



Sydney

2017-2018

ANNUAL REPORT

JANUARY 2017 - JUNE 2018

CONTENTS

“OUR VISION IS TO CONNECT, DEVELOP AND CELEBRATE YOUNG TASMANIANS...”

03

RURAL YOUTH POSITIONS

04

STATE PRESIDENT REPORT

05

CEO REPORT

06

MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

07

AGFEST

08

STUDY TOURS

09

YOUNG FARMER

10

DISCOVER AGRICULTURE

11

RURAL YOUTH CLUBS

- a. Brighton Club Report
- b. Hagley Club Report
- c. Kingborough Huon Club Report
- d. North Motton Club Report
- e. Tamar Rural Youth Club Report
- f. Western Tiers Rural Youth Club Report
- g. YAPN Club Report

19

RURAL BUSINESS TASMANIA

20

FINANCIALS

22

JOIN THE HERD

23

SPONSORS



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RURAL YOUTH POSITIONS

PATRON

Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Kate Warner, AC, Governor of Tasmania

RURAL YOUTH BOARD

State President - Mrs Ashley Evans

Vice President - Mr Jake Williams

Agfest Chairman - Mr Owen Woolley

BOARD MEMBERS

Ms Breeanna House

Mr William Craigie

Ms Sarah Revell

Mr Joshua Taylor

Mr Ethan Williams

Mr Dale Hayers

ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

Mr Peter Gladwell

Mr Andrew Skirving

Ms Laura Richardson

LIFE MEMBERS

Mr H.R. Reynolds (dec.)

Mr T.B. Stancombe (dec.)

Mr Don Walker

Mr C.A. Holland (dec.)

Mr Darryl Barker

Mr D. Bennett (dec.)

Mr Henry Burbury

Mr E.C. Mackay (dec.)

Mr Keith Topfer (dec.)

Mr Graeme Tole (dec.)

Mr David Dunn

Mr Ian Mackenzie

Mrs Carol Axton

Mr John Dent

Mr Noel Beven

Mr Wesley Hazell

Mr Chris Williams

Mrs Sharon (Wing) Symons

Mr Peter Gladwell

Mr Dale Badcock

Mr Richard Colman

Ms Elizabeth Skirving

Mr Brett Mackenzie

RURAL YOUTH STAFF

CEO - Karen Robinson

Finance Administrator - Linda Perkins

Events & Sponsorship Manager - Selena Flanagan

Rural Youth Administrator - Ellie Fielding

Administration Support - Vicki O'Grady

Quercus Caretaker - Max Griggs



STATE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Our values are represented in our volunteer community: a community that believes in teamwork, humour, loyalty, trust and honesty.

This will be my last annual report as State President as I will be stepping down from the role at the September AGM. I can say without a doubt that the experiences I have had within this role have been amazing. The opportunities that Rural Youth have provided me have been and will continue to be beneficial, both in my development personally and professionally. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Karen Robinson as CEO and Jake Williams as VP, for their continued support and encouragement, Paul Bennett for his direct approach, which especially helped me in my first few months in the role, and to Noel Beven, Andrew Skirving and Helen White for their support within their roles on the Advisory Committee.

Also, a big thankyou to my husband, Caine for his understanding and support, especially when Rural Youth demanded a fair amount of my time.

Moving on with even more sentimentality and looking back at the past 12-18 months it fills me with so much pride and happiness to see what we have all achieved. As a group of motivated and determined young people we have changed so much within the organisation. We sat down as a group and developed a strategic plan for Rural Youth. We decided that we value friendships and relationships, training and education, and support and encouragement. We are all for connecting, developing and celebrating young Tasmanians, and through hard work we achieve this every day. Our win of the Building Communities Award at the Launceston Chamber of Commerce Business Awards shows just that.

There is no doubt that the shift in organisation structure has had its teething troubles but overall the effect on Rural Youth has been positive. The board have hit their stride and big, strategic decisions are being made. We now have an approved wastewater system going in and the Property Management Working Group has big plans for both Quercus and Head Office. The addition of the Discover Agriculture program and the establishment of the Young Agricultural Professionals Network has been a great win for Rural Youth. The atmosphere is electric within the organisation as people

can see that things are being achieved. This has in turn motivated members to take on operational roles and think outside the box when it comes to benefits we can provide.

Events and activities throughout the year have been a huge success. The Young Farmer Competition is attracting non-members, we have sent 3 brilliant young people around the world on Study Tours and improved members' skills through industry recognised certificates/licences and scholarships. Not to mention we have provided many fun social events and pulled off an incredibly successful Agfest, with over 65,000 patrons through the gates and a new feature, with the inclusion of the Junior Beef Cattle Handlers Competition.

We have been busy promoting the organisation to young people around the state, from clubs getting amongst it at shows running Dog High Jumps, Ute Competitions, animal nurseries and BBQ's to running a workshop at the Tasmanian Agricultural Education Network Conference, and sponsoring and running the games at the Tasmanian Junior Beef Expo. Our name is getting out there and young people are signing up as members. Absolutely fantastic if you ask me!

Thankyou to all Rural Youth members, past and present, and to Rural Youth staff for all your hard work. As a team, we should all be very proud of what we have achieved. I look forward to the future of organisation and I wish the future president the best of luck, whoever he or she may be.

