

## NEWS FROM THE TASMANIAN INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE

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# Media Release

## Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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## Government House furthering agriculture education

A number of Government House paddocks are being made available for science experiments to help educate the state's future agriculture leaders.

A class of 25 agricultural science students, from the University of Tasmania, is spending this morning setting up a fertiliser trial to measure the impact of different rates of fertiliser applications on growth and species diversity in pastures.

Director of the Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture, Professor Holger Meinke, said the Government House paddocks were an ideal site for undertaking the trial, which will run for seven weeks.

"This is a very exciting initiative and it's wonderful of the Governor and Government House to support us in delivering on-the-ground educational opportunities for our students," Professor Meinke said.

"We are looking forward to undertaking additional projects at Government House such as trialling new varieties of pastures and possibly monitoring aspects of the new vineyard in the grounds."

Along with the university students, a class of Grade 2 students from Sandy Bay Infant School is also visiting Government House this morning.

These educational activities are part of a number of initiatives at Government House introduced by the Governor of Tasmania, Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Kate Warner AM, and her husband, Mr Richard Warner, who are keen to open the grounds to more community and educational activities, building on the school visits that have been encouraged by former governors and particularly by Governor Peter Underwood and Mrs Frances Underwood.

Education was a major focus of the Underwoods in their second term and the current Governor has been keen to continue this legacy by accepting the position of the Chair of the Advisory Committee for the Peter Underwood Centre for Educational Attainment, which was established in partnership with the University, Tasmanian Government and Government House in February this year.

Mr Richard Warner, who has been involved in the Tasmanian horticulture industry for many years as a horticulturalist in the Derwent Valley and as a director in various Tasmanian agricultural businesses, is also a passionate advocate for education and in particular agricultural science education.

"Many city teenagers haven't had much exposure to agriculture and food production and how food gets from the farm to plate or the cutting-edge science and technology involved in agriculture," Mr Warner said.

"The agriculture and food sector is one of the state's most important industries and is continuing to grow and expand in Tasmania.

"When it comes to careers, agriculture offers some of the most diverse and exciting opportunities and has excellent employment prospects.

"But we need more students to study in this thriving area, who can then make a difference by playing a vital role furthering Tasmania's and Australia's role in producing high quality, safe and environmentally sustainable food."

**Information released by:**

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