

December 2017

Newsletter

Inside this Issue:

CEO—General Manager	2
AGFEST	3
Sponsors	4
Club Reports	6
Study Tours	8
Community News	18
Calendar / Contacts	19

*May this **Christmas** end the present
year on a cheerful note and make way
for a fresh and bright **New Year**.
Rural Youth of Tasmania wish you all
a **Merry Christmas** and a **Happy New**
Year!*



Christmas Office Hours:

*Our office will close 12 noon Friday 22nd
December 2017 and will reopen 8:30am
on Tuesday 2nd January 2018*



Contact Us:

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

CEO—General Manager

This month we have much to celebrate! Rural Youth was recognised as the 2017 Community Group of the Year at the Launceston Chamber of Commerce Awards on October 28! The judges made particular mention of how impressed they were with the opportunities Rural Youth offers their members. Being able to learn life and work skills in real life situations is invaluable and something to be encouraged. They were also impressed with the work undertaken with restructuring the organisation and remarked that an exceptional amount had been achieved in a very short time! Incidentally, we are also being formally recognised as a Semi Finalist in the Tasmanian Community Achievement Awards in Hobart on December 1.

As important and great as this external recognition is, there is also much to celebrate and acknowledge internally, with members and clubs doing exactly what we won the above award for at a local level. There is always a danger when you 'single out' individuals, because you are bound to miss someone equally deserving, however these people deserve a special mention. Brady Robins at Oatlands as VP is going out of his way to learn how to run a club. Andrea Craigie is working hard to get Tamar up and running again and she has a couple of willing allies in Jye Earnshaw and Josh Taylor. A young lady turned up to a Brighton meeting knowing no one and was immediately made to feel welcome – these are the things Rural Youth is

about – this is what I see as a measure of our success and what we do best!

The reason I am aware of all of this is for the past six weeks Sarah Revell, (RY Finance Board Member), Josh Taylor, (Board Member) and Linda Perkins (Office Finance Guru) have made it their business to attend club meetings around the state. These visits are designed to inform and assist Clubs, making sure they know what is required under the new Constitution and brushing up on meeting procedure, financial recording or anything else members want to know! It is also a great opportunity to learn directly from members what they would like to see happen in the organisation! This newsletter is now on FB – thanks to a suggestion from Tamar members!! I will be joining this band of travellers and we intend to continue this tradition in 2018, we won't be at every meeting, but a couple of us will turn up every now and then! Sarah, Josh and Linda have done an amazing job and amount of kilometres to achieve these visits – thank you!

In closing I will leave you with an extract from an email I received from a member this week (with their permission) where they spoke about Rural Youth..... "I have learnt and achieved so much and grown as a person since joining"..... This says it all for me.

Merry Christmas to you all.....

Karen



The poster features a dark background with a faint image of people at a bar. At the top is the YAPN logo, which includes a stylized map of Tasmania and the text 'YAPN' and 'YOUNG AGRICULTURAL PROFESSIONALS NETWORK'. Below the logo, the title 'Christmas Drinks' is written in a large, white, cursive font. Underneath the title is the subtitle 'for young people in agriculture' in a smaller, white, sans-serif font. A horizontal line separates the subtitle from the event details: 'ST JOHN CRAFT BEER BAR | December 7th | 5:30 - 7pm'. Below this, the phrase 'You're invited' is written in a white, cursive font. At the bottom, the text 'Join the Young Agricultural Professionals Network for casual christmas drinks on December 7th at St John Craft Beer Bar in Launceston from 5:30pm to 7:00pm. No need to RSVP, come along and bring a friend!' is written in a white, sans-serif font.



AGFEST

Hello All,

Another month has gone by and Agfest is another month closer!

As most of you would know by now exhibitor applications is well under way with the applications flowing in. Applications will be closing at the end of the month allowing time for directors and coordinators time to review the received applications, ready for site allocations early next year.

Budget setting is occurring across the organisation at the moment, Sarah and Linda are doing a great job of organising and sorting budgets and expense lines to make budgets and item costings much easier. Thank you!

We are still seeing members and volunteers coming forward and expressing interest in the last few remaining roles on the committee which is great to see, it is very positive to see people wanting to take on the commitment of these roles to organise and coordinate together to run this outstanding event.

If there is anyone else you have been talking to in your travels that has expressed interest in joining our team this year, I encourage you to let me know so I can give them a call and see if the remaining roles are something that would interest them. Also if there is someone you know who would be great in a vacant role, please feel free to broach the subject with them and gauge their interest, as they might not know what they are missing out on!

Right at the start of the month saw a group of Rural Youth and Agfest representatives attend a function at the Grand Chancellor in Launceston for Launceston Chamber of Commerce awards where both Agfest and Rural Youth were finalists in their nominated categories. Unfortunately Agfest was unsuccessful in their nominated category of "Best Event". Rural Youth though, winning and bringing home the award for "Building Communities", well done and congratulations to all!

Mid-month saw Agfest providing comment to the media on whether the public holiday for the Launceston Show should remain in line with the show or be moved to a line with Agfest instead. The leadership group, office and previous members all weighed in on this item of discussion to provide insight and opinions on what was best for Agfest. It is the view of many to leave the public holiday as it currently is which was then voted down by the Meander Valley Council anyway.

Saturday 25th of November was our Christmas party which was rather well attended,

approximately 28 people attended the BBQ, all enjoying great company, food and having a great time. My regards must go to Matt, Josh and Sarah on the work they did for catering on the day as it was an amazing spread of food, which everyone was in awe of, amazing job!

