



Rural Youth Organisation of Tasmania Inc

Annual Report 2016



Contents

Contents	1
Rural Youth Positions	3
Financial Report	5
REPORTS	18
State President	18
General Manager	19
Agfest	21
Resource Allocation Committee	23
Agriculture	24
Competitions	26
Events	27
Graeme Tole Award	27
Feature Tent	28
Membership	29
Marketing	31
Sponsorship	32
State Finance	33
Study Tours	34
Young Farmer	36
CLUB & REGION REPORTS	41
Central Highlands	41
Devonport	43
Dorset	44
Hagley	45
Kingborough Huon	46
North Motton	48
Oatlands	49
Sorell	51
Tamar	53
Western Tiers	54
Westmorland	55
Southern Region	56

Northern Region	57
North West Region.....	58
OTHER REPORTS Tasmanian Rural Youth Past Members Association.....	59
Rural Business Tasmania.....	61



Rural Youth Positions

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

State President	Mrs Ashley Evans
Senior Vice President	Mr Ricky Edson
Junior Vice President	Miss Kathryn Cenin
Immediate Past President	Miss Emma Rayner

Life Members

Mr H.R. Reynolds (dec.)	Mrs Carol Axton (North Motton)
Mr T.B. Stancombe - dec	Mr John Dent (Hagley)
Mr Don Walker (Hagley)	Mr Noel Beven (Sorell)
Mr C.A. Holland - dec	Mr Wesley Hazell (Kingborough-Huon)
Mr Darryl Barker (West Pine)	Mr Chris Williams (North Motton)
Mr D. Bennett -dec	Mrs Sharon (Wing) Symons (West Tamar)
Mr Henry Burbury (Oatlands)	Mr Peter Gladwell (Sisters Creek)
Mr E.C. Mackay - dec	Mr Dale Badcock (Hagley)
Mr Keith Topfer - dec	Mr Richard Colman (Sorell)
Mr Graeme Tole – dec (Westmorland)	Ms Elizabeth Skirving (Westmorland)
Mr David Dunn (Evandale, renamed North Esk)	Mr Brett MacKenzie (Tamar)

Rural Youth Office Staff

General Manager	Karen Robinson
Finance Administrator	Linda Perkins
Office Administrator	Selena Flanagan
Administration Assistant	Paige Anderson

Rural Youth Councillors

Northern Region

Cassie Lee
 Jessica-Rose Forsyth
 Mark Griffin
 Jacqui Hodgkinson
 Jye Earnshaw
 William Craigie
 Iona Colville

North West Region

Ethan Williams
 Jake Williams
 Renee Latham
 Sarah Revell
 Mitchell Grey

Southern Region

Ebony McConnon
 Anthony Franklin
 Zoe Brown
 Rhys Mills
 Dave Lucas

Directors

Agriculture:	Mark Griffin	Will Craigie
Awards and Presentations:	Jake Williams	
Finance:	Prue Dennis	
Leadership & Training:	Vacant	
Marketing:	Kathryn Cenin	
Communications:	Cassie Lee	
Roundup:	Simone Hayers	
Rural Events:	Ashley Evans	
Safety:	Ricky Edson	
Sponsorship & Grants:	Ashley Evans	
Study Tours:	Prue Dennis	
Young Farmer:	Ashley Evans	

Financial Report

Statement of Profit or Loss

For the Year Ended 31 December 2016

	2016 \$	2015 \$
Revenue - Rural Youth		
Government funding	3,182	10,000
Interest received	10,921	13,619
Other income	2,887	2,564
Provision of services	7,005	4,301
Sponsorship	19,500	19,500
	43,495	49,984
Expenses - Rural Youth		
Administration	36,216	75,478
Awards and sponsorships	16,253	24,060
Honorariums	6,684	14,016
Member expenses	2,491	3,598
Study, education, leadership and training	18,565	13,808
Sundry expenses	12,185	17,053
	92,394	148,013
Net Result - Rural Youth	(48,899)	(98,029)

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.
Page 1

Statement of Profit or Loss

For the Year Ended 31 December 2016

	2016 \$	2015 \$
Revenue - Agfest		
Entrance fees	631,367	627,829
Government funding	-	10,500
Other income	17,228	45,833
Site fees	587,820	498,604
Sponsorship	57,082	59,800
	1,293,497	1,242,566
Expenses - Agfest		
Administration	38,129	43,177
Advertising and promotion	51,801	50,771
Conferences	473	23,460
Catering	45,776	34,337
Communication	18,879	21,935
Depreciation	8,478	9,216
Donations	5,535	7,038
Electricity and gas	10,326	16,485
Expo and demonstration costs	26,229	15,895
Honorariums	17,981	22,283
Insurance	29,182	27,730
Loading and lifting	33,513	26,388
Security	36,166	37,596
Site expenses	37,683	63,486
Sponsorship	46,059	30,406
Sundry expenses	53,274	57,879
Trade expo expenses	24,586	25,171
Traffic management	9,810	13,438
Travel and transportation costs	24,072	27,045
Waste management	63,404	63,228
	581,356	616,964
Net Result - Agfest	712,141	625,602

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.
Page 2

Statement of Profit or Loss

For the Year Ended 31 December 2016

	2016 \$	2015 \$
Revenue - Property Management		
Rent and lease income	23,692	20,066
Sundry income	25,792	58,231
	49,484	78,297
Expenses - Property Management		
Administration	42,370	61,126
Depreciation	41,970	37,920
Employment expenses	321,205	289,643
Energy	36,152	39,233
Honorariums	-	2,267
Insurance	18,387	23,031
Rates, taxes and security	17,597	17,084
Repairs, maintenance, upgrades and other equipment expenses	84,151	104,793
Sponsorship	14,922	9,253
Sundry expenses	7,454	12,646
	584,208	596,996
Net Result - Property Management	(534,724)	(518,699)
NET SURPLUS	128,518	8,874

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.
Page 3

Statement of Financial Position

As at 31 December 2016

	Note	2016 \$	2015 \$
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	2	504,312	444,235
Trade and other receivables	3	10,169	15,286
Inventories		8,710	6,471
Prepayments		17,309	16,311
Total Current Assets		540,500	482,303
Non-Current Assets			
Property, plant and equipment	4	1,747,069	1,661,847
Total Non-Current Assets		1,747,069	1,661,847
TOTAL ASSETS		2,287,569	2,144,150
LIABILITIES			
Current Liabilities			
Trade and other payables	5	42,311	40,838
Provisions	6	32,714	26,107
Grants received in advance		16,818	10,000
Total Current Liabilities		91,843	76,945
TOTAL LIABILITIES		91,843	76,945
NET ASSETS		2,195,726	2,067,205
EQUITY			
Reserves	7	314,016	314,016
Accumulated funds		1,881,709	1,753,191
TOTAL EQUITY		2,195,725	2,067,207

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Page 4

Statement of Cash Flows

For the Year Ended 31 December 2016

	Note	2016 \$	2015 \$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:			
Receipts from customers and members		1,377,490	1,331,173
Payments to suppliers		(888,068)	(1,022,210)
Interest received		10,921	13,619
Payments to employees		(314,598)	(309,017)
Receipt from grants		10,000	30,500
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities		<u>195,745</u>	<u>44,065</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:			
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		<u>(135,669)</u>	<u>(38,305)</u>
Net cash used by investing activities		<u>(135,669)</u>	<u>(38,305)</u>
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents held		60,076	5,760
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year		<u>444,235</u>	<u>438,476</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year	2	<u><u>504,311</u></u>	<u><u>444,236</u></u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Page 5

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 31 December 2016

1 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

(a) Basis of Preparation

This financial report is a special purpose financial statements prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act (TAS) 1964. The committee has determined that the not-for-profit Association is not a reporting entity.

The financial report has been prepared on an accruals and is based on historic costs and does not take into account changing money values or, except where specifically stated, current valuations of non-current assets.

The following significant accounting policies, which are consistent with the previous period unless otherwise stated, have been adopted in the preparation of this financial report.

(b) Income Tax

The Association is exempt from income tax under Division 50 of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997.

(c) Revenue and other income

Revenue is recognised when the amount of the revenue can be measured reliably, it is probable that economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the entity and specific criteria relating to the type of revenue as noted below, has been satisfied.

Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable and is presented net of returns, discounts and rebates.

All revenue is stated net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST).

Grant revenue is recognised in the statement of profit or loss when the entity obtains control of the grant, it is probable that the economic benefits gained from the grant will flow to the entity and the amount of the grant can be measured reliably. When grant revenue is received whereby the entity incurs an obligation to deliver economic value directly back to the contributor, this is considered a reciprocal transaction and the grant revenue is recognised in the statement of financial position as a liability until the service has been delivered to the contributor, otherwise the grant is recognised as income on receipt.

(d) Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Tax Office. In these circumstances, the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of an item of the expense. Receivables and payables in the statement of financial position are shown inclusive of GST.

(e) Inventories

Inventories are measured at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Cost of inventory is determined using the first-in-first-out basis and is net of any rebates and discounts received.

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Page 6

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 31 December 2016

1 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

(f) Property, Plant and Equipment

Land is measured at fair value. Improvements made to the land subsequent to the valuation are carried at cost less accumulated depreciation.

The carrying amount of property, plant and equipment is reviewed annually by the Organisation to ensure it is not in excess of the recoverable amount for those assets.

Depreciation

The depreciable amount of all property, plant and equipment, excluding the York Street building is depreciated over the useful lives of the assets to the Association commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use. Depreciation rates on other assets is as follows:

Buildings	2.5%
Plant and equipment	20% - 50%

(g) Employee benefits

Provision is made for the Association's liability for employee benefits arising from services rendered by employees to the end of the reporting period. Employee benefits have been measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liability is settled. Long service leave is accrued in respect of employees with more than 7 years service.

2 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash on hand	300	300
Cash at bank	14,831	17,078
CBA business online saver	281,337	223,028
CBA term deposit	28,355	27,702
NAB special investment account	183,835	178,785
Credit card	(4,346)	(2,658)
	504,312	444,235

3 Trade and other receivables

Trade debtors	2,867	8,027
Accrued income	337	429
GST receivable	6,965	6,830
	10,169	15,286

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Page 7

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 31 December 2016

	2016 \$	2015 \$
4 Property, plant and equipment		
Land and Buildings		
York Street Property - at independent valuation (1999)	225,000	225,000
Meeting Hall and Sheds - at cost	857,603	805,705
Quercus property - at independent valuation (1995)	450,000	450,000
Land adjoining Quercus property - at cost	31,500	31,500
Less: accumulated depreciation	(306,231)	(285,649)
	1,257,872	1,226,556
Furniture and equipment		
At cost	196,059	244,779
Less: accumulated depreciation	(172,185)	(209,783)
	23,874	34,996
Other assets		
At cost	572,640	494,266
Less: accumulated depreciation	(107,317)	(93,970)
	465,323	400,296
Total property, plant and equipment	1,747,069	1,661,848

The Quercus and York Street properties were independently valued in November 1995 and November 1999 respectively. The basis of the valuation of the land and improvements was market value for mortgage security purposes. The valuation was carried out by Andrew Cubbins F.V.L.E. (Val) Dip. Val., a registered valuer for Harrison Humphreys Pty Ltd.

