ...

- * NAAE Biennial Conference, Launceston January 8-11
- * TAPG Precision Ag Expo, Deloraine, April 19
- * AGFEST, Rural Youth Tasmania, Quercus Park, Carrick, May 3, 4 & 5
- * Project Based Agricultural Experience (for students in years 7-12), Project Pitch events, South—October 17, North—October 18, venues tbc
- * ... And more to come!

The TAEN wishes you all a very Merry Christmas and a safe and happy new year!

See you at the conference!



Hello Everyone

The TAEN conference planning committee continues to devote much time and energy to ensure the upcoming biennial NAAE conference is a truly valuable and enjoyable experience for all those who attend.

The committee recently announced that internationally renowned speaker, trend forecaster and author, Michael McQueen, will be guest speaker at the conference dinner on Tuesday, January 9th. The committee extends an invitation beyond the conference to all those interested in hearing Michael, to join us at the dinner. Please book via the link to the right.

As the 2017 school year draws to a close, I would like to pay tribute to those who have continued to provide outstanding and valuable support to our growing professional network, in particular, the TAPG, Roberts Ltd., Launceston Toyota, the Agriskills Reference Panel, members of the TAEN executive and committee, all those that have signed up as members, participating teachers and leaders at schools and colleges around Tasmania, PIEFA and the broad array of wonderful groups and companies that have come on board to sponsor or support the 2018 NAAE biennial conference.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

The future of education | are you ready?

Michael McQueen
Multi-award winning speaker and social researcher

In an age where education is evolving at an unprecedented rate, it is more important than ever to keep pace with change.

Pre-dinner entertainment by Matthew Ives and his big band

TRAMSHED FUNCTION CENTRE
7:00PM - 9 JANUARY 2018

Proudly brought to you by:



Don't miss out [click here](#) to RSVP...

[Click here](#) for a dinner ticket or to register for the full conference experience [click here](#)

We very much look forward to seeing many of you at the NAAE conference in January. Have a safe and happy break.

Andrew Harris
TAEN Publicity Officer

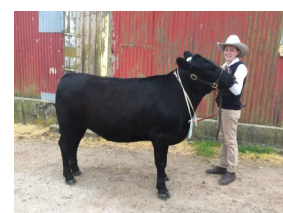
Scottsdale High School Farm Annual Presentations

Earlier this month the Scottsdale High School Farm held the annual presentation evening and celebration BBQ. The event was hosted by Ag teacher Kylie Rattray and the Farm Board. Farm Board chair, Mr Chris Hall and Scottsdale High School Principal, Mrs Carolyn Watson each addressed the large gathering and

assisted with the presentations, and of course the students were the stars of the show! Congratulations to all who contributed to the running of the event, the ongoing running of the wonderful school farm facility, and to the amazing students who participate in the learning programs with such enthusiasm!



The 2017 Hoof and Hook Team



The Tasmanian Agricultural Education Network (TAEN) is proudly supported by:



Launceston Toyota



The PBAE Pitch Event 2017

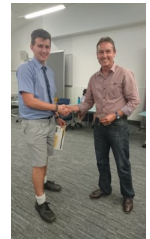
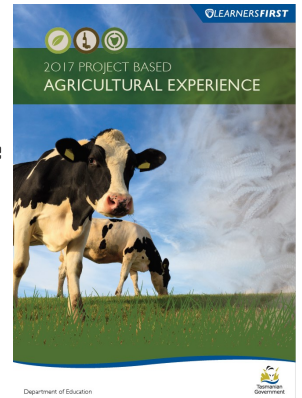


Project Based Initiative a Big Success

Throughout 2017, the Department of Education Project Based Agricultural Experience (PBAE) initiative engaged over 40 Tasmanian students in years 8-12 in a broad spectrum of projects related to agriculture and food and fibre production. The PBAE initiative, inspired by the Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) model witnessed in the USA by Mick Davy and Andrew Harris during the 2016 Hardie Fellowship study tour, culminated in a spectacular 'Project Pitch' event held at the University of Tasmania Newnham campus. During the pitch event, participating students displayed and pitched their projects to a panel of adjudicators and interested onlookers in an expo style setting. At the end of the evening, the adjudicators announced the winning projects, although all in attendance would no doubt agree that every student and every project was a winner!

Congratulations to Bailey Grace (Launceston Church Grammar School) for being awarded the top prize in the Year 7-10 category and to Hugh Bradley and Sam Herbert (both of Scotch Oakburn College) for sharing the Year 11-12 category prize.

PBAE is set for significant growth in 2018, with two project pitch events already scheduled for early in term 4, one in the South and one in the North. Venues and exact dates will be announced once confirmed while full details on how to participate will be made available early in first term.



National Merino Challenge 2018

Showcase what your students know about Merino fleece, production, breeding and selection. Provide an opportunity for them to meet with a careers panel made up of industry leaders and discover the various employment opportunities available in the sheep and wool industry.

The National Merino Challenge is a two-day national competition, which aims to improve the engagement of Australian senior high school and tertiary students with the Merino industry, by developing their skills and networks.

To find out more click [here](#) or visit the [NMC website](#)

Wool4School Program 2018

Australia's favourite school design competition – [Wool4School](#) – is back for 2018. The competition encourages Australia's secondary school students to design an outfit made of Australian Merino wool.

