



## To restore, maintain and enhance biodiversity

It's **International Biodiversity Day** (22 May) and this year's theme is 'Be Part of the Plan': the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, otherwise known as the **Biodiversity Plan**.

The Biodiversity Plan is understandably enormous in its scope. One target area is prevention of exploitation and trafficking of flora and fauna. Direct exploitation of wild species is the **biggest driver of biodiversity loss** in global marine ecosystems (and the second biggest in land and freshwater ecosystems). Another focus is ensuring that urban planners around the world **increase and enhance green and blue spaces** - vegetation and inland/coastal waters - for both biodiversity and human wellbeing.

The aim of Biodiversity Day this year is that stakeholders from right across the social spectrum - from lawmakers to businesses to local communities - engage with the process and discover how they can 'Be Part of the Plan'.

The University of Tasmania joined the UN Environment Programme's **Nature Positive Universities Alliance** in 2022, making an **official pledge** to commit to a Nature Positive Journey as part of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration. This pledge builds on previous work to record and monitor threatened and invasive species at all campuses and citizen science biodiversity events.

In other news, **Lids4Kids** is coming back to the state in a partnership with the University of Tasmania. Plastic lids collected in the northwest (more locations to come) will be recycled in the new **Tech Solutions Hub** into filament that can be 3D printed into a range of new items, including furniture. Read the full story [here](#).

The entire office of the Vice-Chancellor's Division were recently treated to a tour of the key sustainable features around our Sandy Bay campus. Around 60 staff members had a closer look at things like EV chargers, recycling walls, solar panel arrays, elements of our new waste management system, the famous rainbow stairs and some great projects involving students.

If you would like to see some examples of how and where we are *doing* sustainability around the Tasmanian campuses you can take a **self-guided walk** or **do a virtual tour** using a handy map created as part of an innovative SIPS internship.



### A sweet partnership

Apples bursting from the trees of Newnham campus' heritage orchard recently inspired some delightful collaboration for the good of the local community.

University of Tasmania's Community Garden Coordinator, Jeff McClintock, invited Vinnies staff and volunteers to harvest some of the fruit from the 50 trees before Sharon from the Country Women's Association stepped in to help. Sharon worked with some keen Scotch Oakburn College year 9 students to whip up around 80 apple puffs - as well as some hearty soup - for the Vinnies Van.

Over two nights, community members who accessed Vinnies Van fare were also able to enjoy a tasty apple puff with cream. A sweet and delightful outcome for all involved.



### Electric vehicle infrastructure boost

EV charging stations continue to be rolled out at our campuses across the state. A small number of the charging stations are only available for University vehicles, while others are available for community charging.

A mixture of fast 60kw chargers and slower 7-20kw chargers are now online, with stations at Newnham, Inveresk, Sandy Bay and West Park available for community use in 2-hour parking spaces.

There are nine charging site in total, with an extra two coming soon. EV charging stations that are publicly available can be found on the Exploren app via [Google](#) or [Apple](#) and students and staff can use [UniMaps](#) or contact Campus Services for up-to-date information and locations.



### Self-herding cows are just the beginning

The Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture (TIA) Dairy Research Facility at Elliott is the first of its kind in Australia. On 32 hectares of fertile northwest farmland, TIA have created mini 'farmlets' that allow them to conduct whole-farm system research.

So far, trials have included nitrogen-free pastures and **virtual fencing technology**, where the dairy cattle wear collars that gently alert them to the limits of their pasture. The cows even herd themselves to the milking shed!

While the management of water and runoff has been a significant focus at Elliott Dairy, the most recent development has been establishing renewable energy for the site. In February, the rotary dairy building was furnished with a solar array of 72 panels connected to a single inverter, with a total installed capacity of approximately 30 kilowatts peak (kWp).

This is the first installation of photovoltaic panels at the facility, supporting some of the daytime electrical load in the rotary dairy and adjacent buildings. However, there is potential for more solar capacity to be added in combination with battery storage, to support peak electricity consumption during milking operations and contribute to charging of future electric farm vehicles.



### LGBTIQ+ Room launch at Inveresk

Progress flags, craft, iced donuts and prizes were all part of the vibrant celebration to launch the LGBTIQ+ Room at Inveresk Campus on Thursday 16 May.

As the headline event of this year's IDAHOBIT Week in Launceston, the room was officially declared open by Inveresk-based academics Dr Kim McLeod, Dr Lauren Armstrong, Pride Society of TUSA President Sherlock Holden, Communities Coordinator Vanessa Henry, TUSA's Northern President Libby Alsop, and current TUSA Equity President, Mark Warrington (who joined online).

The aim of the Room is to begin strengthening inclusion and celebration of diversity at the northern campuses. TUSA's Libby Alsop said, 'I understand how challenging it can be to find safe spaces, especially on the non-Hobart campuses, so I am overjoyed to be included in the opening of this space'. She is looking forward to seeing more initiatives like this implemented by UTAS.

Our Sustainability team joined the launch with fresh produce from the Inveresk Community Gardens, and information about the Green Impact toolkit actions that are directly related to advancing inclusion, equity and diversity, something that is an integral part of holistic sustainability.

All are welcome at the LGBTIQ+ Room, which is located on the ground floor of The Workshop, Inveresk Precinct, Room 122.



### Green Impact underway for 2024

Teams of University of Tasmania staff are stretching their limbs and cracking their knuckles across all campuses as the Green Impact challenge begins for another year.

Designed by the National Student Union in UK in 2006, **Green Impact** has now been adopted by more than 2,200 organisations and racked up over half a million actions contributing to the UN's 17 sustainable development goals.

Last year's teams created mug libraries, initiated plant, seed, clothing, stationery and chillie swaps, hosted all manner of meals (including cosy jumper lunches), collected masses of litter whilst 'planking' and made their workspaces into veritable jungles of indoor plants. We look forward to the creative sustainable actions that emerge from our dynamic teams this year.

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*First Nations peoples around the globe provide the greatest inspiration for sustainable living based on deep connection with, and respect for, our natural world.*  
*We acknowledge the traditional owners of lutruwita and pay our respects to elders past and present.*



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