



Stephanie Prendergast



Stephanie grew up in Sydney but always had had lots of exposure to plants, animals and gardening with many friends and family owning horse studs, cattle farms, and vineyards in both New South Wales and South Australia. Stephanie also worked in the wool industry testing fibre for a while whilst raising a young family.

Stephanie gained a degree in Anthropology and Sociology followed by a degree in Plant Biotechnology and Environmental Engineering and added to this a post

graduate Diploma in Education.

Stephanie then moved to Tasmania where she owned a small property in the Tamar Valley growing fruit and vegetables but it soon became evident that her children would have to go away to school if they wanted to pursue their interest in agriculture and aquaculture. Stephanie became involved in a push to include subjects involved in food and fibre production at schools as well as a career path.

Indirectly Stephanie became involved in the Burnie High School Farm teaching Maths, Science and vocational skills to disengaged students through the Trainee and Apprenticeship Pathway Program. She

found students just loved going to the farm and showed an interest in working and learning in that environment

This led to a specific Agriculture subject for grades 9 & 10 and a junior class (grade 8) Pilot Program in 2018 which proved exceptionally popular. Along with this there is the Revitalising Schools Farms Initiative and, together with Burnie High School, they were able to secure funds to further promote the initiative.

It is currently small scale with 76 students involved but they already have a waiting list of interested students. The students study horticulture, animal husbandry (poultry – ducks/chicken, alpacas and sheep at the moment) on a small scale, engage in the Cows Create Careers and work with other local agriculture industries such as Costa, Agvita, Table Cape Tulip Farm and Harvest Moon to look at all the career options and cross-curricular experience from maths and science as well as STEM, to humanities, including an emphasis on Indigenous farming and land management practices.



Scientific Extension & Communications

The Role	Prerequisites	Skills Needed	Salary Guide	Training options	Resources needed	Next career step
<p>Engaging students in learning</p> <p>Teaching students</p> <p>Liaising with stakeholders i.e. farmers, business owners</p> <p>Understanding and implementing the Australian curriculum</p> <p>Supervising practical activities</p> <p>Keeping abreast of current local, national and international issues and changes in the agricultural sector</p>	<p>High School teaching qualification</p> <p>Passion and basic knowledge in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land Management • Agriculture • Plants • Animals • Science <p>Good communication skills</p> <p>Good understanding of how systems work</p> <p>Skills in engagement</p>	<p>Aligning what you do to the Australian curriculum</p> <p>Ability to make lesson content fun and engaging</p> <p>Flexibility to be able to teach students at varying levels.</p> <p>Continual development of oneself as well as subjects that you are involved in</p>	<p>\$48,000 - \$96,000</p> <p>Depends on location, and responsibilities</p> <p>(payscale Australia)</p>	<p>Diploma in Education</p> <p>Degree in Education</p>	<p>Car licence and transport a must</p> <p>Curriculum support</p> <p>Access to scientific databases</p> <p>Access to a school farm</p>	<p>Develop within current school that you work for</p> <p>Move to a different school or education sector</p>