Movements in Carrying Amounts

Movement in the carrying amounts for each class of property, plant and equipment between the beginning and the end of the current financial year:

	Land and Buildings \$	Furniture and equipment \$	Other Assets \$	Total \$
Year ended 31 December 2016				
Balance at the beginning of year	1,226,556	34,996	400,296	1,661,848
Additions	51,898	7,599	78,374	137,871
Depreciation expense	(20,582)	(18,721)	(13,347)	(52,650)
Balance at the end of the year	1,257,872	23,874	465,323	1,747,069

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Page 8

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 31 December 2016

	2016 \$	2015 \$
5 Trade and other payables		
Accrued wages	4,753	3,462
Other payables	132	-
Bonds and trust funds held	10,452	11,830
Superannuation payable	3,166	3,998
PAYG payable	4,298	6,097
Trade creditors	19,511	15,450
	42,312	40,837
6 Employee Benefits		
Provision for annual leave	15,748	10,008
Provision for time in lieu	2,580	3,289
Provision for long service leave	14,386	12,810
	32,714	26,107
7 Reserves		
Revaluation reserve		
Revaluation - Quercus 1995	304,973	304,973
Revaluation - York Street 1999	9,043	9,043
	314,016	314,016
8 Members' Guarantee		

The Association is incorporated under the *Associations Incorporation Act (Tasmania) 1964* and members' liability is limited by guarantee. If the Association is wound up, the constitution states that each member is required to contribute a maximum of \$ 2 each towards meeting any outstandings and obligations of the Association. At 31 December 2016 the number of members was 252 (2015 - 164).

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.
Page 9

Statement by Members of the Committee

The committee has determined that the Association is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the financial statements.

In the opinion of the committee the financial report as set out on pages 1 to 9:

1. Presents fairly the financial position of Rural Youth Organisation of Tasmania Inc as at 31 December 2016 and its performance for the year ended on that date.
2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that Rural Youth Organisation of Tasmania Inc will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the committee and is signed for and on behalf of the committee by:

State President.....
Ashley Evans

Finance Administrator
Linda Perkins

Dated

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.
Page 10

Independent Auditor's Report

To the Members of Rural Youth Organisation of Tasmania Inc

Report on the Audit of the Financial Report

We have audited the financial report, being a special purpose financial report of Rural Youth Organisation of Tasmania Inc (the Association), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2016, the statement of profit or loss and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and the committee declaration.

Opinion

In our opinion:

- (a) the accompanying financial report presents fairly, in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements, the financial position of Rural Youth Organisation of Tasmania Inc as at 31 December 2016, and its financial performance for the year then ended;
- (b) we obtained the information we required for the audit and Rural Youth Organisation of Tasmania Inc kept proper accounting records and other books during the year ended 31 December 2016; and
- (c) the rules relating to the administration of the funds of Rural Youth Organisation of Tasmania Inc have been observed.

Basis of Accounting

Without modifying our opinion, we draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling the committee's financial reporting responsibilities under the *Associations Incorporation Act (Tasmania) 1964* ("the Act"). As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of our report. We are independent of the Association in accordance with the auditor independence requirements of the Act and the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

Synectic Audit & Assurance Pty Ltd

ABN 30 146 220 215 | Authorised Audit Company 385720
 info@synecticgroup.com.au | www.synecticgroup.com.au
 Postal PO. Box 6003, Devonport TAS 7310 | Phone 03 6424 1451
 49 Best St, Devonport | Suite B, First Floor, 99-103 George St, Launceston | Level 3, Shop 34, Trafalgar Building, 110 Collins St, Hobart

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.
 Page 11



We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Responsibilities of the Committee for the Financial Report

The committee of the Association are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 and the Act and for such internal control as the committee determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the committee are responsible for assessing the Association's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the committee either intend to liquidate the Association or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Association's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the committee.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Association's ability to continue as a going concern.

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Page 12




- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the committee regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

We also provide the committee with a statement that we have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence, and to communicate with them all relationships and other matters that may reasonably be thought to bear on our independence, and where applicable, related safeguards.


Synectic Audit & Assurance Pty Ltd


Benjamin Coul
Director

Date: 2 February 2017

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.
Page 13

REPORTS

State President

There are some exciting times ahead for Rural Youth as the organisation takes on new challenges and opportunities. The past six months as State President have been a whirlwind of ups and downs but the rollercoaster that was this experience has been fantastic. Between receiving the congratulatory email and writing this I have had the privilege of working with a motivated and passionate group of people who have made the job easier and enjoyable. Thank-you to everyone who devoted his or her time to Rural Youth, and in particular I would like to thank State Council and the lovely ladies in the office for all their hard work.

Our achievements since July are something to be proud of. We have come together to form a clear direction for the organisation with the development of our strategic plan. From this we have our vision to work towards and our values to underpin the decisions we make.



Vision: To connect, develop and celebrate young Tasmanians.

Values: Friendships & relationships, training & education, and support & encouragement.

In addition to the great opportunities Rural Youth members already enjoy (and deliver!) we have added two more mainstays to the portfolio. In 2017 we will launch the Young Agricultural Professionals Network with the support of Tasmanian Women in Agriculture. This initiative will provide young people working or interested in agriculture a network of support and encouragement to develop their professional and personal skills. We will also be taking on Discover Agriculture, a great program that takes up to twenty-five Year 9-12 students for a week-long camp showcasing the many opportunities agriculture has to offer.

We also have big plans in the pipeline for Quercus. By making the site a top-quality choice for a wide variety of hirers we can ensure its long-term viability throughout the entire year. Keep your eyes peeled for developments.

Like many organisations, we didn't come through the year completely unscathed. Meeting the ever-demanding regulation requirements has caused some conflict among past and present members. At the end of the day we can't control what legal obligations we have, none of which we are above but what we can control is how we react to them. Thankfully, we are proceeding in the correct and mature way. As an organisation, we voted to make compliance and safety a strategic priority.

I am looking forward to seeing what Rural Youth can achieve in the next twelve months and beyond. As an organisation, we are a group of passionate and determined young people who have the ability to make a big difference in Tasmania. This is something we should all be proud of.

Ashley Evans

State President July 2016 – February 2017

General Manager

I opened my 2015 report with the words Change and Challenge – in 2016 I am pleased to be able to add the word Progress. The challenges and need for change still exist but definite progress is being made.

We have had some changes in both staff and leadership this year, some expected and others somewhat of a surprise! I am pleased to report that after a couple of false starts our team is settled and they are doing a fantastic job. Much of the work they do goes unseen and unsung (it certainly doesn't appear on any position description), they regularly go above and beyond for the benefit of members and the organisation. After increased work commitments made it impossible for Emma Rayner to continue as State President Ashley Evans was elected to the role in late July, she has worked incredibly hard and has done an amazing job, it is exciting and gratifying to see results for her efforts and leadership starting to follow.

Members have spent a significant amount of time considering the future of the organisation this year, specifically with regard to the future use of Quercus, alternate income streams and the overall direction of Rural Youth in the short to medium term. This has resulted in the purchase of an ablutions block, conversations with other community groups and events who may be interested in strategic partnerships and the use of our site, and most recently developing and releasing a draft strategic plan for the 2017 – 2019 period for comment and consideration. Subject to acceptance and endorsement at our 2017 AGM this plan will form the blueprint for our focus over the coming two years and will provide the basis for setting longer term goals.

Clubs and membership have been a talking point for the majority of the year, again some have thrived whilst others have struggled. Our membership has risen considerably this year (246 as at late December 2016 – compared to 164 at the corresponding time in 2015), however we are yet to come up with an overall solution as to how to best support clubs. This is an ongoing discussion and one that will no doubt continue to dominate in 2017.

Agfest was named as a Finalist in this year's Launceston Chamber of Commerce Business Excellence Awards in the Outstanding Event category, whilst we did not win it was wonderful that our event gained this recognition. The Committee continue to strive to improve the event for patrons, exhibitors and sponsors alike.

Compliance continues to be a focus for the organisation with significant financial and practical resources invested ensuring we meet our legislative and moral obligations. This can sometimes be a source of frustration; however, it is a reflection of the environment and world in which we operate, we are unable to claim immunity and we do not seek it.

There is much to look forward to in 2017. March will see the formal launch of our Young Agricultural Professionals Network (YAPN). This is a cobranded initiative with Tasmanian Women in Agriculture, initially it will be a statewide club which will be focused on providing support and information to those working in the Agriculture sector through discussion, forums and training opportunities. We also hope it will act as a portal and give industry a direct link to our members which will be mutually beneficial. Throughout the planning stage, industry representatives we have spoken to have indicated that they would like to be involved by providing speakers and information on topics and issues of interest, this

will not only be a knowledge builder it will also increase our member's networks. We are very excited about the future and potential for this group.

Our Young Farmer Competition will be opened to non-members in 2017 and in August we will co facilitate and deliver the Discover Agriculture programme to interested Years 9 -12 both of which are aimed at benefiting young people in the wider community and raising our profile and that of the industry in general.

Thank you to all who have supported both myself and the organisation throughout this year, there are too many of you to list individually, however rest assured your efforts are noticed and appreciated, we would achieve little without you. I would also like to acknowledge the members for the time and energy they continually give to Rural Youth to assist and improve the organisation for all, (I know it can seem like a difficult and somewhat thankless task at times), however you keep going and giving regardless – thank you - you make it all worthwhile!

Overall, I think we can rate 2016 as a productive year, however I am looking forward to 2017, although there is still much to be done, I believe this is when we will really start to reap the benefit of our hard work to date and build a stronger future.

Karen Robinson

General Manager



Agfest

Together we have hosted a brilliant 2016 Agfest event, from the get go there was passion, motivation, and enthusiasm in the planning of the upcoming event.

Well done team Agfest 2016!

Thank you to each of you for being part of the success of Agfest 2016 – with many challenges and work to achieve we managed to pull together and deliver to 58,285 patrons what has been reported as a great event, well-structured and interesting by many.

