

Media Release

Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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University and Agfest join forces in 2015

The University of Tasmania and Agfest Field Days are bringing a focus on innovation to Agfest in 2015 as the two Tasmanian institutions join forces as official partners.

As well as a ramped up presence for Agfest 2015, the University will be working with the Agfest committee on schools activities and conducting valuable research on one of Tasmania's biggest annual events.

Pro Vice-Chancellor (Community, Partnerships and Regional Development) Professor Janelle Allison said the partnership was part of the University's year-long celebration of its 125th anniversary.

"We are excited at the University to be partnering with the young and passionate team behind Agfest," Professor Allison said.

"Innovation and entrepreneurship are crucially importance to our state's future – not just in agriculture, but in all areas of our economic and cultural life.

"The organisers of Agfest are a perfect example of the innovation we need, of the sort of drive and ambition that will create a strong future for Tasmania."

Agfest Chairman Amanda Bayles said:

"It is wonderful to be partnering with the University of Tasmania, as this year provides a unique opportunity to not only celebrate the 125th year of the university, but to showcase the significance of Agfest to delegates of other field days around the country."

This year Agfest is hosting the Association of Agricultural Field Days of Australasia (AAFDA). The AAFDA conference will be held at the University of Tasmania's Newnham Campus on Friday 8th May.

In addition to hosting the AAFDA conference, the University will be onsite at Agfest from May 7 showcasing the projects and research that are impacting and transforming communities on a local, national and international scale.

A student learning trail will be on offer with educational activities aimed at a range of age groups and the University will also be conducting a research study which will capture and report on the event's patrons, volunteers and exhibitors.

Professor Allison said Agfest presented an unmatched opportunity to engage directly with the Tasmanian community.

“Together, we can showcase the University, deliver a rich Agfest experience and highlight how innovation and education support Tasmanian agriculture and the State as a whole,” Professor Allison said.

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