

2020-2021

ANNUAL REPORT

JULY 2020 - JUNE 2021





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SPONSORS

RURAL YOUTH OFFICE

A. 62 York Street Launceston, TAS 7250

M. PO Box 322 Launceston, TAS 7250

P. (03) 6331 6154

E. admin@ruralyouth.com.au

W. ruralyouth.com.au

RURAL YOUTH POSITIONS

PATRON

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

RURAL YOUTH BOARD

State President - Mr Jake Williams

Vice President - Ms Ashleigh Reynolds

Agfest Chairman - Mr Ethan Williams

BOARD MEMBERS

Mr Dale Hayers

Mr Brady Robins

Mr Josh Mison

Ms Rhiannon Hennessy

Mr Owen Woolley

ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

Mr Matthew Crane

Mr Matthew Young

Ms Sharon Symons

LIFE MEMBERS

Mr H.R. Reynolds (dec.)

Mr Chris Williams

Mr Graeme Tole (dec.)

Mrs Carol Axton

Mr D. Bennett (dec.)

Ms Elizabeth Skirving

Mr T.B. Stancombe (dec.)

Ms Sharon (Wing) Symons

Mr David Dunn

Mr John Dent

Mr Henry Burbury

Mr Brett Mackenzie

Mr Don Walker

Mr Peter Gladwell

Mr Ian Mackenzie

Mr Noel Beven

Mr E.C. Mackay (dec.)

Mr Paul Bennett

Mr C.A. Holland (dec.)

Mr Dale Badcock

Mrs Jayne (Badcock) Clark

Mr Wesley Hazell

Mr Keith Topfer (dec.)

Mr Darryl Barker

Mr Richard Colman

RURAL YOUTH STAFF

CEO - Karen Robinson

Finance Officer - Linda Perkins

Events & Sponsorship Manager - Selena Flanagan

Office Administrator - Luci Scott

Agfest Support - Ebony Hulett

Quercus Park Caretaker - Jade Hall

STATE PRESIDENT REPORT



It is with great pleasure I bring you this annual report and rundown of what an organisation like ours can achieve!

Over my two years as president there have been many ups and downs, but I can whole heartedly say this last year has been so rewarding. We have navigated through COVID-19, we hosted the biggest event Tasmania has seen since the pandemic began, we have had an increase in membership while sustaining our current numbers, and our clubs are as active as they have ever been!

Our new committees came with fresh faces, we had new directors on the Board and Agfest had over 40 new volunteers. Fresh faces and new ideas are what keep Rural Youth relevant in today's society, our members strive to be able to keep our organisation moving forward and it isn't looking like stopping anytime soon!

Our members have been kept quite busy over the past 12 months, Tasman hosted their first Bush Doof down in Nubeena, numerous club competitions being Mocktail Madness, the Winter Photography Challenge, Club Christmas Portrait; and the best yet, Biggest Veggie Competition!

We are always looking to upskill our members and in November we sent a handful of members to complete a traffic management course to aid them in their roles during Agfest. Our Board Directors and Agfest Leadership Team completed governance training in February, while in late April we had a side by side off

road vehicle course held at Quercus. This was a great opportunity seeing as we have numerous of these being utilised at Agfest. A benefit of your membership with Rural Youth, you can claim up to \$250 per year on completion of a registered training course, not only does this give members a greater opportunity to gain skills to utilise at Quercus Park but also aid in their workplace and home life!

Rural Youth present many scholarships and awards throughout the year. Most Outstanding and Best New Member are worth \$1200 each and in 2020 these were awarded to Josh Mison (Most Outstanding Member) and Rhiannon Hennessy (Best New Member). The Top Club Award was presented to Tamar. The Marcus Oldham Rural Leadership Program will be attended by Callie Barber and Emily Nixon; and Maddy Wade took home the Rural Youth Scholarship prize of \$1000 to put towards any TAFE or tertiary course.

A massive well done needs to be said to our Agfest team of volunteers and staff. Rural Youth pulled off the biggest event Tasmania had seen since the start of COVID-19. We excelled in executing our COVID-19 plan which aided us running a smooth event. We had just under 100 volunteers throughout the event and having seen over 40 brand new Agfest volunteers help out was amazing. Agfest Field Days is Rural Youth's main source of income and without our dedicated team of volunteers putting in countless hours it would never be possible, a congratulations to Ethan and his team for running another successful event.



This was my last year as the State President of our organisation, and what a two years it has been. I had dreamt of taking on this role for a number of years and to finally have the opportunity and support was overwhelming. I started this journey back in 2011 having joined up to the North Motton club. I then started working my way up through the organisation taking on many roles and giving them my all. I now have completed the most rewarding role I have taken on to date, I love nothing more than to see others strive, new members come in and see what they can achieve, and existing members kick their own Rural Youth goals. This has to be among one of the greatest organisations for young people to succeed and I hope everyone can gain as much enjoyment, friendship and experience from it as I have. I look forward to seeing you around!

Williams

JAKE WILLIAMS
2020/2021 Rural Youth State President



“

THIS HAS TO BE AMONG ONE OF THE **GREATEST ORGANISATIONS** FOR YOUNG PEOPLE TO SUCCEED AND I HOPE EVERYONE CAN GAIN AS MUCH **ENJOYMENT, FRIENDSHIP** AND **EXPERIENCE** FROM IT AS I HAVE.

