



# Rural Youth Tasmania Newsletter

April 2017

## General Manager

Thank you to all who attended the AGM on the 4<sup>th</sup> of March, it was a great day. I am particularly proud to say that both the strategic plan and organisation restructure were endorsed and work has now begun to make sure they are successfully implemented. Congratulations to all who were elected to roles. Ashley Evans, was returned as State President, Jake Williams (Snr VP), Josh Taylor (Jnr VP) and Sarah Revell (Finance Director). Jake, Josh, Dale Hayers, Nicole Elliott and Anthony Franklin were also elected to take up positions on the Resource Allocation Committee. Taylor Montgomery will also be joining RAC as Sarah was already there in her capacity as Agfest Treasurer. I would also like to pay tribute to Helen Geard and Al Downie, who acted as our Independent Chair and Scrutineer respectively, thank you for continuing to give up your time and support our organisation, it is greatly appreciated.

Everyone who has taken on roles have done so knowing that there is much to be done in the next few months and that new elections will be held once the new Constitution and structure comes in. We are planning to hold a Special General Meeting in early July to make this happen. There is much enthusiasm around these changes and you will continue to be updated as time goes on.

On Friday night, March 24 we held the official launch of the Young Agricultural Professionals Network (YAPN) at Entally Lodge, our joint initiative with Tasmanian Women in Agriculture Inc. Deputy Premier Jeremy Rockliff was in attendance and kindly agreed to speak, we had over 60 prospective members and industry representatives attend and the night was a great success. Current Rural Youth members, aged 18 and over who are working, studying or genuinely interested in the industry and want to increase their knowledge and networks are welcome to join YAPN for free until June 2018, as an introductory offer. If you are interested let me know and we can sign you up. The Committee are currently developing their website and social media presence; more information will be available soon.

Finally, to state the obvious, Agfest is fast approaching, the site and event are coming together and everyone is working hard. If you are able to assist by either volunteering or attending a working bee, we would love to hear from you. For those who are already putting so much in.....thank you, we literally can't do it without you!

**Karen**

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## State President

A big thank-you to the members who voted me in as State President once again. I'm very proud of the position and will endeavour to do the best job I can for the organisation. Congratulations to everyone who was voted in as a representative on state council and to those who have taken on state executive positions:

Senior VP – Jake Williams

Junior VP – Josh Taylor

Treasurer – Sarah Revell

General committee – Bree House, Ethan Williams, Nicole Elliot and Jacqui Hodgkinson

The next three months are going to be busy as we work to implement the new structure. It was passed unanimously, along with the strategic plan at the state AGM. This means going to a board system and making the processes within the organisation much more efficient. We will be holding an SGM on 8 July to vote in the new board, therefore all current state positions are interim. This does not mean that all the things you love about the organisation will be put on hold. We have three jam-packed months ahead, including the Young Farmer competition and State Ball, which will be here before you know it.

On Friday 24 March, after many months of hard work we launched the Young Agricultural Professionals Network. Over 60 people, including Rural Youth members past and present attended the launch at Entally Lodge. Jeremy Rockliff was in attendance to officially launch YAPN. It was a great night and the group is a great initiative for the organisation.

Here's to an exciting three months re-shaping our organisation and making it bigger and better than before!

## Northern Region

Heaps of exciting State ball planning going on in NR this month! We are excited to say we have confirmed a date, venue and theme! It will be held at the Penny Royal in Launceston on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of July with the theme Red Carpet Glamour. So ladies start looking for those dresses and fellas, you'll probably pull out the only suit and tie you wear to everything, so you're easy fixed. So save the date and we look forward to seeing you all there!

Our next meeting will be held at the Newstead Hotel on the 24<sup>th</sup> of April at 7pm

For any further questions please contact Stuart Cresswell on 0488 666 365

## Marcus Oldham Rural Leadership Program 2017

In 2017 Rural Youth Tasmania is going to support one member of the Organisation to attend the Marcus Oldham Rural Leadership Program in Geelong, Victoria. **If you are interested in being selected to attend this course, please complete the attached form and return to the Rural Youth Office by Friday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2017.**



## Looking Forward, Looking Back: Feature Focus on Past Members

### Paul Bennett



There are not many Rural Youth members who do not know the name Paul Bennett and for those who do know him, they know he's a man who gets things done.

Paul joined the organisation in 1991 and alongside a group of mates in the Deloraine area formed the Western Tiers Club. Through hard work and determination the club swelled to 48 members with a bank balance of \$30k in only 12 months. During his Rural Youth career he was also involved in the local football club, studying at college and building his farming enterprise. "If you can make time, you will. If you can make excuses, you will. It's all about priorities."

During his years as a member Paul was involved in a re-structure of the organisation. This time round Agfest became its own entity with a separate budget. Every decade or so Rural Youth's role and purpose changes to mirror the changes in society. The organisation continued to evolve through the 2000s and still to this day. The changes we are currently making are just the next step in a continuous process. As well as being Western Tiers President, Paul went through the ranks to become State VP and State President. He also ran the Young Farmer Competition for a few years.