So to each of the 126 volunteers, 5 admin team, 765 exhibitors, and 58,285 patrons, thank you for trusting in the vision of our event to work together to achieve the true indicator of what team work can achieve when we determine a common goal, set our mind to the task and deliver with passion.

During the lead in and run time of the event, there were three quotes used many times! These were and with explanation in case we ever forget their meaning to us;

HAVE A GO – If you have the passion and desire to achieve ask yourself what is stopping you, reflect on that barrier and see if you are still willing to not go for whatever it is you want to achieve... 9 times out of 10 you will put yourself forward and succeed, the only thing letting you down is your mind... challenge it.

WE GOT THIS – used when we least “have this” but a light-hearted method, maybe even polite way of panicking, but this comment works for me and has pulled us through many testing challenges in the past 12 months.

OWN IT – our organisation needs to get to a stage of our members making an informed decision and owning it, follow it through whatever the outcome, live it, breathe it and stand by what you believe was the best for the organisation with the information provided or researched. When I say own it I mean, stand on your own two feet, put your opinion in the mix and step up and become a voice. The organisation requires your voice to ensure relevance, continuity and a future.

With 126 Rural Youth Volunteers and a team of 5 admin staff we serviced 765 exhibitors, which beat our 2014 record by 1.

In the 12 months leading into the 2016 event there were some major developments;

- The re-introduction of the Equine Expo feature including the revamp of the Equine Arena.
- Earthworks to remove the Ag Demo area and merge into Static Sites including power upgrades.
- Extensive road works due to the heavy rains during February 2016.
- Our sponsorship relations with the revitalised prospectus and benefits of being an Agfest Field Days Sponsor.
- Our brand and marketing, the launch of our *Growing Rural Tasmania* theme, the creative design behind our new look, demonstrating that rural isn't restricted to life on farm, rural

reaches out to each and every one of us whether it is means of work, lifestyle, interest or livelihood, we are all touched by the rural industry in some way of our life.

- Our Rural Youth Clubs and Regions selling our Agfest tickets for fundraising, supporting Clubs and Regions to achieve their goals.
- Roberts Ltd selling our tickets in their town & country stores state-wide and the establishment of the Rural Ag Scholarship for young Tasmanian's incurring costs to attend training or education in the rural sector to apply for funding to assist in their life goal. This was developed by Agfest and Roberts Ltd donating \$1 from every ticket sold at Roberts Town & Country stores forming the scholarship fund.

We received some really positive feedback from those in attendance at the annual Exhibitors meeting, of;

The official opening and exhibitors breakfast was received really well by many exhibitors; this is supported to return in 2017.

There was praise on the applications being listened to and special requests being met within the process of allocation, the school program return was highly spoke about and congratulations passed onto Ashley for the exceptional work she invested in this initiative. Our traffic management system was highly commended, the Navy Band wants to return to 2017 in similar or greater capacity to do so, maybe the official opening and volunteers function may be a good opportunity. Some suggestions received in communication and information provided to exhibitors, as well as the criteria we use when allocating sites.

The bobcat driver on the woodchip works was commended for the great work they did, whoever this was from our volunteer base, massive pat on the back and well done!

There was feedback in that Coles supermarket site was missed and potentially we may be able to look at options in an outdoor picnic area in the craft U shape or develop the one adjacent to the Unique Taste building.

In closing, I wish to thank the volunteer base behind Agfest 2016, including the Rural Youth members, administrative team, contractors and community groups. The 2016 Agfest Committee, and the 2016 Agfest Executive Committee consisting of Amanda Bayles, Ricky Edson, Tracey Badcock, Dayna Broun, Chenae Simpson, Derryn Badcock, Prue Dennis/Emma Rayner (State President), Ebony McConnon, Simone Hayers, and Bree House. As well as all our sponsors, exhibitors and patrons than enable us to continue hosting Tasmania's premier Field Day.

Kate Coad

Agfest Chairman 2016



Resource Allocation Committee

The past year has seen the Resource Allocation Committee achieve some goals and make progress towards reaching others.

Events of the previous two years led to RAC's taking more of a lead role in the organisation for a variety of reasons, however by the end of 2016 many of the tasks we had undertaken have been completed, staffing settled and Rural Youth Council are well placed to oversee the organisation.

The Property Management Committee remained in recess and a Working Bee Coordinator was appointed to work in conjunction with Max, our Caretaker and members to maintain the site. Will Craigie took on this responsibility and did a great job, particularly given it was a new role. This year has been a valuable learning experience and we envisage this role will be more effective in the coming years as we make the necessary adjustments. It is important that members support these working bees as they do not only assist with maintaining our assets it is also a valuable training opportunity.

We have continued to engage professionals and build information files as appropriate throughout the year. Unfortunately, the power outages caused by the floods in June did irreparable damage to the Fire Pump system – which led to another insurance claim. At the time of writing a new system is about to be installed using an electric pump set and a diesel motor, which should prevent this happening again regardless of the circumstances.

Members also purchased an ablutions block in August from the Pontville Detention Centre. It is now on site, however due to some ongoing issues with permits we have been unable to install it to date. These are currently being worked through and we will have this in place as soon as possible.

We have also spent considerable time talking to likeminded community groups who may be interested in using our facilities at Quercus Park and helping us to develop them further. This strategy forms part of our long term strategic plan for the site, to date it has not gained any formal commitments, however the discussions are ongoing.

Agfest set a record for exhibitor numbers this year. It was again extremely successful and a credit to Kate Birch and her Committee.

Our financial results for the year were very pleasing, particularly when we consider that we still had a lot of unbudgeted expenditure, such as the work to the Ag Demo area and the ongoing problems with the Fire Pump. Overall budgeting in 2016 improved, however we believe it will be more accurate in the future as changes are made to the process as part of the proposed restructure of the organisation.

My term as Chair and Advisory representative on RAC will come to an end at AGM in March. I would like to take this opportunity to thank those who have assisted and contributed to the work of this committee throughout these past three years. There have certainly been challenges along the way, however I believe we have made significant headway and the organisation is well placed for a bright future.

Paul Bennett

RAC Chairman 2016

Agriculture

2016 will go down as a very memorable year, celebrating the highs and learning from the lows!

It was a calendar year that many had record breaking rainfall readings, very high yielding harvests & healthy livestock.

On the 8th July, 20 members of Rural Youth Tasmania attended a Field Day facilitated at The JBS Swift abattoir Longford & The Ashgrove Cheese Factory, Elizabeth Town.

Members had the opportunity to see the entire production line at JBS in full swing, we are very thankful to Thomas Archer for being so generous with his time to help broaden the knowledge of members in understanding JBS target markets.

The Field Day then took us to Ashgrove Cheese Factory where we were given a presentation by Ashgrove General Manager Richard Bennett about how the cheese factory had evolved over the years & where they see their product being most competitive in the market space. Members were taken for a tour of the factory and learnt about the diversification of the Ashgrove brand in milk sales. Richard spoke about how the sudden crash and retrospective payments to dairy farmers had created a 15% increase on sales for Ashgrove milk.

We very much appreciated Thomas Archer, Richard & Paul Bennett giving up their time to help further educate the next generation of Agriculture enthusiasts.

Recent record breaking Spring harvests of grain in Victoria have reduced price of grain and certainly created a nice opportunity for primary producers to include more grain in animal's diets.

In closing, I encourage all Rural Youth members to have an open mind to all Agricultural enterprises, there is so much to learn and many people from different backgrounds within the organisation to learn from.

One of Tasmania's biggest strength is its mild climate & rich abundance of untapped water. We have huge potential and must continue to strive to protect our image as a clean green state, maximise efficiency and farm in a sustainable manner.

As a whole, I think all of us in the Agricultural industry must become better teachers to encourage our colleagues to stay in the industry. Be the role model, actions will always speak louder than words and you can't measure the respect that's gained from equality within a workplace.


Continue to move forward in life, work hard, set realistic goals (individual & team), be accountable, keep a positive frame of mind & always be hungry to learn.

Surround yourself with positive people!

All the best in your future endeavours.

Mark Griffin & Will Craigie

Agriculture Directors 2016



Rural Youth Tasmania Presents:
Ashgrove Farms & JBS Swift Meats

Friday 8th July 2016



12.30, JBS Swift Meats Longford
Processing facility tour & meat classing demonstration

2pm, Ashgrove Farm, Elizabeth Town
Factory tour, cheese making master class + more.

BBQ at 5pm by Rural Youth Tasmania and Ashgrove Farms.

RSVP Monday 4th July to:
admin@ruralyouth.com.au or (03) 6331 6154

Want to know more?
www.ruralyouth.com.au
"Like us on Facebook!"



Competitions

The year 2016 brought with it the annual shooting competition, being held out at the SSAA Bracknell Range, with a good turnout of members ready to test their skills and to spectate.

Overall there are 5 categories; Best Male and Female Clay Target, Best Male and Female 22 Rifle Shoot and an Overall Winner. All winners take home sponsored prizes but the Overall Winner took home a brand-new gun safe!!

After a very competitive day, scores were very close and the blood pressures were running high to see who took out places.

Best Male 22 - Tobias TenBensel

Best Female 22 - Renee Latham

Best Male Clay Target - Mitch Beer

Best Female Clay target - Nicole Elliott

And Finally, best overall was Tobias TenBensel.

A very big thank you goes out to everyone out at Bracknell Gun Club who held the day for us and made it a successful event!

Without sponsors events like these wouldn't go ahead so thank you to Gun Sales and Service in Mowbray and Sports Hut in Launceston for your kind donations.

Thank you to everyone that helped organise and run the event.

Jake Williams

Competitions Director 2016



Events

Rural Events directorship has had a relatively quiet 2016, largely working in conjunction with the industry directors to get some events happening and engaging with community.

With 2016 being the first year of this directorship, it is hoped that from this year's experiences, 2017 can be a bigger and better year for this role and for the next director.

Kat Cenin

Rural Events Director 2016

Graeme Tole Award

Congratulations to **Amanda Bayles** for being awarded the 2016 Graeme Tole Memorial Award President Prize.

On Saturday 10th September Amanda father Rob accepted the award from Kath Tole on Amanda's behalf as she is currently on Rural Youth Exchange in the USA.

Amanda has been an active member in Rural Youth, in all areas of the organisation, not just Rural Youth but Agfest, Property Management and the Resource Allocation Committee. Amanda first joined the Westmorland Rural Youth Club in 2004 and has been active within the club ever since, holding positions such as President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. She has also been a delegate to the Longford Show Committee and also held several positions in Northern Region of Rural Youth, State Council and Agfest.

