



2018-2019

ANNUAL REPORT

JULY 2018 - JUNE 2019

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RURAL YOUTH

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RURAL YOUTH POSITIONS

PATRON

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

RURAL YOUTH BOARD

State President - Mr Dale Hayers

Vice President - Mr Jake Williams

Agfest Chairman - Mr Owen Woolley

BOARD MEMBERS

Mr Ethan Williams

Ms Sarah Revell

Mr Tobias ten Bense

Mr Dylan Bellchambers

Mrs Ashley Evans

Ms Ashleigh Reynolds

ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

Miss Laura Richardson

Mr Matthew Young

Ms Sharon Symons

LIFE MEMBERS

Mr H.R. Reynolds (dec.)

Mr Graeme Tole (dec.)

Mrs Sharon (Wing) Symons

Mr T.B. Stancombe (dec.)

Mr David Dunn

Mr Peter Gladwell

Mr Don Walker

Mr Ian Mackenzie

Mr Dale Badcock

Mr C.A. Holland (dec.)

Mrs Jayne (Badcock) Clark

Mr Richard Colman

Mr Darryl Barker

Mrs Carol Axton

Ms Elizabeth Skirving

Mr D. Bennett (dec.)

Mr John Dent

Mr Brett Mackenzie

Mr Henry Burbury

Mr Noel Beven

Mr Paul Bennett

Mr E.C. Mackay (dec.)

Mr Wesley Hazell

Mr Keith Topfer (dec.)

Mr Chris Williams

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

Rural Youth Tasmania: An organisation for Tasmanians aged 15-30 that aims to develop, celebrate and connect the youth of Tasmania. 2018/19 has been a year dedicated to achieving our vision and celebrating each and every member of this great organisation.

This will be my one and only annual report as State President. When I took over the role this time last year, I stood in front of the membership base and made a commitment to give the role of President my absolute all for the next 12 months. The hard work completed over the previous two years to restructure the organisation and to better invest in its future and its members had only seen my passion for Rural Youth grow. Through the role of State President, I have been able to support the hard work completed by others before me and advocate our organisation across a range of platforms. As a man of my word, today is the end of that 12 months and I leave the role content with what I have achieved.

I feel truly honoured to have steered the ship over the last year, I have had many highlights both personally, but also on an organisational level. Some of these include:

- In November 2018, the Board voted on a new logo for Rural Youth. Re-branding was an item first raised to the Board in 2017 and much discussion about its relevance and whether this was a worthy investment. It is safe to say that since we launched the updated brand, I have heard nothing but positive feedback on how the brand is on-trend, relatable and professional.

- In March 2019, our wastewater system was commissioned. Upgrade of this system has been long spoken about. Over the previous two years sitting on RAC and Board, I prepared endless quotes, wrote many comparison reports and fielded many questions as to if this was something that Rural Youth needed to invest in. It is safe to say that this \$600k investment has assured the future of Agfest here at Quercus Park, allowing us to engage more broadly with the public, to increase use of this site and promote further investment.
- Our organisation secured \$100k of funding to build new accommodation here at Quercus Park. We engaged with local politicians and promoted the benefits of the project. Receiving the call to say your organisation has received \$100k was certainly one of the best days I have had in my time as President.
- The Agfest event and committee has grown both in size; but also, in professionalism. The new committee will be entering an exciting time in which sponsorship and attractiveness to the event are at an all-time high. The fact that all sections of politics wished to attend our event as part of their election campaigns highlights the status that our event now holds both from an economic point of view, but also as a manner of connecting with the Tasmanian community. Well done to Owen over the last two years, you've set the bar high on how to have fun and also work hard.

I like to take a hands-on approach with everything I do and so over the last 12 months, I've aimed to get around as many club meetings and events where possible to foster collaborative teamwork and positive culture. For anyone that knows me though, would know that most of the time; attending club events provided a chance for

free snacks or to sample the local chicken parmy! For the record, my top feeds for the year were the Oatlands RSL parmy and the CWA's raspberry muffins at the Chudleigh Show!

All clubs do things differently and I believe it is not the Presidents job to tell clubs what they are doing wrong; it's the Presidents role to celebrate what clubs do well. Most clubs are strong throughout the state and the Board is committed to continually helping all clubs. As part of this, funds have been allocated for state-wide advertising into 2020. We welcomed Circular Head back to the Rural Youth fold in 2018 and there are further plans for club expansion into 2020.

Moving into 2020, further changes to Rural Youth structures have been proposed. We will be calling for members to join the Rural Youth Social Committee to help organise more events for all members statewide.

The 2018/19 Board was a great mix of young and experienced members. Dylan Bellchambers, Ash Reynolds and Tobias ten Bensele completed their first terms on the Board; whilst Ash Evans, Sarah Revell, Ethan Williams, Jake Williams, Owen Woolley and myself returned.

I have been truly impressed by the professionalism of every Board member and how they have managed to put friendships and personal differences aside to consider the best outcomes for the organisation, regardless of good or bad. To the younger Board Members, you guys are the future of Rural Youth and I believe the organisation is in good hands.

The Board has also been well supported by delegates from the Rural Youth Advisory Committee. Matthew Young, Laura Richardson and Sharon Symons have been able to give fantastic, non-biased advice throughout the year; helping the Board to be strong and clear in decision making. Advisory provides Rural Youth with a link to its past and a wealth of knowledge that can be called upon when required, to help the organisation achieve its current strategic goals. The support of Advisory is appreciated.

Our organisation continues to change at a rapid pace and Rural Youth is now expected to provide the highest level of service and professionalism in everything we do. Central to maintaining this level of service is our wonderful team of staff led by our CEO Karen Robinson. Your passion to make our organisation better is undoubted and I thank you for the continual hard work you do for Rural Youth.

