

MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

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ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors



TIAR's tenth anniversary

The tenth anniversary of the joint venture between the University of Tasmania and the Tasmanian Department of Primary Industries and Water (DPIW) is being celebrated over the next week.

In 1996 the two bodies pooled their resources to create the Tasmanian Institute of Agricultural Research (TIAR).

The partnership has since flourished and become a model for research organisations both nationally and internationally.

The formation of TIAR brought together the State's two major agricultural research and development providers - the combination has created an institute that now attracts international recognition for its work.

With research facilities in Sandy Bay, New Town, Launceston and Burnie, TIAR has around 200 people, consisting of postgraduate students, researchers, and support staff.

Mr Kim Evans, Chair of the TIAR Board, said that previously DPIW and the University were competing for research funding and maintaining separate research facilities from a limited pool of funds.

"The benefits of bringing the State agricultural research activities together were obvious," Mr Evans said.

The range of research being undertaken at TIAR is extensive, and the Institute is attracts high-calibre, internationally renowned researchers. The research is highly industry focussed and outcomes can return millions of dollars to Tasmanian agriculture.

Research programs within TIAR also offer exciting career opportunities for Tasmania's young researchers - from the traditional agricultural programs like dairy, vegetables, horticulture and extensive agriculture, through to less conventional areas, such as rural social research, natural resource management and agricultural value chains.

TIAR also supports leading national programs in food safety research through the Australian Food Safety Centre of Excellence.

The Director of the Institute, Professor Rob Clark said that activities at the Institute are about partnerships – partnerships with industry, and also partnerships across disciplines and research programs.

"Our focus is on building multi-disciplined teams of researchers working towards relevant industry outcomes," he said.

Many Tasmanians would not be aware of the range of research being undertaken by TIAR - research that provides numerous benefits to the State's agriculture, environment and economy.

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