”

CEO REPORT

‘The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy’. Martin Luther King Jr.

The same could be said of Rural Youth Tasmania in 2020-21! Courage and resilience were required in equal measure by all in leadership positions as we worked our way through the year and met the numerous challenges COVID-19 presented.

Given the uncertain operating environment we were extremely pleased with Agfest 2021. Importantly, so were the majority of our stakeholders. All acknowledged the difficulties we faced and were appreciative of our efforts. It is a matter of great pride to all involved that we were able to deliver what, at the time, was the largest free flowing event in Tasmania safely! We complied with all directions from Public Health and satisfied all audit requirements from WorkSafe Tasmania.

There have also been positives among the negatives this year. Rather than business as usual, we have looked closely at our operations and adjusted accordingly. It is safe to say not all changes have been warmly received, however they have had a positive impact. We have also learned a great deal during this time and we intend to apply all of that knowledge as we enter the 2021-22 year.

We recognise the ongoing interest, support and financial contribution of the Gutwein Government to our organisation and event. Minister Barnett continues to be one of our biggest champions, taking every opportunity to highlight the achievements and capacity of our members across the sector.

We continue to face rising operating costs, ageing infrastructure and increasing workloads as roles traditionally fulfilled by members are left vacant due to their changing circumstances. The prospect of ongoing budgets in deficit is not sustainable so the Board have commenced work on ensuring the financial sustainability of the organisation. This is very much a work in progress. Attracting events such as Magic Millions Sale and the Royal Launceston Show to Quercus Park not only meets strategic goals, it is also additional income.

As well as working towards our strategic goals we have also focused on developing the culture of the organisation and ensuring our vision “to Connect, Develop and Celebrate Young Tasmanians” is more than a mere slogan. Considerable progress has been made and members report they appreciate the direction we are taking.

As we have come to expect the Rural Youth Board and staff have been outstanding, meeting every challenge head on. As State President, Jake Williams has done an outstanding job, he leaves the Board well placed to continue building on the foundations he, and the other retiring Directors have laid. I would like to pay tribute to Dale Hayers, Ethan Williams, Sharon Symons, Matt Young, Brady Robins, Ash Reynolds, Owen Woolley and Josh Mison, all are stepping down at the AGM, although we know some intend to renominate in a different capacity. We thank them for their service.

In closing you will notice this is a somewhat abridged version of our usual Annual Report, due to the fact many activities such as Young Farmer and Study Tours were cancelled in 2020. I am pleased to report however, despite the circumstances there is still much to look forward to.



KAREN ROBINSON
Rural Youth CEO



2020 - 2022 STRATEGIC PLAN

OUR VISION

TO CONNECT, DEVELOP
AND CELEBRATE YOUNG TASMANIANS!

OUR GOALS

RURAL YOUTH

Recognised as providing exceptional experiences & self development opportunities for our members

QUERCUS

A leading event & accommodation space in Tasmania

COMMUNITY

Rural Youth will continue to contribute to the development of rural communities and events within Tasmania.

OUR PRIORITIES

- Celebrate our members
- Improve engagement with our members
- Sell our story
- Support and work with Clubs
- Encourage & engage with under 18's
- Develop a masterplan for the future
- Improve member accommodation for the short and long term
- Grow and improve our existing events ie Young Farmer
- Identify new event opportunities
- Develop ideas & information for Clubs to use to contribute to their own communities
- Continue to explore appropriate partnerships to achieve positive outcomes for the community
- Assist other organisations where possible, with their events & activities

OUR VALUES

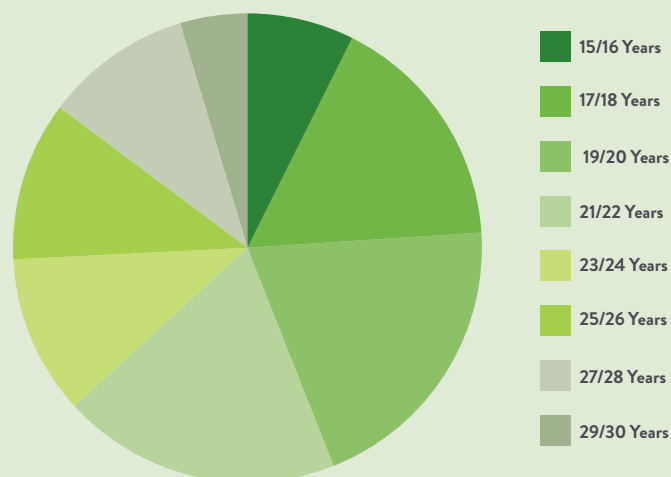
FRIENDSHIPS & RELATIONSHIPS
SELF DEVELOPMENT & OPPORTUNITIES

RY MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

MEMBER OCCUPATIONS 2016-2021



2021 MEMBER AGES



RURAL YOUTH TASMANIA - MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS



CLUB MEMBERS	2020	2021
Brighton	21	13
Circular Head	8	13
Devonport	18	13
Hagley	26	29
Isolated Members	2	2
Kingborough-Huon	18	21
North Motton	25	22
Oatlands	14	19
Sorell	26	18
Tamar	19	29
Tasman	18	26
Western Tiers	12	5
Westmorland	11	9
YAPN	9	8
TOTAL:	227	227

AGFEST REPORT



Looking back, my second year as Agfest Chairman has been a whirlwind – with many ups and downs.