To my family and in particular Joss, I give my biggest thanks. The role of President demands a lot of time and dedication. Over the last 12 months, your support has been unwavering, and this cannot be repaid.

As a Rural Youth member since 2007, I have seen this organisation change and re-create itself multiple times. Members have come and gone, but Rural Youth continues to provide a platform for the youth of Tasmania to grow and prosper.

Earlier this year I heard a quote, "The world is ran by those that turn up". Not a truer word has been spoken for members of Rural Youth. You only get out of Rural Youth what you put in. There are a range of doors that Rural Youth can open for your life and so don't be scared to grab them, the key is to turn up.



DALE HAYERS
2018/2019
State President

“ It is safe to say that since we launched the updated brand, I have heard nothing but positive feedback on how the brand is on-trend, relatable and professional. ”



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

CEO REPORT

If change was the theme for Rural Youth Tasmania last year, the message from the 2018-2019 year must be infrastructure and consolidation.

I don't want to steal the Property Management Working Group's thunder so instead of elaborating too much I encourage you to read their report, as it outlines what has been achieved to date and plans for the future. Whilst the majority of the work on site has been self-funded, we were the recipients of two substantial grants this year. The first under the Tasmanian Government's 2018-2019 Agricultural Show Development Grants Program, the \$25,000 allowed us to upgrade the power to the Function Centre and surrounds for the ablution block, new kitchen equipment and accommodation building. The accommodation block has been ordered and is due for delivery in December. A grant of \$96,685 through the Australian Government's Building Better Regions Fund towards the cost has enabled this project to go ahead.

Our strong financial position, which has enabled us to undertake these and other projects, is not an accident. It has been achieved through the hard work and prudent decision making made by the Rural Youth Board led by Dale Hayers, continuing the work commenced by RAC and the inaugural Rural Youth Board. Our income is reliant on good returns from Agfest. Owen Woolley and his team have continued to develop the event with targeted investment and controlled spending, in addition sponsorship has increased 2.7% to \$182,000.

Building and maintenance has not been our only focus. Rural Youth has been rebranded; this has been very well received. The refreshed logos, colours and signage better reflect our members, the organisation and is another step in our goal to be recognised as valued and relevant in the community and sector. We were proud to be selected as a Finalist in the Tasmanian Community Achievement Awards Agriculture category in November.

Although we did not win, our contribution was acknowledged, and it provided another avenue for us to showcase our work and worth to a broader audience.

Personally, it has been very rewarding to work with members at a Board and Committee level, watching them develop confidence, lead by example and 'back themselves' to make big decisions – I am constantly reminded of the wonderful opportunities membership to Rural Youth provides. This is becoming even more apparent as we move into the 'post restructure' phase and different processes and expectations become the norm.

We are not immune to changing demographics and demands on our members. This is illustrated through our Clubs, some have prospered, while others have struggled (it is great to see Circular Head back in business). Board members and staff have visited all Clubs offering information and practical support throughout the year, our challenge is to strengthen the organisation at the grassroots. Member satisfaction is a major focus for the future.

In closing, the achievements of this year, both financially and practically are something to celebrate and provide a wonderful building block for the future. Thank you to all who have contributed to these fantastic results, from our talented and dedicated staff through to our fantastic members. It has been a job well done!



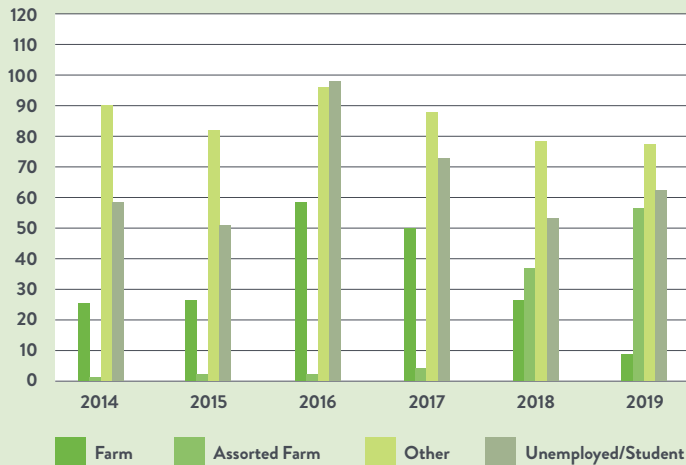
KAREN ROBINSON
Rural Youth CEO



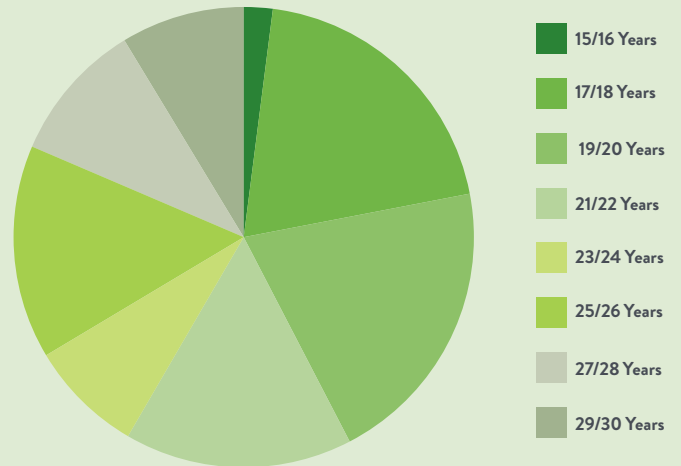
“ It has been very rewarding to work with members at a Board and Committee level, watching them develop confidence, lead by example and ‘back themselves’ to make big decisions – I am constantly reminded of the wonderful opportunities membership to Rural Youth provides. ”

RY MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

MEMBER OCCUPATIONS 2014-19



2019 MEMBER AGES



CLUB MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS



CLUB MEMBERS	2018	2019
Brighton	9	14
Central Highlands	8	0
Circular Head	0	9
Devonport	17	17
Hagley	25	32
Isolated	8	11
Kingborough/Huon	23	20
North Motton	17	15
Oatlands	9	9
Sorell	34	32
Tamar	10	14
Western Tiers	12	10
Westmorland	13	14
YAPN	10	11
TOTAL:	195	208

AGFEST

Well another term has come to an end, this being my second as Agfest Chairman, it has been another great and successful year for all things Agfest!