ASHLEY EVANS
2017/2018
State President



CEO REPORT

Change and achievement have been the hallmarks of the past 18 months for Rural Youth Tasmania. Discussion became action – with members endorsing a new Constitution, Organisation Structure and Strategic Plan for 2017 – 2019. Safe to say, as with any major change, it has not all been plain sailing. However, we have achieved what we set out to do – which was to provide a framework and processes for members to be able to contribute and enjoy being a Rural Youth member in a way which fits with their interests and skill sets. Regardless of these changes, we remain a training organisation at heart, providing members with a variety of opportunities to grow personally and professionally.

Along with practical differences we have experienced a marked change in culture, this has been acknowledged internally and externally. As an organisation we have matured, members recognise the need for compliance and safety, take pride in a job well done and want to contribute positively to their community. We haven't lost our sense of fun and members are the first to admit they still like a party however this is not the primary focus and is tempered by a great deal of hard work. This is exemplified by facilitating community days on building resilience and looking after mental health in young people, turning the AGM dinner into a fundraiser for interstate drought victims, assisting at local shows through to the juggernaut that is Agfest. The positive feedback we received after the 2018 event was nothing short of phenomenal. External stakeholders value the work undertaken by our members and are actively seeking opportunities to work with us on a variety of projects. In 2017 Rural Youth was short listed as the Community Group of the Year at the Tasmanian Community Achievement Awards and was announced the winner of the Launceston Chamber of Commerce Business Excellence Awards - Building Communities category, while Agfest was a finalist in the Most Outstanding Event category.

We will continue to seek opportunities to partner with appropriate organisations for mutual benefit, an example of

this – the development of the dog arena area by the Quercus Park United Kennel Clubs. Many commented on the area during Agfest, once completed this will be a drawcard for the event and opens our site to others in the community for a worthwhile purpose, a goal which was identified in our strategic plan.

Financially we are in a strong position, so we are now able to embark on several big infrastructure projects at Quercus, including solving the longstanding issue of waste water management, upgrading the power and replacing the kitchen in the Function Centre as a starting point. We have a dedicated group of members working in the background developing a 3 – 5 year plan for the maintenance and development of our properties so we protect our assets and are in a position to meet current and future business needs.

The coming year will see us continue to strengthen relationships with clubs, continue to monitor and improve our governance processes, provide further opportunities to members and explore avenues for members to gain formal recognition for the work they undertake as committee members and volunteers at Agfest, as well as completing new infrastructure.

Finally, I wish to pay tribute to the fantastic staff and group of leaders our organisation has had during this exciting, and at times, challenging period. I am not going to single out any individual, because it has been a team effort and every single contribution has made a difference and been appreciated. It is inspiring to work with this group, who are not only interested in the present, they are actively trying to build a legacy for the members who come after them to enjoy. It is exciting to report the organisation and its future is in safe hands.



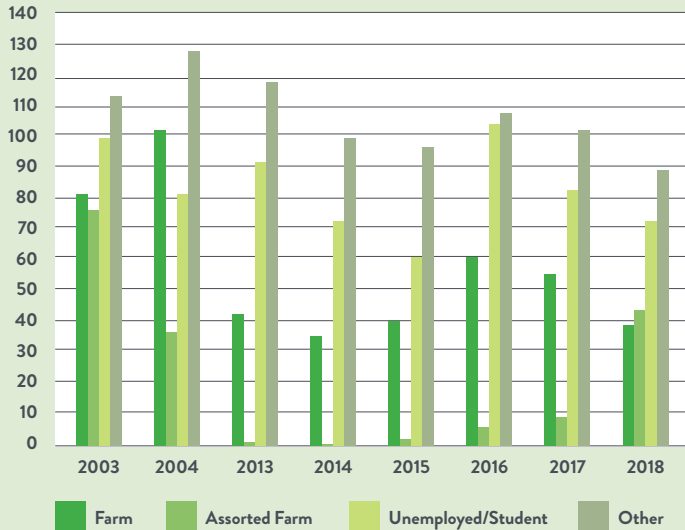
KAREN ROBINSON

Rural Youth CEO

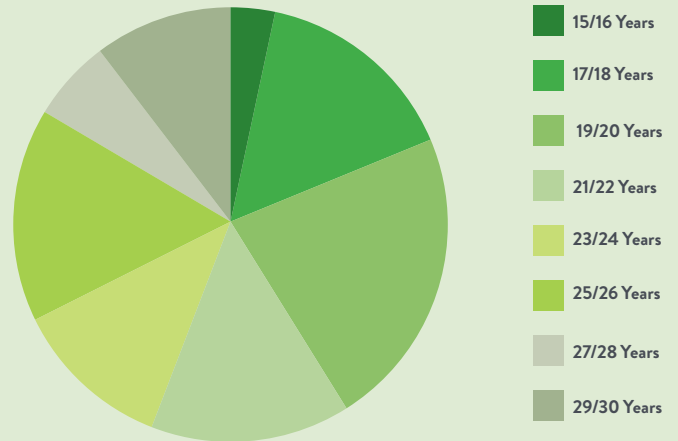


RY MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

MEMBER OCCUPATIONS 2013-18



2018 MEMBER AGES



CLUB MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS



CLUB MEMBERS	2017	2018
Brighton	19	9
Central Highlands	10	8
Devonport	21	17
Dorset	4	0
Hagley	28	25
Isolated	10	8
Kingborough/Huon	25	23
North Motton	21	17
Oatlands	11	9
Sorell	31	34
Tamar	9	10
Western Tiers	13	12
Westmorland	11	13
YAPN	0	10
TOTAL:	214	195

AGFEST

I have written many reports and updates during my term to describe my Agfest experience, covering the trials, tribulations and successes as well as the event itself! It is safe to say I had no idea what an experience it would be!

