AGRICULTURE is important at Knox Grammar School and the approach involves everybody, from students and staff to the old boys and parents.

This is increasing the number of students studying agriculture, with interest growing rapidly.

Year 10 students prepared two steers for the Sydney Royal Show as part of their study:

Fimmo, a Limousin steer, was the gift of old boy, Angus Barlow, Wakerman Limousins, Narromine, and Fonzie, a Poll Hereford steer, was the gift of old boy and current boarder parent, Tim Capp, Gresford.

Both steers arrived at Knox at the start of the year and took up residence in the new cattle stable which was built at “Inglewood”, the school’s agricultural plot in Warrawee.

The cattle were fed, led and groomed on a daily basis in preparation for Sydney Royal Show and a team of Year 10 Knox boys spent their school holidays at the show caring for, and exhibiting Fimmo and Fonzie.

Fimmo and Fonzie were entered in the School and Open Steer and Carcase Championship, which involved the cattle being judged on their live appearance and then their carcase quality.

Once judged the Meat was available for the boys to buy through Eastern Road Quality Meats at Turramurra. The sale is always eagerly awaited by the Knox community, and by the time this goes to print, the meat may already be on the plate.

This year, the school had the extra involvement of old boy, Bruce Paynter, who is now Knox’s tireless representative in the bush, entering his Devon cattle in the Royal.

Some of the boys preparing the steers for the show were among the 23 Year 10 agriculture students who recently visited dairy and cattle farms in the Gloucester area; while there, the boys were lucky enough to stay and work on the Moppit property of James and Ted Laurie, current boarder parents and Knox old boys.

In August it will be the turn of 30 Year 9 agriculture students who will visit properties in the Moree and North West region, culminating in AgQuip 2011, where again Knox parents, old boys and their families will welcome students.

Knox Grammar School is a day and boarding school for boys, located in Sydney. It is a Uniting Church school for boys from Kindergarten to Year 12.

Knox will attend the Dubbo, Griffith and Tamworth expos.

Visit www.knox.nsw.edu.au