Over the years, Amanda has been a great mentor to our younger members and ensuring that organisation and the younger members have a future on both a club level and within committees.

Amanda will be representing Rural Youth, and as an ambassador for the Graeme Tole Memorial Award in July 2017, travelling to New Zealand to attend the Young Farmer Grand Final and National Conference.



Feature Tent

Rural Youth Feature tent for Agfest 2016 was a great success. We had huge number of patrons come through and we had quite a few new members join as well.

The entrance of the tent had a white fence and a plywood kelpie tied up to it to entice the patrons in. Once inside there were many photos and information sheets hanging up around the walls. In one corner, we had a fiberglass cow for the kids to dress up and take selfies with. In another corner, there was a shooting gallery where kids could use Nerf guns to attempt to knock down cards. There was also a booth set up with information about the chance to travel the world through Rural Youth exchange program. Not many people knew of this and it was a big draw card towards them signing up to Rural Youth. A few past members dropped in and were happy to see that Rural Youth is still alive and kicking.

Alex White

Feature Tent Coordinator 2016



Membership

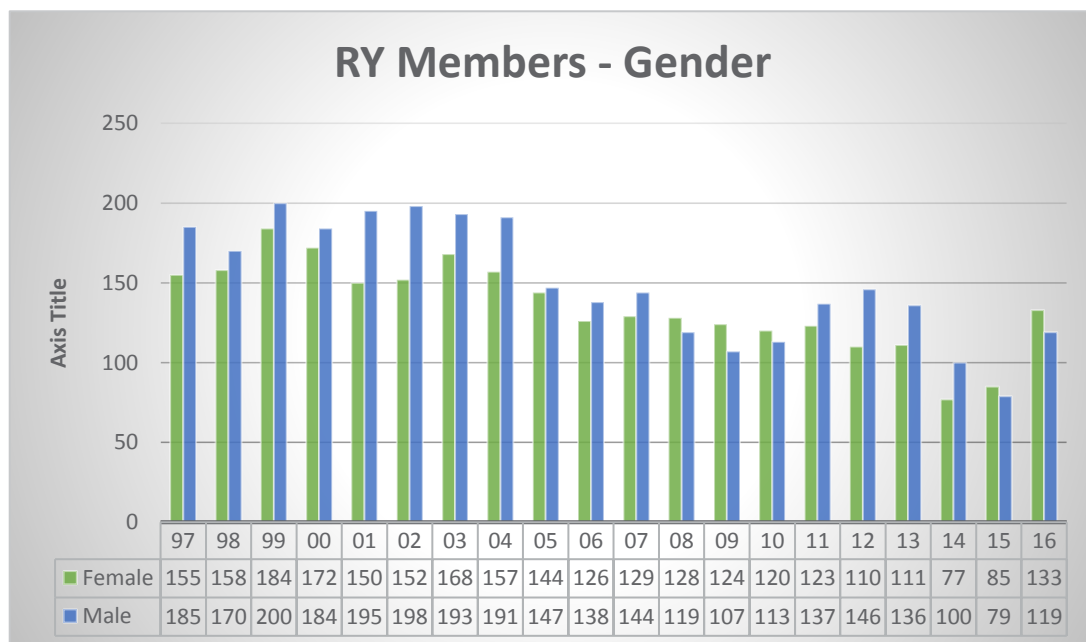
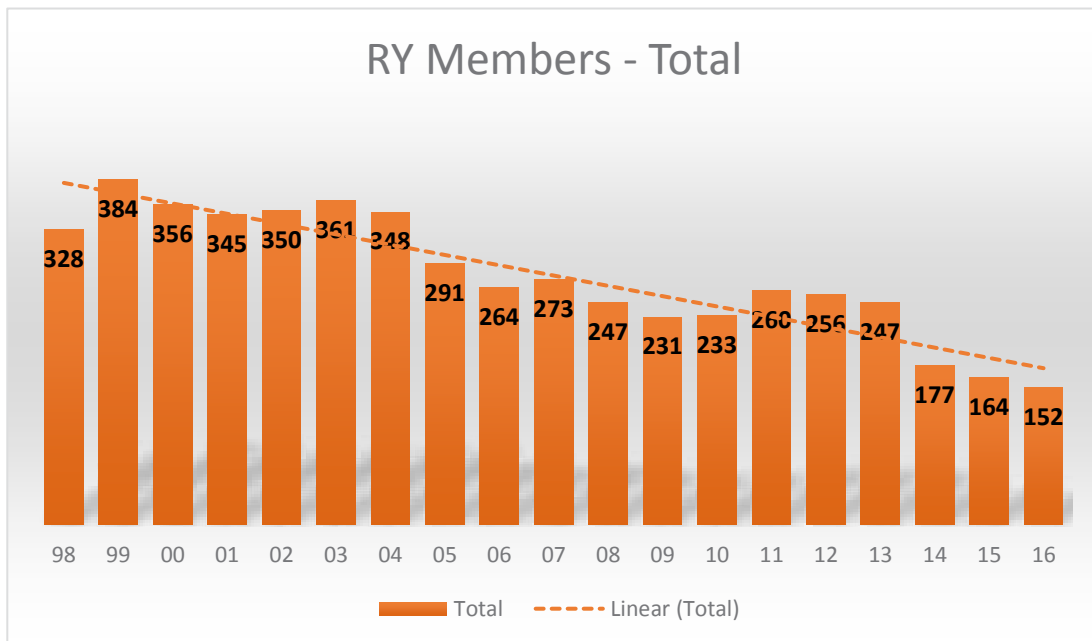
Rural Youth Organisation of Tasmania Inc

Membership Statistics

As at December 21, 2016



Club	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Brighton	33	44	16	12	9
Central Highlands			12	19	20
Circular Head	15	12	12	0	0
Devonport	15	18	11	22	22
Dorset	19	11	6	10	11
Hagley	15	14	11	5	30
Isolated Members	10	17	14	9	6
Kingborough-Huon	32	28	25	22	24
North Esk (formerly Evandale)	17	8	1	0	0
North Motton	13	15	22	14	23
Oatlands	14	9	9	12	18
Sisters Creek	8	13	10	3	2
Sorell	15	14	9	14	27
Tamar	12	2	2	4	10
Tasman	4	4	0	0	2
Western Tiers	12	10	0	4	27
Westmorland	22	28	17	14	15
Total Membership	256	247	177	164	246

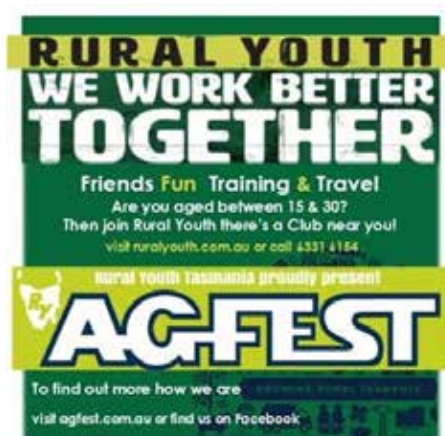


Marketing

2016 has been a year full of ups and downs. Once the role was defined, there was a flurry of work with promotion of the organisation in the media, the induction of the new President half way through the year.

There were media publications for the promotion of the membership and the organisation. Internally, there was the promotion for the strategic planning day and major other events, working with other directorships and roles to get their event out and to the members.

We wrapped up 2016 with the Tasmanian Country Rainfall chart advertisement, which was a great success, and we can be found in the top left corner of the document.



Thank you to our General Manager, Karen and our President, Ashely Evans for making the transition in to this role smooth.

Best of luck to whomever takes on this role in 2017.

Kat Cenin

Marketing and Advertising Director 2016

Sponsorship

Without the generosity of our sponsors, Rural Youth would not be able to provide the wide array of fantastic benefits that members currently enjoy. A huge thank-you to all the businesses that supported us in 2016:

- Allgoods
- Australian Boarding Schools Association
- Australian Chainsaw Products
- Betta Milk
- farmmachinerysales.com.au
- Kennedy's Welding Supplies
- Polaris
- Tasmanian Country
- Tassie Instant Marquees
- Tasweld
- Vermeer



AUSTRALIAN
BOARDING
SCHOOLS
ASSOCIATION



A new sponsorship prospectus for 2017 has been developed to showcase the great opportunities Rural Youth can provide for sponsors. This includes naming rights for big events, such as Young Farmer and Discover Agriculture, and support for exchanges and other benefits we provide. The prospectus also outlines that it is not always financial support we are seeking. Support through means such as lending equipment and/or expertise are invaluable.

We have the potential to provide sponsors with huge returns for their investment. As we continue to grow as an organisation so do the networks we develop within the community.

Ashley Evans

Sponsorship Director July 2016 – February 2017

State Finance

2016 saw a natural progression for me from State President into the State Finance Role to assist the State Council in more of a mentoring position. Having been the State President in 2015 helped me out as I had essentially been involved in setting those budgets moving forward so was aware of the financial situation of the Organisation and the need for sensible and cautious allocation and spending of finances. When the budgets were set for the 2016 year, the initial starting point meant that changes needed to be made, and that there was. Each budget line was looked at, what needed to be spent as a priority and what was simply a want, not a need. Being cautious with our budget lines paid off with our end of year result finishing stronger than initially expected.

Finishing out the last half of the year, a working group was formed to initiate 'Project 2020'. A project driven by strong, vibrant members with a vision and determined to help achieve that vision. Later in the year, the first part of this project (being the ablutions block from Pontville) was purchased, timing is always key with the purchase of such things.

Finishing up 2016, budget setting commenced for 2017. Going in with more experience on my front meant I was better prepared to support our President and assist Ashley in the budget setting process.

I have enjoyed the role immensely, initially just being able to read and understand a profit and loss statement to now being much more fluent in the reading of those important financial documents has been one of my highlights for the year.

I am excited for what 2017 holds.

Remember, talk is cheap, but dollars make more sense.

Prue Dennis

State Finance 2016

Study Tours

In 2016, I took on the task of the newly revamped Study Tours, transformed into the Exchange Program! Having been a recipient of an exchange the year prior, I decided to give back to such an exceptional program. Typical of me to take on a new task on the up year!

