

# Timboon Agriculture Project

*a continuing partnership to enhance student learning*

## So how did the TAP survive 2020?

The design of the TAP, honed by nine years of successful operation, is based on in-person interaction between community members with industry expertise engaging directly with Timboon P-12 School students and teachers to support curriculum delivery and student learning outcomes.

When remote learning became necessary, teachers, students and families learned and mastered the technologies needed to support it. Many of the new and regular hands-on activities of the TAP had to be cancelled; but where it was possible to approximate the experience remotely, our brilliant staff and TAP contributors found a way – most of them having to navigate unfamiliar technologies to do so, just like the students and their families.

In person for part of Term 1 and Term 4, and via pre-recorded video or live on on-line learning platforms during the remote learning period, our TAP partners stepped up, working with teaching staff to support student learning across the curriculum.

For our Primary students, this included Maths, Science, Geography, Art, Literacy and Food Tech. Our Secondary students' engagement with curriculum was enriched in Maths, Science, Textile and Food technologies, Business Management, History and Legal Studies.

Some—by no means all—of those curriculum activities are described in these pages.





Year 1 and 2 had their real-world introduction to physics through seeing how an ambulance stretcher works, and examining big machinery up close.



Glenn and Lucy (Webber & Chivell) introduced crops to Year 7/8 Plant Health students and hosted a real-world cropping excursion to Sinclair's in Term 1. An apothecary featured in a video created detailing how plants have been used for healing over centuries; and students participated in a webinar hosted by the Qld Dept of Agriculture.

The pandemic itself became a subject for study by Yr 7/8 economics students, in the context of how local businesses pivoted, innovated or forged new partnerships to adapt and survive. This was supported by Josh



from Timboon Distillery (via pre-recorded video) and a live webinar from Mark, Port Campbell Tourism,

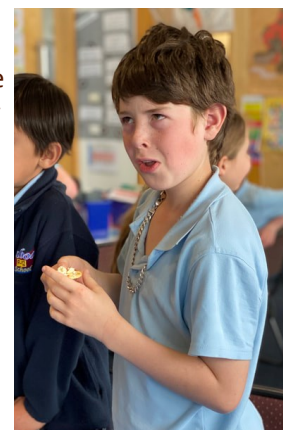


both long-term TAP contributors. To support the Year 5/6 Maths curriculum, Mark also illustrated the maths behind tourism and agribusiness in a live webinar focusing on the economic impact of the local running event. It also explored distance and mapping.



Virtual excursions to replace the big days out scheduled biennially for Year 3/4 students were delivered via videos made on a sheep farm, a dairy goat farm, a dairy processing factory and a supermarket. Fortunately, we were able to conduct dairy

taste testing in the classroom, and students' procedural writing was later crafted about the shearing process. Students made ricotta cheese from goats milk, thanks to a detailed video from Bernie of Childers Cove Cheese Co—but they weren't all sold on that taste!







Although many annual or biennial curriculum activities had to be cancelled and could not be delivered remotely, a happy accident of timing allowed the regular Year 8 Chemistry class camembert production to happen in the short-lived return to the classroom between the two periods of remote learning.

This was supported online by Julian from Apostle Whey Cheese. The judging (by Simon of Schulz Organic Dairy) and announcement of best cheese was also remote, but the cheeses were real!



provided hands-on activities on their dairy farm.

The skills of a dairy farmer and career pathways related to the industry were brilliantly represented for Year 3/4 in a video made by dairy farming couple Ash and Michelle, who in previous years have



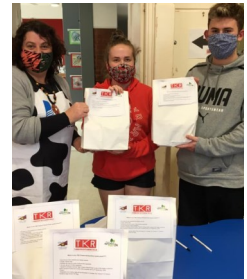
The community-connected work of the Year 7/8 Step-Up program, in which students built seating for the Timboon Rail Trail, was finally allowed into the real world when students worked in consultation with Timboon Rail Trail committee members to install the seats in the most useful spots on the trail.

## Family engagement

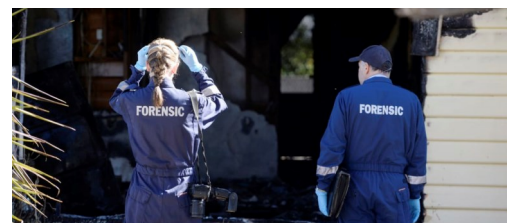


through our annual Family Science Night – this year on-line and featuring a marine biologist and a cliff-roving biology teacher – was supplemented by two popular rounds of Timboon Kitchens Rule (TKR) family iso challenge.

This was designed to encourage students to cook, to teach life skills, and to provide entertainment, family connection and a creative cooking opportunity.



The Year 7/8 economics students investigated local businesses through excursions to the Sungold Field Days and Berry World Timboon before the first lockdown, and harvested the school's lavender crop after the second one, with help from Yr 9.



A forensic investigator from the Victoria Police Forensic Services Centre engaged with the Yr 10 Forensic Science students online.





## TAP's On! 2020 cancelled—Tough Udder goes ahead.

Students were back on campus to end the year, and to mark it, we borrowed one of the activities that usually follows on from our (sadly cancelled for 2020) curriculum celebration event, TAP's On!

Tough Udder is a mad scramble of physical and team work challenges with agricultural themes. It was a fabulous way for students to celebrate the end of a strange year, and a reminder that while this year the

TAP was at times reduced to a trickle, the connection is maintained – flow on, 2021.



## Recognition and achievement

The TAP case study by Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth (2019) was included on Dept of Employment (C'wealth) website when they launched the *School to Work* update; and in resource for school leaders and educators, *Parent and Family Engagement: An implementation Guide for School Communities*.

TAP's On! 2019 STEP UP! workshop and incident scenario: winner, Victorian Resilient Australia School Award, Highly Commended in National awards.

Hermitage Science competition *Plant Health*: Highly Commended and Encouragement Prize Year 7 science students.

Year 7/8 *The Great Ocean Road - Cheese your Own* Creation promotional photo and recipe selected for publication; Year 7/8 *Great Ocean Road - Curds & Why*: 1st place, Dairy Billboard entry, November 2020; Wannon Water *Water it. Grow it. Cook It*: 1st Prize secondary school section.

## Our partners, contributors and supporters

Our TAP team includes all those mentioned here, and more—if you go to the TAP Blog you can read all about it in this and previous years. The TAP would not exist without the active support of so many in our community—some with direct links to past or present students, but most just keen to share their knowledge, their passion for their own industries, and their eternally curious natures. Our school staff continue to show an openness to recognising the best classroom is one that is open to the world, and to welcome that world in.

To support the partnerships between school, industry and community that make the TAP possible, we pay for excursion buses and rely on a skilled coordinator, whose employment would not be possible without financial support. Once again, we would like to thank the Gall, O'Toole, Jones and Uebergang Foundations for their support of the TAP in 2020.