We were very lucky again this year weather wise for the event, no rain in the setup days, only a few showers on the Thursday and Friday but perfect weather on the Saturday. At this year's event we had a total of 728 exhibitors onsite displaying their wares for all to see, attracting a total attendance of 63,868 patrons to our event. It is great to have so many people come and support our amazing event which we strive to make bigger and better every year for all to enjoy.

Aside from the logistical exercise of running one of the state's largest attractions, Thursday saw us hosting and entertaining the leaders of both political parties in the lead up to the federal election. I also had the privilege to spend a glorious few hours wandering the site with Her Excellency, the Governor Professor Kate Warner and Mr Warner, sharing in conversation and exploring the event.

This year we saw a few extra challenges, additional compliance requirements to ensure the safety and security of all our visitors, exhibitors and volunteers. It was quite the hurdle that was imposed at short notice which we managed to overcome; I am grateful to all who helped develop a practical solution. Compliance is a changing landscape which every organisation must face regardless of the event or circumstance, it is one of our big-ticket items in regards to time, finance and resources allocated, it is also one which will only get bigger in the future.

It was a privilege again to work with such a dedicated and committed group of members, volunteers, contractors and employees. The enthusiasm shown by all to ensure our event is the best it can be for all to enjoy is nothing but astounding and a

pleasure, making my time as Chairman a delight. The eagerness, growth and continued development of our members is our number one asset for the organisation. Continued training, coaching and support is the best investment we can make, ensuring the future of Agfest is in safe hands.

To ensure Agfest and Quercus Park meet the current and future needs of both ourselves and external hirers, we are continuing to invest in upgrades and ongoing maintenance. The massive milestone accomplished before Agfest 2019 was the construction and commissioning of our waste water treatment plant, all things going to plan we will see the first accommodation building commissioned onsite as an added asset to our site before Agfest 2020.

The past two years have been quite the roller coaster for me as Chairman, the challenges, achievements and milestones accomplished by all, has been so rewarding to be a part of. The life experience gained during this time will be invaluable in my future, the friendships made, and the laughs had will never be forgotten. I have to say a massive thank you to everyone who helped make Agfest 2019 the success it was and supported me during my time as Chairman.

Thank you.



OWEN WOOLLEY
2018 & 2019 Agfest Chairman

“ At this year's event we had a total of 728 exhibitors onsite displaying their wares for all to see, attracting a total attendance of 63,868 patrons to our event . ”



STUDY TOURS



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

One of the most exciting opportunities offered to our Rural Youth members is the option to apply for a study tour through our Study Tours/Exchange program.

We offer a wide range of international exchange trips, on a rotating basis with affiliated Rural Youth organisations in other countries. Members who go on these exchanges are hosted by members and their families in those countries and get to participate in their daily lives, as well as be shown around the local sights – in short, the opportunity of a lifetime. We also offer the opportunity for members to set sail on the Young Endeavour for 11 days, or to apply for a self-nominated study tour in their field of choice.

The other side of this program is that we get to welcome visitors from those affiliated Rural Youth organisations from overseas each year. In April 2019 we welcomed Emma Harper from Scotland, and Victoria Minford from Northern Ireland, who both arrived just in time to experience the buzz of Agfest week and be a part of staging our fabulous event. They then went on to spend time with our members and clubs around the state, enjoying being a part of the Rural Youth social life, as well as getting to experience some of the best sights that Tasmania has to offer.

In November 2018 Olivia Lawson set off on a self-nominated study tour, which partially funded her trip to Fiji with Projects

Abroad, participating in shark conservation for 12 weeks. Alex White headed off to the UK in May 2019 for nine weeks, and Karley Beer flew to Switzerland in late June 2019 for 12 weeks. Reports and photos from all our study tour recipients are able to be found on our website.

As many of our past exchangees (both inward and outward) will confirm, the friendships formed during these exchanges can last for a lifetime, with a network reaching around the world, and inviting further personal travel opportunities for both sides.

The Rural Youth Study Tour/Exchange program would not be possible if we did not have the support of our valued sponsors including Betta Milk and Tas Country. We sincerely thank them for their support.

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

LINDA PERKINS
2018/19 Study Tours Coordinator

YOUNG FARMER COMPETITION



The 2018 TP Jones & Co Young Farmer Competition presented by Rural Youth was held on Saturday 11th August 2018 at Quercus Park.

The run-offs were held on Sunday 8th July 2018 at the Hagley School Farm and from this, the 12 top scoring competitors were offered a place in the finals. The 2018 finalists were: William Baxter, Amanda Bayles, Matthew Bayles, Stuart Cresswell, Ella Curtain, Ashley Evans, Jacqui Hodgkinson, Mathew Horswell, Rhys Mills, Damien Rouse, Tobias ten Bensel and Cameron Willis. Despite the cold and blustery weather, the finalists put in a fantastic effort and displayed a high level of professionalism and enthusiasm to compete in a series of modules on the day. Competitors were scored on each module with the final tally coming together at the end of the day.

