

Media Statement

Students take their knowledge to the paddock

21 March, 2014

Science and maths students from Manjimup Senior High School stepped into the shoes of agricultural scientists this week when they spent two days on an agricultural enrichment tour as a part of the Southern Forests SEED Program, funded by the State Government's Royalties for Regions Manjimup SuperTown Project.



The year 10 students visited several farms and food processing businesses in the Manjimup area where they were provided with first hand knowledge on aquaculture, grape juice bottling, walnut cracking, vegetable cropping and potato processing.

They also spent a day at the Department of Agriculture and Food WA research centre and got to try their hand at irrigation scheduling, integrated pest management, apple maturity testing, apple tasting and water quality testing.

Pictured above: Manjimup Senior High School students hear about integrated pest management from Stewart Learmonth from the Department of Agriculture and Food WA, before learning how to calibrate a spray unit with Ian Guthridge and Tyler Loud, both from the Department of Agriculture and Food WA.

Vocation and Education Training co-ordinator, Kim Skoss, said that the students really rose to the challenge of having a go at the more applied examples of maths and science they experienced during the program. ***"It is always good to apply the knowledge learnt in the classroom out in the field. The concepts they are learning about, and the science in agriculture is so diverse, that it's an all-encompassing learning environment,"*** Mr Skoss said.

Shire of Manjimup Education Officer, Stephanie Carstairs, said the Southern Forests SEED Program aimed to open young peoples' eyes to the opportunities available in agriculture. ***"A career in agriculture can take you anywhere in the world and there's not many industries which offer such a range of opportunities,"*** she said.

A calendar of activities has been developed for the SEED program as attached. For further information about the program contact Shire of Manjimup Education Development Officer, Stephanie Carstairs, 0417 881 665.

Statement Ends

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WHAT'S ON IN 2014

January	Announcement of project patron appointment, Professor Lyn Beazley, Former Chief Scientist of WA.
January	Teacher Professional Development day, MSHS, Manjimup Pasture Group, DAFWA, SFFC, SF SEED Program.
February	Link with Careers Advisory Network in Manjimup region to promote pathways into ag/hort studies.
March	SEED Program 2 day enrichment tour, Yr 10 MSHS, DAFWA, Warren Catchments Council, local farmers, Pemberton and Northcliffe.
April	Yr 10 Careers Day, MSHS.
April-May	Grazing Cereal Pastures Project; Manjimup Pasture Group SWCC funded 3 yr project involving Yr 8-9 students from MSHS to conduct soil testing and grid mapping of trial sites.
May-June	Ag Inspirations Program, selected Yr 9 students all schools; involving DAFWA, Manjimup Pasture Group, farmers, NAB, Louise FitzRoy From Paddock to Plate.
June	TK14 in school masterclass MSHS, PDH, KC with Louise FitzRoy From Paddock to Plate and local chefs.
August	Ag Careers Day, DAFWA, local farmers, local agribusiness, universities.
August	'Growing Science' science in agriculture forum with keynote speakers project patron, Professor Lyn Beazley, Dr Karl Kruszelnicki, Great Moments in Science, noted academics and local science project speakers.
August	University Ag Faculty tour by MSHS students when attending Uni Open Days.
August-September	'Beefed-up Science' Ag Scientists in Schools 4 week program, hands-on science sessions with local high schools.
September-October	Scholarship round to University students for industry placement for summer holidays and research projects 2015; UWA, Curtin, Murdoch, local industry and growers.
September-October	'Own an Undergraduate' SFFC scholarship round for Curtin Uni 2nd year student to have paid industry placement for 12 weeks per year.
October-November	Scholarship round to Yr 10-11 science students to attend summer science camps in Perth.
October-November	Teacher bursary to acknowledge outstanding teacher effort in incorporating ag into lessons, to be used towards PD/conference attendance.
December	Ag Prize Yr 12 VET graduates MSHS.
TBC	Pilot of industry placement of 2 school based trainees; 1 livestock industry, 1 horticulture. Joint employer program to enhance student learning and increase industry engagement.
Ongoing	AgriFood Skills co-collaboration for post-school training and industry development programs.
Ongoing	Support MSHS and PDH school farm ag teachers with industry links and excursions.
Ongoing	Continued communication with SWIT and universities for courses to be delivered locally and/or have accessible delivery for students living in Manjimup.
Ongoing	Assessment of models for local research centre to be established in partnership with DAFWA, research bodies and local ag industry.



Southern Forests
SEED
Program

Sowing the seeds for future growth

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