One of the major wins was working alongside an amazing leadership team - Caine Evans, Owen Woolley, Jake Williams, Brady Robins, Dale Hayers, Callie Barber, Dylan Bellchambers, Callum Forbes and Caitlin Radford. These guys went above and beyond.

From the get-go we knew we had a huge workload, coming off the back of the 2020 cancellation and a huge deficit for the 2019-2020 financial year - the only way was up. The leadership team selected an exciting committee with a great mix of first-timers and Agfest veterans.

In the leadup to applications opening we spent a lot of time promoting the fact we were going ahead despite the challenges of COVID-19. As many other events were cancelling, we were stepping into the unknown as we weren't sure if the community would support such a large event.

We need not have worried! With 519 exhibitors and patron tickets selling out before the event we felt we were on track for a massive event. There was some controversy around ticket sales, with the community pushing hard for an increase to 15,000 attendees daily. We put a strong case to Public Health, however the numbers remained at 10,000.

The event passed all checks from the regulators, the most pleasing being the COVID-19 compliance audit, conducted by Worksafe Tasmania on behalf of Tasmanian Public Health. We were extremely proud that no breaches of public orders were identified. At the time we had delivered the largest free flowing event in Tasmania since the pandemic hit.

We know we didn't get everything right and we have certainly learnt a lot from this event which we will take into account when

planning the 2022 event, but overall, given the restrictions we were working under we were extremely pleased with the results. Indeed some exhibitors reported they have had one of their best years because reduced numbers meant their staff had more time to finalise deals on site rather than wait to follow up after the event. Understandably Agfest in the Cloud did not have the same level of traffic as it had the previous year, however we still had 110,000 views.

I am extremely proud of each and every volunteer. Whether you volunteered for a week, a day or an hour, we simply would not have been able to pull the event off without your commitment, dedication and can-do attitude. Thank you.

It has been an absolute honour and privilege to lead and work alongside such an inspiring, dedicated and committed team over the last two years. I wish the incoming Chairman, Caine Evans and his team the best of luck for 2022, I am sure they will do a great job!

ETHAN WILLIAMS
2021 Agfest Chairman



PMWG REPORT

In 2020/21 the Property Management Working Group (PMWG) consisted of nine members: Jake Williams, Owen Woolley, Tobias tenBensel, Callum Forbes, Liam King, Caine Evans, Brady Robbins, Dale Hayers and Property Caretaker Jade Hall.

After a bumper previous couple of years where PMWG oversaw the construction of new accommodation, upgrades to an ablution unit and the installation of the wastewater plant, 2020/21 has been a little slower for PMWG.

In the last year there has been a focus on planning for the future, with the group approving a fencing master plan and two standard fence styles to be rolled out across the Quercus Park site. The intention of these styles is to maintain a consistent look whilst catering for the many needs of site users. Some considerations that needed to be included the ability to easily brush cut along fence lines, deterring livestock from trying to push under fencing, having a sighter wire such that horses can see the fencing and increased height to increase security for Agfest. The group consulted with a range of stakeholders and contractors through this process and there is a level of excitement that new fences can be rolled out over the coming years, with construction by both contractors and members alike.

A review of the wastewater pond has been completed by the group. The intent of the review focused on ways to capture more runoff, improve the visual appeal of the area and provide an additional roadway lane above the dam whilst spreading spoil leftover from the treatment plant construction. This plan has been approved and now awaits funding to be completed.

Magic Millions held their first sale at Quercus Park on 22 February 2021. As part of this exciting partnership, a range of site upgrades were completed by Magic Millions in the areas around the craft sheds and equine. The group were presented with many decisions to make on the fly and with Jade our Caretaker overseeing many of them, we were able to successfully cater to the site hirers needs.

In March, a day was allocated where members of PMWG along with the CEO met with a range of stakeholders to discuss what improvements they wish to see at the site and how we can improve what we offer to them. Through meetings with

stakeholders, it has become apparent that there is a need to be more specific with the areas that we offer for site hires and aim to manage both short and long terms hires more effectively. It was evident from these meetings though that the level of excitement in our site continues to grow.

Since Agfest 2021 where a number of electrical issues were noted, attention has turned toward making a strategic plan for upgrades and repairs that can be completed in a manner that balances both site user safety and available budget. These works will progress throughout 2021/22.

Other areas of focus for the group moving forward include the implementation of shelter belts around Quercus Park, permanent hostile vehicle infrastructure and engaging with weed management companies to lock in ongoing management solutions for the site.

PMWG looks forward to continuing its work with the broader Rural Youth community in 2021/22 to increase the reputation of Quercus Park and improve relationships with stakeholders. A big thanks to all group members for their hard work this year.



DALE HAYERS
PMWG Member



2020/2021, WOW, what an absolute year.

Through starting our year off by 90% of our club meetings being held over Zoom somehow, we managed to keep our club and members social!

We were unable to participate in the Brighton Show Ute Competition which we usually hold. So instead of a physical competition we held a virtual online Ute Competition run through our Facebook page! We had over 150 entries, which was a fantastic outcome to what we had thought it was going to be! Definitely our major event for the year! We had many laughs and good times throughout the year and we look forward to tackling 2021/2022.

