

Enews



**TASMANIAN RURAL YOUTH
PAST MEMBERS ASSOCIATION**

November 2019

Sorry if you missed it – it was a great night!!

On Saturday 9th November, 80 past members of the Rural Youth Agfest Organising Committee and others who were instrumental in those first years, gathered for a Reunion Dinner to celebrate, rekindle friendships and generally tell some very tall tales about how it was in the “old days”.

The news that Sean Heggarty, one of the original committee, sadly passed away recently prompted this gathering and homage was paid to him during the evening.

An impressive collection of memorabilia was gathered by our resident “Bowerbirds” and proudly displayed for people to ponder and recall, we even had a copy of the very first prospectus and letter of invitation as placemats, compliments of John Dent and thank you to Noel for organising a donation of hessian that served as table covering.



The room was abuzz with people reconnecting, sometimes after many years, a wonderful meal was provided by Kellie Dowling and her team and drinks flowed, ably dispensed by Hagley member Jacqui Hodgkinson.

Noel Beven, Chairman of Agfest 1982, 83 & 84 was the very efficient MC, keeping everyone amused with his roving microphone.

We also welcomed Jake Williams (current Rural Youth State President) and his brother Ethan (current Agfest Chairman) – very talented family – into our fold and they heard firsthand about the challenges, triumphs, fun and unbreakable bond of friendship amongst the committee, who founded the event that has provided a solid future for Rural Youth. Thank you for coming Jake and Ethan.

Those who were prepared to “spill the beans” were given the opportunity and some very un-PC stories were aired, much to everyone’s amusement.

It was a delightful night of entertainment recalling how things got started and how the challenges were overcome, with lots of people saying “we must do this again!” Maybe for the 40th Anniversary, we’ll see.

Thank you to John and Noel for coming up with the idea and thank you to Janet and Judy for assisting. It was a real team effort trying to contact people, because we didn’t have email or mobile phones in those days and it was very time consuming trying to find people.

For this very reason, we encourage you to spread the word amongst your peers to join the Rural Youth Past Member’s Association, to build the network to enable us to include everyone.



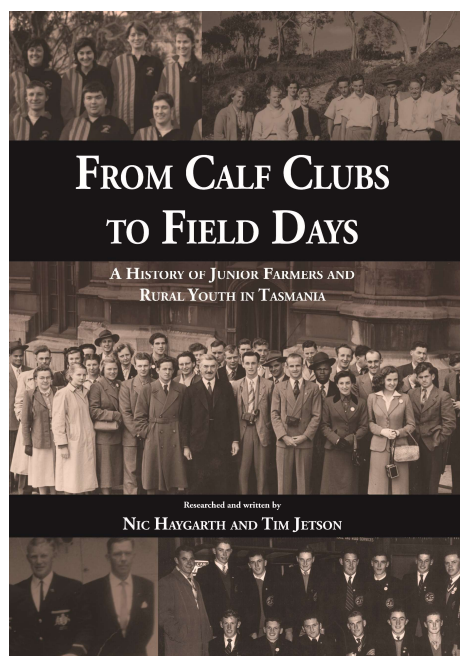
Just in case you missed it.....!

The Rural Youth history project is still on sale and available from the Rural Youth office.

A social history of the Rural Youth Organisation of Tasmania Inc., which began as Calf Clubs in the 1930's, then Junior Farmers, until a name change to Rural Youth in the 1950's. This book covers 70 years of the organisation's rich history up until 2013 and includes not only the how and why it all came about, but a treasure trove of memories from members who passed through over many years. It is a very readable and humorous book researched and written by published Historians Nick Haygarth and Tim Jetson. Well worth the purchase price of just \$35.

It also documents the Agfest story, how it began and how it grew into one of Tasmania's finest agricultural events. Agfest is a true success story that has provided the organisation with solid, independent financial grounding which in turn enables ongoing security for the many self-development opportunities benefitting current and future members.

Contact the Rural Youth Office on 6331 6154 to secure your copy.



Congratulations to Ethan Williams on being elected Chairman at the Annual Meeting last month.

Ethan took over from Owen Woolley who completed a 2-year term. He remains on the committee in charge of Security. Congratulations to Owen for your commitment to the continual success of the field days.

Goodluck Ethan, leading your team into 2020.

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Check out the website for more info on –

- Contacting a Rural Financial Counsellor for free and confidential service
- Rural Relief Fund

RURAL BUSINESS PROGRAMS, including

- Forum of Rural Stakeholders – Service Provider Members: Friday 13th December at the DPIPWE offices.
- Focus Groups – youth in agriculture
- Mentoring Program – are you retired and able to mentor new or young farmers?
- Forestry Contractor Resilience Program (FCRP)

www.ruralbusinesstasmania.org.au

or call 1300 88 3276



TASMANIAN RURAL YOUTH PAST MEMBERS ASSOCIATION

Position Vacant – TRYPMA Convenor

We are still looking for a Convenor to join the Executive team. It is not a demanding position as TRYPMA is a low key group. Job description includes assisting with ideas for the annual function, oversight of the newsletter which is prepared by the Secretary and generally being a sounding board for ideas. There are no meeting commitments and an annual report is prepared in collaboration with the Executive members.

We have an annual Afternoon Tea Muster at Agfest each year, a weekend function once every 18 months or so, so the impost on your time isn't onerous. Please let me know if you would be interested in leading this group.

EMAIL: tasry.past.members.assn@gmail.com
WEBSITE: www.ruralyouth.com.au/membership
Call Judy on 0466 722 553

or follow us on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/Tasmanian-Rural-Youth-Past-Members-Association-169091823216355/

If you are reading this Enewsletter, then you are a Lifetime Member of the Rural Youth Past Member's Association. There are no renewals, so you remain a member until you advise us otherwise.

Benefits include:

- Networking – a link to like-minded people with similar interests.
- Friendship – maintaining contact with people you will always share a bond with.
- Communication – only members receive the Enews containing information about upcoming events or information that comes to us from other organisations that could be of interest to you. We also have a page on the Rural Youth website and our own Facebook profile.
- A main gathering annually, plus the annual Afternoon Tea Muster at Agfest. Attend all or part – your choice.
- A **once only** joining fee of \$50 which covers your partner (*at the same address*).

Anyone who has been a member of the Calf Clubs, Junior Farmer or Rural Youth or holds a Rural Youth Service Award is eligible to be a member of TRYPMA. To build a strong and effective network for maximum benefit to everyone, we rely on current members to spread the word amongst their peers and encourage them to join. Please encourage your old Rural Youth friends to come on board.

Membership applications are available on the Past Members page of the Rural Youth website. Pay by cash/cheque, direct deposit or credit card.

Thank you, and we look forward to your support.