TAP's On! 2018

Let's see… there were dogs challenging drones, fairytale miniature goats, CSI Timboon, tourism maths based on parkrun, cow rumination, genes with teens, edible insects, cowmunity connections, Bee-Bots and plant buddies. As well as coding cows, dinosaurs and volcanoes, planting shrubs in origami pots, water bugs and water health, honey tasting, comparing fleece and fibre, bushfire maths, and preparing for natural disasters…and who could forget George! The Pop Up Markets featured Timboon Peanut Butter, Great Ocean Ducks, Kangaroobie Meats, Heytesbury and District Landcare Group with bushfire recovery, Corangamite Shire's 'Who are your connections' game and TAP Lavender. George the Farmer, Simone Kain and Ben Hood entertained students in Years Prep - 4 with story telling and a concert then Ben and Simone outlined their career paths to older students and spoke about web design and seizing entrepreneurial opportunities. During the lunchbreak students in Years Prep-2 welcomed Simone and George into their classrooms where they shared some of their narratives based on George's stories. Almost 500 students from Timboon P-12 School and Nullawarre Primary School rotated through mostly peer led activities based on our exciting TAP curriculum. Thank you to our engaged students, creative teachers, entertaining presenters, TAP's On! backers Lochard Energy and Westpac Bank, our 2017/2018 supporters the Gall, O'Toole and Lane Foundations and everyone who participated in our annual curriculum expo. It was a great day mate!

Timboon Agriculture Project

TAP 2018

The TAP is a partnership between Timboon P12 School and the industry and community around us. Since August 2012 to December 2018 there have been almost 370 people providing direct curriculum content with teachers and students. In 2018, there were 99 individual community and industry personnel involved in the development and delivery of TAP curriculum and associated teacher professional development.

Why TAP?

The Timboon Agriculture Project (TAP) was introduced in 2012 with the following goals in mind:

- Increase applied learning opportunities for students
- Increase the uptake of Maths/Science, especially at senior levels
- Improve student engagement and Increase community engagement
- Improve student retention
- Increase student awareness of agricultural career pathways and opportunities

Does it Work?

NAPLAN results continue to demonstrate improved relative gains with a trend in growth upwards in Maths/Science/Literacy in 2018. This is particularly evident in our Year 9 cohort with 52% of students scoring in the top two bands of NAPLAN against a state average of 24%.

The 2018 Attitude to Schools survey continues to demonstrate connectedness to school especially at senior levels with 71% of Timboon Year 7-9 students positive (compared to state average of 57% - similar rural schools 59%)

Timboon P-12 School

Strength Through Understanding

TAP: MAKING ∞ THE ∞ CONNECTIONS

This page highlights a small sample of the curriculum initiatives supported by or arising from the TAP in 2018. It really is only a taste – please check out the TAP Blog if you would like to see even more.

January TAPping into our experience

Even when school's out, product of the TAP flows. At the NAAE (National Association of Agricultural Educators) Conference, "Celebrating diversity and innovation in agriculture and education in Launceston", the TAP model was showcased in a series of workshops and field trips: 'TAPping into the community, an innovative curriculum model'.

February Have Your Say

As an introduction to the Year 7/8 'Who's in charge?' Commerce elective, students welcomed UDV (United Dairyfarmers Victoria) President, Adam Jenkins, into their classroom to learn about advocacy. Adam explained that advocacy was important to make an impact on laws, law makers and the general public and the importance of being able to influence government funding allocation. Recent events were discussed such as the USA student protests on gun control, regional roads, animal welfare issues and the impact of social media and how it can be used to sway public perception .

March Game of Drones

Plots prepared – tick! Oats planted – tick! The Year 7 Science class had all systems go for the 2018 Hermitage Research facility Game of Drones Challenge. Soil tests determined the trial site needed lime; six plots were prepared for planting: two as controls and four with varying combinations of fertilisers. Each plot was then planted with 24g of oats. Over the next three months, students monitored, analysed and recorded plant growth, while also researching the digital revolution in agriculture. Our Year 7 students went on to earn an Honourable Mention for their work in the nation-wide Challenge.

April Sheepish Writing

Year 3/4 students were full of questions while watching shearer Steve McKenzie shear Harry's sheep. They asked those questions with a clear intent: to understand the process well enough to develop and practice their procedural writing skills – which they went on to do, with enthusiasm!