Thank you to everyone who took the time out of their busy life to come along and support us and join on the fun!

Christmas is very quickly approaching, I would like to wish everyone a very merry Christmas and a happy new year and a great festive time, eating way too much food and enjoying a well-deserved holiday.

Owen Woolley
Agfest Chairman 2018

Positions still vacant on the Agfest Committee

Committee Catering

Committee Catering Asst

Community Groups Asst

Ag Show Council

RY Feature

RY Feature Asst

Waste Management Asst

Parcel Pick Up Asst

Assistant Finance

Assistant Features

Back Ticket Box Asst

Youth Development

Central Arena Asst



AAA SOCKS



DEFENCE FORCE **RECRUITING**



AUSTRALIAN WEAVING MILLS PTY LTD



Betta
MILK



SUPAGAS
AUSTRALIA



KENNEDY'S

ROTORLIFT





Club Reports

Kingborough Huon

Hi All,

November saw a busy month for Kingborough Huon with our hard working members working on the Huon Show.

Well done to our team on putting on a successful Dog High Jump and Ute competition. Huge thanks to Kirilee Beveridge for organising and running the animal nursery.

We got to show off our brand new marquee at the show and it was possibly the best investment we have ever made, check out the 'True Blue' range at Extreme Marquees for your clubs next investment!

Thanks for all the support throughout 2017, wish all the best to incoming committees for 2018

Our next Catch up will be our Christmas BBQ and AGM on December 19th @ Simone's House 6.30pm

Contact Kaysie for more info - 0408 297 021

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Cheers,
Kaysie Wood
0408 297 021

Sorell

On November 3rd Sorell Rural Youth attended and helped out at the Sorell School Fair.

Sorell ran the dog high jump and it was a great success with many dogs coming out in the cold weather to have a crack at seeing who could jump the highest.

We have our Christmas raffle being circulated at the moment with some amazing prizes donated by local businesses in the Sorell area.

On behalf of Sorell Rural Youth, I would like to wish you all a safe and merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Matt Tattersall
0457 546 403



Oatlands

It's been a busy couple of months for us at Oatlands Rural Youth after the club held an AGM to appoint new office bearers and resurrect the club from a social club. Since that time, we have been busily organizing and preparing for two major events on our calendar this year, parking cars at the Melton rodeo, and holding the Ute and Boot competition of which we were approached by the Oatlands District High School to organize and run at their annual Twilight Fair. We had a big couple of months prior to the competition finding sponsors and prize donors for the event. This really proved worthwhile, as we got around 20 sponsors on board. We were blown away by the generosity of our local businesses who donated \$1000 worth of prizes combined.

The Ute and Boot competition went extremely well with a great crowd at the fair. We had 13 vehicles entered on the day making for great competition between the entrants!

Brady Robins
0437 111 327



Club Reports

Tamar

Hi All,

The past month has been very exciting times for the Tamar club as they were successful in holding their first AGM in several years. The club would like to introduce to you the new office bearers, Andrea Craigie as President, Harrison Chugg as Vice President, Josh Taylor as Treasurer & Emily Nixon as Secretary.

Extending a warm welcome to the new club members Jye Earnshaw & Liam King. Onwards & upwards for the Tamar team, there will be some exciting things to be watching out for in the coming months.

The club was also out & about in late October at the Exeter Family Market & Fun Day putting the clubs name & Rural Youth's out there.

Next Meeting: 5th of December, 7:00pm @ Head Office.

If we don't get a chance to catch you before the festive season, have a Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

Until Next Month

Emily Nixon
Tamar Club Secretary



Working with Vulnerable People Checks:

Dear Members,

Sadly we have begun the process of cancelling membership for those who have not taken steps to get these checks completed. If you do not want this to happen to your membership act on previous requests TODAY! Go to:

http://www.justice.tas.gov.au/working_with_children/application



Study Tour Reports

William Craigie - United Kingdom Exchange

On April 14th I left home on the biggest adventure of my life to date. For a total of 23 weeks I was away. I spent 11 weeks on exchange and 12 weeks on traveling/ backpacking. Through my travels I learnt many new skills on and off farms, some of these include:

Milking cows- I previously knew very little about dairy farming as I come from a background in vegetable and livestock farming.

Farm management- many of the farms I stayed at were more than happy to show me business structure and how they run their farms.

New machinery skills- I got many chances to drive machinery I wasn't accustomed to, a wide range of machinery brands including Massey Ferguson, John Deere, Cat, Case Valtra, Fendt, New Holland and Steyr with all kinds of implements.

Public speaking and people skills- I was given many opportunities to build on these skills, I quickly found myself talking at rural youth clubs and speaking at dinners.

Also had chances to do- grass monitoring, cattle handling, stock judging, stock work, horse work, vet blood testing in livestock, shed construction, demolition and many more

But it wasn't all work - I was shown many sites by the Young Farmers and also in my travels. Stonehenge, Chatworth House, Giants Causeway, Slemish, Mt Snowden, Orkney islands, Swiss Alps.

I travelled through many big cities like London, Belfast, Dublin, Edinburgh, Helsinki, Oxford, Salzburg, Zurich along with many others.

All in all I am very grateful for Tasmanian Country's contribution to making this trip so fantastic, There is definitely going to be a return trip or two, there is so much more to see and do I could spend the whole 5 months in the UK and not see it all. I hope that I have and will inspire others to go on exchange whether it is incoming or outgoing, I hope their experience is as good as mine has been.