THE MODULES INCLUDED:

Welding: Weld a 6-sided dice, including drilling the holes for one face, and construct a small stand

Fencing: Demonstrate a selection of fencing knots

Mechanical: Perform a pre-inspection on a vehicle and trailer and re-adjust a wheel bearing

Safety: Answer a series of questions of farm and workplace safety

Finance: Work through a process of financial questions and comment on the viability of a business

Animal Nutrition: A series of questions on animal nutrition and considering feed quality

Tractor Operation: Calibrate a seed drill and demonstrate basic tractor operation skills

Seed and Seedling Identification: A selection of 10 seeds and 10 seedlings were provided for identification

Chemical Calibration: Calibrate a small spray unit

Water and Plumbing: Plumb and adjust float on a trough

At the competition dinner that evening, the top six scoring finalists of the day presented their prepared speeches on the topic: 'A current issue they see facing agriculture'. These speeches covered a range of ideas and it was interesting to hear the thoughts of each competitor.



Following the speeches, final scores were collated and placings were announced. Congratulations to William Baxter as the winner of the 2018 TP Jones & Co Young Farmer Competition and to all competitors on the day. The top six places were:

First Place - William Baxter

Second Place - Ashley Evans

Third Place - Tobias ten Bensel

Fourth Place - Stuart Cresswell

Fifth Place - Mathew Horswell

Sixth Place - Amanda Bayles

The top six competitors took home a share of the \$40,000 prize pool for this year's competition. Thank you to TP Jones as the naming rights sponsor of the competition, and a special thank you to each and every sponsor that came on board and helped contribute to over \$40,000 worth of prizes for the competitors.

The Young Farmer Competition would not be possible without the generous support of the industry and individuals who donate their time and resources to develop modules and act as judges on the day.

Finally, a very special thank you to all who volunteered and helped with the running of the day, set up for the dinner, and running of the competition. Your contributions were very much appreciated and contributed to the success of the event.

ANDREA O'HALLORAN

2018 Young Farmer Coordinator

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT GROUP

Towards the latter part of 2018 the Rural Youth Board asked for expressions of interest from members to form a Property Management Working Group (PMWG).

The focus of the group was to produce a broad 3-5 year maintenance and development plan for Quercus Park and 62 York Street aimed at meeting strategic goals, maintaining assets and identifying opportunities for business growth. The plan and all other recommendations would be the basis for future budgeting and planning.

Whilst the original brief was to have a strategic focus, it soon became clear that much could be gained by incorporating some operational responsibility. This led to the group working closely with our Caretaker, Max Griggs and various contractors to make significant improvements, particularly to the Quercus Park site.

Over the last year we have implemented the following:

- The \$600,000 wastewater system has been installed and is operational. The completion of this allows for further new and exciting developments at Quercus, which were previously blocked due to the inadequate sewer system;
- RY received a \$100,000 grant for the install of a new accommodation facility, and this has been lodged to council and construction is expected late in 2019. We have been reviewing plans and layouts and providing information to the contractor;
- Connection of the ablution block will progress in September/October as part of preparations for the accommodation block;
- We have upgraded electrical supply to the Function Centre through a \$25,000 Show Society grant from the Hodgman State Government;
- We have provided recommendations to the Board on budget lines based on upgrades required at both Quercus and Head Office;
- We have identified issues at both Head Office and Quercus, reporting on issues that require attention over the coming years;
- We have reviewed proposals from area coordinators and supported developments of particular areas where relevant. These include 4WD, Heritage and in U-Taste;
- We have identified key areas where RY should aim to seek sponsorship, these including weed spraying, slashing and solar panels for the site.

In the coming year, we will be progressing items such as:

- Site fencing upgrades;
- Accommodation block completion;
- Implementation of the Emergency Evacuation Centre plans;
- Review of the Agfest Traffic Management Plan and identifying ways in which the organisation can save money by building permanent vehicle barriers and install bollards;
- Supporting the CEO by identifying grants and how we can use grant money to develop our site;
- Developing a 3-5-year development plan for the Quercus site focusing on strategies to finalise ongoing projects;
- Continual disability access improvements throughout Quercus Park;
- Reviewing proposals for use of the site by other community groups and organisations and making recommendations to the Board.

Away from strategically assessing ways in which the organisation can save money through the implementation of permanent assets, it has also been exciting overseeing an increased level of engagement from external stakeholders wishing to use Quercus Park throughout the year. Managing the Quercus Calendar is becoming a trickier task for the office staff to make sure there are no clashes across the various parts of site. Quercus Park United Kennel Club (QPUKC) are now using Quercus Park at least monthly for dog shows and events, whilst the Function Centre is seeing an increased level of interest for events including weddings and meetings. This likely on the back of the large-scale overhaul completed over the 2017-18 period, included the installation of heaters, blinds, additional storage cupboards and renovation of the commercial kitchen.

We have attracted a wide range of other interest in the use of Quercus, all I can say is watch this space!

The Property Management Working Group provides each and every member a voice in how they wish to see Quercus Park and Head Office developed over the coming years. We are keen to support any member who wishes to oversee a specific development or renovation and have made this easier through the implementation of the proposal template which asks all the relevant questions up front prior to consideration. PMWG is an exciting group to be a part of and we are looking forward to the next 12 months!

DALE HAYERS

On behalf of the PMWG





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.





RURAL YOUTH CLUBS

CIRCULAR HEAD

Circular Head Rural Youth started back up again this year, and we are excited for what 2019 has in store for us.

This year has started off slow, as we were still getting our club established, but as the months dragged on, we became more and more active within the Circular Head community and Rural Youth Tasmania as a whole.