**BRIGHTON RURAL YOUTH****2020-2021 has been tough for all but has also been an exciting time for Devonport Club.**

This period saw club members band together to take a fantastic bunch of photos to take the club win in the Rural Youth Winter Photography Competition. Members worked together to create, and taste test the best mocktail (lots of fun) to win the Rural Youth Mocktail Competition. Over the past year we have welcomed some new and returning members, new friendships have been made within the club and some of our members have had the chance to attend activities with other clubs and RY events such as the State Ball (meeting lots of wonderful RY members from all over Tassie)! Club activities have included bowling nights, dinners, and an adventure up to the Central Highlands. In the coming year we look forward to running more club activities and getting along to interclub events.

**DEVONPORT RURAL YOUTH**

Kingborough Huon Rural Youth had a steady 2020/21 period in which our club finished the year with 21 members.

So far, most have re-joined in 2021/22 and it's onwards and upwards! Throughout 2020/21 Tobias tenBensel returned as Club President, with Sam Luck Secretary, Lucy Cooper Treasurer and Owen Woolley Vice President.

Unfortunately, the decision was made to cancel the clubs biggest promotional and fundraising event, the 2020 Huon Show. Whilst the decision was understood, our club was disappointed that we could not get out amongst our great community. We have recently found out that the 2021 show has also been cancelled which is again disappointing.

Despite the show cancellation, funds were still raised via a sheep poo bagging day held at Hollow Tree. Over 300 bags were bagged and these provided funds to allow the club to invest in its members via State Ball reimbursements and paying for social activities throughout the year.

The engagement of our club at every level throughout Rural Youth remains evident, with four Board Members including Owen Woolley, Ash Reynolds, Dale Hayers and Rhiannon Hennessey helping to oversee Rural Youth's operational decisions. Members were also active at working bees, on the Agfest Committee, PMWG and on the social committee.

The competitive side of KH also rang true in 2020/21 with notable performances from Rhiannon for taking home the prize for best baking with some amazing lemon meringue muffins prepared for the Christmas cooking competition, our club team came 3rd in the Olympiad held at Quercus in December. Members also took part in side-by-side and traffic management training at Quercus Park in the lead up to Agfest.

At the Club AGM held in June, Jackson Sutherland took the reigns as President, with Amanda McDonald (Secretary), Tobias tenBensel (Treasurer) and Dale Hayers (Vice President) forming the new leadership team.

As always with KHRY, don't forget to "Get a Boot Out of Life"

KINGBOROUGH-HUON RURAL YOUTH





RURAL YOUTH CLUBS

OATLANDS

Howdy all, even with a pandemic we still had a busy year with events starting off with our AGM, with the newly elected leadership team all being under the age of 20!

In June we were approached by the Southern Midlands Council to help them come up with a COVID-19 friendly School Holiday Program as their regular program had to be cancelled due the pandemic. We came up with the idea of a photo competition! The competition was extremely well supported with many entries coming in for both categories.

On Saturday June 5th, Oatlands Rural Youth were invited to man the gate and park the cars at the annual Woodsdale Cracker Night, with a record crowd we were certainly looking forward to enjoying the crackers by the time they started! You could say they went off with a bang.

In July our members headed up to Quercus Park to take part in the Agfest Annual Meeting where Brady was elected as the Features Manager for 2021.

We took full advantage of the RY Board's offer to put money towards a club road sign and purchased two signs which are positioned at each end of Oatlands. Keeping with the theme of branding the club, we also purchased new club shirts! These will allow us to be recognisable within the community and hopefully spread our brand.

Our friends at Brighton Rural Youth invited us to challenge them at the Evolo Escape Rooms in Hobart. This was a great club activity with many laughs had, we even managed to escape in time.

Our club also attended the Campbell Town Show on the 29th of May, where we held an impressive ute competition. We had an overwhelming number of utes enter this year, with 26 in total turning up on the day. Oatlands and Tamar Rural Youth clubs worked together to organise the dog high jump and the ute competition. Overall, the day went smoothly and was very successful, both clubs gained new members from the event.

A new event that we were invited to this year was O'Fest. This event is organised by the Ag students at the Oatlands School Farm and allows students and community members to be submersed in all things agriculture. The event saw schools

come from across the state which gave Rural Youth some great exposure with younger prospective members.

In June we held our club AGM where we welcomed our new leadership team, it's great to see a club being led by such a great group of young people! Our AGM was extremely well attended with almost 20 guests attending from other clubs statewide! It is awesome to see so many members travelling around the state to attend other club meetings and social nights.

OATLANDS RURAL YOUTH



Well, we have been busy over the last year! We held a Zoom meeting in early June, then we held our AGM at Jake's crib in the middle of June.

We welcomed Caitlin Radford back as President, new to the role Lauren Kay as Vice President, Georgia Pearce as Secretary, and Kelsie Brown as our Treasurer who is also new to the role.

At the end of June, we completed the Club Rock Challenge that saw Jake and Caitlin transform into Jack and Rose and almost froze to death at Lake Barrington, stoked to bring home the win for this one! We also supported our local Little Free Pantry by stocking it up with non-perishable food items for those in need. North Motton RY also competed in the Winter Photo Competition.

In July we went to the River Arms in Ulverstone for our meeting and also had four members elected to the Agfest Leadership Committee; Ethan, Jake, Dylan and Caitlin. In August we had a Potluck dinner at Caitlin's house and enjoyed going for a drive to check the sheep and look at some lambs! We then went to Yuri's house, originally for a bonfire but due to the weather we sat inside and played Cluedo and came up with our creation 'Ferrosol Gardens' for the Mocktail Madness Competition.