To find out more click [here](#) or visit the [Wool4School website](#)

Visit the TAEN—NAAE Conference Website

[Here](#)

Agricultural Skills at The Devonport Trade Challenge

The Inaugural Agricultural Skills Challenge



The long running Devonport Trade Challenge (a statewide event) this year included, for the first time, an Agricultural Skills Challenge. In this inaugural year, the agriculture event actually topped the ladder for the number of competitors and included teams from Parklands High, Yolla District School, Sorell District School and Sheffield District School. The skills challenge was split into two categories, Years 8-10 and Years 11-12. Students competed in teams of 4, rotating around 12 stations expertly designed by experienced Ag educator, Roger Tyshing.

After a full day of physically exhausting and mentally challenging tasks, the final points tally was read out. Yolla District School, by the narrowest of margins, took out the Year 7-12 category over Sheffield, while Sorell District School went home as Year 11-12 champions, making the long road trip all the more worthwhile!

Congratulations to all schools, their teachers, parents and especially their students for making the day such a resounding success. A big thank you to Rural Youth Tasmania State President, Ash Evans, for organising a couple of terrific RYT members, Josh and Evan, to assist with the adjudicating. Also a special mention to Devonport Mayor, Steve Martin, for his enthusiastic support and to the Devonport Show Society administrative and grounds staff for their outstanding assistance.

New Appointments on the Ag Ed Landscape

Principal Project Officer

Following an exhaustive recruitment process, former Hagley Farm School principal, Mr Mick Davy, has been appointed as the Principal Project Officer to lead the DoE Primary Schools to Primary Industries initiative. Mr Davy will work to frame a clear process for school engagement in food and fibre production and agricultural education throughout Tasmania, largely based on the implementation of the Tasmanian Agricultural Education Framework.



The TAEN congratulates Mr Davy on his appointment, and looks forward to contributing to the PS2PI initiative in what ever way possible.

New Farm Operator at Hagley

The Hagley School Farm and Visitor Centre has appointed experienced agriculturalist and educator, Mr Roger Tyshing, as the new farm operator. Roger will primarily work to ensure farm operations remain financially sustainable and educationally connected. The position comes with an important educational component that will see Mr Tyshing work closely with the Hagley Farm Visitor Centre teaching staff, helping to ensure high quality learning experiences are provided to all 5000 plus visitors to the centre each year.



The TAEN congratulates Mr Tyshing on his appointment and looks forward to connecting and working with him into the future.

Heartwood—by Rowan Reid

Rowan Reid has just published a new book about growing trees for conservation and profit.

"My aim was to create an attractive and informative book that will help make forestry (even the act of cutting down trees) attractive to the wider community." - Rowan Reid

Could make a great last minute Christmas present for anyone who grows (or wants to grow) trees or play with wood.



TAPG Award for Agricultural Excellence



Minister for Primary Industries and Education and Training, Jeremy Rockliff, presents the TAPG award to DoE Secretary, Jenny Gale and TAEN Publicity Officer, Andrew Harris

Recognition for the Network

The important work of our growing network to provide and support high quality Ag Ed related experiences for students in schools and colleges throughout Tasmania and ensure a pathway to relevant careers in food and fibre production, was recently recognised by the Tasmanian Agricultural Productivity Group. At the TAPG AGM and industry forum, held in November, the TAEN was presented with an 'Award for Agricultural Excellence'. The TAPG continue to be strong advocate for high quality agricultural education from the early years of schooling through to post year 12 vocational and tertiary education. The TAEN executive is very appreciative of the recognition from the TAPG and very much looks forward to ongoing collaborations.

Ag Ed Infrastructure Projects On The Go!

This year, a number of key agricultural education schools throughout the state have been recipients of funding to support important infrastructure projects directly relevant to Year 11-12 food and fibre/agricultural education programs. This funding was accessed through a rigorous application process, overseen by DoE VET in Schools Manager, Mr Stuart Harvey.

Projects supported through this exciting opportunity include:

- ◆ Poly Tunnels for horticultural learning and enterprise activities
- ◆ Electronic stock yards, weighing platforms
- ◆ Two new tractors
- ◆ A mobile fencing education and training unit
- ◆ A mobile agri-tech trailer (to be available to all schools)
- ◆ A stock transport and housing trailer
- ◆ Aquaponics systems
- ◆ An aqua-lab and processing facility
- ◆ Egg production facility
- ◆ A facility to house pigs for production education

We look forward to the positive impact these projects will have on education and training in the food and fibre production space.



New Tractor at Lilydale District School

Shearing Demo Shed Completed

The new Shearing Demonstration Shed at the Hagley Farm and Visitor Centre is now complete and ready for operation. The SDS joins the Dairy Demo Shed, completed and opened earlier this year, as exciting new additions to the Ag Ed experience available at the centre. Attention will now turn to Stage 3 of the new developments at Hagley, a Farming Technologies Hub, to provide learning experiences for students that demonstrate the innovative use and importance of agri-technologies in modern farming.



Professor Mike Heads Back Home!

Professor Mike Corbett, has decided to head back to his native Canada after three years with UTAS Faculty of Education. Mike has been a wonderful supporter of improved agricultural education opportunities in Tasmania, particularly for students in our regional and rural schools. The TAEN would like to thank Mike for his involvement in our work in Tassie, and wish him and his family all the very best for the future.

... Stay in touch Mike!



To check out the Tassie school farm survey article by

Mike and his colleagues from UTAS

[Click here](#)