When I decided to take on the position of Chairman I admit I was flying blind. I have been a member of Rural Youth Tasmania for nine years and this year was my eighth Agfest as a volunteer. Over the years I have progressively taken on bigger and more arduous roles, however the move to Chairman was more of a leap than a step! I had never held a position of such responsibility on a committee before taking on this role, so it was a crash course in how to chair meetings and everything else that is associated with such a position. I am extremely grateful to the team and committee around me for their patience and support, this allowed me to find my feet and learn along the way.

Agfest this year was quite the success, with glorious weather in the lead up and during the event, except for a little rain Thursday night/Friday morning – nothing the site couldn't handle and hey it wouldn't be Agfest if we didn't have some rain! Over the three days we saw 65,794 people come through the gates and enjoy the products and services 709 exhibitors had to offer. It was an amazing attendance, which in fact was the second largest crowd for a Saturday and the third largest crowd on

any day. I know from my perspective, this was quite the milestone.

I wish to draw attention to the 120+ volunteers who dedicate their time to organise and deliver this amazing event we call Agfest. The positive economic and social impact provided cannot be overstated and 99% of it is done by volunteers between the age of 15 and 30! Our volunteer base is truly unique. Without the amazing leadership team, volunteers and dedicated Rural Youth Tasmania staff, Agfest wouldn't happen.

Every Chairman is proud of their team, and I am no exception. It was a great pleasure to have such an amazing team working together and having fun. The friendships and fun had running this event are priceless, what we achieved was quite awe-inspiring.

The introduction of the new structure and the Committee worked well. We continue to research opportunities to grow the event while still satisfying our core market. We have also placed great emphasis on planning, not only for next year's event, but for the future, this will be developed further in the coming years with the ultimate goal a 5-year plan for the event.

In addition to the business plan mentioned above we are also about to embark on an extensive capital expenditure plan for the Quercus site, starting with installing a waste water treatment system and

updating the Function Centre kitchen, equipment and increasing electricity capacity. The waste water issue has been one the organisation has been grappling with for many years and we are pleased that we are now financially able to address this problem. This project will be in the vicinity of \$500K and we will have little to show outwardly for the investment, as the majority of this work will be underground, however until it is completed we are unable to undertake other work on site due to Council regulations. In addition to these upgrades we will also be developing an ongoing maintenance program for all of our assets, at Quercus Park and York Street.

Whilst this is something that is being addressed by the organisation as a whole it is very relevant for Agfest, as we continue to be one of the few, if not the only event in the State which is self-sufficient and does not receive government support. The income generated at Agfest is reinvested into the event, property and other Rural Youth programs. We are very proud of our achievements and we look forward to building on them in the coming years.



OWEN WOOLLEY
2018 Agfest Chairman

“ Over the three days we saw 65,794 people come through the gates and enjoy the products and services 709 exhibitors had to offer. ”





STUDY TOURS

“THE MEMBERS WE SEND ON THESE ADVENTURES ARE WONDERFUL AMBASSADORS FOR THE PROGRAM, OUR ORGANISATION AND THE STATE IN GENERAL.”

A brief background for those with limited knowledge of our Study Tours/Exchange program. Exchanges are one of the most exciting aspects of membership to Rural Youth Tasmania.

We offer a wide range of interstate and international exchange trips, travellers are hosted by affiliated Rural Youth Organisations. Exchanges provide an opportunity of a life time.

In April 2017 we welcomed Nic (Canada), George (Scotland) and Andrea (Norway), they spent between eight and twelve weeks travelling the State, courtesy of our amazing hosts, Rural Youth members past and present. Experiencing everywhere from the Tahune Air Walk in the far south to north of Smithton on the North West and most places in between. Like the majority of our exchangees, they voted the week of Agfest as one of the highlights of their travels.

At the same time our members visited many exciting overseas locations, William Craigie (United Kingdom), Zoe Newman (Austria), Tobias tenBensel (Norway), Brigid Worldon (Switzerland & Jillaroo School) and Ebony McConnon (AAFDA Conference, National Field Days Orange).

We welcomed Elaine (Northern Ireland), Shona (Scotland), Helen (England) and Natasha (Switzerland) in 2018. Their arrival coincided with Agfest week so they hit the ground running! During their stay the girls managed to visit every coast line in Tasmania!

The selection process for our 2018 exchangees included a tour of Armidale Stud at Carrick in addition to participating in individual interviews with a panel of judges. Ethan Williams (Canada), Peter Damen (United Kingdom), Nicole Elliot (USA) and Lucy Bain (Young Endeavour) were our 2018 recipients.

The members we send on these adventures are wonderful ambassadors for the program, our organisation and the State in general.

We would not be able to offer this wonderful program if we did not have the support of our sponsors, Betta Milk, Tas Country and Kennedy's Welding. We sincerely thank them for their support.

We would also like to acknowledge the amazing members past and present who regularly open their homes to our incoming exchangees – again without them we would not have a program.

If you would like to contribute to this program, either through sponsorship or hosting please contact Head Office for further information.