England

The first day of my trip was the biggest day of my life, I flew out of Launceston at 1:30pm on Friday, the plane was late landing in Melbourne which was an issue because I only had 1 hour and 50-minute stop over with the original flight time. With a quick bit of leg work I cleared customs and 2 security



checks, I had 5 minutes in the lounge and I was onto the plane to Dubai. The flight took around 14 hours which I was unable to sleep on.

I landed in Dubai midnight their time, it was 28 degrees and very humid. I had another quick trip to the next terminal, once seated on the plane our flight was then delayed and we sat on the runway for 30 minutes. I managed to have a quick sleep but as soon as we took off I woke up.

Dubai to Heathrow was about 8 hours, I landed at 7:30 into Heathrow, very sleep deprived at this point. I was met in the arrival lounge by Jack Hawkins, a member from the local young farmers club. From there we travelled to the first host family the Dickinson's just out of St Albans. I had enough time for a shower then we were off to the point to point horse races, which is a cross country style horse race where it's all about betting on the horse races.

Returning to the family farm I managed to get an hour sleep before I was shook awake and informed of a trip to the pub for tea. We returned to the house at 1:00am Sunday morning - this completed my first day.

Over the following week, I spent my time looking around the farm and sites, such as the Broadbalk Experiment where they have been growing wheat for the last 174 years. One strip has had no assistance and a lot of the seed fails but 3 meters away with fertilisers and assistance it has thrived for years. I also spent some time with a field vet where we did some work with dogs. I even saw an escaped kangaroo from the zoo running around a farm on our travels.

I met with the rest of St Albans Young Farmers club with whom I travelled to the National Young Farmers Annual Convention in Torquay, sponsored by Massey Ferguson. 5500 Young Farmers

Study Tour Reports

William Craigie Cont.

descended upon a small sea side town (big town for us) called Torquay, there we had three days and three nights of entertainment. During the day, the main AGM conference with guest speakers, challenges and competitions. Also, there was many pubs and clubs that were open all day and night. Of a night, the main venue was a night club with 6 bars, 2 main rooms with dance floors. One of the rooms had a band and the other with a radio 1 DJ.

On Monday, I left Torquay going past Rachel Branch family's farm, (Rachel is a recent English exchangee to Tasmania). Darcy Toholke (Tasmanian friend) was also staying at the Branch's and we spent the week sightseeing Stonehenge, The White Horse, Bath, Wells, Chetta Gorge, The SS Great Britain and Bristol. I also got a chance to see some dairy farms, stock and arable farms.

Next Monday, it was a public holiday for the Somerset show, it is very much a country show with equestrian events, stock judging, sheep shearing, cattle handling, tractor pull, livestock judging, machinery sales, craft tent and clay target shooting.

From there I continued to Derbyshire, staying on the Adams family farm. After a 2-hour train ride through the English countryside, Richard picked me up and we went out to their dairy farm where I spent the full week. A steady week of farm jobs, hedge building and site seeing. We went to the Chatsworth estate, home to the Duke of Devonshire. The place was more like a palace, it was huge. While there we got to do a tour of part of the house.

Thursday night was an event planning meeting where I got some new ideas for Rural Youth. On Saturday night, we went out for tea in Derby and then out for some drinks. Then Sunday I was on the plane heading to Northern Ireland.



Northern Ireland

My time in Northern Ireland was a very interesting time!

I flew from England to Belfast, and by the time I landed I was feeling a little unwell.

Mitchell Park was my first host and he picked me up from the airport. Mitchell, with his father and brother, own a dairy farm in Ballymena.

On Monday, we milked and fed cattle in the morning, and cut silage throughout the day. That evening we bailed and carted the rounds back to the yard about 8km on the road. I brought my last load into the yard at 1am.

The rest of the week consisted of farm jobs and site seeing, we went to Bush Mills Whisky Distillery for a tour and Carrick-a-Rede rope bridge near Ballintoy. Mitchell, his dad and myself climbed Slemish Mountain and drank Guinness beer, apparently it was a very Irish thing to do.

Thursday and Friday, we went to Balmoral show, it was like Agfest but with more activities and less stalls. Things I saw were sheep and cattle judging, shearing competitions, tractor handling, tug of war, a beer tent and side show alley.

That Saturday night we went to the Randalstown BBQ which was fun, it was held in a cattle shed with a band and a bar. This was followed by a quiet Sunday with burgers and chips.

On Monday Emma Miller (another recent past exchangee to Tasmania) picked me up and we spent the week together. We did lots of activities including Giant's Causeway, we did the full walk! Emma and I also went to Belfast to see the Titanic Museum and Belfast Castle. Later that week, I went to work with John Cochrane. John is a chippy but works with concrete building now. We did some wall boxing for a chicken shed and laid reinforcing bar down for a shed slab. I planted barley with a young farm member, we worked right on the coast in a 200hp John Deere with satellite guidance, this was very much over kill in the 15 acre fields. I also swam at Port Rush one morning which was extremely cold. Friday night was Sports night where 250 Young Farmers turned up to play soccer and tug of war. On Saturday night there was a BBQ, it was a good evening followed by a lazy Sunday.

