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*TIA is a joint venture of the University of Tasmania and the Tasmanian Government.*

## **NEWS FROM THE TASMANIAN INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE**

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# Media Release

## Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

Tuesday, 1 November, 2016

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### Cream of the crop showcased at TIA's Open Day

It's that time of year where we polish the tractors, dust off our boots and put out the welcome mat at the Forthside Vegetable Research Facility as part of the annual Open Day.

Vegetable farmers, service providers and interested community members are invited to attend the Open Day on **Wednesday, November 9**, to find out about research conducted by the Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture (TIA) and the practical outcomes that can be applied on Tasmanian farms.

"The Vegetable Research Facility, or Forthside as it is commonly known, is the site of leading-edge research into new and innovative ways to enhance the productivity, profitability and sustainability of agriculture in Tasmania," said Dr Mark Boersma, Leader of TIA's Vegetable Centre.

"The Open Day is an opportunity to highlight innovative ideas and concepts that have the potential to benefit the industry. This year we're pleased to welcome a number of guest speakers on topics including precision agriculture, use of unmanned aircraft systems, export opportunities, and sustainable business models. We're also hosting an industry Q&A session to facilitate discussion and give people the opportunity to ask questions."

Dr Boersma said the Open Day will be officially opened by the Minister for Primary Industries and Water, Jeremy Rockliff, and will feature updates about current projects including Sensor-Smart Irrigation, Vegetable Productivity Partnership and Precision Agriculture.

"There will be an opportunity to view trial plots as part the Precision Pea Project which is funded by Horticulture Innovation Australia and run in partnership with Simplot. This \$300,000 project aims to increase the productivity and profitability of processing peas in Tasmania."

TIA's Vegetable Research Facility is a 54-hectare property located among the picturesque rolling hills at Forthside in the State's north-west.

The Open Day will be held **Wednesday, November 9**, from 10am-3.30pm. Attendees should RSVP by 7 November to Leonie White on 0407 865 640 or [Leonie.White@utas.edu.au](mailto:Leonie.White@utas.edu.au)

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#### **Information released by:**

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