AMANDA BAYLES & WILLIAM CRAIGIE
2017 & 2018 Directors

YOUNG FARMER COMPETITION

23rd September 2017

This year's Young Farmer was all about putting agriculture-based skills and knowledge to the test with practical, hands-on modules. The competition was opened up to non-members to add another element and to promote Rural Youth. In the last few years the competition has been a member-only affair but by opening it up it brings in talent from all over the state and makes it all very interesting.

There was also another change, with 'runoffs' becoming 'runoff'. One central location was used to put competitors to the test. That means same conditions, same judges and full transparency.

We had a great turnout at the runoff with over 20 competitors competing for a position in the final. They were put through their paces with modules on public speaking, crutching, fencing, first aid, mechanics, irrigation, livestock handling, soil management, finance and general knowledge. The top 10 scorers made it through to the final. Unfortunately, one finalist didn't show on the day so the top 10 became the top 9.

Tasmanian weather lived up to its name but rain didn't stop the finals at Quercus going ahead. Tractor, truck and livestock were moved inside the craft sheds and we were good to go... after photos, everyone's favourite part of the day. From beef judging to fire management, electric fencing and butchering a chicken, the modules were diverse. The dinner that night was not a chance for complete relaxation, with debating taking centre stage.

At the end of the day there could only be one winner and in 2017 that was Peter Damen from North Motton club. Congratulations Peter and all other competitors and a big thank you to all the judges, helpers and sponsors. Without you all the competition would not be the success it is.

**ASHLEY EVANS, DAVE LUCAS
& MATT TATTERSALL**
2017 Directors

THE TOP FOUR WINNERS

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Peter Damen | 3. Matthew Bayles |
| 2. Andrea Craigie | 4. Will Baxter |



2018

YOUNG FARMERS

ENTER TO WIN A SHARE OF THE
\$40,000 PRIZE POOL



SEMI-FINALS:
SUN 1ST JULY, 9AM
HAGLEY SCHOOL FARM,
MEANDER VALLEY ROAD, HAGLEY



FINALS:
SAT 11TH AUG
QUERCUS PARK,
OAKS ROAD, CARRICK

Organised by Rural Youth Tasmania
Entry Fee \$50 or Free for Rural Youth Members.
See website for more information & entry terms & conditions.

ENTER HERE:
www.ruralityouth.com.au/youngfarmeroftheyearcompetition

OPEN TO ALL PEOPLE AGED 15-30

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Rural Youth Head Office - (03) 6331 6154 | Andrea O'Halloran (Competition Coordinator) - 0477 377 311



DISCOVER AGRICULTURE

8th – 13th October 2017

For over ten years Discover Agriculture has been providing grade 9-12 students with the chance to delve in to the agriculture industry and explore the career paths available. In this time, over 300 students have taken up the opportunity and travelled across Tasmania and even on to the mainland.

Programs have been held across Tasmania's south, north and northwest and on Flinders Island, as well as in Victoria. In 2017 Rural Youth signed an agreement with the program's creator, Roger Tyshing and it became another fantastic part of the organisation.

The 2017 program saw 21 students from across Tasmania participate in 6 days of site tours, events and hands-on activities. Students converged on Quercus to find themselves hitting the ground running. There was a lot planned for the week and there was no time like the present. It was time for them all to get to know each other because they were about to spend the whole week together.

Each day was jam-packed with visits to innovative and forward-thinking businesses to inspire and encourage students. From peppermint and poppy oil at Macquarie Oil Company to Jason

Chilcott's robotic dairy at Meander, students were exposed to entrepreneurial people who demonstrate that agriculture is the bee's knees.

They handled livestock, fenced, measured pasture, identified weeds, graded seeds, tested soil, and sampled raspberry ice cream fresh from the farm, you name it they probably did it. Not even a bogged bus stopped us. Students also scrubbed up for a networking night with people across the industry.

Rural Youth is all about supporting young people in Tasmania and the agriculture industry. Discover Agriculture is the perfect fit for the organisation and we are proud to have the program as a part of the fantastic opportunities we provide.

Thankyou to the businesses and sponsors that made it all possible.

ASHLEY EVANS

2017 Director





RURAL YOUTH CLUBS

Rural Youth Clubs are situated across the State. They contribute to their local communities, provide social activities and training opportunities to their members as well as have a lot of fun. The following reports are a great showcase of what they do and how they go about it.





Gaining members has been a priority over the last year.

We were involved in the Jordan River School Farm Festival, held in April last year where we ran an information stall and a Ute Competition. The Ute Competition was a great success, with 18 utes entered in a great range of categories competing for over \$1000 worth of prizes.

Later in the year, we helped at the Brighton Show, running the Dog High Jump and another Ute Competition. A special thank you to our sponsors for the Dog High Jump, including Fehlberg's Produce, Mangalore Kennels, Rascal's Mobile Pet Grooming and Brighton Butchery and our major sponsor for the Ute Competition, ARB.

In November last year, we helped to park cars at the Melton Mowbray Rodeo, which was a great way to help the local community and increase our profile.

Despite a cold, wet and windy day, the Bunnings BBQ in

Glenorchy this June was a big success, with a good turnout from all the members of the club. We sold enough sausages to make a \$1000 profit - an amazing effort considering the weather.

During the last year, we have had a number of enjoyable social events, including ten pin bowling, laser tag and pizza nights.

