

## **MEDIA RELEASE – 3 MAY 2013**

### **Timboon P-12 Agriculture Project nominated for prestigious awards**

The Timboon P-12 School is a finalist in two categories of the Victorian Education Excellence Awards 2013 for its Timboon Agriculture Project. The Awards will be announced at a dinner on 17 May.

The Timboon Agriculture Project, delivered at the Timboon P-12 School, has already received considerable acclaim. It is an initiative of WestVic Dairy's Promoting Dairy Careers project, funded in its scoping phase (2012/13) by the Gardiner Foundation. Timboon P-12 School was nominated and shortlisted for two awards, and has now been selected as one of three finalists in each category. They are:

#### **Outstanding Partnerships with Families and Communities:**

- Timboon P-12 School – South-Western Victoria Region
- Huntly Primary School – North-Western Victoria Region
- Nagambie Primary School – North-Eastern Victoria Region

#### **News Australia Outstanding Curriculum Innovation:**

- Timboon P-12 School, 'TAP – Timboon Agriculture Project' – South-Western Victoria Region
- Bendigo Secondary Senior College, VCE Virtual School' – North-Western Victoria Region
- Warrnambool East Primary School, 'Inspiring Young Scientists – South-Western Victoria Region

Rosalie Moorfield, Principal of Timboon P-12 School, said "We are focussed on providing our students not only with an excellent education, but also the skills, knowledge and opportunities to choose from a diverse range of career pathways. Academic excellence is supported by opportunities to apply that learning in the real world, not just the classroom". She added: "The School is honoured that the Timboon Agriculture Project has been selected as a finalist in two categories in the prestigious Victorian Education Excellence Awards".

In the first stage of the project, Timboon P-12 has been building the curriculum framework and trialling some of the many ideas that this opportunity has generated. Ms Moorfield acknowledged the partnership with WestVic Dairy, the funding support of the Gardiner Foundation, and the generosity and enthusiasm of many farmers, agricultural service providers, community organisations and individuals who contributed their time and skills to enriching the learning environment for students.

The Federal Government has committed funding to begin the development of an agricultural precinct within the school grounds to supplement the classroom and off campus experiences for students.

Mary Harney, Chief Executive of the Gardiner Foundation, said "The Timboon Agriculture Project takes students on an agricultural journey throughout the years of their school life, from prep forward, which gives them the knowledge and connection to their community to make informed decisions about careers in agriculture by the time they reach VCAL and VCE levels."

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