This year saw the organisation host 7 incoming exchange students, Rachael Branch from the United Kingdom (England), Gemma Bruce from Scotland, Emma Miller from the United Kingdom (Northern Ireland), Christa Zurcher from Switzerland, Eva Sallinger, Katharina Hallinger, and Lea Kirchweiger, all from Austria. We hosted Rachael, Gemma, Emma, Christa and Eva leading up to, over the duration and post Agfest. From all reports gained they had a whirlwind time at Agfest, despite the mud! Most of the girls were here for 5 weeks, with Eva and Gemma here for close to 3 months. Post Agfest saw the departure of Gemma, and the remaining girls going in separate directions for the interim. Rachael left the state, but not for long! She returned to attend State Ball under her own steam, she missed us all that much! Sadly, all good things must always come to an end. By mid-June these girls had gone home, followed by some downtime for us, in preparation for September, when the next 2 girls arrived from Austria! Katharina was only here for 4 weeks, with Lea being here for 3 months! Lea was lucky enough to see out our beautiful spring and lap up some of glorious summer also. Whilst Lea was here, she also got to participate in the Discover Ag program, taking her to Flinders Island, an opportunity some of us only dream of! When taking Lea to the airport on her departure she has very mixed emotions about leaving Tasmania, she had such an incredible time and had the best experience she could have asked for, she also departed with a rocking tan heading back into the Austrian Winter!

During 2016, we weren't just lucky we were also fortunate enough to be able to send some of our members on adventures! This year Babette McConnon embarked to the United Kingdom, Amanda Bayles went to America, and Phillipa Green went to Canada, rounding out our international expeditions. Jake Williams and Tobias tenBensel were fortunate enough to also say Bon Voyage and head off on the Young Endeavour. We are ever so fortunate to be able to provide such opportunities to our members, owed only to our very generous sponsors who support the exchange program year in, year out.

In tradition of building members and growing future leaders, Ebony McConnon was fortunate enough to receive her Self Nominated Travel Bursary in 2016 so she was able to partake in the AAFDA Conference in Orange, to help prepare her for her Vice Chairman role within Agfest for 2017.

In 2017, the following lucky members will be embarking on their own adventures.
Brigid Worldon – Self Nominated (Jillaroo School) and Switzerland



Tobias tenBensel – Norway
Zoe Newman – Austria
William Craigie – United Kingdom

This year at the judge's discretion, they also decided that in keeping with the theme of supporting our members, that to provide the best opportunity of personal and professional growth that it was best for Brigid to undertake her Jillaroo school first, to prepare her for the adventure that awaits in Switzerland, and to allow her to follow her dreams. We hope to offer more members opportunities like this further into the future, to allow them to grow into the best versions of themselves.

As always, we love hosting exchangees, year in, year out. However, it is not by chance that these exchanges happen. We are so very, very fortunate to have the undying support of our members, their families and our ever-valued past members. Without these generous people who open up their hearts and their homes, we would not be able to offer such incredible experiences. We look forward to who we will get to host in 2017!

Don't forget, if you are interested in undertaking an exchange, then never hesitate to ask any questions, thinking of applying next year? Brilliant! Start planning your application now. We will look forward to seeing you at the selection day.

Prue Dennis

Exchange Program Co-Ordinator 2016





Young Farmer

The 2016 Young Farmer competition kicked off on the 16th and 17th of July with Region Runoffs. Whilst quantity of competitors was low, the quality was definitely not. After slogging it out over fencing knots, chemical safety, weed identification and much more, 15 triumphant competitors rose above the crowd to make it through to the state final. Well done to all competitors for giving it a shot and to the following Rural Youth members for making it through.

Name	Club
Richard Petrie	Dorset
Rosie Forsyth	Dorset
Brighid Worlton	North Motton
Ricky Edson	Tamar
Ryan Langley	North Motton
Martin McConnon	Westmorland
Stuart Cresswell	Western Tiers
Alex White	Sorell
John Damen	Devonport
Peter Damen	North Motton
Tobias tenBensel	Kingborough-Huon
Cassie Bresnehan	Central Highlands
Jake Williams	North Motton
Ethan Williams	North Motton
Matthew Bayles	Westmorland














Saturday morning – the 10th of September. Looking good in their crisp apple green shirts the competitors assembled at Quercus ready to prove they had what it takes. Well, after a quick shirt change in the paddock where some braved it and bared all and others at least tried to hide behind car doors. With targets and ammunition waiting the competitors started their journey to Bracknell Gun Club for their first task of the day. Would the egos of seasoned hunters be shot to smithereens by a young doe?

No rest for the wicked. With the judges fuelled up after smoko and the competitors back on site the rest of the day was ready to start. Competitors were put through their paces with a mix of hands on and theory modules all focused on testing their agriculture knowledge and skills. It was also a chance to (hopefully) learn something new. From fencing and beef judging to sprayer calibration, soil management, finance and sheep handling the diversity of modules would hopefully prove a challenge.



Young Farmer Competition Finalists

		
Richard Petrie	Rosie Forsyth	Brighid Worldon
		
Ricky Edson	Ryan Langley	Martin McConnon
		
Stuart Cresswell	Alex White	John Damen
		
Peter Damen	Tobias tenBensel	Cassie Bresnehan
		
Jake Williams	Ethan Williams	Matthew Bayles

Shooting – Proudly sponsored by Tasweld & supported by Bracknell Gun Club

Judges: Matthew Page & Steve Simmons (theory developed by Royce Woodward)

After testing out their skills on the firing range with 5 shots standing and 5 shots sitting in to paper targets competitors were tested on their theoretical knowledge with a multiple choice test.

Module winner: Ricky Edson

Finance – Proudly sponsored by farmmachinerysales.com.au

Judge: Sam Dobson

Should John & Jane Doe purchase a new tractor? The task was to come up with the answer after going through the figures on a profit and loss statement.

Module winners: Jake Williams, Richard Petrie, Tobias tenBensel, Martin McConnon, Peter Damen, Stuart Cresswell and Ricky Edson

Calibration – Proudly sponsored by Midland Tractors

Judge: Richard Palmer

Working out the water and chemical rates, and the pressure, nozzle calibration and speed of the tractor was one thing, the competitors then had to put theory into practice and complete a spray run (water only).

Module winners: Richard Petrie, Martin McConnon, Peter Damen, Stuart Cresswell & Matthew Bayles

Beef judging – Proudly sponsored by the Tasmanian Murray Grey Breed Promotion Group & supported by Fire-Ro Park Murray Greys & Exeter High School

Judge: Olivia Tucker

Not only were competitors judged on their ability to judge the females on their meat and reproductive attributes, they were also judged on how well they could get their points across.

Module winners: Brigid Worlton, Tobias tenBensel, Martin McConnon & Ricky Edson

Sheep handling – proudly sponsored by Elders & supported by John Bell

Judges: Caine Evans & Chris Newson (yards constructed by Greg Harris)

There were three parts to this module. Competitors had to demonstrate how well they could handle sheep in the yards, their ability to draft sheep and sheep counting.

Module winners: Ryan Langley, Martin McConnon & Matthew Bayles

Quiz – proudly sponsored by Tassie Instant Marquees

Judge: Karen Robinson

A mix of 22 questions with some multiple choice and others not. A couple questions on labelling cuts of meat and parts of plants brought some competitors undone.

Module winner: Richard Petrie

Fencing – proudly sponsored by Allgoods

Judge: Roger Tyshing

Competitors were tasked with the job of constructing a 3-wire fence with no access to gripples. They needed to use the end and figure of eight knots.

Module winners: Ryan Langley & Martin McConnon

Safety – proudly sponsored by P.A.S.S

Judge: Anne Taylor (theory developed by Nathan Cox)

This year's safety module was theory-based, with competitors put through their paces during a questionnaire.

Module winner: Martin McConnon

Soil – proudly sponsored by Polaris

Judge: Paul Bennett

From compaction and pH to texture, structure and infiltration competitors were tasked with using practical in field tests to assess the soil.

Module winner: Stuart Cresswell

Debating – proudly sponsored by Australian Boarding School Association

Judge: Margot Kelly

Competitors were placed in teams before the final and leading up to the big day they had to work as a team to debate either for or against the two topics; tradition hinders progress or hemp is the way forward.

Module winner: Matthew Bayles



Throughout the day each competitor proved why they had made it through to the final. They not only gave it everything they had they also weren't afraid to ask for a hand if required. This impressed the judges to no end. Congratulations to everyone for not only representing yourselves well but also Rural Youth.

At the end of the day there could only be one winner. After more than 10 years competing for the title and 4 times a runner up Martin McConnon took out the 2016 Young Farmer competition with an impressive score of 80%. Martin will be representing Tasmania in the first ever 'Trans-Tasman Contest' against New Zealand's Young Farmer winner in Feilding, NZ.

Congratulations to the top six winners. Each winner shared in a prize pool of over \$23,000.

	Name	Score (%)
1	Martin McConnon	80.00
2	Matthew Bayles	72.85
3	Tobias tenBensel	72.70
4	Ryan Langley	72.05
5	Richard Petrie	71.55
6	Stuart Cresswell	70.74

The day was topped off with a great dinner and band put on by Northern Region. A huge thank-you to all our sponsors and to everyone who helped put the competition together. Without the team effort we would not have been able to pull off another great event. Also, thank-you to the competitors for providing top quality entertainment, the debate that night is something we won't forget in a hurry!

Ashley Evans

Young Farmer Director 2016



CLUB & REGION REPORTS

Central Highlands

As another year with the Central Highlands Rural Youth Club comes to a close, we look back on the amazing year we have had and what we have brought to our small but wonderful community.

At the start of the year we welcomed Zoe Brown as our Secretary taking over for Sam Larder, Jemma Hay as our Treasurer, Anthony Franklin as our Vice President, and our back bone to this club, Emma Rayner as President.

The Hamilton Show was once again a great opportunity to get out and enjoy the community. We had numerous working bees on the lead up to the show, painting and making our dog high jump, finding donations and prizes for our regular Ute competition. We had great success with a great turn out with money raised for our club and a bit of competitive fun for others in the district.



Club Member Cassie Bresnehan also had a great day, coming second in the Women's Wool Classing. Our members really do us wonders!

We then worked together bagging up pine bark and sheep manure for all our locals gardens as regular as possible and sold more than originally thought!

Our monthly meetings always showed the characters in our club and we always had a blast.

Club Secretary Zoe then went on to winning Young Dairy Farmer of the Year Award along side a fellow Rural Youth member Mark Griffin.



Agfest was a great opportunity for our members to meet others in the Rural Youth family and to be involved in something larger than just Agfest, but a network, filled with young adults sharing the same passion and love for the outdoors and all the communities around tasmania.

Our Club Secretary Zoe was lucky enough to travel to China after Agfest working with Dairy Australia for 3 weeks. She travelled through China, visiting the largest Dairy Farms and Processing Factories. What an experience!

We celebrated as a club on the engagement of Club Members Sam and Phillip, who have been such dedicated members to our club.

We were lucky enough again to be a part of the Ouse Festival, selling manure and pine bark to raise money for the club and also to support a small community. We had a great day until the wind picked up and soon people were losing their stalls!