We are excited about our upcoming events – in particular Fiesta International where we are planning to set up a stall to sell Australian desserts where all profits will go towards helping farmers suffering drought on the mainland.

We are pleased to see that the number of members in the Club has been increasing over the last few months and hope to do more activities over the next year to continue this trend.

EMMA ROBERTS
2018 Club Secretary





Hagley has enjoyed a good eighteen months, getting together regularly and generally having a good time.

Like many other clubs in the organisation we attended local shows, in our case Westbury and Chudleigh and ran the Dog High Jump and Ute Competition – including the famous ‘Chudleigh Cup’!

We had fantastic local sponsors, MG Deloraine, David Grace Lawn Care, Roberts Deloraine and Art Food Tasmania – we appreciate their support.

These competitions got everyone’s attention, particularly when we had a talented lamb make a guest appearance at the Dog Jump!

We also designed Club Shirts for our members to wear with pride as well as ran a mini working bee at Quercus prior to Agfest this year.

Speaking of Agfest, as usual, our Club was well represented on the Agfest Committee and as general volunteers, everyone who was involved said they learned a lot and enjoyed every minute of it.

We are looking forward to the coming year and we are always happy to welcome new members to the group!

JACKIE HARVEY
2018 Club Secretary



The past 18 months have been a busy and very successful period for Kingborough/Huon Rural Youth, members have actively participated in numerous state, club and community events.

In March 2017 we attended the Huon Small Farms Expo for the first time, selling Agfest tickets, engaging with the community and promoting our club.

Kingborough Huon were proud to contribute to the organisation as a whole. Nine of our members volunteered at Agfest 2017, with eight holding directorships. While four of our members hosted the three international exchanges for a fortnight, and along with other club members enjoyed showing them the sights and including them in social activities, (which we did again in 2018). After completing his Loading and Lifting Director role at Agfest 2017, Tobias tenBensel set off in June on his three month study tour to Norway. The experience gave him great insight into Norwegian culture and their agricultural industries. Tobias and the club encourage everyone to apply for these tours in future.

A number of our members were elected to the first Rural Youth Board at the July SGM and Owen Woolley was elected Agfest Chairman for the 2018 event. Kingborough Huon was again well represented on the Agfest Committee with Dale Hayers being elected Vice Chairman and our members filling nine of

the directorships. It was a busy time, as Nicole Elliot received an exchange to the USA and Lucy Bain was awarded an adventure on the Young Endeavour.

As a club we have continued to attend and contribute to many community events:

- Huon Show – Dog High Jump & ute comp;
- Selling sheep poo as a fundraiser;
- Huon Small Farms Expo (again);
- Huon Valley Relay for Life, raising \$506.75 despite the cold.

Throughout the eighteen months all these events and achievements wouldn't have been possible without our fantastic members attending and contributing to meetings, events and fundraisers, and as a result we would like to thank them for their contribution. We look forward to the continued success of the club into the future and welcome new members.

DYLAN BELLCHAMBERS

2018 Secretary





RURAL YOUTH CLUBS

NORTH MOTTON

North Motton Rural Youth may be a small club, but our members are doing some pretty big things!

In the past year alone we have had Brigid Worldon go on exchange to Switzerland for 9 weeks, Peter Damen to the UK for 11 weeks, Ethan Williams to Canada for 4 months and Jake Williams to New Zealand for a week to explore their Fieldays.

Every November, our club runs the Ulverstone Show Animal Nursery for a day. We always have a big variety to show off and it's always a crowd pleaser!

In the next few months, North Motton will be making up some hampers of various foods and items for our farmers in need on

the mainland. When times are tough people pull together and help each other. As well as the hampers we also have 10 x \$50 vouchers, these will be hand delivered by our members as we head to Deni Ute Muster to show our appreciation for everything farmers do for us. It is sometimes easy to take these things for granted.

RENEE LATHAM
2018 Club President

In late November 2017 the Tamar Rural Youth Club held its first meeting for many years, since then it's been full steam ahead with getting the club back up on its feet and increasing member numbers.

The club was in great hands with long time Rural Youth member Andrea O'Halloran leading the troops as Club President, with a willing team of office bearers Harrison Chugg (Vice President), Josh Taylor (Treasurer) and Emily Nixon (Secretary).

From the first meeting we had big plans and our little club had already been out and about in late October, supporting the Exeter Family Market & Fun Day putting both the club and Rural Youth's name out there.

In February we held the Dog High Jump at the Exeter Show, our first real event. It was a very wet start to the day with plenty of rain overnight that continued while the crew were setting up for the day, but luckily it didn't deter the owners and their

four-legged friends. Running the day with a small dog and a large dog category made for plenty of enjoyment for the show patrons. The club are very grateful to the days sponsors, TP Jones and Roberts for providing prizes. Stuart and Kat Cresswell (RYT Western Tiers Club) were a fantastic support on the day, without them the Dog High Jump wouldn't have been possible. Overall it was a successful day for the club and we will be doing it all again next year.

The club was very excited to welcome Larissa Godfrey and Cam Willis early in 2018.

We blinked, managed to miss April and suddenly it was time for Agfest, and what an absolute stellar Agfest it was. Our little club had a great turn out of volunteers with three directors, two assistants and a couple of busy volunteers putting in the hard yards on a range of different tasks. It was a great achievement to have our whole club involved with Agfest.