The Annual State Ball was an amazing night for us as a group. A few of our members attended and met up with so many different people, making connections as well as establishing our group in the process.

Then came Agfest. Most of our members helped out throughout the Agfest weekend, whether it be in the ticket box or out on one of the carparks. This was an amazing experience for all who attended, and a big thanks goes out to those who organised that huge event. We are looking forward to next year already!

We already have so many plans and ideas for the remainder of the year, including running the dog high jump at our local show (Circular Head Agricultural Show).

As we continue to welcome new members into our club, we look for more ways to introduce ourselves into the Circular Head and surrounding areas.



NAKORE TOWNSEND

2019 Club President



RURAL YOUTH CLUBS

KINGBOROUGH-HUON

**Here we are again, 12 months has flown by!
The dedication of our members to our club,
Rural Youth Tasmania, Agfest and the local
community certainly made the year move!**

We kicked off our first event for this period with laser tag, a highly successful event with numerous members attending as well as from Brighton and Sorell.

The TP Jones & Co Young Farmer of the Year Competition in August saw Club President Tobias take out third place! Other members also attended the dinner.

Just a month later, members were at yet another fantastic Rural Youth dinner this time as part of the Agfest and Rural Youth Tasmania AGM weekend. KH members Tobias ten Bensele and Dylan Bellchambers were elected to the board and Dale Hayers, State President. Fellow KH'er Owen Woolley was voted into his second term as Agfest chair, in addition a number of members took on directorships.

The community both locally and nationally remains core to our club with a donation of \$500 to Cowbiz for drought relief support to mainland Australia. Back to the local scale and in November the Huon Show was again a fantastic success with the club running the ute competition, animal nursery and the hotly contested dog high jump. We were also fortunate to be successful in our application for a Tassal Better Together community grant for \$500 in prizes for the show!

State Ball soon rolled round and KH offered paintball for all, this was a great event for all those involved! Is there really anything better than shooting your best mates? Well if it wasn't that maybe it was watching the flukes and flunks of the Southern Region Bowling Championship. We held this at the end of May, this event was very well attended with over

25 RY members from across the southern region and were fortunate to rein supreme and congratulate Brighton on the wooden spoon!

Agfest soon rolled around and our club with 14 members committed over 100 days across field days itself not to mention working bees or time fulfilling roles take up! This is one incredible effort and one we are very proud of!

In July, true to our commitment to local community, we held a Resilience Day for the Huon region at the Ranelagh Memorial Soldiers Hall to help build strength within the community, this was a very informative event and we are grateful for the support from RAW Tasmania and Headspace.

We thank our members, and supporters of our club over the last 12 months. A particular congratulations to Best New Club Member Hannah Woodruff and Most Outstanding Club Member Jocelyn Patmore for their contribution! We look forward to seeing what 2019/2020 will offer!

DYLAN BELLCHAMBERS

2019 Club Secretary





RURAL YOUTH CLUBS

NORTH MOTTON

What a great year the North Motton Rural Youth has had! It was great to see the addition of numerous new members over the course of the last 12 months.

We started the year off with Renee Latham becoming President, Jake Williams - Vice President, Georgia Pearce - Secretary and Ryan Langley - Treasurer.

The club made the big trip over to Deni in October and flew the Tassie flag high and proud! Renee organised new shirts for the North Motton Rural Youth which look amazing! We raised money for the hay fund through a raffle and various donation tins. At the Ulverstone Show in November we ran an animal nursery which was a great hit with the local families and the children! We had our Christmas BBQ at the Dinosaur Park in Ulverstone which was a great night. Our club went ten pin bowling in February in conjunction with the Devonport Club, some great bowls and laughs were had! In March we helped the Devonport Rural Youth Club park cars at the Gowrie Park Rodeo. It was a great night and we were more than happy to help! In April we had a Pizza Night in Burnie.

Agfest was a great time as always and it was great to see numerous North Motton members attend in roles and as volunteers. Caitlin had Victoria Minford (exchangee from Northern Ireland) stay with her for a week. Victoria had a great week learning about farming in Tasmania and seeing some of the sights around the North West Coast! The club also met up with Victoria for a fun trivia night at Molly Malones.

In June we had our AGM, Caitlin Radford was elected President, Jake Williams as Vice President, Sam Trevaskis as Secretary and Josh Clune as Treasurer.

Best of luck to our five North Motton Members, Brodie Hill, Caitlin Radford, Ryan Langley, Thomas Crawford and Josh Clune who will be participating in the 2019 TP Jones & Co Young Farmer of the Year Competition.

We would like to thank our club for a great 12 months and we look forward to our future endeavours!

CAITLIN RADFORD

2019 Club Member





RURAL YOUTH CLUBS

OATLANDS

Oatlands Rural Youth have had a huge 12 months with a very full calendar.

This year we hosted two well attended ute competitions, ran the gate for a local fundraiser at a 'cracker night' and had two very full-on days coordinating the car parks for both the Melton Mowbray Rodeo and Brighton Show. All five of these events are great fundraisers for our club.

This year we have made significant donations to multiple fundraisers, most of which are fundraisers close to home for our members. Some of the money we have donated has gone towards mental health organisations and drought relief.

This year Oatlands Rural Youth was well represented at all state events with well over half of our club volunteering at Agfest and attending the Agfest dinner.

The 2019/20 membership year is off to a great start with multiple new members joining our club! Oatlands Rural Youth is in a great position with membership numbers, the strongest they have been in many years!

BRADY ROBINS

2019 Club President



2018/19 has been a busy year for the Western Tiers Club, with the new year kicking off with welcoming a new club executive that has brought new enthusiasm to the club.

