There are a number of factors that make Timboon P-12 School unique.

Our magnificent school grounds and the natural environment surrounding the school which includes a magnificent coastline, lush farmland and virgin bushland are envied by many. The words innovative and excellent have often been used to describe our curriculum offerings but nothing has captured the imagination, inspiration and hearts of our school community like the Timboon Agriculture Project.

This project is just into its second year and it has changed the face of curriculum delivery at our school. Both Parent and Student Opinion Survey results have shown an improvement in student and community attitude to the school. NAPLAN results show improvement in almost all year levels and the involvement of parents and community members in the school has skyrocketed.

As of November 2013, approximately 67 individual industry and 13 non-agriculture community members have been directly engaged with teachers and/or students in curriculum development and delivery, or in developing the agriculture precinct at the school. These contributors represent 20 dairy farm and 24 dairy service or manufacturing businesses, and 10 non-dairy agricultural or horticultural businesses.

We have had a steady stream of national and international visitors keen to find out more about the TAP and our staff have spoken about the program at state and national conferences.

Thank you to the hard working team that has inspired this revolution within our school.

Exciting times lay ahead and we expect to see not only improvement in attitude and academic data but also greater growth in our contribution to ensuring a vibrant agricultural workforce and industry and a passion for teaching and learning.

Rosalie Moorfield
Principal, Timboon P-12 School

WestVic Dairy is proud to partner with Timboon P-12 School in the Timboon Agriculture Program, and to provide support to the process of the school developing partnerships directly with dairy farm, service provider and processor businesses. Dairy is the largest industry in the region, and in this part of the region – Timboon and district – particularly so. Dairy production, servicing and processing drive the economy, but the industry itself is driven by people.

As an industry, Dairy has a strategic interest in supporting strong educational outcomes in dairy communities. Yes, some of that interest derives from the need to encourage the next generation to seriously consider the dairy industry as a career destination, to ensure they fully comprehend the opportunities available, on-farm and beyond, and that they can easily access the pathways to take up those opportunities. But it is more than that.

The dairy industry and the communities that support it need each other: the development of each is dependent on the strength of the other.

The strength of a community is dependent on many things, but one of them is locally accessible, high quality education that supports a breadth of opportunities for its young people. Another is being able to connect those young people to their local community. The Timboon Agriculture Project, by drawing on the expertise of local community members working in dairy production, service provision and processing, and in other agricultural and horticultural businesses, does both.

It’s not about trying to create a generation of farm workers. It is about ensuring those who choose that pathway understand the increasingly sophisticated knowledge requirements of modern agriculture. It is about drawing on the high level technical, professional and business skills held within local businesses to deliver better educational outcomes and increase the range of possible choices for all students, both within and beyond agriculture and related industries.

Gavan Mathieson
Executive Officer, WestVic Dairy