It's always great having new people around especially when you get to learn a whole new lifestyle from them, we enjoyed including Elaine from Armagh, Northern Ireland & Shona from Auchtermuchty,

Scotland in our lives and activities. They fully embraced the Aussie way of life, got their hands dirty, ate plenty of local produce and did lots of sightseeing along the way.

To wrap up the year the club decided to have a Friday night Zone 3 laser tag super session. What better what to get to know everyone than make it a competition! Standout performers, Harri Chugg, Jye Earnshaw and Liam King were just too good and everyone wanted to be on their team.

We would like to thank everyone that has supported the club while we got back on our feet, as well as the members who have worked endlessly to create outcomes for the club and Rural Youth. Now planning big what some might say crazy ventures for 2018/2019 that we look forward to sharing with you all!

EMILY NIXON
2018 Club Secretary





RURAL YOUTH CLUBS

WESTERN TIERS

We have had a great eighteen months at Western Tiers, with lots of small things happening that have led to our club becoming stronger than ever before.

Western Tiers welcomed new members from a range of backgrounds, they have joined in and enjoyed everything our club has to offer.

In late 2017 Western Tiers was at the Deloraine Show with the Dog High Jump, and what was noted by many as the best animal nursery display the show had seen in many years. It was a great day out and the club has been invited back for the 2018 show.

In the lead up to the Easter holiday period, the club organised a massive Easter give away to help increase the social media exposure of our club. It was a great success, the club connected with over 1000 new people and engaged with twice as many through this social media giveaway.

Once again, the club's main fund-raising event was the Campbell Town Show.

This is always a great day out for our members, and who doesn't love playing with dogs! The club managed to walk away with a great profit from the day; thanks to JBS Longford and Cripps

Nubake for their donated product for the BBQ and to the many sponsors who helped out with prizes for the Dog High Jump. Western Tiers will be back at the Campbell Town Show again in 2019 for even more great memories.

There have been many other things that have made the past year great for the club, lots of small BBQ's, pot luck dinners, bush walks and so on; we can only imagine what is in store for the club in the coming year.

Through the year, we have built a very strong relationship with our local community, and we would like to thank the residents of Deloraine and the Meander Valley for all their much-valued support.

The British Hotel in Deloraine has been a massive support for the club; everything from being the home of our meetings, to being a part of their weekly meat tray raffles and selling Agfest tickets on behalf of the club. Without such support, Western Tiers wouldn't be possible. Thank you to all the families from near and far who support the club.

KATHRYN CRESSWELL
2018 Club Treasurer





yAPN

YOUNG AGRICULTURAL PROFESSIONALS NETWORK

RURAL YOUTH CLUBS

YAPN

In March 2017 Young Agricultural Professionals Network (YAPN) was launched by Deputy Premier Jeremy Rockliff. YAPN was founded by Rural Youth Tasmania (RYT) and Tasmanian Women in Agriculture (TWiA).

Both groups identified a gap in the Tasmanian landscape for a suitable opportunity for young agricultural professionals between 18-35 years of age to connect, develop and create opportunities in the state's industry. YAPN's events and activities will be guided by the market, but will be driven by activities of its members, employers and government.

In its first year YAPN conducted several events, led by the Launch in March which saw over 60 people attend. This was followed by our first event during Agfest where YAPN partnered with SproutX to launch SproutX into Tasmania, Australia's first AgTech accelerator for innovators and entrepreneurs.

Two 'Finance for Business' events kindly supported by Rural Bank were held, one in the North West and one in the South of the state. In the North West, Ulverstone had over 30 people, whom heard Dean Lalor (Rural Bank), Andrew Radford (ATR Accounting) and Penny Williams (Independent Farm Consultant) discuss the key issues young professionals are facing in the agriculture sector. In the South we heard from Dean Johnson (WLF Accounting), Alison Wells Butler (McIntyre & Butler) again with Dean Lalor.

The conversation at these events was broad, covering topics from financing your first business/home to tactics for building wealth.

The feedback received reflected that the greatest benefit of attending the event was the networking before and afterwards where new connections and experiences were shared.

The year finished up with a guest speaker in Launceston with TP Jones & Co General Manager Rafe Bell talking to over 20 attendees at Saint John Craft Beer Bar, sharing his experiences from schooling in Tasmania to tertiary educating in Victoria, being relocated to Western Australia for his first job, then head hunted to Victoria then Tasmania where he grew the TP Jones business by 300% while also doubling the staff numbers. Attendees were able to gain an insight into his thought processes, activities and opportunities created by a highly successful Tasmanian.

YAPN was created to provide the next step for Rural Youth members who want to broaden their horizons, get connected with employers and networks across varying agricultural industries. We encourage everyone to attend a YAPN event this year, seek out a committee member and get introduced to some great people making waves in the agricultural industry in Tasmania and Australia. Apply through the YAPN website www.yapn.com.au or enquire through the RY admin team. Furthermore, follow us on twitter [@YoungAgNetwork](https://twitter.com/YoungAgNetwork) for job opportunities, available scholarships or interesting news in the agricultural space!

We look forward to seeing you at the next event!

GEORGE GATENBY

2017- 2018 President

RURAL BUSINESS TASMANIA

Established and supported by Rural Youth Organisation of Tasmania
Supported by the Australian and Tasmanian Governments

RURAL BUSINESS TASMANIA PROVIDES PRACTICAL BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT SUPPORT AND GUIDANCE TO THE FARMING COMMUNITY WITH A COMMITMENT TO MAKING A PIVOTAL DIFFERENCE.