I couldn't be more proud of our small Central Highlands Club and the work that our members put in, despite how busy we all are working our own jobs and farms.

We would like to thank everyone in Rural Youth for the amazing effort you put in everyday, offering young rural adults, a friendly and positive network to be a part of.

Our club would also like to give a big thankyou to our President Emma Rayner, you keep us in line and you push us to be the best of our abilities and we appreciate all the work you do.

Central Highlands Rural Youth

"You get out, what you put in"



Devonport

The Devonport Rural Youth club have had a busy year this year. Starting out with our new President, Adriana Pott and our new Secretary, Mitchell Grey.

Coming through the year there were many ideas brought up and discussed. We also got to meet some lovely exchangees throughout the year.

Coming up into August the Devonport Rural Youth club decided to team up with the North-West region to create a Rural Rally! This brought people far and wide to enjoy a day of meeting new people and participating in fun activities.

Then it was a busy couple of months leading into the show season! The Devonport Rural Youth club held a Devonport Ute show consisting of a few categories that saw some impressive vehicles shine! Unfortunately, we didn't get any snaps from that event but it was a good fundraiser for us!

Hopefully 2017 is a bigger and brighter year for us.

Devonport Rural Youth



Rural Rally

What: North West Region's twist on the amazing race!
Bring your own car full of mates and fuel and have a blast hitting the roads of Tasmania.
A map and starting clues will be supplied. The rest lies in the drivers hands.
Great prizes up for grabs.

Rural Youth Members only please!

When: 20th of August
Rally begins at 10am at Quercus Park and will conclude late afternoon.
No cost involved
Tea will be supplied Saturday night
BYO bedding and alcohol as per usual
Quercus will be open to stay both Friday and Saturday nights for those wanting a bed.

BYO by the Friday 12th of August

Contact:	Jake Williams	jake250194@hotmail.com	04 30 901 818
	Dayna Grey	dayna.grey@bigpond.com	0448 329 987

Hosted by North West Region

Dorset

This year has been pretty quiet for us; we have welcomed new members Brandon James, Darcy Toholke and Shawn Wellard. We also welcomed back Deyarna Bowen.

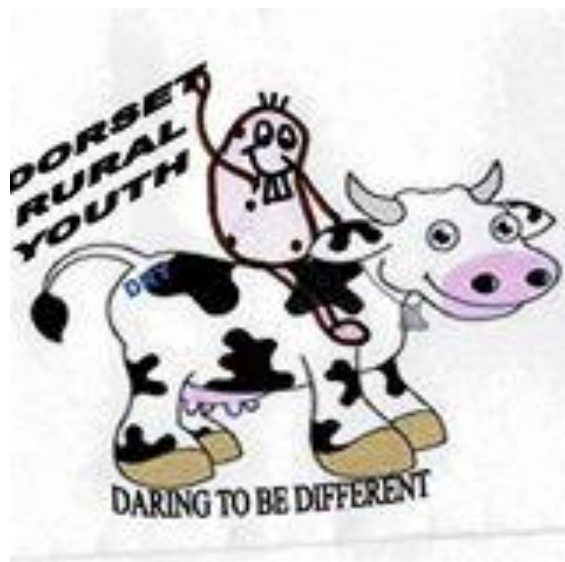
Dorset members were seen out and about at these Rural Youth functions throughout the year; Young Farmer Dinner, Youth Farmer competition, Agfest Dinner and Agfest as volunteers/committee members.

Young Farmer this year saw Richard and I attend run offs, and we both made it into the State Final. After a big day of challenges, followed by the debate that night, Richard ended up coming in 5th.

A big thank you to everyone who helped me out during the year and all the club position holders for 2016.

Jessica-Rose Forsyth

Dorset President 2016



Hagley

For Hagley Rural Youth, 2016 was a year for moving forward after a few years spent stagnant with few members, we have grown with great ambitions for the year to come. So, with great members, both new and old, we look forward to 2017.

The biggest goal for 2016 was to get Hagley Rural Youth back in Hagley. So, we set off to find our new home, and after many years of pub hopping, and upsetting owners with our poor attendance record, we found our home at Hagley Farm school, from there we have held regular meetings and the odd pizza night. We even got around to making our very own Facebook page.

We also brought out our competitive side with three of our members participating in Young Farmer runoffs. Along with attending the dinner, participating in Agfest, and a few even heading off to State Ball.

This year we also recovered Hagley's old caravan, but not before chasing the rats out. This held many years of history for the club, and inspiration to get things happening again.

2016 was the year we also decided it was time to get back into the community, holding our first dog high jump at Westbury Show which was a great success. This also being the first of many to come. We already have plans underway to hold our next dog high jump at Chudleigh Show on the 18th of February, 2017.

With great excitement, we welcome in our new exec team for 2017:

President: Jacqui Hodgkinson

Vice President: Mitch Beer

Secretary: Mollie Gatenby

Treasurer: Matthew Wadley

Delegate: Ethan McCarthy



Kingborough Huon

2016 was a busy year for Kingborough Huon Rural Youth, we had many members attend the State Annual General Meeting in Ulverstone in February. Many members attended the rodeo the night before and some did a quick road trip up for the night then back home after the meeting. It was great to see some many faces (including new ones) attending the State AGM.

On the 2nd April 2016, we had many members attend the Huon Valley Relay for Life at the Huonville Recreation Ground. We managed to walk throughout the whole event with members even getting to sleep this time around! This year Kingborough Huon members raised over \$3000+ which we had done through our barbecues and individual member donations. A huge congratulation to Dale Hayers and the Committee behind this great even that our club continues to support bi-annually which raised \$45,900 in the Huon Valley alone.

We had members host exchangees before and after Agfest, thanks to Simone Hayers who opened her brand-new home only one day after moving in to host! Thank you to Tobias and our other members who also opened their homes up to host.

We then moved on to Agfest 2016, this year many of our members had roles during the event ranging from Assistant Exhibitors Manager, Craft Coordinator, Assistant Craft Coordinator, Merchandise, Loading and Lifting etc. Well done to all our members that volunteered, whether it was an hour or a whole week or even longer! Your help is greatly appreciated.

Agfest dinner followed, at the end of May where we had many members attend also. This was a great night (for most of us!) with most of us road tripping up and back in one car. Thanks to the organisers for putting on a wonderful evening.

From there our attention turned to State Ball. It was nice to see so many of our club head down to the Port Arthur Lavender Farm to support the event. Our members even scrub up well! This was a great weekend, with some members staying at the organised accommodation and some banding together to find something a little closer and cosier! Congratulations to those that were awarded Study Tours!

Young Farmer Run Offs came next which then moved in the Young Farmer Finals in September. Well done to our very own Tobias tenBensel placing 3rd overall!

September quickly turns into November which always equals the Huon Show for us. We had plenty on members on a roster system that meant everything with the Ute Competition, Animal Nursery and Dog High Jump rang like clockwork. The Dog High Jump as always was a massive crowd hit and continues to get a lot of community support with prizes etc.

Other things we attended throughout the year included the Shooting Competition, Car Rally, the Strategic Planning Day at Quercus, we had members attend other social outings at rodeos, dinners at member's houses and trips with Southern Region to Zone 3 etc.

We ended our year by helping at the Huonville Christmas Parade, where we provided a game free of charge for the young ones that had participated or watched the Christmas Parade. This was a great community event that continues to grow each year.

Finally, we would like to thank all our members who turned up to meetings, attended social functions and to our office bearers for 2016 a big job well done! We wish the incoming committee all the best as we now turn our attention to 2017!

Kingborough Huon Rural Youth Club



North Motton

Well what a year North Motton has had. We started the year off with Ethan becoming President, Renee Vice President, Jake Treasurer and Sarah for Secretary.

One of our first social events was Laser Skirmish in Burnie, most of the club tagged along for a very interesting evening, with the sharp shooters of the club expected to take this out, an underdog appeared with Brighid taking out the night with having the most kills.

We then held a weekend at the Blythe Park Scout Camp with members coming and going over the course of the weekend it was a great relaxing long weekend.

July was another big month for our members, we held a canteen at the North Motton Endurance Horse Ride with everyone helping it made for a good couple of days and the club making a profit of around \$800. We then had a fortnight off and all headed down to the State Ball. Brighid came away with an exchange trip to Switzerland and heading off to a Jillaroo School on the mainland - congratulations you deserve it!

North Motton made a great impression at the Young Farmer State Finals with 5 members all making it through. Congratulations to Ryan on coming 4th overall with Jake, Brighid, Peter and Ethan all not far behind.

October brought the shooting competition and we headed out to the Bracknell Gun Range with members competing in a rifle section and a clay target section, with Renee winning the females rifle section and Jake being back at his best blaming the wind for his poor accuracy!

We then held our annual animal nursery at the Ulverstone Show, with a wide range of animals including ducks, quail, ponies, calves, pigeons and rabbits just to name a few. In conjunction with the animal nursery we also held a raffle with local businesses donating a wide range of products.

Our AGM was held in December with Ethan becoming President again, Peter as Vice President, Jake as Treasurer and Renee as Secretary.

We hope you all had an amazing year just as we have. Thanks to everyone for helping our club at some stage and making us as strong as we are today.

North Motton Rural Youth Club



Oatlands

To start off 2016 we threw an Australia Day pool party on the 26th of January at our local pool. We also cooked up a feast on the BBQ for everyone who attended. We had over 30 people in for a dip throughout the day, with the weather holding off for us.

February was a quiet month for us with our Summer party on the 6th at Woodsdale Football Ground. Attendance was low for this event which was a great shame. But better luck next time.

On the 2nd of March, 4 of our members spent the afternoon at Putter's Adventure Golf for a nice game on the 18-hole course, once finished up we headed to McDonalds for tea. We also had a handful of member's head to Quercus over the 19th & 20th, which saw the entire site being marked out over the two days. Top job guys and girls!

Our club held a free pizza and movie night on the 14th of April. We kicked back and watched A Million Ways to Die in the West while eating some delicious fresh local pizzas.

May of course is a very busy month for everyone, it's Agfest! 4 of our members participated in Agfest for 2016.

President Ebony McConnon- Functions Coordinator, Promotions & Media Assistant & Parcel Pickup Assistant

Phil McConnon- Water Cart Director

Trish Carter- Water Cart Assistant & Functions Assistant

Brandon Eyles- Traffic Management Assistant.

We all had a fantastic time. Bring on 2017.

Also on the 11th we had a night in town at the cinema. With 9 of our members coming along for a fantastic night. We watched the Jungle Book and then headed to McDonald's afterwards for an ice cream each.

