

March 2018

# Newsletter



## RURAL YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP



**ARE YOU ENROLLED IN THE ASSOC DEGREE IN AGRIBUSINESS AT UTAS  
IN 2018?**

**ARE YOU A CURRENT RURAL YOUTH MEMBER?**

**WOULD \$1000 HELP YOU WITH THE COSTS INVOLVED?**

**IF YOU ANSWERED YES TO THE QUESTIONS ABOVE – READ ON:**

Rural Youth Tasmania supports the acquisition of knowledge and skills in agriculture and believes in building the capacity of our members to encourage and assist them to achieve their goals and become positive contributors to their communities.

This scholarship, valued at \$1000 has been established to assist with the costs associated with completing the above mentioned course.

**APPLICATIONS ARE NOW OPEN AND WILL CLOSE ON TUESDAY  
APRIL 3<sup>rd</sup> AT 5PM**

To apply, follow the link <https://www.ruralyouth.com.au/training> and download an application today.

Applications will be assessed by a panel and the recipient will be announced at the Networking & Presentation Evening on May 4<sup>th</sup> at Agfest.

If you have any questions, please contact Karen Robinson at Head Office on 6331 6154 or 0448 344 381.

### Inside this Issue:

State President	2
CEO	3
Restructure Update	4
Agfest	6
Sponsors	7
Club Reports	9
State Ball	11
Calendar / Contacts	13

### Working Bees:

- 17th of March

***All Working bees will be  
for the whole weekend***



**Contact Us:**

62 York Street, Launceston,  
PO Box 322, Launceston,  
TAS, 7250  
(03) 6331 6154  
[admin@ruralyouth.com.au](mailto:admin@ruralyouth.com.au)  
or [admin@agfest.com.au](mailto:admin@agfest.com.au)

Please submit all collateral  
for **Rural Youth of  
Tasmania's Newsletter** by  
the third Friday of every  
month to  
[editor@ruralyouth.com.au](mailto:editor@ruralyouth.com.au)

## State President

Whoever said Rural Youth doesn't do anything has clearly not seen our calendar!

It has been another jam-packed month, with members making the most out of the opportunities the organisation provides them. We've seen clubs once again getting out and about in the community promoting Rural Youth and engaging with the community. With show season still going Hagley Club was represented at Chudleigh Show, hosting the ute competition.

I would like to congratulate member, Sarah Revell on her initiative and determination on pulling together a great workshop for young people in Tasmania, talking about resilience and the importance of looking after mental and physical health. Beyond Blue, Headspace and RAW joined us at Campbelltown to put on a great day full of helpful information and, of course, a bit of fun. We've had another successful working bee at Quercus, getting the site ready to hand over to the Agfest crew. The countdown is on to Tasmania's premier agricultural event.

As many of you are aware we have had a change of date to the State Ball, to ensure we are spreading our major events out across the year. State Ball is now in February, with this year's event being held on the 24th in Ulverstone. At the event, we will be presenting the Top Club, Most Outstanding Member and Best New Member awards. The interviews for these were held at Quercus on 17 February. A big thank-you to our judges Jane Dent and Sally Murfet.

I would like to encourage members to step up and take on new challenges. We still have roles that are vacant. It is a great opportunity to develop. I would also like to remind everyone that when you take on a role to give it all you have. We don't want bums on seats just for the sake of it.

**Ashley Evans**  
Rural Youth State President



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1800 TJM TAS





## CEO Update

As March begins we have already had several major events, had to postpone others, seen more changes at Quercus, as well as getting on with the business of organising Agfest 2018.