On Sunday night, I met with Jack Johnston and his mates and we went to Port for a drink. But on Monday morning I got put to work at the Johnston's farm where we milked 280 cows on a 20 aside swing over parlour. We also cut silage so Wednesday was all about hauling silage back from

Study Tour Reports

William Craigie Cont.

the fields in tractors and chaser bins. Ballymena show was on Friday afternoon. There was a Young Farmer competition that included hockey, tractor handling, ute course, quad bike challenge and tug of war. Saturday was a busy day, a Young Farmer member of Randalstown got married. When the wedding party leave the church, it is tradition to walk through an arch of pitch forks which I was asked to be in. We went back to the second day of the show for some more competitions and to have a better look around. Then back to the Johnston's to milk. I then caught the bus to another young farmer BBQ followed by a quiet Sunday morning and a lunchtime flight to Wales.



Wales

Leaving Northern Ireland, I flew to Cardiff Wales where I was met by Angharad (another past Tasmanian exchangee) and her partner Andrew, they both had the week off work so we road tripped around Wales. We made many stops including stopping at a town named Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwllllantysilio gogogoch which is the longest named town in Wales.

Also I went to Verdigo zip line which is one of the longest zip lines in the world and holds the record for being the fastest. To fill out the week I went to Angharad's family farm before a long train ride to Lancaster shire.



England

The train went into Manchester where I was collected by James Davis and taken back to his family farm, then thrown straight into giving a talk to the local Young Farmers club, telling them about Australia and the study tour that I was on.

The next day we travelled down south to Lutterworth where a field day for plant equipment was being held, the event was actually held on the Top Gear track. On the way home we stopped at the JCB world factory and did a site tour, it was great to see how the loaders were being made.

The rest of the week was filled with Young Farmer events and farm jobs and on Monday a train trip to Edinburgh

Scotland

I left Lancaster via train to Edinburgh on the 12th of June, the trip was delayed because the door fell off the main train but I got to Edinburgh safe and sound. In the Scottish part of my exchange I was part of a group of 16 exchangees from different countries. Different to me as before this I was by myself as a lone exchangee.

Edinburgh is a beautiful city built on a hill with lots of rises and stairs. I dragged my bag and suitcase to the street where I was staying, it turns out there are 2 hostels called the Cowgate hostel. On arriving to the first hostel (the wrong one) I met an English girl named Lauren (who was on the exchange trip) she was arguing with the receptionist so when we worked out that it was the wrong hostel we continued to the correct one. Because we checked in at the same time we got put into a share room with a New Zealander girl and an Englishman.

That evening we met with Gemma (another past exchangee to Tasmania) for dinner then to a bar for a drink where I met the rest of the exchange group. This was the first part of my exchange in a group which I enjoyed, there was 2 English, 2 Welsh, 2 Northern Irish, 1 Irish, 2 Finnish, 1 Swiss, 1 New Zealander and myself to start with.

The next day, as a group we went sightseeing to a pick-your-own style farm and shop ironically called Craigie's. We also went out to 5 river bridges and stopped off at the Scottish Parliament. At the Scottish Parliament we went on a small tour into the meeting room, and as young representatives of the world we had a discussion about a broad range of topics including U.K leaving the EU, farm payments from the government, TB in livestock and other issues, it was a very interesting talk.

Study Tour Reports

William Craigie Cont.

I went to the International Trust dinner on Tuesday night. There was a range of supporters and important people. At the dinner, I had a chat with a reporter from the Herald newspaper so I got a small mention in the agricultural section. Also there I made a quick thankyou speech to the room.



The group of exchangees went to Ayrshire where we got spread around host families. My first host was Robert Campbell. He comes from a family dairy and beef farm. For the week we went site seeing, cut and hauled silage, farm tours and young farmers events. When staying with the Campbell's we went out cutting silage in a 180-horsepower Case with front and one side mower. I got shown the controls, given a test drive and then left to it. The following day I was in a smaller Case with a single side mower. We had a day raking then hauling. I did many loads of silage into many pits, it was a great experience to see how silage is done on the other side of the world.

We returned to Edinburgh for the Highland Show. I was staying in the same hostel but this time I had a room with 3 Irish. Through the days we explored the show, of the evenings we went to the Main reception and Exchange reception. At night there were dances and bars for the young farmers.

After the show half of the exchangees finished their trips and the remaining went with SSS Young Farmers club, three of us went into a cabin and were collected through the days for activities, sightseeing and club events. I met with James Campbell who was my second host. He works with his dad on a sheep farm, we checked sheep/farm jobs and sightseeing. We went to Dublin for a day and went to a Rhubarb farm tour, farm shop, sports nights and pub golf with the Young Farmers club.

Water sports day in St. Andrews east coast beach where we kayaked with a hire company called Blown Away, ironically it was a windy day but very enjoyable. That night we went to a show dance

which was a quite enjoyable night. I had a quiet Sunday morning on the couch watching a movie and then a train back to Edinburgh where I stayed the night at a Hostel and then back to England to mark the end of my exchange.

My travel

I travelled to Oxford to my aunt and uncle where I spent a week recovering, chilling out and planning my next part of my travel.

I travelled to the Orkney islands where the Craigie family originated from then down to the royal welsh show and back to Northern Ireland for a week.

I flew to Finland to catch up with Nillo one of the guys I was in Scotland with spending a week on his farm.

From there to Austria to see Eva (past exchangee to Tasmania) who had Zoe Newman staying with her (another Tasmanian Rural Youth member who was on exchange to Austria) and it was great to hear an Australian accent.

I took a train trip to Switzerland which was worth the \$300 through the mountains. I met with Christa (yep, another past exchangee to Tasmania), and spent a week with her looking about. I climb part of the Swiss Alps one day there and also bought a swiss army knife.