May What's the Buzz

It's not just the budding apiarists (otherwise known as Year 9 science students) who are abuzz with bees! The Year 1/2 students have created their own apiary with monoprinted bees. Having learned that honeycomb is made up of hexagonal cells, each student made a cell by printing with bubble wrap. Pieced together to represent a hive, where the queen lays her eggs and the honey is stored, the hive was completed by adding printed bees. Students made the bees from foam, and used ink and rollers to print them. The bees were mounted on extra layers of foam to make them "pop", appear more life-like and give movement. Students and their teacher are still buzzing from this activity!

June Funky Fabrics

Raspberry, avocado, beetroot, tea, spinach, silverbeet, carrot and turmeric… were the natural vegetables, fruits, spices and other sources of dye used by the Year 7/8 Funky Fabrics Textile elective students as part of their fabric dying experiments. Not everything is as it seems when you use natural dyes – red cabbage dyes fabric blue, while lilacs colours fabric green...who knew!

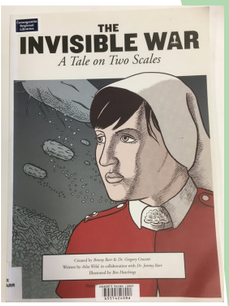
See highlights from previous years at http://www.timboonp12.vic.edu.au/page/206/Timboon-Agriculture-Project-(TAP)

Visit the tap blog: http://timboonagproject.weebly.com/

July Farm Safety A-Z Winners!!

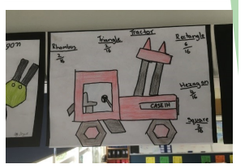
Our Year 5/6 students have been instrumental in developing an innovative concept and portal which includes purple aliens and a trip to 'Planet Burb' to help get the Farm Safety message across to primary school students all around Australia. This is part of Dairy Australia's 'Farm Safety Adventure', an exciting new initiative that focuses on keeping our rural communities safe, through the education of children and families. The portal was designed with assistance from our students, who helped develop both the narrative and concept of this fun-in-learning portal. The pilot program had 25 primary schools from across Australia involved. Timboon P-12 School won the 2018 A-Z Farm Safety Guide Competition and received $1,000 prize money.

August The Invisible War-A Tale of Two Scales



Veterinarian Zoe Vogels introduced us to a brilliant resource to support the Year 9 Body Systems unit on disease. 'The Invisible War – A Tale on Two Scales'' is an illustrated science-history graphic novel exploring parallel experiences during WWI. The story takes place on two different physical scales: the macro-scale, from the point of view of a Victorian nurse supporting troops in the trenches of the Western Front and simultaneously on the micro-level, from the point of view of the gut microbes which fight to keep her body alive when she contracts dysentery. This is a realistic tale of a battle on several fronts replicated on disease battlefields in both humans and animals worldwide. Inspired by 'The Invisible War', students were then challenged to produce a research grid poster on microbes from the human microbiome.

September Farming Fractions



Studying fractions, our Year 3/4 classes were challenged to use different shapes to create a picture. Students had to work out how many of each shape were used and then convert this number to a fraction. Fraction farming!

October Collaborative Coding

The Year 7/8 Collaborative Coding class is a Science based community partnership investigating how to code and work in a team. Students also learn how technology is used to support agriculture with drones, droids and robots. Many students in rural Victoria do not have the chance to see robotic technology in action, but as part of the TAP, our Coding class were able to see world class robotic technology operating in a successful dairy business. Hosting a student visit at their robotic dairy, Phil and Symone Vines outlined the reasons behind their decision to introduce the Lely Astronaut robots and discussed the benefits and implications of the voluntary milking system and the impact on cow health and milk production. It was a valuable opportunity for students to see robotic technology and develop an understanding of its potential in industry and agriculture.

November Inspiring/Aspiring Authors

After skyping with author, Simone Kain, and reading all the 'George the Farmer' books, the Year 1/2 students brainstormed different farming styles, especially in our local area. Our budding authors then chose a farming type and jotted down ideas for setting, characters, problem and solution. Computer research produced topic words of importance to include in their story and they started working on opening sentences, paragraph building based on descriptions of setting and characters and eventually a first draft. The authors' drafts were edited, and then each student produced a pop up, zig-zag or spiral bound book, including illustrations and a cover citing the author and illustrator. George and Simone, we think you have inspired another crop of inventive authors!

December TAP Lavender Harvest

Our 2018/19 lavender crop was harvested by volunteer parents, students and staff with an awesome flush of lavender blooms. Some of the Riverina Alan florets have been used to distil lavender oil or create bunches whilst the Pacific Blue and Avice Hill flowers are drying out with the opportunity for our 2019 students to determine what they will produce from this season's crop.