Media Release

Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

Monday, 6 November 2017

Latest agricultural research, innovations and perspectives to be showcased

Leading agricultural experts from Australia and around the world will be in Tasmania next week to speak with industry representatives at free events hosted by the Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture (TIA).

On Tuesday, 14 November, TIA will hold an open day at its Forthside Vegetable Research Facility, including presentations about precision technology and the use of drones to drive agricultural productivity and efficiency.

Guest speaker Tim Neale, of Data Farming in Queensland, will share his experiences with agricultural technology, including data management and machine learning relevant to the horticulture sector. He will be joined by Kelby Cheyne, of Remote Aviation Australia, who will share current information about drone use in Australia and provide a hands-on opportunity for attendees to practise flying a drone.

Acting TIA Director James Stronach said the open day was an opportunity to engage with industry and share research that contributes to the ongoing productivity of Tasmania’s agriculture and food sectors.

“The open day will showcase research relevant to Tasmania’s agriculture sectors, including systemic downy mildew in poppies, industrial hemp and soil management,” Mr Stronach said.

“As an internationally recognised institute, TIA conducts high-quality research that is generating local impact. We are working collaboratively with industry in Tasmania to enable transformational technologies and practices – and we welcome opportunities to share this with the community.”

An industry forum will be held in the afternoon following the open day, with a focus on soil health for the potato industry. The forum is part of a current Hort Innovation-funded project that aims to help Australia’s potato industry achieve long-term sustainability and ensure productive and profitable businesses.

The forum will include presentations from international speakers, including Dr Bob Larkin from the United States Department of Agriculture, Professor Richard Falloon from the New Zealand Institute for Plant and Food Research, and Associate Professor Calum Wilson, who is a plant pathologist at TIA.
TIA is a joint venture between the Tasmanian Government and the University of Tasmania.

**Event details:**

**Forthside Vegetable Research Facility Open Day**

Date: Tuesday, 14 November 2017

Time: 8:30am – 1:30pm

Location: TIA’s Forthside Vegetable Research Facility, 124 Forthside Road


**Industry Forum: Potato Diseases and Soilborne Health**

Date: Tuesday, 14 November 2017

Time: 2:00pm – 4:30pm

Location: TIA’s Forthside Vegetable Research Facility, 124 Forthside Road


**Information released by:**

The Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture
Phone: 03 6226 6385
Email: tia.comms@utas.edu.au