Students TAP into farm skills

MORE than 600 students from Timboon P-12 School, Nullawarre and District Primary School and Simpson Primary School took part in TAP’s On! last month.

The event was a showcase of how students and teachers were integrating agriculture into their curriculum.

Students from Timboon P-12, years 5-10 worked with industry mentors to demonstrate their learning from the Timboon Agriculture Project (TAP).

Grade 5-6 pupils from Nullawarre drew from their experience as kids#demoDAIRY for their roles as presenters.

Students from prep to year 10 participated, along with a host of industry and community visitors.

The one day event, TAP’s On!, was funded by Brophy’s School Focused Youth Service, and saw students demonstrate what they had learnt in the classroom on such diverse topics as visual soil assessment, the rearing of calves, Lavender on TAP, Stephanie Alexander’s Kitchen Garden, irrigation maths, assessing show cattle, breeding poultry, genetics, DNA, rare breeds and much more.

The Timboon Agriculture Project is a partnership between Timboon P-12 School and WestVic Dairy. The purpose of the TAP is to integrate agriculture into the curriculum delivered at all levels of the school with the assistance of local industry specialists.

Launched in 2012, the TAP has seen grade 3-4 pupils becoming summer crop scientists, grade 6 pupils exploring farm safety, year 9 students applying maths knowledge and skills to data from a large heifer raising business, year 9-10 commerce students developing a business plan for a lavender production enterprise and pupils in grade 5-6 rearing ducks and chickens while considering the business implications of their ventures.

The TAP’s recently established lavender plantation will underpin long-term curriculum delivery in commerce, maths and science as the students establish a small business, Lavender on TAP.

At TAP’s On!, ANZ Seeds of Renewal presented the school with a cheque for $10,000 for the purchase of a lavender still and other infrastructure.