Rural Youth's values of Friendships & Relationships, Training & Education and Support and Encouragement were on show at Campbell Town on Feb 10 when we held our "how you can help your mate"/ resilience building day. Expanding on the theme of "Life wasn't meant to be easy.....but we have your back" we listened, and more importantly had great conversations with fantastic representatives from Headspace, Rural Alive & Well and beyondblue about how to have difficult conversations with friends if you suspect they are struggling, what help is available and how to access it. Nothing was off limits, topics ranged from everyday stress, coping, anxiety, depression and suicide through to practical things you can do to build resilience and look after your own well-being. There were also opportunities for participants to talk one on one with our professionals, some shared they were worried about friends, so they were able to get specific advice privately. It was a great day and besides the serious stuff we also had fun and laughs with various fruit and vegetables, thanks to Sarah Revell – who organised some hilarious games to break up the day. I discovered I was much better at Hungry Hippo, thankfully Linda showed skill with 'pooping the potato' – as I was definitely a handicap for our team!! Everyone who came along said they got a lot out of the day – we will be holding more like this later in the year in other locations, so stay tuned!!

Quercus Park United Kennel Club have commenced work on their dog arenas – the landscaper will be finished in three weeks and then they have a working bee to fence the area appropriately. They hope to be in a position to

commence their competitions in July, initially they will be providing various shows and entertainment in the rings during Agfest.

As I said in last month's update we have now completed a review of our first six months under the new structure – a detailed report is contained in this newsletter, if you have any questions or comments, please don't hesitate to contact me, I am happy to discuss it with you further.

Unfortunately, we have had to postpone March's shooting comp and industry tour due to a lack of numbers. They have been rescheduled, however we won't keep them on the calendar if members don't support them – so if you want them to continue please come along and join in.

State Ball was a great night, thanks to Sarah Revell (again), Jake Williams and Linda Perkins for all of their efforts to organise the evening. It was fantastic to see so many nominations for Top Club, Best New Member and Outstanding Member, I hope we see even more next year. Congratulations to all of our worthy winners, Kingborough Huon, Brady Robins and Breeanna House, respectively.

Until next month – when Agfest madness really kicks in!

Best wishes

**Karen**  
**CEO**



## Restructure Update

### **How is it going?**

### **Are we achieving what we set out to do?**

#### **BACKGROUND:**

We are now 6 months post the introduction of the restructure, overall I believe the change has been positive however it is very much a work in progress due to the scale of the changes that were introduced. Originally only State Council and RAC were going to change in this first phase of restructure, however due to changes in personnel amongst office bearers, difficulty in filling roles and the general appetite for change and action amongst members the decision was taken to include the Agfest Committee in the proposed changes. These additional changes have added to the challenges we have faced to date.

#### **Process:**

The process leading up to and including the SGM was relatively smooth with little member discussion and no dissent, particularly at the SGM – all proposed changes were passed unanimously. On face value this was great as members were sick of talking about change and they wanted to see action, however as time has gone on and questions have been raised it appears that members may not have given full consideration to what the proposed changes could mean and/or when faced with changes in action now some are querying the necessity/validity of those changes – when it is effectively too late – ideally, these discussions should have taken place during the planning stages or at the SGM.

#### **Impact on Members:**

It is fair to say that some members are continuing to struggle with the new structure, how it works and how they 'fit' in, including Board Members and Coordinators. Changing thinking to a more strategic and overarching perspective has proved a challenge for some, as it outside of their

experience to date. Whilst all indicated that they were sick of pointless meetings it would appear, particularly from the Coordinator perspective that they may be missing the connection, in some cases we have seen limited activity to date. Some Agfest committee members have also said they feel somewhat disconnected to the process under the new structure. It would appear that many are still unsure of what is expected of them within their role.

The above highlights our biggest concern/failure in this process – a lack of preparation, education and communication. This cannot be blamed solely on individuals or any one process, rather we are victims of our success in some ways. As previously stated the need and appetite for change has meant we have taken on far more than we originally envisaged and we simply have not had the time or resources to deal with everything effectively, this has led on occasions to policy and decision making on the run, (which is far from ideal), in order to continue progress.

Communication is something that is widely debated within the organisation, some feel there is too much and others feel there is not enough. Feedback received in HO is members are feeling disconnected and in some cases ignored, they are not sure who they should be speaking to under the new structure. Conversely, with the amount of emails, newsletter and social media posts issued, others feel that the onus is on the individual to access the information, because it is available. The visits to Clubs by staff and Board Members has gone some way to addressing any confusion, and due to their success, these visits will be continued in the future. There is also the separate issue of a lack of timely response to emails and phone calls, this was also an issue before the restructure and is something which will be addressed through education and clear guidelines for those taking on roles in the future.