Returning to England a week early I busied myself on my uncle and aunts farm and finding long lost relatives. I flew to Northern Ireland to help a farming family out by building gates. Returning to England I went site seeing around London with Gemma, who flew down from Scotland for the day just to show me around.

A few more days with my English family and then I was all set for the long trip home



In conclusion I had a fabulous time and would love to do it all over again.

Study Tour Reports

Tobias ten Bensel - Norway

Kolvereid to Inderøy

My journey in the Kolvereid county had finally come to an end, my 3 weeks with Peter, Stine, Benjamin and Annabelle had flown past me, with many great memories we headed south towards the next host family. Apparently, my stay with them wouldn't be complete without a stop at the Namsskogan Family Park, Namsskogan was a cross between a zoo and

a family fun park with animals roaming in large habitat enclosures and family fun activities. We were very lucky to be at the lynx enclosure for feeding time, as it is known to be hard to see. The park also features a giant zip line across the lake, climbing park, a lounge rollercoaster, sand pits for the young ones and boat "dodgem cars".



With open arms my new host a previous IFYE to Costa Rica, Maren and her husband Yngve opened their home to me. Maren and Yngve lived on a small rural property in the Inderøy kommune with their two sons Ola (3yrs) and Anton (3mth) they also had more kids but they were the goat kind. Yngve had a big focus about living from the land and being self-sufficient from their property. From the small vegetable patch we had potatoes. Each night we had frozen mushrooms that were picked

from the nearby woods in the season before and there was also a freezer full of moose. The goats were used to clear the ever growing forest to return the area into a rocky pasture.

Not far from home there was a lookout with a large open hut facing the fjord with a charcoal barbecue to grill on as well, the local 4H farm is close by so they use it for the occasional gathering in the summer.

Maren decided that I needed a quick tour to orientate me (or confuse me) as to where we were living in the area, the area had everything from a microbrewery to a potato chip factory, we stopped by the old church that is nearing 1000 years and is the epicentre of Christianity for the area. The local area keeps on surprising, Ganstard is the home to one of the first dairy/cheese and ice cream farms in middle Norway.



The next door neighbours are Lene and Jon who own the beautiful Snerting Ranch, a small farm of 20 beef cows, a couple of goats and a pet dog. Unlike the norm, the beef cows at Snerting spend the full 12 months outside with access to a section of barn in the winter to shelter from the snow and rain. Lene has horses that are used to help train some of the young foster children who stay on the farm as well as 4H. In addition to the farm Lene and Jon run a second house that is available on air BnB. During the cold months the farm is entirely heated off a furnace boiler that pumps water to both of the houses and also the machinery shed. This furnace is fired by wood chips. Once a year they contract an industrial chipper to chip down entire trees to fill their barn, ready for the next winter.

At the camp on Jøa I became good friends with the members of local Alumni Association. They organised to have a summer weekend at Maren's house where we barbecued dinner, played grass games till early the next morning and on the last

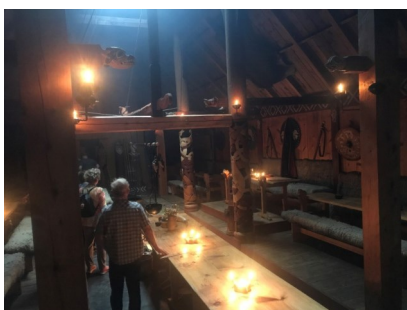
Study Tour Reports

Tobias ten Bensel Cont.



night watched Cool Running's, I have now officially introduced the Jamaican bobsled team to Norway. The last day we had together as a group we borrowed the canoes from 4H and went paddling for the afternoon on a rare sunny Sunday.

On a road trip Yngve's friends were keen to meet "the Australian". Jon and Caroline had a cabin in flatanger, it was the old family home that Jon's grandfather built. The family used to fish for herring in the local fjord, there was an old wharf that they still owned but it had seen better days back when the water was teeming with life. Jon's boat was a small but pleasant vessel, with a little old putt-putt motor it steamed through the fjord as we trawled for sea running trout.



Stiklestad entered the history books as a battle field location, where King Olaf Hardaldsson was killed 1030. Shortly after his death he was known as a Christian martyr. A culture centre and hotel was established in 1995 with the St Olaf festival and play yearly each summer.

Inderøy to the Nordic camp

With my bags packed and loaded onto bus to travel the 12hours from Nord-Trøndelag to Ostfeld. Finally we arrived at the Nordic camp, the big event for 4H where the Scandinavian 4H come together for a week of activities.

joined one of the groups to visit the local 4H farms, the first farm predominantly produced fire wood to sell to the local area, the second farm was a mixed vegetable farm with a large field brimming with all types of vegetables where the locals can come and pick their own to take home. Also to add to the vegetables they had a blueberry patch, 6 different varieties in neat rows.



Another activity I joined was the visit to the Old Town, Fredrikstad.

"The Fortified town was founded in 1567 by King Frederik II, and is today considered the best preserved fortified town in Nordic Region.

Fredrikstad's history starts, oddly enough, with the fall of the neighbouring town of Borg. This historic town was razed to the ground by the Swedish army, during The Great Nordic War, and soon afterwards, King Frederik II decided to build a completely new city, by the Glomma estuary. On a well-protected riverbank where one could easily keep an eye on suspicious movements on the horizon, as well as improving the citizens' living conditions.

In the 16th century, it was decided to reinforce the ramparts of the Old Town, under strict guidance of the Dutch Quartermaster General, Willem Coucheron. During the same time, the new fortress in Halden was being built. In 1814, the Old Town was attacked by the Swedish Crown Prince Carl Bernadotte, at a very vulnerable time. It took the

Study Tour Reports

Tobias ten Bensel Cont.