We had a games nights activity held at Yuri's house in Kindred on the 3rd of September. At the end of September on the 27th we held our Bunnings Sausage Sizzle at the Devonport store. This was a great day and we raised \$668 for our club. We held a meeting at the Furners Hotel on the 30th of September and welcomed along some new faces. During the month of October, the club was busy organising our Shit Kit party and Go Karting long weekend, we had a bonfire, BBQ and lots of games. This was so much fun, and we had members from across the state attend, thank you to Yuri for his awesome bonfire!

On the 17th of November we held a meeting at the Forth Pub which was great to catch up with everyone before the Christmas rush started. The club organised a Christmas Raffle with lots of great prizes and was drawn on the 18th of December. We had a get together at Georgia's to take our Christmas Family Portrait photo.

Dylan and Caitlin attended the Traffic Management Course at Quercus and are now qualified to hold a lollipop sign. We had a great time with fellow RY members at the Christmas Lunch and Olympiad Challenge with our cupcakes proving stiff competition placing second to KH.

NMRY had some fun for the start of 2021! We were planning on going water skiing but unfortunately had to cancel. We then had a potluck meeting at Jake's on the 4th of February and checked out his new crib! We moved our bank account to a Bendigo Community Bank which allows us to help support

other groups around us. 10 of us attended the State Ball which was an absolute blast!

4th of March we went to In the Zone Laser Tag in Burnie to let off some harvest steam. Agfest meetings, working bees etc have been attended and we look forward to getting stuck into Agfest!! Caitlin attended Steam Fest as a volunteer on behalf of our club on the Saturday and had a great time, was handy to see how events are running with restrictions leading into Agfest.

On the 1st of April we held a potluck dinner and meeting at Kelsie Brown's residence up in Preston. We were lucky to be joined by some members of other clubs which is always nice!

At the end of April, we heard the results of the Veggie Comp! Let's just say that the NW Coast, as we already knew, grows the best produce with Yuri taking out the biggest tomato and Caitlin taking out the novelty with some funky potatoes!

Most weekends were spent at working bees readying for Agfest, and boy we were all so pumped to be back there. Agfest was a massive effort from everyone, and NM were represented by a lot of important roles. Agfest Chairman Ethan Williams, Media and Promotions Dylan Bellchambers, RY Feature Tent Jake Williams, Equine Entertainment Georgia Pearce, Equine Exhibitors Caitlin Radford, Assistant Personnel Lauren Kay, Assistant Features Hayden Richardson, forklift extraordinaires Josh Weeks and Yuri Wolfert, and general volunteer Phoenix Allen.

After Agfest we decided to have a catch up and go to Musical Bingo at Molly Malones! This was a ripper of a night, and we were so glad to be joined by a lot of Devonport members. Good pub meal first and then good laughs during bingo. Definitely something we will attend again! It was great to have Courtney home for a short visit too after she moved to the mainland for work.

The Agfest Dinner was next on the list and was a great chance for everyone to dress up and let their hair down after a massive effort with Agfest.

Some members attended the Campbell Town Show the next day to show off their utes in the Oatlands Ute competition and watch the Tamar Dog High Jump.

We then held our AGM on the 18th of June and ran a Bunnings Sausage Sizzle on Sunday the 20th of June! We also ran a raffle as a club promotional event and this was great for us. This prize was generously donated by Lemonthyme Lodge and organised by member Phoenix Allen. Welcome to our new office bearers, Dylan Bellchambers as President, Hayden Richardson as Vice President, Lucy Davis as Secretary and Kelsie Brown staying on as our Treasurer!

NORTH MOTTON RURAL YOUTH



SAVE THE DATE

2022 TASMANIAN

YOUNG FARMER

OF THE YEAR



RUN-OFFS

SATURDAY 25TH OF JUNE

FINALS

SATURDAY 13TH OF AUGUST

Locations to be confirmed

For further information visit:
[f t ruralityouth.com.au](https://www.ruralityouth.com.au)



2020/21 at Sorell Rural Youth was a challenging but exciting year. Sadly due to impacts of COVID-19 and no rural shows, we weren't able to attend and help out or use our new dog high jump set up.

Sorell Rural Youth were so glad to be able to attend Agfest 2021 back in the paddock with more than five of our members attending and being a part of the Agfest Committee. Our members also attended the Agfest Dinner in late May to celebrate. We had a great turn out at this year's State Ball in Latrobe as well and a great night was had by all!

For our AGM we were lucky enough to have a few new members join us, but sadly we also had to say goodbye to the well-loved former President Dave Lucas as his Rural Youth days have come to an end. We would like to thank him for everything he has done for the club and the support and mentoring he has given us. With our AGM we welcomed three new faces in our executive roles.

President: Jamie Innes

Vice President: Sean Schofield

Treasurer: Will Thomas

Our **Secretary** continues for another year, Ellen Belbin.

In the 2021/2022 year we are hoping to once again attend rural shows to volunteer, but also set up and run some events with our dog high jump to see whose pooch has the biggest leap. We are also continuing our efforts to upgrade the Pawleena Hall as our meeting space. Along with this we are also hoping to be involved with some community events happening in the coming months.

SORELL RURAL YOUTH



Another year has passed and what a year it has been for Tamar Club and Rural Youth on a whole. It started off slowly while the country was dealing with COVID-19 restrictions. We were lucky enough to hold our 2020/2021 AGM in person off the back of many Zoom meetings.