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## Restructure Update Cont.

Filling roles and succession planning continue to be a problem, as it is for the majority of volunteer organisations and whilst we have tried to address this in part through this restructure, (reducing the number of roles, cutting down on meetings etc) we still struggle to get people to commit. We know that having 'anyone' in a role is not the answer and the point of this restructure was to spread the workload and reduce the number of hats individuals are wearing – not increase them. Identifying individuals at a Club level and actively mentoring them is going to be crucial in the future.

### Impact on Staff:

The workload of all staff has been effected through this process, mine in particular. Staff are currently at capacity as many of the tasks from unfilled roles have returned to the office. Our challenge is to find the right balance, to ensure we are still a training organisation, providing opportunities which are relevant and valued by members, whilst not being a burden and ensuring tasks are completed in a professional and timely manner, protecting the reputation of the organisation.

In hindsight, I acknowledge that I underestimated the level of understanding members had about the restructure, proposed changes and the process involved from the information we provided. I assumed it was greater than it appears to be. I believe this has had an impact on member satisfaction and contributed to the feeling of disconnection. I also regret that some of the work that I am currently undertaking in develop role inductions etc was not completed prior to implementation as this would have assisted the process.

### Meetings:

Reduced and more effective meetings is still our goal. It is essential that Board and Committee members come to meetings prepared and ready to discuss and question items, we do not have time to read and go over reports etc during meetings – this is why they are sent out 7 days beforehand.

The meeting process and preparation has improved, however mature debate and

accountability amongst Directors/ Committee members needs to increase and be encouraged.

### Overall Result:

We are on the right track, there is much to celebrate and much has been achieved, but we still have work to do to get the most out of the restructure. I am keen to see the sense of excitement that so many had at the SGM encouraged and maintained.

If members have any questions, concerns or feedback they would like to provide in regards to the restructure or this review please ring me on 0448 344 381 or email [ceo@ruralyouth.com.au](mailto:ceo@ruralyouth.com.au), I would love to hear from you.

**Karen Robinson**  
CEO



## St.LukesHealth will be at Agfest

**We will be at site 808 on Eighth Avenue**

### Why should you join St.LukesHealth?

#### A combined discount of 10% for Rural Youth Members<sup>^</sup>

Rural youth will match the St.LukesHealth discount of 5% giving you a combined discount of 10%.

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#### Contact Brandine for more information

**Brandine Campbell**

**0417 563 546**

[bcampbell@stlukes.com.au](mailto:bcampbell@stlukes.com.au)

<sup>^</sup>The discount cannot be combined with other discounts available under other arrangements between St.LukesHealth and other alliance partners. <sup>\*</sup>For some preventative dental items on selected products. Annual limits, fund rules and waiting periods apply. Under Gap Free Preventative Dental we pay 100% of your dentists regular fee up to a maximum benefit for each service. <sup>#</sup>No waiting periods when switching to equivalent level of cover, provided all waiting periods have been served with the previous fund. ABN 81 009 479 618



## AGFEST

Hello All,

I hope all is well.

Agfest is now fast approaching, as we are all aware!

Before we know it the gates will be opening. From where I sit Agfest is progressing well and is in good hands. The site appears pretty well full and a substantial waiting list of exhibitors wanting to get onto the site, great work to Ethan, Rhys and all involved in organising and dealing with all of the exhibitors, nice and not so nice, keep it up!

Working bees are happening regularly now which is great to see, with much-needed jobs being done onsite. It is great to be tidying up jobs of the to-do list well in advance, which with a bit of luck will help ease the workload before the event! It would be great to see everyone and anyone at the next working he in March!

The site is looking pretty good so far, this recent rain will be well received and help put a green tinge and promote new growth, which is much needed! It won't be long now till Ethan and crew start site marking, ready for contractors to go onsite, marking the start of the downhill slide to the opening of gates.