Finally, to finish off a super busy month on the 15th 4 of our members helped car park for the annual Post Vintage Car Club 'Picnic at Ross'. Vehicle numbers were down from last year with it raining nonstop throughout the day. We all still managed to enjoy ourselves.

On July the 9th Ebony hired the community bus from the Southern Midlands Council and took a bus load of members down to Woodys Skate and Play. We all had a blast and a couple members wish to go back again for more practice!

August saw two of our Grade 9/10 members set off to Minjerriba (North Stradbroke Island) for 5 days, as part of our local schools Indigenous Perspectives program. The first morning they spent meeting

students at Dunwich State School and helping in the classrooms. Students enjoyed exchanging stories of their lives at different ends of the country. They played a friendly game of Norths v Souths at recess!

Students spent some time learning from Matt Burns about traditional customs, particularly those related to hunting and gathering and preparing food. They also had a go at throwing various spears, boomerangs and discovered all the edible sea life along the coast line. We started the day at Dunwich State School and later met with Jan (a biologist and wildlife documentary producer) and walked to Blue Lake, while learning more about the connection of flora and fauna to country and place.

They then finished the day with another delicious dinner and a chance to try our strategy skills out with a few games. Their final day on the island they spent more time in the school with their new friends, participated in an Aboriginal dance workshop with Matt Burns and went for a breathtaking walk around Point Lookout (turtle, dolphin and whale spotting) then finished with a well-deserved ice cream.

Saturday the 5th of November marked the start of the rodeo season and kicked off with Melton Rodeo. Melton Mowbray Rodeo was a blast for all! We had members Ashley, Hayley, Brandon, Phil, and Ebony; along with Westmorland member Cassie, potential new member Joel and Rural Youth Exchangee Lea helping with car parking, doing shifts from 8:30am until 4:30pm. A nice donation from the Melton Mowbray Rodeo Committee will go towards future social events for the club to help keep the fun and social side to our club! The weather was fairly kind to us considering we had snow last year and a huge frost the year before, about a 5-minute shower hit around 2pm then a 15-minute rain just as the bull ride was starting! The wind played havoc so unfortunately, we couldn't set up our stall, we still managed to sell quite a few of our cattle and sheep tags (if you'd like one contact a member of our club) We all stayed on to watch the rodeo and then the bands Moose Knuckle and The Wolfe Brothers, with over 1600+ people attending it was one of the biggest rodeos yet in Tasmania! Outstanding credit goes to the committee and we send out a huge thanks to them for giving us the opportunity to help for the day!

On the 10th of November Trish celebrated her 21st birthday and held a small party at Fonhill, Lemont the following weekend. Thankfully it was all held inside so we could keep dry and warm with it raining nonstop all night. We all enjoyed a great night of drinks, dancing and good memories.

December of course it Christmas. We certainly hope everyone had a safe and happy Christmas break and look forward to working with you in 2017.

Oatlands Rural Youth

'Always in the middle of it'



Sorell

Sorell Rural Youth, working hard to make a difference. This was Sorell's 2016 to a T! With the kick off of the year, Sorell slowly gained momentum as the year further progressed.

The beginning of the year saw us looking for somewhere to call home, after having not used the hall for some time. We were given the use of the incredible facility that was the Trade Training Centre at Sorell. The potential to use this facility was made possible by that of a past member, Rick Birch. Rick made the use of the facility easy and streamlined and we had many gatherings, pizza nights and meetings here.

At our meeting in mid-April, we decided that we would get back the keys for the Pawleena Hall and start to re-use the hall and get it back up to its former glory.

But before the next meeting could roll around, Agfest crept up on us!

Agfest popped up on the horizon and we had a strong show of members volunteering at the event. Sorell had more than 12 members volunteering, leading up to, over the duration of the event, and post event. It was incredible to see such a strong contingency of members giving their time and working so well in a team. It is these incredible people that make Rural Youth great!

Before and after Agfest, and later in the year multiple members hosted some of our incoming exchange students. This year we hosted Rachael from the United Kingdom (England), Gemma from Scotland, Emma from the United Kingdom (Northern Ireland), Christa from Switzerland, and Eva from Austria around Agfest time, and then we had Katharina and Lea who also came from Austria, who arrived here for spring and into summer!

After the hustle, bustle and buzz of Agfest passed, Sorell got back into the swing of things with the project at the forefront of our attention; being able to use the Pawleena Hall again! We set dates for working bees, and work we did! We thoroughly cleaned, swept, washed and tidied the beloved old hall. Sadly, with our short leave of absence, the hall had become home for a small family of possums. After working on possum proofing the hall, we held our monthly meetings here, mostly by heat of wood fire until summer arrived. We decked the hall out with some furnishings, and set up the old table tennis table, proving a hotly contested game at hall gatherings. The hall has since been the location not only of monthly meetings and working bees, but also for extracurricular Rural Youth events, by which we have hosted other club members for social evenings.

So, what does Sorell have planned? Well at the AGM for 2017, we planned, short term, midterm, and long term with what we wanted to achieve for the club and what we wanted to get out of the club and more importantly Rural Youth. We have set benchmarks for being more involved in community events, partaking in the local shows and fetes and to always be the warm, welcoming member base we aspire to be.

I thank all 29 members for everything they have contributed to the club this year. With such a broad membership base, they all bring something new to the club every day, something different, unique, individual, but most importantly, every meeting, they bring themselves and always the best version.

We are privileged to have these young vibrant people around as they make our lives richer, and the organisation better with their energy, enthusiasm and want to make a better world.

We can't wait to see what 2017 has in store but is bound to be plentiful and bountiful!

Prue Dennis
Sorell Club President 2016



Tamar

To start off 2016 our members helped some local farmers and local Ag contractors with spud contracting. We also helped around Mount Direction and Pipers River with both hay carting and fencing repairs.

In May, we held an information night at the Signal Station Tavern with a small number of people turning out, all went well with 3 new members for the club, Alex Mitchell, Hannah Barwick and Emily Nixon.

Some of our members took part in the Western Tiers Club Fishing Competition with Ricky catching a nice sized rainbow trout, taking out first place and Alicia catching a fish in the last 20 minutes and coming in 3rd. Well done to them both and Western Tiers for hosting a great event!



Western Tiers

Western Tiers has had a great year, with our club membership numbers increasing significantly only the year before. We had a quiet year event wise, but we got to know each other and had some great catch-ups.

Earlier in the year, Western Tiers hosted for the first time the Fishing comp, which was a great day that got the club involved with the community.

There are plans in the works for a bigger and better 2017, with more community events and club level events.

We would like to thank the executive of Western Tiers for 2016 and would like to welcome in the new executive for 2017:

President – Stuart Cresswell

Vice President – Josh Taylor

Sectary – Kat Cenin

Treasure – Wendy McGlashan

Thank you to all those who made 2016 great and we look forward to 2017.

Stuart Cresswell

Western Tiers President 2016



Westmorland

Westmorland have had a huge year!

We have moved into new club rooms due to our building being knocked down because of asbestos. Which means a new relationship with Cressy Cricket Club, we really look forward to sharing the amazing club rooms with the club.

We also had one of our members Amanda Bayles head off to the USA for an exchange which I am sure you have all seen in the newsletter each month. She looks like she has had a ball and I am sure everyone will be keen to hear all about her experience when she returns.

During the year, we had a change of office bearers because our previous office bearers resigned due to personal reasons, we thank Laura & Maharla for doing a great job. We then had a new set of fresh eyes and enthusiasm.

2017 will be a great year and I really look forward to watching the club thrive!

Cassie Lee

Westmorland Club President 2016



Southern Region

Well what a first year it's been for myself and Rural Youth.

Firstly, I'd like to thank every person in Rural Youth! Thank you to everyone who has helped and supported myself over this last year, and thank you to the lifelong friends I've made this year.

Being my first year in Rural Youth and in the role of Southern Region President it was an eye opener. I'm excited to see what the future holds for Rural Youth and what we can all achieve.

We have had a great year down south, with nearly all clubs gaining new members, holding many great events and helping many larger events in their areas. Also, a very successful and such a great night for our State Ball.

Looking forward to 2017 and seeing what we can all achieve this year.

Again, thanks everyone for the past year. Bring on 2017!

Regards Dave Lucas

Southern Region President



Northern Region

2016 has been a great year for Northern Region, with more engagement and interactions than ever before.

As a region group, we were slow to get started for the year, as many of our executives were new to their roles and the organisation alike.

With the onset of winter, we got our acts together and came and hosted for the first time as a region the “Beaut Ute Comp” as the Campbell Town Show, as well as the Dog High Jump. Both these events were a great success and we even got a few new members out of it for a few of the clubs.

Then came the Young Farmer Competition, where as a region group, we had several entrants that were put through their paces on a range of tests, including seed identification, speed racing for unpacking, assembling and repacking a swag and tent, as well as some but-busting wood chopping.

This year Northern Region was responsible for running the dinner at the Young Farmer event. This was a fantastic evening, with great food and even better music provided by Tori Pervical and her band. This was a great night, with over 60 people attending and even turning a small profit that was split between region and state.

For the remainder of the year, we have been plodding on and having a great time just relaxing. Next item on the list is planning for the 2017 State Ball, to be hosted by Northern Region. We have begun the brainstorming process, and have a few great ideas coming through already.

We are yet to have our AGM, planned for Tuesday the 10th January, but in advance, I’d like to thank all those that have made 2016 a great year for region and a big thanks to the executive for making 2016 such a good year.

Stuart Cresswell
Northern Region President 2016



North West Region

2016 started off full steam ahead for the North-West guys organising and pulling off another successful State AGM!

Throughout the year, we saw a heap of memorable moments. One of which was the first ever Rural Rally being held out at Quercus. Based on the T.V show “Amazing Race” all the competitors had to work through a few games on site then jump into their cars and headed for the roads of Northern Tassie! Checking in and taking selfies at local hot spots while competing different challenges along the way seeing everyone make their way to the Great Lake Hotel for the fast-paced egg and spoon race! A few ice-creams later and they were headed back to the finish line at Quercus! Prizes were handed out and everyone set in for a big night in the compound!

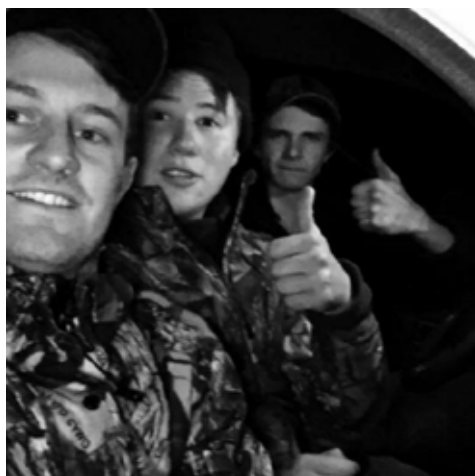
June quickly came around which meant time to load up and head south for the State Ball which was held at Port Author Lavender Farm! A great night was had and big congratulations goes out to Brighid Worldon from North Motton for taking out a study tour!