The club was led for a second year by President Harrison Chugg, Secretary Emily Nixon and Treasurer Josh Mison, who welcomed Patrick Rosevear into his first office bearers' role as Vice President.

Along with many other clubs, our calendar was quite empty for the second half of the year with our two main community events being cancelled. Scottsdale Show first off the list, being followed closely by the cancellation of Exeter Show. To counterbalance this, we began increasing engagement with potential members in the Dorset region who expressed interest in re-establishing the club.

We may not have been at our regular events, but it has given us the opportunity to investigate and take on new adventures as a club. We had club cattle tags made, held an Easter egg guessing competition, again participated in the 50k's in May and donated 15 handbags filled with sanitary and hygiene products for Share the Dignity Drive.

Across the year we got right into the club spirit and visited many other clubs for their meetings and to support them at a range of events. A highlight for the club was partnering with Oatlands Rural Youth Club to hold a ute competition and dog high jump at Campbell Town Show, it was a super successful day and showed the true spirit of Rural Youth with plenty of members out in support from clubs across the state.

These events are a testimony to what the Tamar club has turned into after restarting in 2017 with only a handful of members to have now quintupled our numbers four years later. Agfest emphasised this as we had a great number of these members volunteer, with three having coordinator roles, two with assistant roles and nine general volunteers, these numbers made up more than half our club.

Over the year we have been lucky to have plenty of club dinners locally and two of these were on the road and held in the Northeast. One at the Bridport Hotel and the other at Lords Hotel, Scottsdale. While others were taco nights and potluck dinners at members houses, that often include way too much food, lots of games, plenty of singing and dancing.

The highlight of our year would have to be the Rural Youth State Ball where some of our members were recognised for their time and dedication to the club and Rural Youth. Emily Nixon was awarded the opportunity to attend the Marcus

Oldham Rural Leadership Program and Josh Mison was awarded Most Outstanding Member in recognition of his contribution to Rural Youth Tasmania throughout 2020.

The most precious moment of the night was Tamar being awarded the Top Club in recognition of its achievements as a club throughout 2020. A massive effort for a club that has only been back up and running since late 2017! Overall, we were so humbled and proud to have our hard working members recognised.

Moving into the next 12 months we have a new set of office bearers taking the reins and leading the club into 2021/2022. With Josh Mison taking on the role of club President, Charli Stone will be the trusty assistant as Vice President, Emily Nixon will be supporting the club in all things secretarial, and Kashmir Taylor will be handling the club finances as Treasurer. Scottsdale and Exeter Show have been locked into our Dog High Jump calendar, so we have a busy year ahead of us and we can't wait to make this year, one for the history books.

TAMAR RURAL YOUTH



On 24 October 2020, six of our members volunteered to cook the BBQ for everyone who participated in the Walk for Breast Cancer along White Beach.

The Lions Club of Tasman did such an amazing job hosting the event and we are very thankful to be involved in an event for such a special cause! Our Club thought that we had the BEST Christmas photo with our President, Tyson McKean, dressing up as Santa and jumping on the tractor to pose for the picture, as well as ALL our club dressed in their club clothing, a Christmas tree made from tyres with a traffic cone on top for the star and three doggies as club mascots. We unfortunately didn't win in 2020 but a fun afternoon had by all our club and we look forward to taking home the winning prize for 2021 Club Christmas Photo!

On 9 January 2021 Tasman Rural Youth took the day off to play paintball at Redbanks. We let off a bit of steam on each other and built on our teamwork skills as the objectives were team based. Everybody had an awesome time and thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

On 27 February a few of our members made the trek up to the Thai Imperial at Latrobe for the Rural Youth State Ball. Although at that stage we didn't know many people we felt very welcome and had such a great time and the buffet was amazing! It was a great event which I'm sure we all look forward to again next year. We all had an absolute blast dancing and singing the night away!

Members from our Club participated in Agfest this year for the first time. We absolutely loved the time we spent at Quercus Park and hope to have more involvement moving forward.

Another opportunity our members had this past year was to gain our boat licence, organised by Maddy, run by David Arnott and subsidised by the training grants from Rural Youth! The members who attended learnt everything from how a sacrificial anode stops rust to what different coloured lights mean. To wrap the course up we took the helm, putting our knowledge to the test by taking his boat for a spin around the bay.

Our club has participated in the Annual Clean Up Australia Day for the second year in a row. The first year we went to White Beach which is a frequently used beach all year round, especially during summer when we have a lot of visitors down in the Tasman area. We found HEAPS of rubbish such as plastics, bottles, rope, glass, clothing, wood, carpet, you name it, it was there! We didn't really find a lot on the beach itself but in the bushes that separate the beach from the road. This year we did a clean-up at Sloping Main Beach in Saltwater River; this beach isn't as common as White Beach but still gets used all year round. We found similar items as what we did at White Beach

but nowhere near as much in quantity. For both clean ups we had glorious winter days and our club had a ball picking up rubbish, sounds strange but it's true!

Tasman Rural Youth has now got a new Club sign at Dunalley, in a highly visible place – it is noticeable to all traffic entering the Tasman Peninsula. Thanks to Bangor Vineyard for allowing us to put the sign on their property and Tasman Council for erecting it.