On a negative note, we are still struggling with RSVP'ing and providing reports for meetings, which I find a little disappointing as it is such a simple and easy request. The previous meeting nearly had to be cancelled due to a lack of RSVPing. I understand everyone is busy but this only takes 15 minutes at the most and it passes on a positive message to our committee. I would like to see a better turn out and RSVP/reporting response from all now as we are getting rather close to the event.

In closing, Agfest is progressing well and appears to be on the right track. Thanks must go to the office and everyone that have and still are helping me in facilitating this role. Without you, the wheels would have fallen off some time ago, so thank you!

Till next time!

**Owen Woolley**  
Agfest Chairman 2018



## Positions still vacant on the Agfest Committee

Community Groups Asst  
Ag Show Council

### **RY Feature**

RY Feature Asst  
Waste Management Asst  
Assistant Features  
Back Ticket Box Asst  
Youth Development Asst  
Central Arena Asst



## WE WANT YOU

**Volunteers needed for AGFEST 2018, 3-5 May**

Calling all Rural Youth members who want to be a part of the great team who put together Tasmania's premier agriculture field days.

There are only 120 AGFEST volunteer spots available and you could be filling one of them! If you're passionate, hard-working and want to have loads of fun register as a volunteer from 1 February 2018 through clubs or head office, or complete the online registration through the link below:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/AGFESTvolunteer2018>

\*All volunteers must have a current Working with Vulnerable People check.  
\*All volunteers must also complete a safety induction before going on site. This can be completed online.





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## Club Reports

### Tamar

Hi All,

For the Tamar club, the past couple of months have been super exciting, since getting the club back up on its feet. With members bringing a range of great ideas to the table to kick the new year off.

Since we last wrote a piece, we have been busy planning a club bonding evening at Zone 3 laser tag, which will be held towards the end of March. We also held the dog high jump at the Annual Exeter Show. It was a very wet start to the day with plenty of rain overnight that continued while the crew were setting up for the day, luckily it didn't deter the owners and their four-legged friends.

Running the day with a small dog and a large dog category made for plenty of enjoyment for the show patrons. First placed small dog went to Isabella Sims and Fly jumping 1.2m and first placed large dog went to Bethany Hirst and Oscar jumping 2m.

The club would like to thank TP Jones and Roberts for their sponsorship providing prizes for the day. Also a huge thank you to Stuart and Kathryn Cresswell for their help setting up and running the dog high jump, along with the Whaley's for the use of their dog high jump. Overall it was a really successful day and we will be doing it all again next year.

More recently a majority of club travelled to Ulverstone to the State ball, where I hear they all had a fabulous time, a wonderful way to let their hair down and get jazzed up!



Above: Tamar Club Members

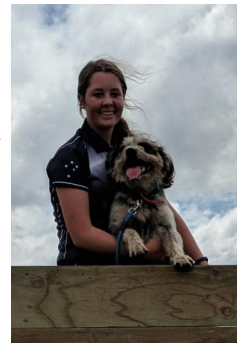


Winners of the Dog High Jump at Exeter Show.

In the Small and Large Dog categories.

Left: Isabelle Sims with Fly.

Right: Bethany Hirst with Oscar.



Next Meeting: Tuesday 6th of March, 7:00pm @ Head Office.

Until Next Month

**Emily Nixon**

**Tamar Secretary**

### Kingborough-Huon

On the Sunday 4th February, members headed over to Bruny Island to our newest member Rhys Halls' workplace at Murrayfield to bag sheep poo. In the 2.5 hours (from the time we meet at the Ferry to the time we returned to the Ferry queue) we bagged 250 bags of sheep poo. This sheep poo we plan to sell and use as a prize in our upcoming raffle. Thanks to our members Tobias, Rhys, Dale, Jocelyn, Caelum, Simone and Kaysie who turned up to help out.

There is talk of going back to Bruny Island to do more sheep poo and staying the night at Murrayfield. The idea is to make it a team bonding weekend where the club covers the accommodation and food possibly, stay tuned for that!

We have quite a few members attending Rural Youth State Ball in Ulverstone. Members who we are aware of attending include – Dale, Jocelyn, Nicole, Rhys, Jeremy, Simone, Edwina, Owen and Tobias. We will be taking a snap of our members all glammed up ready for a good night.

