

Media Release

Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

Wednesday, July 30, 2014

Teachers feast on facts about food industry future

Northern Tasmanian educators and pathway planners will experience first-hand exciting developments in the local food industry and be offered a window to future jobs prospects for their students when they join a special tour **TODAY, Wednesday, July 30**, organised by the University of Tasmania's Centre for University Pathways and Partnerships.

The Feast of Knowledge tour will include talks by Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture (TIA), Dairy Tasmania and TAFE representatives as participants make their way to Van Diemen's Aquaculture and then Holm Oak Vineyard at Rowella, where managers will give in insight into skill shortages, job descriptions and qualifications required.

This will be followed by a long-table lunch at TasTAFE's Drysdale campus in Launceston where hospitality students will prepare and serve Tasmanian fine foods while guest speakers cover topics ranging from food business and agriculture to healthy eating.

In the afternoon the group will tour the Australian Maritime College science laboratories and aquaculture centre at the University of Tasmania's Newnham campus.

Speakers will include University of Tasmania's National Centre for Marine Conservation and Resource Sustainability acting director Associate Professor John Purser and Centre for Food Innovation director Professor Roger Stanley, along with University student recruitment staff and TIA representatives.

University of Tasmania food industry liaison officer Don Defenderfer said that by "training the trainers" in the career opportunities available in the food industry Tasmania's youth will in turn become more aware of potential career paths and education pathways.

"We think there is a huge future in the food area going forward, particularly in agriculture where there is still a degree of misconception about what farming has to offer," he said.

“Young people think of agriculture as boring, isolating and low-paid, when in fact it is an exciting, hi-tech industry of the future where there is good money to be made.

“And with three jobs available for every graduate with an agriculture science degree the job security prospects are fantastic.”

The Feast of Knowledge is part of the University of Tasmania’s Pathways to Success program which is funded by the Commonwealth Government’s Higher Education Participation and Partnerships Program.

MEDIA OPPORTUNITY

The media is invited to conduct interviews and take photos/footage at any of the featured venues on the Feast of Knowledge tour or at the University of Tasmania Newnham campus this afternoon.

Please contact media officer Lana Best to arrange on 0417 978 025.

Information released by:

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