A product of Rural Youth Tasmania (RYT)

Rural Business Tasmania (and previous incarnations – Tasmanian Rural Counselling and Rural Support Tasmania) originated from proactive actions of a small group of Rural Youth Members. Rural Youth Tasmania's two fledging's - Agfest and Rural Counselling have now both matured to key influences and support of the Tasmanian rural community.

From tentative beginnings, Rural Business Tasmania has been developing and proving itself over the years to become the 'go-to' service for Tasmanian agriculture in times of crisis.

Fostered through its infancy as a division of Rural Youth Tasmania from 1986 to 1995, gaining partial independence (independently incorporated but administered by RYT until 2006) this organisation truly illustrates

anthropologist Margaret Mead's quote: "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

Rural Business Tasmania continued in 2017-18 with collaborative efforts to support those who had been hit with crisis, maintaining their supportive and cohesive services to ensure practical and effective service delivery to the rural and regional community.

Our key program arms each contributed:

RURAL FINANCIAL COUNSELLING SERVICE TASMANIA – supported by Australian and Tasmanian Governments – provided, by 4.5 FTE Rural financial counsellors, on ground financial counselling support to over 100 farming businesses suffering financial hardship.

RURAL BUSINESS PROGRAMS – provided a variety of partnership programs and fee-based services including launch of Tasmanian Government supported Rural Success Program, Aurora Energy Agri-Business Support Program, Pathways to Profit (Climate, Risk Management and Business Planning) program, and financial literacy programs.

RURAL RELIEF FUND – provided an avenue for donations to support farming families in hardship. The Fund continued to provide a small grants program to address household and animal welfare support.

FORUM OF RURAL STAKEHOLDERS

– provided a conduit for collaborative identification of key emerging issues, support measures and information sharing across a wide network of 10+ organisations including government agencies, service providers and industry associations.

We value the input at our Board meetings from Rural Youth Chief Executive Officer, Karen Robinson as Associate Director, representative of Rural Youth Tasmania, position appointed from January 2017 and look forward to continuing to being part of the Rural Youth family and its successful programs.

In closing, we wish to make special mention of the generous and long-standing support of our parent body, Rural Youth Tasmania. Without the vision of Rural Youth executive members of the day, we could not support the rural community in times of hardship. We recognise the continued support of Rural Youth Tasmania through the ongoing monetary support and our wonderful office facilities. We also look forward to collaborating on common projects during the coming year.



ELIZABETH SKIRVING
Rural Business Tasmania CEO

Rural Business Tasmania
Supporting and Growing Rural Enterprise



Proudly established in 1986 by Rural Youth Tasmania

FINANCIALS

RURAL YOUTH TASMANIA MADE AN OPERATING SURPLUS OF \$1,039,848 FOR THE 18 MONTH PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2018.

It is important to note the 2018 figures include funds from both the 2017 & 2018 Agfest Field Days, as opposed to the one event shown in the 2016 figures. Agfest remains Rural Youth's primary source of income to deliver all of our programs, maintain assets and grow the event.

This welcome result will allow us to undertake long overdue major infrastructure upgrades at Quercus Park. Projects such as the Waste Water Management Plan, replacement of the Function Centre kitchen in addition to upgrading and replacing power cables are the starting point. These projects will cost in excess of \$800,000.

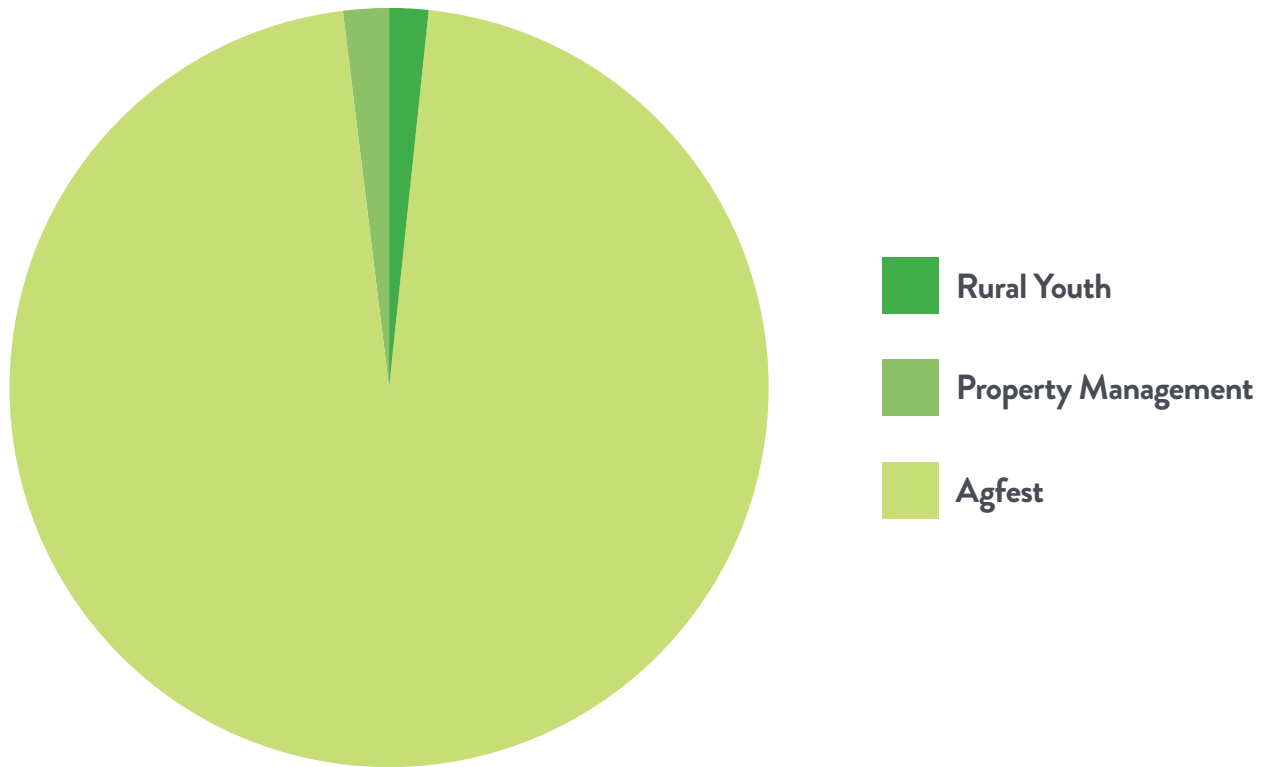
A complete set of audited financial statements is available from the organisation upon request.