We are busy organising our raffle for the Huon Small Farms Expo. Our first prize is a trailer load of wood in preparation for winter, second prize is a family pass to Agfest and 5 bags of sheep poo, and third prize being 1 adult pass to Agfest and 5 bags of sheep poo. Tickets are \$1.00 each and contact any of our members if you would like to purchase some (keeping in mind you may have to collect the wood, depending on your location).

Our fundraising barbecue for our Relay for Life team

## Club Reports Cont.

will be held on Sunday 4th March, members will be cooking sausages and selling drinks. We are holding this event at our local hardware store Clennett's Mitre 10 who have allowed us to have several barbecues here over recent years.

We are having a stall at the Huon Small Farms Expo on the 25th March at the Ranelagh Recreation Ground. We will be selling our raffle tickets, sheep poo (if we still have some) and Agfest tickets along with promoting our club to potential new members.

We have been busy organising the purchase of some new club shirts for members. The club executive has decided to charge members \$15 each for these and then cover the remaining \$17.50 + embroidery costs for members. These shirts will help us in looking more professional at events and adds to the work we have done with our new marquee etc.

This year, we will also be participating in the Huon Valley Relay for Life in April to raise money for the Cancer Council. Your support and donations would be greatly appreciated! Find our team at: [http://ccau.convio.net/site/TR?team\\_id=58520&fr\\_id=5162&pg=team](http://ccau.convio.net/site/TR?team_id=58520&fr_id=5162&pg=team), we are looking for members to help us do the walking or if you are unable to walk, a monetary donation would be greatly appreciated.

Our next meeting was scheduled as bowling but we have had to change the date, with a new date not decided as yet.

**Simone Salter**  
**KH Secretary**

### Brighton

Brighton Rural Youth has had some changes throughout the past couple of months. We have held our AGM and our new committee is as follows;

Tameika Holland - President

Eboni Burden - Vice President

Sam Pogorzelski-Secretary

Hans Zhuang - Treasurer

Congratulations to all!  
We'd also like to welcome our first new member for the year, Nick Molotov.

To start our year off we are working towards a BBQ at

Bunnings Glenorchy on the 17th of June. We are hoping to start raising some money for a potential public or rural youth only event which is all sounding very exciting.

**Mei**  
**Newsletter Writer**

### Western Tiers

Western Tiers has kicked off the year with a great start. We have a few things in the pipe works and we cannot be more excited to share them with you.

On Saturday the 3rd of March, Western Tiers is inviting everyone along to come and join us for a social day out at the Liffey Falls. Western Tiers Club is putting on a free BBQ for all after the walk, which will begin at 10am, where we will spend the morning enjoying the magical scenery of Liffey Falls and the greater area.

Later on in May, Western Tiers has yet again secured its place at the Campbell Town Show, where we will once again be running the Dog High Jump competition and a BBQ stall. This event is not only a great fundraising day out for us, but also a great way to engage with the community and get the name of Rural Youth out in the community.