Western Tiers welcomed the new year with a busy few months; starting off with club members attending the Rural Youth Shooting Comp in August, with club members doing outstandingly.

Western Tiers went to support some of the great initiatives that were being supported by Rural Youth and the agricultural industry in Tasmania; Stuart Cresswell and his family supported the Tassie Hay Run with a load of hay from their farm in Deloraine and the club also sported the Rural Aid, Buy a Bale event held at Quercus Park. It was great to see such support from our little club.

In August, Western Tiers President, Stuart Cresswell competed in the Young Farmer of the Year Competition, performing very well, taking out the Livestock module and fourth place over all.

Western Tiers continued to develop a strong relationship within the local community, with being apart of the regular Friday night pub meat tray raffle at The British Hotel in Deloraine, also the home of our club meetings.

The club took part in The British Hotel Giant Pumpkin Competition and for a group consisting mostly of farmers, we didn't do so well, with our pumpkin seedling falling victim to an out of season frost.

With the onset of show season, Western Tiers once again ran the animal nursery at the Deloraine Show, held in November. This was a great day out for all, and we managed to fill the hall to capacity with lots of support from club members, families and the community. With an array of animals; everything from alpacas, birds, cattle, sheep, snakes and just about everything else. This was a brilliant day out for the club and offered a great opportunity for the club to invest in some new shirts and fundraising materials, namely cattle tag key rings.

During the hot and fiery summer period, many of our club members were involved with the firefighting effort for their local stations and organisations, it was great to see our members helping out the fire-stricken communities at their time of need.

At the Rural Youth State Ball, Western Tiers was fortunate enough to take home the Top Club award for 2018. This was a great honour for the club, being so small, we like to think we achieve beyond our size

and years. Club member Kat Cresswell was also fortunate enough to come home with the Outstanding Member award for 2018 for her works for the club and organisation.

Wrapping up the year, Western Tiers once again took on the dog high jump and BBQ at the Campbell Town Show, partnered up with the Westmorland Club. The day was long, but highly rewarding for all involved. There were over 30 dogs entered in the two classes of the competition. The small dogs were a tie for first place at an impressive 80cm, and large dogs took out a huge height of 2.15m, and the winning dog went on to jump higher, just for the fun of it!

This was a brilliant day for the club, and it is an event that we are very proud of and are delighted to be welcomed back year after year. A massive thanks is to be given to the businesses who support the event, as all the winning dogs and their owners get to go home with a large bundle of goodies.

The Club wrapped things up with their AGM in late June 2019, and we are looking forward to what the new year will bring for us.

KAT CRESSWELL

2018/19 Club Treasurer





RURAL YOUTH CLUBS

WESTMORLAND

Westmorland Club has been productive this last financial year with our main goal to increase our membership base which has doubled in its numbers since the previous financial year.

We are still hoping to increase our membership base this coming year as well as to be more proactive in community events.

We have had members of our club attend State Ball this year, this allowed members to get to know other from different clubs throughout the state. This year we have had members take time out of their work and school to help assist with Agfest, before, during and after. We had a few members take on big roles throughout the event, some of whom have not previously assisted with Agfest before which is a great learning opportunity.

Our club was given a great opportunity to assist Western Tiers Club with the dog high jump competition and BBQ at the Campbell Town Show. This was a great success for both clubs working together to help the event flourish. The huge numbers for both the BBQ and small/large dog high jump competition made for a successful venture. We had two

of our members participate in the dog high jump, Caitlin Reid with Hamish in the small class, they gave it a grand go for their first time participating in the event, as well as Ellie Gillow with her dog Maggie in the large class, they did well by placing in the top 10. We hope to continue to work with the Western Tiers Club for future events.

We have strategies in place to get out and about for more community involvement in this coming financial year. We are hoping to get our club back into the vision of the community to help it grow as well as welcome new members. We look forward to associating with everyone as we get our club progressing forward.

Thanks to Western Tiers for the Campbell Town Show photos

META JONES
2019 Club Secretary





yAPN

YOUNG AGRICULTURAL PROFESSIONALS NETWORK

RURAL YOUTH CLUBS

YAPN

The Young Agricultural Professionals Network (YAPN) is a joint initiative between Rural Youth Tasmania and Tasmanian Women in Agriculture, 2018 -2019 was the second year since inception.

YAPN is all about linking those who are working, studying or have an interest in agriculture with each other and the industry in an informal environment. In addition to the events they held throughout the State during the year they also share information on social media on opportunities/events others are offering in the sector.

The YAPN Committee appreciated the support of Simon Dornauf (Hillwood Strawberry Farm), Rob Nichols (Nichols Poultry), Greg Bowers (Shellfish Culture) and Mark Kable (Harvest Moon) to name a few, who gave up their time to share their experiences on a variety of subjects. They offered

their thoughts and ideas on everything from accessing capital, handling a growing business, how to motivate and engage staff to challenges in business and how to handle them. Attendees then had the opportunity to ask questions and continue the conversation over a drink and/or a meal. The other strength of the group is the opportunity to meet other like-minded individuals, hear what is happening in their world, compare stories and extend personal networks.

The YAPN Committee can be contacted via email on info@yapn.com.au – they are keen to hear if you have a suggestion for a speaker or event, a topic or innovation you would like to know more on. Alternatively, you may like to know when the next event is on – get involved, all are welcome!

2018-2019 YAPN COMMITTEE



RURAL BUSINESS TASMANIA

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

Rural Business Tasmania looks to both a) provide training opportunities for business management growth and b) support those doing it tough financially or in managing their business.