INCOME	2018 18 MONTHS	2016 12 MONTHS
Rural Youth	\$88,615	\$43,495
Agfest	\$3,301,869	\$1,293,497
Property Management	\$76,402	\$49,484
TOTAL INCOME	\$3,466,886	\$1,386,476

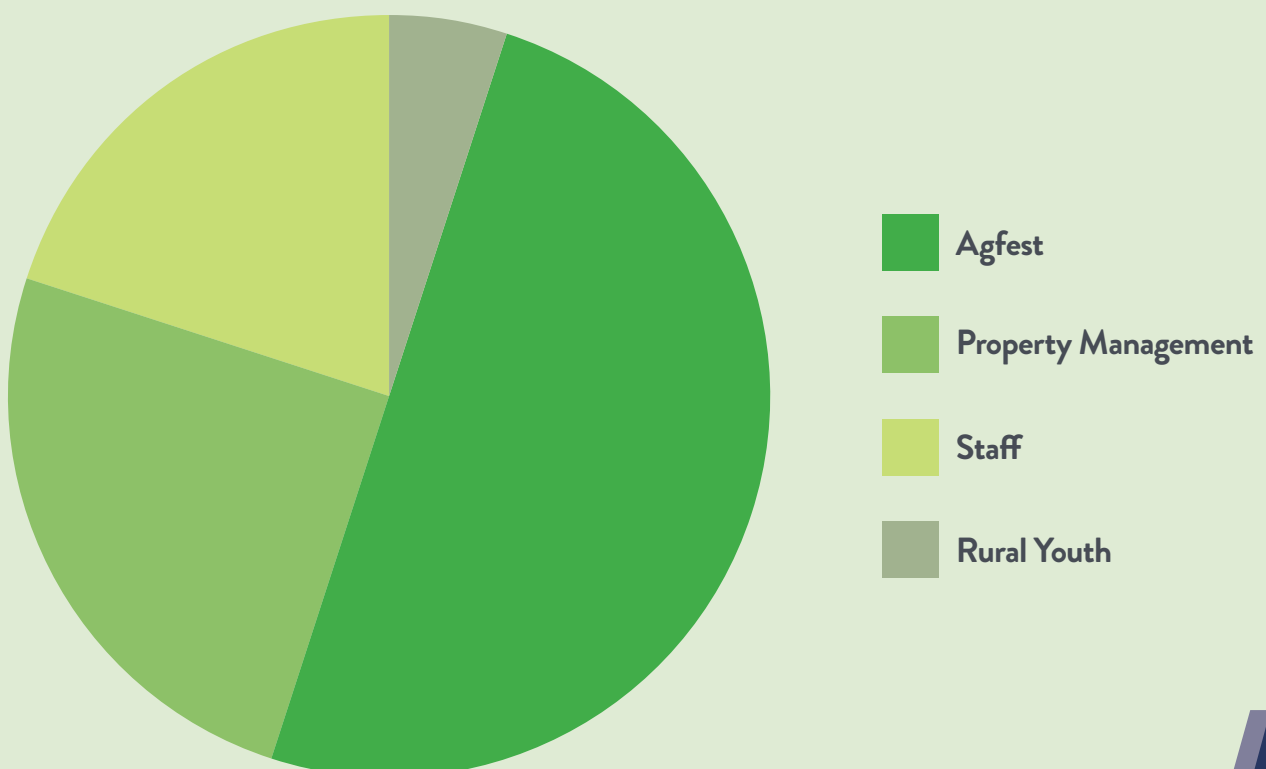
EXPENDITURE	2018 18 MONTHS	2016 12 MONTHS
Rural Youth	\$158,111	\$92,394
Agfest	\$1,208,027	\$581,356
Property Management	\$1,060,900	\$584,208
TOTAL INCOME	\$2,427,038	\$1,257,958

NET SURPLUS	\$1,039,848	\$128,518
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SOURCE OF INCOME 2017-18



AREAS OF EXPENDITURE 2017-18





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**Rural Youth
Tasmania**

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Rural Youth Tasmania would like to acknowledge the following sponsors for their support to our organisation and members – it is greatly appreciated!

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