Swedes only a few hours to take full control, and the town surrendered.

In 2002, the Østfold Regiment was disbanded; 350 years of military presence in the fortress town came to an end."

Another day was spent in the town of Halden where the new fortress was built. We started the tour in the town's church where we had a presentation of the history in the town. We were marched through the town in lines of 4 by men dressed as soldiers who would have guarded the fort. With 1200 youth delivered inside the fort's walls, we were let loose to explore. Later that evening we attended "Allsang på grensen" a summer concert with various famous Scandinavian artists.

Like any 4H camp it is tradition to stay up all night on the last night, I am a little unsure as to why, but it seems that you use the time to enjoy the last moments with your friends that you may not see for another 12 months. All throughout the night buses loaded up with passengers to return to the counties, the car park was always full with people saying goodbye and having those last moments together with a long lasting hug. It came time for me to say goodbye to my county as I would be heading in the opposite direction, with a long line of hugs and handshakes we said goodbye.



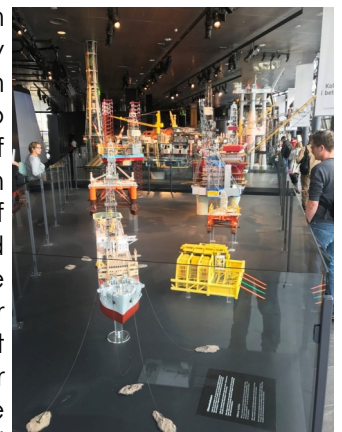
Nordic Camp to Rogaland

Early the next morning it was my turn to load onto the bus, sleep deprived I was set for the 10 hour bus ride to the next county and my new host family. At the final stop I was met by my new host Tone in Byrne. With a quick 45 minute drive to the city of Stavanger we arrived at the family home, this host family was a little different to the others as I would be living in the city, only 5 minute's walk from the centre of town.

I was taken on a lazy Sunday stroll through the city with the family, Jarle, Tone with their two sons Filip and Teo. I was taken through the "Old Town" which comprised of 250 wooden buildings from the turn of the 18th century. Mostly small wooden cottages with cobble paved streets. After the second world war a new city plan was created for Stavanger, where the city was to be modernised and most of the wooden buildings removed but one voice spoke up, Einar Hedén to save the small section of the city which is now known as one of the best preserved towns in the scandinavian region for that era.

Over the next couple of days, I explored the city by myself. Dotted throughout Stavanger and other major cities in Norway are Ebikes, an easy way of getting from A to B at a small cost. Stavanger had plenty of history to be told, so I explored the local museums. The Maritime Museum showed the history of the harbor and how the water front has changed over the years. One of Stavanger's major historical trading commodities is smoked sardines.

Visiting the Tin Museum gave me insight as to how the town had grown from this tiny fishing village to being the capital of sardines. The Tin Museum had a great range of historical machinery used to smoke and tin the sardines to be ready for shipping. I was told that my trip to Stavanger wouldn't be complete without a trip to the Oil



Museum. Stavanger is known as the oil capital of Norway. Since striking oil in 1969 on the Norwegian continental shelf Norway boomed as an oil country. The museum was a great insight and education of how dangerous the industry was especially in the early days.

In my adventures around the city I stumbled upon a small takeaway shop, "Dun Dee Take Away" I couldn't believe it, of all the places, there was an Australian guy making food in the city of Stavanger!!

I was lucky that Filip had a fencing training camp in a small village by the name of Ulvik in the Hardanger region. I took this opportunity to travel

Study Tour Reports

Tobias ten Bensel Cont.

with Jarle and Filip to Ulvik on the Thursday afternoon so I could meet my Australian friend Meg in the nearby town of Voss. Meg and I originally met on the Young Endeavour - the Australian Navy sail training vessel nearly two years before. We stayed in contact and Meg just happened to be coming to Norway! Meg and I rented a little cabin not far away from the centre of Voss. Being so close to the town centre allowed us to adventure all weekend. Adventures varied from short walks to Wind Tunnel Dive at Vossvind. Flying in the tunnel was an unreal experience, within about 30 seconds I had control of my stability and the instructor signalled me to start playing with the dynamics of flying. After a fantastic weekend in Voss it was time to head home to Stavanger and on to my next family in Undheim.



I was packed up and ready to move camp to the next family. My host mother Aud picked me up and we were off to the farm. In conversation on the way I was asked of what I missed from home the most, I responded with "honestly, the food" shortly after we arrived at the butcher's shop and I was told to choose whatever I wanted. It was soon clear to Aud that I enjoyed cooking and then I was made chief cook for the week I would stay with them, I even cooked a melt in your mouth lamb roast. The Rista farm was primarily a dairy, they had a large cow house with a robot milker, as well as a large pig house. Unfortunately, I was unable to see inside the pig house as I hadn't been tested for parasite. It was explained to me that if any of the pigs contracted the parasite it would mean that all the pigs would have to be culled as per government regulations.

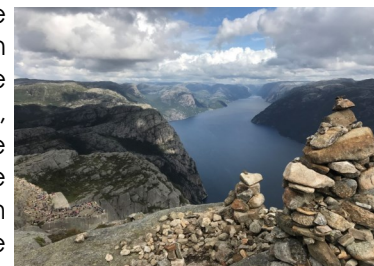
Aud and Gina took me to Preikestolen, otherwise known as the pulpit rock, a well-known Norwegian tourist attraction. To get to Preikestolen it was a

short hike in the hills of the Lysefjorden to reach the famous land mark. The track was refurbished yearly and rebuilt by the Nepalese Sherpas, the track was crafted from the stone surrounding the landscape.

