

Funded by  
Dairy Australia  
and your  
dairy service  
levy



**Friday 26 October, 2012**

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Timboon P-12 Introduces Agriculture Project**

Timboon P-12 School will develop an agricultural precinct and integrate agriculture into the school curriculum in a unique project that links students to local industry.

The school is developing the Timboon P-12 Agriculture Project (TAP) in conjunction with its school community, WestVic Dairy and the Gardiner Foundation.

The project aims to develop a greater understanding of the impact that agriculture, particularly dairy, has in the region, including its importance in the long-term sustainability of the community and how it relates to different facets of education.

It will highlight educational pathways for agricultural careers and aims to increase student awareness of careers in agriculture.

Assistant Principal Sean Fitzpatrick said work was underway in identifying opportunities to integrate agriculture into the delivery of each level of the school curriculum, as well as adding value to existing school projects.

“We are developing a scope and sequence agricultural program that will include outings and industry experiences for the Year 5-9 students with a heavy focus on science and maths,” Mr Fitzpatrick said.

An agricultural precinct incorporating a school oval and the Giblett Pavilion is earmarked for development to complement the new project. It is being financially supported through a State Government Empowering Local Communities grant.

WestVic Dairy Project Coordinator Andrea Vallance said the project was not about developing a new generation of relief milkers.

“It is a real hands-on opportunity for students to learn about potential agricultural careers, not only as dairy farmers but in diverse areas such as agronomy, agribusiness, soil science, natural resource management and animal nutrition,” Ms Vallance said.

Funded by  
Dairy Australia  
and your  
dairy service  
levy



The project will be initially offered through Years 5-9 and focus on dairy during its scoping phase, but it is expected to expand across the school and also incorporate other agricultural industries. A steering committee has been formed to guide the project.

Ms Vallance said it would bring agricultural experts to the school and offer students on-farm experiences.

“At this stage we are scoping the best way to integrate agriculture into the curriculum to ensure it is engaging for students,” she said.

It is also hoped the project will improve retention rates.

WestVic Dairy has been funded by the Gardiner Foundation for scoping the first three years of an agriculture-focused partnership with the local community.

Ms Vallance said land at the school would be redeveloped into an agriculture/horticulture area. “We are not looking to replicate a dairy farm but will have a designated area for planting seeds, using fertilisers and agriculture-related science/maths experiments,” she said.

The project will be showcased at an official launch on November 21.

The program has strong support from the school community. Timboon P-12 Parent Sam Dalziel said it placed a focus on encouraging local children to remain in and contribute to the community and its long-term sustainability.

**“Turning on the Tap”- Launch of the Timboon P-12 Agriculture Project (TAP)**

**When:** Wednesday November 21, 11:00am-2:00pm (Launch 12:00pm)

**Where:** Giblett Pavilion (Agriculture Precinct)