A) We have extended our training opportunities this year with an emphasis on youth and we thank Rural Youth Tasmania for the increased interactions and involvement in supporting these endeavours. Our key programs in this space are:

- **Cultivating Rural Excellence** program launched in March 2019: This program is allowing approximately 25 emerging agribusiness operators to learn and share skills through workshop, peer sharing and mentoring over nine one day face-to-face workshops, one-on-one business mentoring and opportunities for peer interactions. We have a diverse range of commodities including past Rural Youth member Matt Crane who is excited about extending his skillset of business management for his duck raising enterprise.
- **Cultivating Literacy in Agriculture:** This program is supported by 26Ten and is looking to practical learning for agricultural students who may not be as functionally literate or numerate as required to manage some of the day-to-day tasks on farm, such as working out fertiliser spreading rates and animal health medicinal dosages.
- **Rural Youth Focus Group:** The group is being established from July 2019 to better understand communication and training methods to suit young people. This will assist us and the Tasmanian Government to ensure that future training needs meet the contemporary methods to enable our young to thrive and prosper in the agribusiness sector.

B) We continue to provide invaluable support to over 100 of our farming families struggling with financial hardship. We provide this support through programs including:

- The Australian Government's Rural Financial Counselling Service program providing three well qualified rural financial counsellors. Dry conditions particularly on the East Coast, Southern Midlands and extended areas have caused some distress and we have been supporting these communities together with providing support where needed to those impacted by bushfire, including our honey producers, farmers and foresters.

- Our charitable arm, Rural Relief Fund: Our community support efforts have been enhanced through our fundraising event at the Richmond Hill Garden Day in March 2019, external organisation fundraising efforts and substantial donations throughout the year for those impacted including by bushfire and East Coast drought. This has allowed us to provide support in technical expertise from mainland drought experts, provide household emergency welfare grants of up to \$2500 per household and distribute IGA shopping vouchers to those doing it tough.

Our collaborations and networks remain strong and our lead in chairing the Forum of Rural Stakeholders allows all members, including Rural Youth Tasmania, within the sector to collaborate, share events, emerging issues and keep informed of government and service provider/not-for-profit organisations working within the space. The forum collaboratively hosted East Coast Dry forums this year and we particularly thank NRM North for their lead role.

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

Chief Executive Officer

GEOFF FADER

Chairman

Rural Business Tasmania
*Supporting and Growing
Rural Enterprise*



Proudly established in 1986 by Rural Youth Tasmania

Rural Business Tasmania

*Supporting and Growing
Rural Enterprise*



RURAL BUSINESS TASMANIA PROVIDES PRACTICAL BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT SUPPORT, TRAINING 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 fledglings - 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 2018-19 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 3.0 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 Tasmanian Government supported Cultivating Rural Excellence, Cultivating Literacy in Agriculture, Rural Youth Focus Group, Mentorship project and a currently in development Agribusiness Career Pathway Cadetship Program.

Rural Relief Fund:

Provided an avenue for donations to support farming families in hardship. The fund continues 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.

FINANCIALS

RURAL YOUTH TASMANIA MADE AN OPERATING SURPLUS OF \$268,803 FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 2019.

It is important to remember that the 2018 figures included funds from both the 2017 and 2018 Agfest Field Days, as opposed to the one event shown in the 2019 figures. Agfest remains Rural Youth's primary source of income to deliver all of its programs, maintain assets and grow the event.

In addition to changing our financial year, we have also amalgamated the previous three charts of accounts (Rural Youth, Agfest and Property Management) into just the one, hence the changed way of reporting our expenditure from this year moving forward.

The posted surplus for 2019 is a pleasing result after a busy year. Capital works completed include the long planned waste

water upgrade at a cost of approximately \$600,000, as well as a complete rehaul of the Function Centre kitchen including power upgrade to accommodate all new appliances, as well as cabinetry and joinery throughout the Function Centre and other buildings on site. In total, there has been over \$700,000 outlaid in capital expenditure in the past 12 months, which will benefit all stakeholders to the organisation, as well as our members.

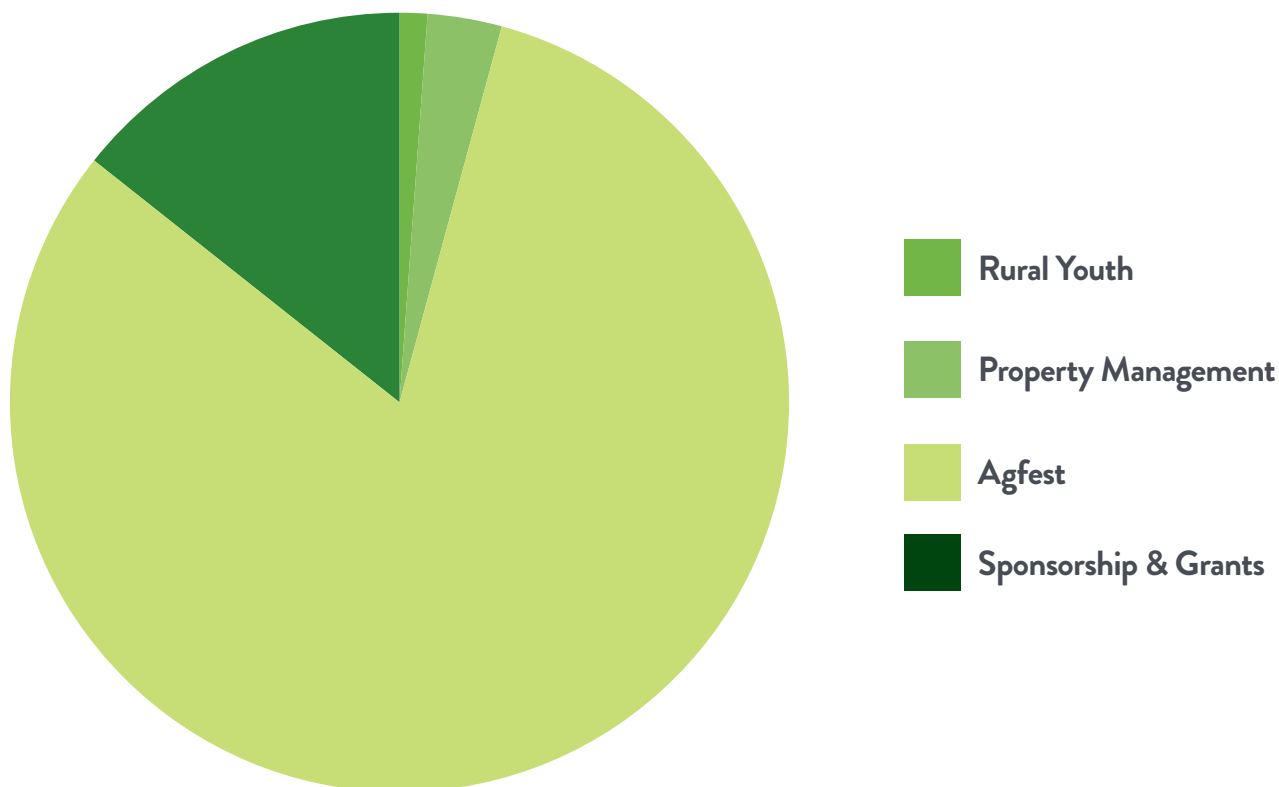
A complete set of audited financial statements is available from the organisation upon request.