After an hour's jog Gina and I arrived at the rock that was covered in hundreds of tourists, with a few quick snaps we decided that it wasn't enough so we kept climbing to the next peak that over looked Preikestolen. From this higher view point we could



see the masses of tourists gathered on top of Preikestolen. Half way down our descent we set up to have some food with a charcoal barbeque. We sat back cooking the salmon we had prepared in foil parcels. Shortly after returning to the car park, I received a message from Meg inviting me on a hike with Tone and the family. With half a plan I meet Meg in the heart of Stavanger to shop for supplies and arrange transport to Florli. After asking around we boarded the train that would take us to a bus terminal and then bus to where the fast ferry would take us the rest of the way to the small village and power station of Florli. Our original plan was to hike the 4444 stairs from the power station to the reservoir at the top of the fjord. With the lack of time we had to go to plan B, slog it out up the other side of the valley and then across the top of the fjord to Skäpet.



Trekking through the ridges and valleys was pretty breath taking as we made it to the top of each crest, we never knew what we would find. 2 hours of climbing out of Florli and another 3 across the top, we finally made it to the permanent cabins perched on a giant rock slab overlooking a small lake. These cabins were the newest addition to the hiking organisation, completely furnished and even a wood fired sauna!

Study Tour Reports

Tobias ten Bensel Cont.

Returning from my hike, I had to quickly pack my bags as it was time to move to my new home. Elin, Dag and Sindre were my new hosts for the next two weeks, the family lived on the family farm where they breed horses for trotting, egg laying chickens and kept cows for beef. Elin ran the farm with her father, her husband Dag was a baker in a nearby city and Sindre was still at school but also had a huge interest in the family farm. The farm was also home to Elin's brothers trucking company, one of the biggest in the region in fact. As part of my stay I helped with general farm hand work as well as a lot of carpentry work. Once it was known that I was a trade qualified carpenter my job list grew very quickly. The first job off the rank was to replace the rotten windows in the stable, it didn't take long for this small job to get complicated as the rot had spread to the wall studs.



After removing and replacing most of the surrounding timbers the windows were in and sealed ready for the winter to come. I was relieved to have this project finished, unknown to me but there was a new job on the list, you guessed it! More windows.... The task at hand seemed quite simple and we had a plan, well that plan didn't last long as we had more work replacing rotten stud work again. A few long working days and I had the building wrapped, the windows in and the weather boards fitted.

Rogaland to Trondheim

It was now time for the Norwegian IFYE gathering in Trondheim, from Rogaland I had a short flight to Sør-Trøndelag where I met with the previous exchanges from the IFYE program. We had a great weekend of wandering the city and hiking and climbing a nearby mountain. The NIFYE group conducted their annual general meeting as well that weekend. I once again joined Maren and returned to her home in Inderøy. My stay with Maren and Yngve was a delight once again, with plenty of adventures including mushroom hunting in the forest and also visiting Maren's home town and family dairy farm. I couldn't believe how fast my stay in Norway had gone, 3 months just flew by!

As a Tasmanian ambassador for Rural Youth I thoroughly enjoyed and took much pleasure in sharing and exchanging ideas and practical experiences with my adopted families and others I met. I encouraged those who were eligible to consider participating in the exchange programs available and welcomed anyone who was particularly interested in visiting Tasmania.

After safely returning home to Australian soil I couldn't help but miss Norway and all the families I had lived with. I am very grateful of the experience that the Rural youth study tour has given me let alone all the international friends and family I now have. I endeavour to return to Norway in the future, to once again see all my Norwegian friends.



Study Tour Reports

Zoe Newman - Austria

Beautiful mountains and beautiful cows. I'd been in Austria for three weeks when I made that my definition of that beautiful country. Because that's what's Austria was for me so far - amazing scenery with a bloody amazing agricultural background. But I'd already been there three weeks, what more was there to see, there couldn't be too much, could there?

It's such a hard feeling to describe, leaving the country to go on exchange. Not knowing what I was really getting myself into. I knew I'd be staying with host families and I knew a little about them, but not enough to really know who these people were. I mean, they've just invited me into their home with such open arms, with such little knowledge of who I was and I guess all they had was the hope and the trust that I'd be this blonde smiling girl from Tasmania Australia, whose application form said she'd be interested in farming and learning about the culture of their country. That's all I kept thinking about the 21 hours I was in the air and the 10 or so hours I spent in airports. These people trusted me with only the basic knowledge of who I was. These people sounded incredible.

Karin and Martin Breitwieser, my first host family - I swear were actually super humans. With 1000 pigs, and about 100 hectares of land they raised 4 kids, the youngest being 18 months. Markus who was 7 taught me many German words, like hedgehog, bus, tractor and so much more. Some of the words he taught me I used a lot while staying with the other families, especially the German word for tractor. Children don't learn English in school until the age of 10 which I found really hard because I absolutely love kids and some days my job was to stay home with them while their parents were in the field. We had to figure out our own way of communicating but it was nice to have our own little way to talk, almost like a secret language. By the end of my trip I really enjoyed trying and learning the German language. Listening to the farmers explain their agricultural system became easier and easier, especially because a lot of German words come from the English language. I had learnt to count one through to ten, so when talking to a beef farmer about how much his cattle weighed, and things like that it made it a lot easier to understand. Majority of the farmers I met don't

speak fluent or any English because they just don't need it and German schools only started teaching English about thirty or forty years ago. I was really proud of how quickly I learnt even the simplest German words. One thing every host family asked me was to say this really difficult Austrian German word *oachkazlschwoaf* which in English meant squirrel tail. To start with I wouldn't even try to say it because it seemed way too hard. But by my fifth week with a lot of practice I pretty much had it. My third host family Alexandra taught me a sentence that I found very useful, and when I said it my host families loved it as well. *Danke fewr das gute essen*, which means thanks for the good food. Because I certainly tried a lot of different but good food while I was away and I really wanted to find a good way to thank my host for the amazing food I tried, so I practiced and practiced learning this one sentence it took me a good week to learn.

