



NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2019

CONTENTS

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

03. STATE PRESIDENT REPORT

08. DEVONPORT CLUB REPORT

04. CEO REPORT

09. OATLANDS CLUB REPORT

05. AGFEST CHAIRMAN REPORT

10. BRIGHTON CLUB REPORT

06. FEATURED CLUB REPORT

11. CALENDAR OF EVENTS

07. GRAEME TOLE MEMORIAL

12. SPONSORS



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EMERGING LEADERS WORKSHOP

7 & 8 December, 2019

Quercus Park, Carrick

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AGFEST



STATE PRESIDENT REPORT

Hi all, so here we are in September! By the time this report gets to you, I will have just returned from a holiday to Europe. A big thanks to Jake Williams as RY Vice President for leading the organisation during my absence.

This will be my last report as President, as I will have stepped down from the role at the AGM. The last 12 months have been challenging, but incredibly rewarding. Rural Youth as an organisation continues to go from strength to strength and I feel a great sense of honour to have steered the ship over the last 12 months. I am sure Jake will do an equally great job stepping into the Presidents role.

Whilst I was away, the 2019 Young Farmer of the Year Competition finals were held at Quercus Park. I was really disappointed to have missed the finals. Based on the standard of competition that I witnessed during the run-offs at Ashgrove Cheese, I'm sure the finals will have been hotly contested. Congratulations to all of the 22 competitors that entered in 2019 and well done to those that made the finals. A final congratulations to overall winner Ashley Evans; by all accounts, your win was very well deserved!

In 2019, the Young Farmer prize pool extended past \$45,000 for the first time, showing that this competition is now no laughing matter. This event is only likely to grow in stature over the coming years and be a true competition for only the best young farmers around the state of Tasmania. Finally, a shout out to Peter Damen on his efforts in organising the competition, Pete has worked hard to deliver a truly high-class event.

Since my last report, we have entered a new financial year. A new member pricing structure has been introduced, making it cheaper for under 18s to join Rural Youth, whilst also increasing the member benefits. We have increased the training subsidy to \$250 and you will have also seen a new member key ring sent out upon renewal; providing further advertising of our great organisation!

It is with great excitement that I can provide an update on our new accommodation building. We have now lodged to Meander Valley Council for approval and construction is expected to commence late in 2019. A number of working bees will be required in the preparation for construction and so this provides all members with the chance to contribute to this new and exciting development at Quercus Park. The new accommodation block will house 20 people and we have already had interest from external groups to hire the building.

In early September the Rural Youth Study Tour applications and interview day was held. Study Tours provide members with the opportunity to experience different cultures across a range of different countries. I would strongly encourage members to consider applying. I have created lifelong friends from my Canadian exchange in 2012 and interestingly my trip to Europe was to attend the wedding of an English girl that I met on exchange in Canada. The application day was held at Woolmers Estate where applicants were asked to write a report, give a presentation and were interviewed as to why they should receive an exchange. Congrats to all members that will be travelling abroad in 2020, this will be a life-changing trip!

One final word from me to end my report: Never forget that 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!

DALE HAYERS
State President



CEO REPORT

September is done and dusted, and the end of the year is in sight! Congratulations to everyone involved in this year's TP Jones & Co Young Farmer of the Year Competition, with special mention of the winner, Ashley Evans!

It was a great event and the feedback we received from competitors, judges and sponsors were very positive. A big thank you to Pete Damen and Ellie Fielding, it was no mean feat getting everything organised for the event and Ash Reynolds with her band of helpers who looked after the catering and entertainment side of things. Finally, to all of our judges and sponsors, thank you, we really appreciate your support.

October means exhibitor applications open for Agfest 2020! We have a new application system for this year's event, as MODX was just about past it's used by date. In other Agfest news, we have given the Committee a bit of a shakeup. Some roles will no longer be a 12-month commitment, we have also reduced the need for some to provide reports or attend meetings. This has been done to make it easier for anyone who is interested to be a part of Agfest.

By the time you read this newsletter, the AGM will have been and gone! The December issue will focus on the incoming Board and Agfest team, but I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to those who are stepping down. Laura Richardson, Ethan Williams, Sarah Revell, Tobias ten Bonsel, Owen Woolley, Jake Williams and Dale Hayers will all vacate their current roles, some have nominated again for different roles, while others have well and truly earned their 'retirement'. All of you have played a part in the

growth and success Rural Youth currently enjoys – all of your work is appreciated. You have certainly set a high bar for those who follow. I am always reluctant to single out individuals, however it is only fitting that I pay particular tribute to Dale's work as State President. He has led by example, always had the good of the members and the organisation front of mind, made some hard calls when needed and supported the team around him. Personally, I have thoroughly enjoyed working with him as State President and will miss his love of a policy and/or guidelines (for process and transparency) and his ability to always see a positive in the most negative of situations!