INCOME	2018 18 MONTHS	2019 12 MONTHS
Rural Youth	\$88,615	\$83,092
Agfest	\$3,301,869	\$1,603,448
Property Management	\$76,402	\$56,917
TOTAL INCOME	\$3,466,886	\$1,743,457

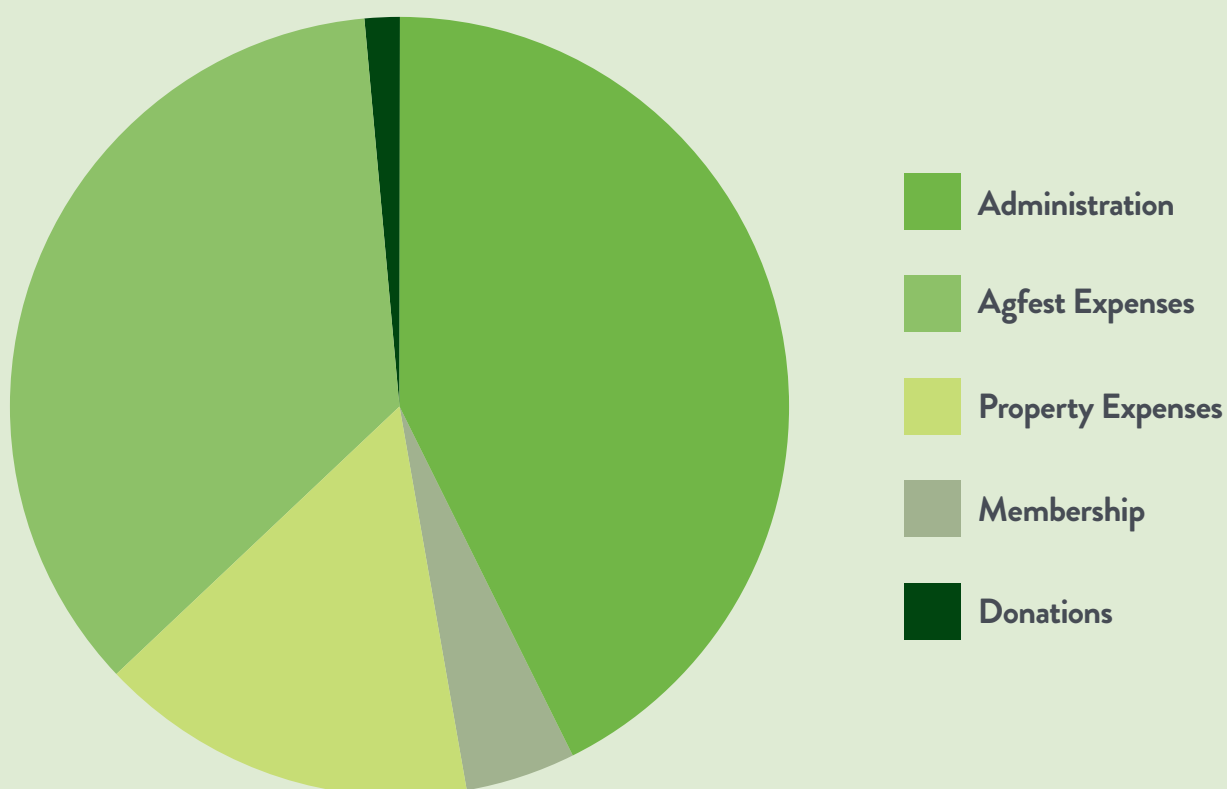
EXPENDITURE	2018 18 MONTHS	2019 12 MONTHS
Rural Youth	\$158,111	
Agfest	\$1,208,027	
Property Management	\$1,060,900	
Administration		\$629,771
Membership		\$66,802
Property Expenses		\$230,795
Agfest Expenses		\$527,474
Donations		\$19,812
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	\$2,427,038	\$1,474,654

NET SURPLUS	\$1,039,848	\$268,803
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SOURCE OF INCOME 2018-19



AREAS OF EXPENDITURE 2018-19





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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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