As a club we all know how hard our Vice President Maddy works, so it was great to see all her hard work pay off when she was awarded with the Rural Youth Scholarship for 2021. It is a \$1000 scholarship for helping with costs associated with any TAFE or tertiary education course and Maddy will be utilising it to complete her Bachelor Degree in Nursing.

We have recently bought a brand new BBQ with the help of a club grant and were able to test out the new BBQ at the Port Arthur Makers Market and we sold out. The market was buzzing with locals and people visiting the site. The Port Arthur Makers Market was a great event for us because we were invited by Port Arthur Historic Site Management Authority to work alongside a range of stalls full of local produce. Our club had a fantastic day out in the community.

We have organised our first raffle ever to raise funds for our club. It was a huge process to send out all of the donation letters and chase them all up, but it was worth it for our prizes. We have 12 prizes in total ranging from \$50-\$290 in value from local businesses who are keen to support us. We also got a \$500 sponsorship from Tassal Operations (as well as 4 x prizes to put in our raffle), \$500 donation to the club from Port Arthur Motor Inn and \$100 donation for the club from Leighvale Farm. We are so appreciative of our community donating in the tough times of COVID-19 and without their support we wouldn't have such a successful club.

Last but not least, there is another Bush Doof happening this year, so keep 25 September 2021 free, more details to follow!!

TASMAN RURAL YOUTH





FINANCIALS

We are extremely grateful for the financial assistance received from the Tasmanian Government this year.

INCOME	2019-20	2020-21
Rural Youth	\$14,197	\$23,041
Agfest	\$138,590	\$930,863
Property Management	\$54,692	\$56,645
Sponsorship	\$96,236	\$206,600
Gov't Funding (incl COVID subsidies)	\$264,494	\$501,073
TOTAL INCOME	\$568,209	\$1,718,222

EXPENDITURE	2019-20	2020-21
Administration	\$628,736	\$623,903
Membership	\$49,998	\$40,359
Property Expenses	\$293,441	\$278,231
Agfest Expenses	\$120,597	\$583,535
Donations	\$729	\$7,549
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	\$1,093,501	\$1,533,577

NET SURPLUS/DEFICIT	-\$525,292	\$184,645
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Given the situation we faced at the beginning of this financial year, we are extremely pleased with the end of year result. We do however acknowledge that the outcome would have been very different without the \$300k grant received from the Tasmanian Government, for which we are very grateful.

Income and expenditure increased proportionally as we were able to return Agfest to the paddock, albeit a somewhat pared down event, with capped numbers and restrictions in place. Operating costs increased, which was to be expected. Additional spending in cleaning, security and media was needed to ensure we were able to deliver our event COVID safety plan.

Whilst looking at ways to reduce our costs elsewhere, we kept working towards our strategic goals. This included finalising several capital projects that were already underway; completion of the accommodation and ablution blocks, as well as installation

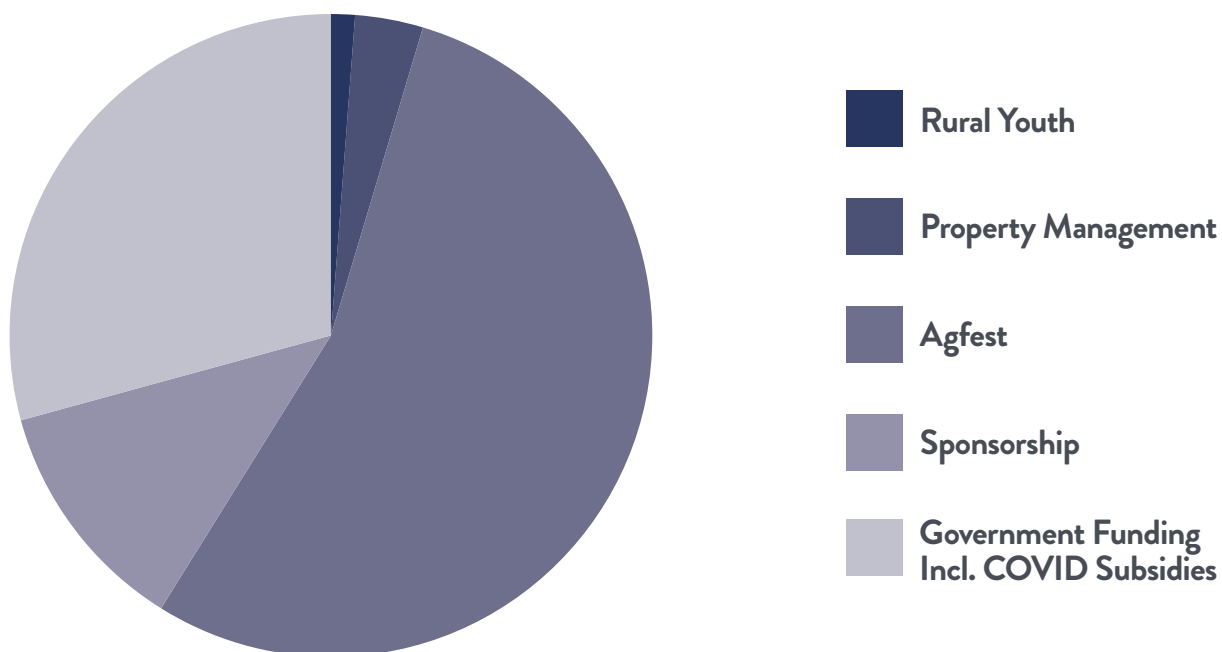
of the AV system in the Function Centre. Funding the completion of these projects was essential in order to start generating income from these areas.