Speaking of positives, whilst we are losing some and others are moving it does allow for new faces to come on board, which is great for all of us. New ideas and refreshing our Board and Committees are vital for our ongoing success, so if you are interested in putting your hand up, please do.

We have lots of training coming up – check out the calendar in this edition and the one coming up in December – there is something for everyone!

I hope to see many of you around the traps in the next few months! Until December!



KAREN ROBINSON
CEO



AGFEST CHAIRMAN REPORT

Hello all, well a few months have gone by since I last said hello and this time around my term as Chairman is almost at an end, it has been another great and successful year for all things Agfest!

Since my last update, the world of Agfest has been relatively quiet, we have held a couple of meetings to go through incoming and outgoing business to ensure all loose ends are squared away before the AGM. Directors have been busily working through the manuals for their directorships, ensuring all information is correct and up to date ready for the incoming directors to hit the ground running with the best information possible.

In late July we held our annual brainstorming event, the weekend was well attended with a lot of valuable feedback provided, giving us vital input to help guide the direction of the event for the next few years. After a full day of brainstorming, the group went out for dinner, a few games of laser skirmish and a few cleansing ales at the local watering hole to unwind, relax and have a few laughs after a busy day of racking our brains.

As I have said in my previous report, we were very lucky 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. This year's event had a total of 728 exhibitors on site displaying their wares, attracting a total attendance of 63,868 visitors to our event. It was great to have so many people come and support our amazing event as we continue striving to make Agfest bigger and better every year!

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 as best as it could be for our guests to enjoy is nothing but astounding and a pleasure to work with, 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 stays as adequate and in touch with our needs and external hirers, we are continuing to invest in upgrades to develop the site for the future and its changing uses. The massive milestone accomplished before Agfest 2019 was the construction and commissioning of our wastewater treatment plant, all things going to plan we will see the first accommodation building commissioned on site as an added asset to our site before Agfest 2020.

The past two years have been quite the roller coaster while being in the position of Chairman, the challenges, the achievements and the milestones accomplished by all in my time as chair has been so rewarding to be a part of. The life experience gained in my time as chair 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 is was and my time as Chairman as easy and stress-free as can be.

Thank you and take care!



OWEN WOOLLEY
Agfest Chairman



FEATURED CLUB REPORT: HAGLEY

Hagley Rural Youth have been up to a bit lately with lots of exciting events coming up as well!

Hagley previously hosted a car rally, inviting all Rural Youth members - to send off in a group with a list of questions to discover the answers around Launceston. Lots of fun activities were involved, with pictures to prove they had all been completed! Which then lead everyone to finish the night at home base - Quercus Park to enjoy the rest of the night with good company.

We are also very excited to announce that many of the club members have been working very hard to create a brand new event Rural Rumble 2019.

An all-ages event featuring two of Tasmania's finest country music acts, a ute comp, mechanical bull, food vans, fire pots, iron man challenge, full bar facilities, camping and much more. Rural Rumble 2019 is definitely one to pencil in on the calendar!

DISCOUNTS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE FOR RURAL YOUTH MEMBERS.

Purchase here:

www.stickytickets.com.au/91442/rural_rumble_2019.aspx

If any Rural Youth members would like to know how to get involved please don't hesitate to get in touch with us!

With more dog jumps and truck shows coming up in the works as well, there is plenty happening here at Hagley Rural Youth.



Picture from Hagley car rally -
'take a picture outside the Rural Youth Head Office'

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Picture from Hagley car rally - one of the tasks was to propose in a public area

GRAEME TOLE MEMORIAL AWARD



2018 Recipient Simone Salter Field Days Report

In September 2018, I was lucky enough to be awarded the Graeme Tole Memorial Award, Presidents Prize for 2018. I have been lucky enough in my time as Rural Youth State President to give this award out but never expected to be a recipient of such an important Rural Youth award.

On the 8th June 2019, I headed off to New Zealand. It was a delayed start with a flight delay in Hobart of two hours meaning that we had to wait 10+ hours at the Sydney International Airport for a connecting flight to Auckland. My husband, Ben had decided to join me on my trip to the Fieldays in Mystery Creek.

We headed off early on the Wednesday morning from Auckland down to Hamilton and followed the signs to the Fieldays site at Mystery Creek. We were parked in their carpark by officials and caught the bus from the carpark to the site. After realising how far we had to walk to get to the site itself, we were certainly happy that we caught the bus.

Armed with our programme we headed around the site and took in all that the Fieldays had to offer. For those that haven't had the experience, it is similar to Agfest, but everything is bigger. Bigger machinery (and lots of it), bigger sites and a strong dairy focus. The only difference is that Fieldays don't have a focus on craft items at all. They have a big shed dedicated to items that we would put into Business Lifestyle marquee along with party plan, food items etc.

