



NEWS FROM THE TASMANIAN INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE

Media Release

Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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Insight into Tasmanian agriculture to cover grazing, pruning, and all things food production

Learning how Tasmania could graze its way to prosperity, analysing whether mechanical pruning outweighs potential loss in fruit quality and exploring how the tertiary sector, government and industry can better address training needs for agriculture are just a taste of the inside knowledge participants will glean at the annual Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture (TIA) Showcase to be held in **Launceston tomorrow (Wednesday, August 13)** at The Tramsheds in Inveresk, Launceston.

With the theme focusing on rethinking agriculture through partnerships, productivity and profitability, TIA Director Professor Holger Meinke said that more than 100 attendees, including several interstate guests, will see how closely the University of Tasmania and the State Government are working together to set priorities for research, development, extension and education in Tasmania.

“This includes work on what is known as ‘disruptive technologies’ that can fundamentally change the way we work,” he said.

“Agriculture is a dynamic and integral part of a much larger innovation system, and the TIA Showcase provides a fantastic opportunity to re-examine agricultural innovation.”

TIA Showcase topics include:

- Food Systems and the Value Chain
- Irrigation
- Grazing our way to prosperity: a grassy future. Tasmania has a superb climate for growing high quality temperate pastures. How do we best use this advantage, and what are the challenges?
- Fruit. Is mechanisation exclusive of quality? Do the benefits of mechanical pruning or leaf removal outweigh the potential losses in fruit quality?
- Vegetables. Are you being served? What are the vegetable industry’s needs? How does the vegetable industry want to be engaged by TIA?

- The role of tertiary education in food systems. How can the tertiary sector, government and industry better address needs for agriculture and food systems training? How can we improve student recruitment?
- How can Tasmania improve its performance in new product development and innovation? What are the obstacles and opportunities and how might they be addressed?
- Controversial agricultural science. GM – do we need it?
- Can we rely on clean and green image alone, or does brand/reputation management rely on food science and technology? What is critical for industry to improve in food safety, quality and stability?
- What new approaches should be adopted to make export opportunities a reality? Global versus domestic marketing? Which markets and niches should we target? What are the barriers?

2014 TIA SCIENCE SHOWCASE

WHERE: The Tramsheds Function Centre, 4 Invermay Rd, Inveresk, Launceston.

WHEN: Wednesday, August 13, 10am-5pm. Expo from 1.10pm-2pm. Centre presentations 2pm-4pm. See attached program for detailed information.

Information released by:

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