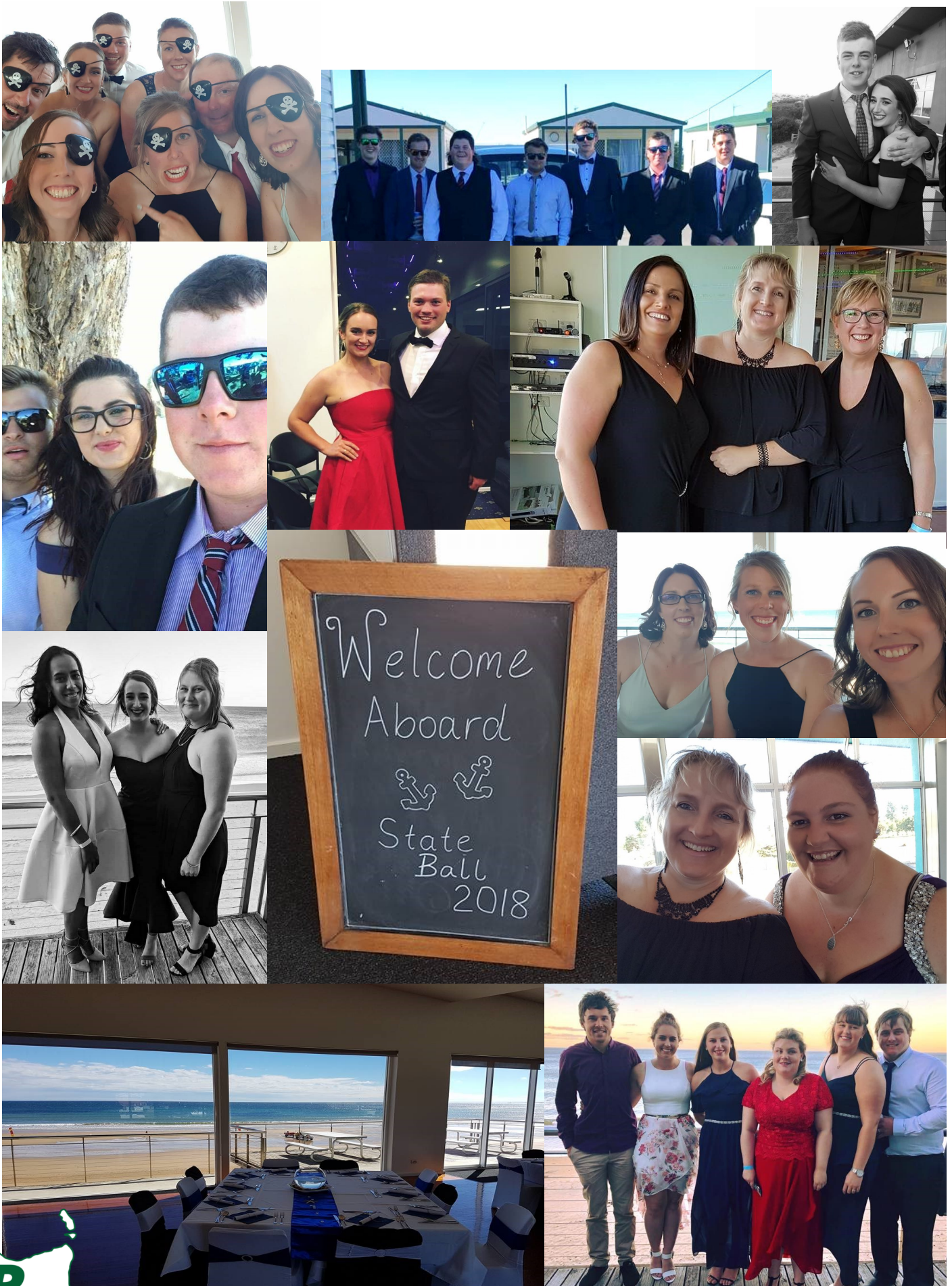
Western Tiers is looking forward to a jam packed year, with loads more to come.

Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday 6th March at 7pm at the British Hotel, Deloraine.

**Kat Cresswell**  
**Western Tiers Secretary**









## March 2018

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
			1	2	3	4
5	6 Western Tiers Meeting Tamar Meeting	7	8 Hagley Meeting	9	10	11
12	13	14 Agfest Meeting	15	16	17 Working Bee	18 Working Bee
19	20	21 Westmorland Meeting	22	23	24	25
26	27 Central Highlands Meeting	28	29	30	31	

### Club Contacts

#### Northern Region

Hagley	Matthew Wadley	0447 171 284
Tamar	Andrea O'Halloran	0477 377 311
Western Tiers	Wendy McGlashan	0410 822 814
Westmorland	Jono Iles	0488 303 517

#### North West Region

Devonport	Chelsea Rayner	0447 426629
North Motton	Korey Stratton	0427 050 404

#### Southern Region

Brighton	Tameika Holland	0438 060 016
Central Highlands	Oliver Haigh	0487 928 844
Kingborough—Huon	Kaysie Wood	0408 297 021
Oatlands	Phil McConnon	0400 561 540
Sorell	Sarah Birch	0437 500 420