Young Farmer soon rolled round which saw another road trip to Quercus for 6 of us to give it our best and show what us North Westers can do! Well done to Martin McConnon on his win! A few weekends later saw us all back at Carrick for the shooting comp!

Thank you to everyone that helped pull 2016 off and we can't wait to see what lies ahead for Rural Youth in 2017!

Jake Williams

North West President 2016



OTHER REPORTS

Tasmanian Rural Youth Past Members Association



The Past Member's Association is a casual network, formed through a desire to reconnect people and have the occasional function. It has been structured to create the minimum amount of work to not cost lots of time or money to administer, but to exist as a resource as and when required.

We have member's representative of all eras of Junior Farmer and Rural Youth and of course would like to see our numbers grow. It is an advantage for Rural Youth to have a network of both recently retired and older past members so that we do not lose touch with each other. We offer a "once off joining fee" entitling you and your partner (at the same address) to a Life Membership. There are no meetings to attend (except the AGM if you wish) and no commitments you don't want, but membership will entitle you to receive news from time to time, so that you can choose to join in to any of our events if it suits you to do so. We currently have 165 members and would like to encourage those retiring from Rural Youth to join.

TRYPMA is a relatively low key group, but we aim to have one main function a year, alongside the annual Afternoon Tea Muster at Agfest, the following is a brief report on these events:

- A reunion and industry tour was held on the weekend of 16/17th April and was a resounding success with 34 members from all over the state coming along to the far north west to spend an interesting couple of days. Included in the itinerary was a visit to Cape Grim Rain Farm, with host Michael Buckby (past Agfest Chairman) and to Emma Pinner's Pure Sense Candlery at Smithton. This was followed up by a most enjoyable dinner at Agritas with guest speaker John Hammond of Robbins Island Wagyu. The following day we met at Moby Dick's Breakfast Bar in Stanley and spent a perfect autumn day wandering around this historic little village.
- We hosted a very successful 'Afternoon Tea Muster' at Agfest 2016 with around 50 people in attendance. Despite the wet and windy conditions, it was a great event as usual and well done to the current Rural Youth team. Many of us have been on the Agfest Committee and really know what an effort and commitment it takes.
- It was also suggested that we hold a dinner in the south and this could still come to fruition in the New Year.

The issue of the Past Member's logo was finally resolved by revising the original version to include the updated Rural Youth logo.

All in all, a good year for the Rural Youth Past Member's Association, but of course we would like to reach as many people as we can to join our network. Please be an advocate for Past Members and spread the word to anyone you know who was in Junior Farmer or Rural Youth, or if you yourself are retiring out of Rural Youth. Membership forms are on the Rural Youth website under the "Membership" tab.

Finally, thank you to our tiny Executive team; Judy McLean, Secretary and David Young, Treasurer for your help and counsel.

Carol Axton
Convenor



Rural Business Tasmania

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

From tentative beginnings, Rural Business Tasmania has stepped up to and into challenges, season after season. Developing and proving itself over the years, it has become the 'go-to' service for the broad canvas that is Tasmanian agriculture, including rural business and communities that rely on and support this diverse, colourful and robust sector.

Rural Business Tasmania has provided practical financial management support and guidance to the farming community often out of sheer determination and the commitment to making a pivotal difference for those who have been challenged by the variable and moving carpet that epitomises agriculture.



A product of Rural Youth Tasmania

Rural Business Tasmania (and its previous incarnations – Tasmanian Rural Counselling and Rural Support Tasmania) originated from the proactive and farsighted actions of a small group of passionate Rural Youth Members. Rural Youth Tasmania's two fledglings in 1986/7 of Agfest and Rural Counselling have both matured to key influences and support of the Tasmanian rural community.

Fostered through its infancy as a division of Rural Youth Tasmania from 1986 to 1995, gaining partial independence (incorporated whilst being administered by Rural Youth Tasmania 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."

Our 30 years of service is a proud achievement for all those involved, from within and without the organisation: from volunteers, committee members and recipient families to a growing number of other service providers in our Tasmanian community.

2016 has been significant for Rural Business Tasmania on many fronts. There are probably only a few words that encapsulate the year that was: *'collaboration out of crisis'*.

We had a rollercoaster year not only in the seasonal and commodity issues faced by the sector but also in realignment of our major program funding: Rural Financial Counselling Service.

With this came a consolidated and focused Rural Business Team and wider stakeholder group that were supportive and cohesive to ensure practical and effective service delivery to the rural and regional community.

In 2016 the organisation was required to apply to retain the federally funded Rural Financial Counselling Service – a service that it has successfully delivered for the last 30 years. In addition to Federal service funding retention, the organisation was also successful in increasing the contribution of the State government who doubled its funding and support of the service.

Our year commenced with increasingly dry conditions, thus seeing an increase in client numbers and exceptional work in the field from our incumbent rural financial counsellors, increased activity for our Rural Relief Fund (kicked off with our inaugural Cocktail Party fundraiser on 4th July at Clarendon House) and greater focus on our Forum of Rural Stakeholders groups' purpose.

Our annual review identified Business Success achievements and ambitions with an overarching mission to deliver services and projects with rural business to foster viable and sustainable economic development particularly in increasing the business acumen of those rural businesses. This requirement for increased business acumen across all players within the sector has been shared at all opportunities in our rural networks and acknowledged by many in the industry's key leadership group who came together during the year to determine practical applications to further the Tasmanian government's AgriVision 2050.

We continued to look at complementary opportunities for business growth in the business and financial management services fields. Partnering opportunities were explored and the addition of a dedicated Business Coach to our team consolidated our additional services.

We have progressed collaborative initiatives including business and financial management skill programs with DairyTas, Macquarie Franklin, and Aurora Energy. We look to the next financial year to pursue further programs aimed at raising financial literacy across the rural sector.

Seasonal factors have driven growth within the organisation and the financial stability Rural Business Tasmania currently enjoys, has ensured that it has been able to successfully expand its' team, offering more assistance to match the increased demand.

This financial year the organisation witnessed unprecedented industry cooperation. The Rural Business Tasmania-convened Forum of Rural Stakeholders worked more closely and collaboratively than ever before in supporting primary producers through the myriad of dynamically evolving natural and economically driven challenges that have struck blow after blow in recent times. The Rural Relief Fund has been inundated with calls from individuals and families impacted by the extraordinary weather conditions. We have been humbled by the generosity of people from around Australia and abroad who have seen fit to donate to the fund, thus enabling us to provide a lifeline to those in the most need. The year's demands upon our Rural Relief Fund have reached new heights. The support and networks built over the last twelve months to cement the Rural Relief Fund as the primary industry fund for all rural and regional Tasmania has been incredible. The collaborative ownership of the fund by all of industry, government and the community will continue in the coming year with further leveraging to ensure a healthy fund is available for the next crisis to face the industry (hopefully in the distant future).

Our Business and Financial Management Service continued to offer fee for service programs and identify opportunities to increase financial literacy within the industry. Partnering with Aurora we launched the Aurora Agri-Business Support Program providing support services to rural customers experiencing financial difficulties through the provision of business coaching and energy auditing services.

We have enjoyed the closer working relationship and will continue to provide guidance as and when required to the relevant Ministers and departments that touch the primary production sector, particularly Ministers Rockliff and Groom. Again, we recognise the vital Federal and State Government grants as our main source of revenue.

Our work with the Forum of Rural Stakeholders and increased engagement with State and Federal ministers and policy makers has brought new levels of rural sector cut-through and influence. The Forum met regularly and was instrumental in support and information to the industry during crises with forums and regular news items. These included Tasmanian Country running "Season Savvy": a fortnightly article highlighting all Forum member services. We thank all Forum members for their support and dedication to ensuring our collaborative approach and one combined voice remain the cohesive glue – something mainland states and interstate service providers find unique and are envious of.

The organisation's elation in being given capacity to continue its work supporting and growing primary production and small regional business, has been tempered by the extraordinary seasonal conditions including record breaking dry conditions followed by the worst floods in 87 years. Throw into the mix the milk price gouging and poppy contract consolidation and you have a year that pushed many to the brink. Ironically the challenging conditions and extraordinary events have provided our organisation with many profile-raising opportunities. We have been more active in traditional media and on social media platforms this year than ever before, growing our profile to new levels of awareness both in terms of public and stakeholder terms.

Our small committed staff team and equally passionate Board are crucial to the success in providing quality timely and practical service to our clientele.

We wish to at this time make special mention to 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 administration for the first 20 years, each year's RY Executive filling committee positions for the first 20+ years, the ongoing monetary support and our wonderful office facilities.

We also welcome as our new Associate Director a representative of Rural Youth Tasmania from January 2017 and look forward to continuing to being part of the Rural Youth family and its successful programs.

Elizabeth Skirving



Rural Youth Sponsors

DIAMOND



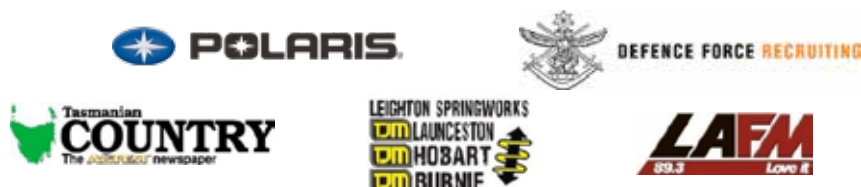
SAPPHIRE



RUBY



PLATINUM



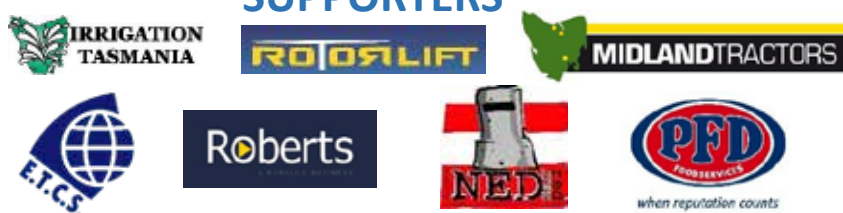
GOLD



SILVER



SUPPORTERS



Annual Report 2016

ADDRESS: 62 York Street, Launceston, Tasmania, 7250

PHONE: (03) 6331 6154

FAX: (03) 6334 4386

EMAIL: admin@ruralyouth.com.au