We spent some time watching the practice runs of the tractor pull, it was a very popular event with a rather large crowd watching. The crowd to watch the finals would have been huge no doubt.

Ben was in his element surrounded by all the big machinery, including excavator demonstrations and competitions. It was

certainly a big change to what we normally see at Agfest, especially the different types of machinery available.

The Fieldays site has an Ag Heritage Village with live demonstrations from a blacksmith using techniques from years gone by to make chains. This area was a lot quieter compared with the rest of the site but made a good spot to sit and have lunch around the dam that is on the site.

I would like to thank Rural Youth Tasmania for their financial support that goes with this award which allowed me to head to the Fieldays at Mystery Creek and to Graeme's family for allowing the award to be set up after his passing.



CONGRATULATIONS TO ASHLEY EVANS

2019 GRAEME TOLE MEMORIAL
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Applications Open!

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NOW OPEN!

CONTACT HEAD OFFICE TO OBTAIN YOUR COPY
OF THE APPLICATION FORM NOW!

DON'T MISS OUT, APPLICATIONS CLOSE
TUESDAY, 10TH DECEMBER 2019.



DEVONPORT CLUB REPORT

The Devonport Rural Youth Club held their AGM on Tuesday the 18th of June with our new office-bearers being Sheree Lawrence - President, Thomas Febey - Vice President, Chloe Temple - Secretary and William Craigie - Treasurer.

The Devonport club have been pleased to see new and previous members sign back up with the club this year. The club held an activity night of ten pin bowling on Wednesday the 21st August. All Rural Youth members were invited, we had great success with members for Devonport, North Motton, Tamar and Hagley coming along to support it.

One of our members Kyle Barker competed in the Young Farmer Competition and made it through to the top 12 with him placing 7th overall.

Devonport member, Thomas Febey is heading to the Perth Royal Show in the first week of October to represent Tasmania in the National Junior Cattle Handling Competition. Thomas competed in the Tasmanian state final last December where we won and is now representing Tasmania. We would like to wish him all the best and can't wait to see how he goes. Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday the 4th September.



Thomas Febey, Tasmanian Representative for Junior Cattle Handling



Kyle Barker, Young Farmer of the Year Finalist



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OATLANDS CLUB REPORT

It has been a quiet few months at Oatlands Rural Youth. We have welcomed some new members and collected sheep manure to sell to raise some funds for our club.

We would like to congratulate Sarah Birch and Alex Dowling for entering the Young Farmer Competition, and a huge congratulations to Ashley Evans for winning. We would also like to congratulate all other finalists of the competition and a great night was had by all at the dinner that evening.



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BRIGHTON CLUB REPORT

Brighton Rural Youth has had a productive few months since our last report. In July we held a social meeting at Zone 3 laser tag, which was a fun night.

It was well attended by members of the other southern clubs, thank you all for attending and supporting us. A special thanks to those who stayed behind after and attended our meeting.

We have also had members out and about at other Rural Youth activities. Chloe, Kylie, Fern and Molly attended the Young Farmer Dinner and Sam attended a working bee held at Quercus the same weekend.

By the time you are reading this, Bree will have been to the Adelaide show with Ash from Sorell as part of the Rural Ambassador program, it is fantastic that both of the delegates from Tasmania are Rural Youth members. They will be meeting with many of our interstate counterparts and will hopefully bring back some good ideas for Rural Youth and Agfest.

As a club, we are currently preparing for the upcoming Ag show season and planning our community and fundraising activities for the next year. Many of our members are also looking forward

to attending the AGM and some are hoping to be elected into committee roles. A number of our members are also very excited for Rural Rumble, well done to Hagley for putting on a fantastic event.

Our next meeting will be a social meeting on Wednesday 25th September at the York Hotel Granton at 7pm.





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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

EVENT DATE	EVENT DETAILS
1 st October	Applications for Best New Member, Outstanding Member & Top Club open
12 th October	Strategic Planning @ Quercus Park
12 th October	Rural Rumble @ Quercus Park
9 th November	Governance Training @ Rural Youth Head Office
7 th & 8 th December	Emerging Leaders Course
10 th December	Applications for Best New Member, Outstanding Member & Top Club close
22 nd February	State Ball (Location TBC)

2019 RESULTS YOUNG FARMER COMPETITION



WINNER
ASHLEY EVANS



RUNNER-UP
Brodie Hill



THIRD
Stuart Cresswell



FOURTH
Tobias ten Bense



FIFTH
Caitlin Radford



SIXTH
Lachlan Woodcock



To hear how the 2019 TP Jones & Co-Young Farmer of the Year Competition Finals went, visit www.ruralityouth.com.au



SPONSORS

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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