



UNIVERSITY *of*
TASMANIA

Wednesday, 10 October 2018

North-West students experience Tasmania's farming future

Key elements in Tasmania's future - science, agriculture and children and young people – came together on the North-West Coast **today (Wednesday, 10 October)**.

Children's University Tasmania members from Miandetta Primary and Devonport High School were among the visitors to the Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture (TIA) Forthside Vegetable Research Facility Free Open Day.

Peter Underwood Centre Director, Professor Natalie Brown, said the school holiday program was a fantastic example of the value of learning outside school hours.

"Learning is not confined to the classroom," Professor Brown said.

"The activities here today are engaging and fun, and we know quality learning experiences can have a really positive and long-lasting impact on children and young people."

Professor Brown said Children's University Tasmania fostered a life-long love of learning, and provided participants with an opportunity to explore and find their passion in life by exposing them to a diverse range of experiences and role models.

"Experiencing exciting new technologies like farm drones, or just meeting and talking to the TIA representatives here today could be the inspiration for a child to pursue an education and employment pathway they might not have otherwise considered," she said.

Children's University Tasmania was launched in Tasmania in July 2015 through the Peter Underwood Centre at the University of Tasmania.

It is now offered in 33 schools state-wide, including 10 schools on the North-West Coast.

"The Peter Underwood Centre was able to expand Children's University Tasmania to the North-West Coast after securing a \$350,000 Tasmanian Community Fund grant," Professor Brown said.

“It is great to have TCF Chairperson Sally Darke here to see the impact the TCF’s tremendous support is having for children and young people in this region.”

Children’s University Tasmania is growing rapidly and now has close to 800 members, including 218 participants in the North-West.

The other North-West Coast schools that have joined the program are: Spreyton Primary, East Devonport Primary, Devonport Primary, Parklands High School, Wilmot Primary School, Hillcrest Primary, Montello Primary and Romaine Park Primary.

TCF Chairperson Sally Darke said:

“Having children engage in such worthwhile extracurricular activities is sure to help foster curiosity and a love of learning outside the classroom that will serve both themselves and their community well into the future.”

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