

Group fight for Hagley school's future

By ROSITA GALLASCH

A GROUP to support the future of Hagley Farm School is set to be established.

Led by former "old boys" Guy Barnett, Rodney Dent and Tony Clarke, the group will officially meet for the first time on August 1 and is seeking the involvement of other former students, community members or those who might have a connection to the school.

Last month, *The Examiner* reported that the state government had conducted an audit of all the state's school farms, including that at the 158-year-old Hagley school, and it was open to those wishing to sell off their properties.

To be called the Friends of Hagley Farm School, Mr Barnett said the group had the support of the school association, parents and

friends group and principal Mick Davey.

"This has come about following the concerns that were raised by the state government's audit report, and our decision to do a couple of things — one to build a support group to review any risk of closure and importantly, to ensure its sustainability well into the future as an educational icon, not just for Tasmania but for Australia," Mr Barnett said.

Guest speaker at the first gathering will be Primary Industries Education Foundation executive manager Ben Stockwin.

Former principal Peter Kearney said he was delighted that many people who were interested in supporting the school, would be able to do so.

The first gathering of the friends group will be at the school on August 1, at 7pm.