Austrian quiescence, wow where to start? From traditional food like apple strudel, schnitzel or even apricot dumplings I tried my hand at making, and I couldn't wait to come home and show my family the amazing food I'd been trying. In Austria a meal of meat, cheese and bread is incredibly common and I probably ate it every day. The range of meat and cheese they have is incredible - one of my favourite times of the day was going to the deli section of the super markets just to see the range of meats and cheese you could buy. There are so many more experiences I could write about but we would be here all day.

I really can't put into words how amazing this experience was. The people I've met, the things I've seen, that wonderful food I've tried and when I start talking about my time in Austria it's hard to get me to stop. This experience won't just stop here, the people you meet while you are away don't just disappear when your exchange is over, they continue to be lifelong friends and even family. The things you experience help you develop life skills and really make you appreciate your own home and country. I hope to learn more about the world's agriculture and I really can't describe how much Austria taught me about farming and it's something I hope to base my further education on.

Thanking my host families enough for hosting me was the hardest part - how do you thank someone and explain to them what an incredible experience they've given you. This all started for me because I



Study Tour Reports

hosted an exchange. It's not like hosting someone from another country, it's like spending two weeks with your new best friend and learning ten times more. I'd recommend hosting an exchange to anyone, it's really one of the most life changing decisions I've ever made. You really never think giving someone a home for two weeks could give you so much. But it really does.

In Austria they also have a Rural Youth but it's called Landjugend Österreich, (Rural Youth Austria), I've met so many of their incredible landjugend members and a lot about their landjugend program and how they run their Rural Youth. They have over ninety thousand members and I can't wait to back and one day and meet even more of them.

But it's not just the host families on the other side of the world that make this program go round, it is Rural Youth Tasmania as well. I don't think they will ever understand what this experience gave me or what they are really giving to Rural Youth members of today and as Rural Youth members we are so incredibly lucky to have an organisation willing to put in so much effort and to find local businesses that are willing to support us and send us on the journey of a life time.

My wonderful sponsor was Kennedys Welding Supplies and I'm so incredibly grateful for their trust and generosity. Without even knowing they've strengthened my passion for agriculture and given me life experiences that have really broadened my outlook of the world and I hope to use this knowledge to further my education and to teach the young children of today all about the agriculture from all over the world. Thank you for raising your hand to sponsor me to Austria, without businesses like you, Kennedy's Welding Supplies, this program wouldn't exist.

Was my experience in Austria more than just beautiful mountains and beautiful cows? I'll let you decide.

Council Community News



Youth planning

Friday 1 December between 3.30pm and 6pm at Deloraine House, 112 Emu Bay Road
Young people aged 12 – 25 years from the Meander Valley area are invited to a meeting with Council officer, Vicki Jordan, to collate ideas and put together a 2018 calendar of activities and training options for young people. If you would like to have some input or check out what is happening please come along and join in. If your bus

does not get in until later, that is OK, you are still welcome - Vicki 0400 155 690

Sounds of Summer

Sunday 3 December 11-4pm Deloraine river bank
Meander Valley Community Radio is hosting the Sounds of Summer. A free community event with live music, food for sale and a raffle with great prizes. Come out for a fantastic afternoon by the river, meet your favourite announcers and support your local community radio station 96.9 MVFM. For more information please see web page mvfm.com.au or call 6362 4969.

TJM TASMANIA
4X4 EQUIPPED Launceston ♦ Hobart ♦ Burnie
Local Family Owned & Operated Statewide

Present your Rural Youth Membership to receive:

10% OFF

*Subject to T&C's, excludes ATV & UTV's

Thinking of getting your 4X4 Equipped?...
Thinking of Camping Equipment (and more)?...
...Think TJM Tasmania

WWW.TJMTASMANIA.COM.AU 1800 TJM TAS



December 2017

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
				1	2	3
4	5	6 Rural Youth Board Meeting	7	8	9	10
11 Sorell AGM	12	13	14 Hagley AGM	15	16	17
18	19 Kingborough- Huon AGM	20	21	22 Head Office Closes for Christ- mas	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Club Contacts

Northern Region

Hagley	Jacqueline Hodgkinson	0429 524 243
Tamar	Andrea Craigie	0477 377 311
Western Tiers	Stuart Cresswell	0488 666 365
Westmorland	Matthew Bayles	0400 580 005

North West Region

Devonport	Mitchell Grey	0458 658 287
North Motton	Ethan Williams	0448 320 628

Southern Region

Brighton	Breeanna House	0447 774 077
Central Highlands	Oliver Haigh	0487 928 844
Kingborough—Huon	Kaysie Wood	0408 297 021
Oatlands	Phil McConnon	0400 561 540
Sorell	Dave Lucas	0459 467 282