We continue to maintain a strong balance sheet position, which will be further strengthened as new valuations of both properties are completed in the coming months.

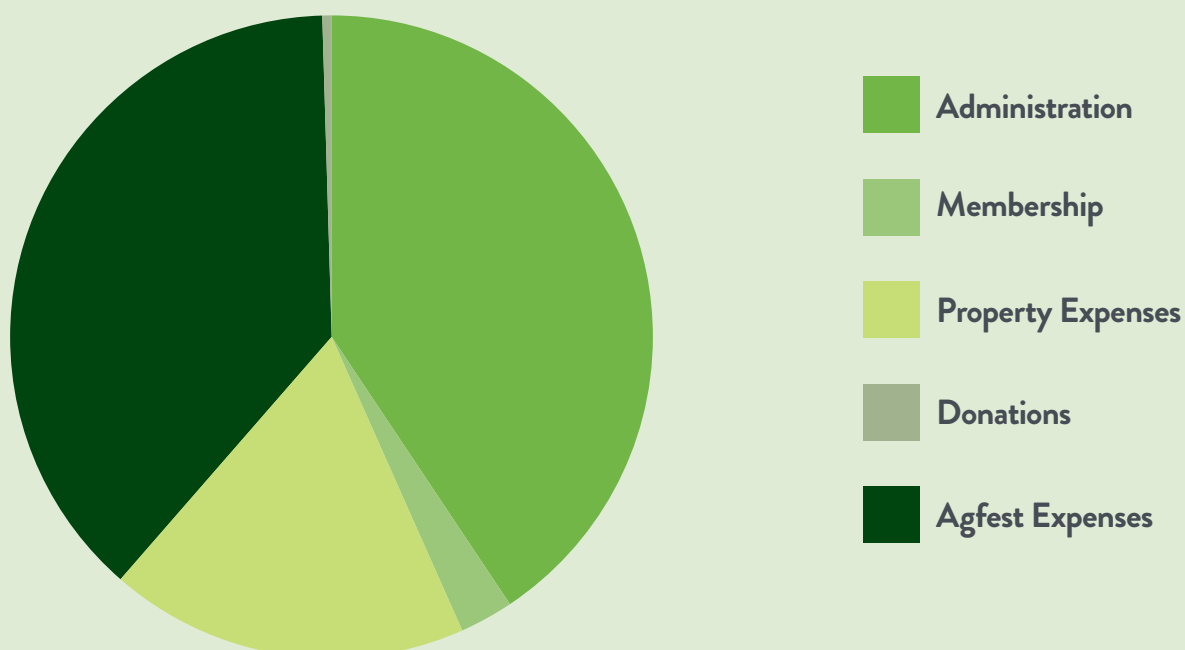
It is important to note that Agfest will not remain viable should restricted numbers remain at 2021 levels, therefore we will be seeking an increase in patron numbers to 15,000, not including exhibitors, volunteers, and event staff, for the 2022 event.

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

SOURCE OF INCOME 2020-21



AREAS OF EXPENDITURE 2020-21



RURAL BUSINESS TASMANIA

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

Rural Business Tasmania is proactively shaping a prosperous future for rural and regional Tasmania through the provision of professional services and educational arms.

We have continued with our training programs this year which have an emphasis on youth. Our key programs in this space are:

- **Cadetship** program is a Tasmanian State Government funded project aiming to create a link between the current formal school learning packages and the practical learning through apprenticeships/traineeships established with existing primary producers in Tasmania.
- **Cultivating literacy in Agriculture:** The Cultivating Rural Excellence Program is focused on empowering our farmers and those working in the agricultural sector, to be the best they can be.

Rural Business Tasmania's key objective is to help farming families, small regional businesses, and the rural community manage the ever-evolving demands and challenges facing primary and regional business and 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 provides qualified rural financial counsellors.
- Our programs have expanded to support regional small business through the **Small Business Financial Counselling Service** to understand their financial position, identify options and implement plans to improve their viability and build resilience for future prosperity.
- Our **Rural Relief Fund** enables us to provide household emergency welfare grants of up to \$2500 per household and distribute IGA shopping vouchers to those doing it tough.
- **Forestry Contractors Resilience Program** - Tasmania's forestry contractors can now apply for funding to improve their business practices under the \$500,000 Forestry Contractor Resilience Program.
- **Healthier, Safer and Productive Workplaces** - In January 2020, Rural Business Tasmania, in TWiA (Tasmanian Women in Agriculture) were given a Tasmanian Government Grant to review existing bullying and harassment resources and initiatives nationally and to develop practical guidance tools specifically focused on rural workplaces to prevent, respond and reduce the harm sexual harassment and other forms of bullying and harassment have on rural workers.

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 members have risen to the COVID-19 challenge by supporting each other through collaboration for the best outcomes for Tasmanian residents.

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

MICHAL FRYDRYCH

Chairman



SPONSORS

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

MEDIA



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SUPPORTERS





RURAL YOUTH OFFICE

A. 62 York Street Launceston,
TAS 7250

M. PO Box 322 Launceston,
TAS 7250

P. (03) 6331 6154

E. admin@ruralityouth.com.au

W. ruralityouth.com.au