Like many members, for Paul the major benefit of being involved with Rural Youth is the people you meet and the friendships you make. Rural Youth also provided Paul with the confidence to run meetings and speak well. These are crucial skills for Paul as he represents dairy farmers at a national level. "You will stand out if you can string two words together. It doesn't matter at what level." He hasn't been able to escape Rural Youth. For the last 3 ½ years Paul has sat on RAC as a representative and the chair, making sure we all toe the line. Paul has also been successful in his business life. He is the owner/manager of Ashgrove Cheese as well as the Chairman, keeping him very busy.

Paul's advice for current members of Rural Youth also stands true for all aspects of life. "It's not up to everyone else to do the work, it's up to everyone to work together. It takes a team of people to step up and when you have something to achieve, you don't worry about the cost and hours put in. You get out what you put in."

*I would like to take this opportunity to thank Paul as outgoing RAC chair for his dedication to Rural Youth and for the support he provides to members. His hard work on RAC has ensured that the organisation has stayed on track through the roller coaster that has been the last few years. Thank-you for always picking up the phone and being willing to provide advice when things aren't 100%. You are a real asset to the organisation.*



## Sorell

It's been another quiet month here at Sorell, we had a pizza night at our last meeting on the 13<sup>th</sup> March and we have a few things coming up.

We will be joining the Jordan River School Farm to cook and sell cakes, biscuits, and sandwiches at Farm Fest on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> April.

Also in the next week or two Dave and Maddi will be visiting the Sorell school to talk with the students about Rural Youth and Agfest.

Our next meeting will be held on the 10<sup>th</sup> April 2017 at the Pawleena Hall at 7pm.

**Matt Tattersall**

**0457 546 403**

## Kingborough Huon

KH has been fairly quiet over the last couple months.

Our beautiful Simone married the love of her life. We wish them all the best for the future.

KH members attended the Huon Small Farms Expo on the 26th of March to promote our club and to sell Agfest Tickets, it was a slow day but we managed to sell a few tickets.

Some of our members are busy with Agfest preparations as it's just around the corner! Good luck to the 2017 Agfest committee.

Our April catch up/meeting is set for the [10th April 7-7.30](#) @ The Salty Dog (in the beer garden)

**Kingborough Huon Rural Youth**

**'Get a boot out of life'**

## Hagley

Quiet month for Hagley RY. Last meeting was canceled due to lack of attendance so we packed up and all went out for a nice pub meal and a catch up with those who came along.

Next meeting will be held on the 13<sup>th</sup> of April with the location TBA via the Hagley RY Facebook page or by contacting Jacqui Hodgkinson on 0429 524 243.



AAA SOCKS







## Brighton

Brighton Rural Youth started this year off as a small team, but we now have a total of 14 members who are all raring to go. We have our very own Facebook page up and running, so head over and give Brighton Rural Youth a like to ensure you stay up to date with all news and upcoming events!

Brighton Rural Youth have been working hard to put together plans for the Jordan River School Farm Festival Ute Competition. We have many organisations and businesses that are willing to support and provide sponsorship to the competition. The Ute Competition will kick off on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> April and entries close at 10.30am.

The Competition will consist of 6 categories such as:

- Best 4x4
- Best Tradies
- Best B&S/Feral
- Best Classic
- Best Chicks
- Overall Best

There is over \$1000 worth of prizes to be won so don't miss out!

We will also have a stall at the Jordan River School Farm Festival to provide information to any potential new members.

Our next meeting will be on Monday 27th March at 6.30pm at the Jordan River School classrooms and we encourage anybody who might be interested in joining Brighton Rural Youth to come along and join us.

We are looking forward to all of the new and exciting things that are in store for Brighton Rural Youth!

## North Motton

We have been quite busy up here this month. With Brigid getting ready to go on exchange and the rest of us getting ready for Agfest it's been very hectic..

We managed to find some time as a club to have a tour of Henderson hydroponics in Kindred, starting from the packing sheds we worked our way through their amazing set up. From heated water pipes to a constant water supply for each row of produce it was certainly an eye opener. We then checked out their deer farm and with some nice stags amongst the mob it got a few members excited for deer season.

Well that's it from us.

Cheers from everyone at North Motton.







36 days to go, and who is counting? We are!

With the busiest month of the year upon us, it is all systems go for the Agfest Organising Committee, final plans and preparation, confirmation of bookings AND tent city arrives at Quercus Park in almost a blink of an eye.



Huge thanks to all committee members and volunteers who have complied with our need of accreditation of Working with Vulnerable People checks; stoked to report we have all bar two members who have theirs on the way fully accredited! Great outcome, thanks everyone!

We have 10 members signed up to our World's Greatest Shave scheduled for Agfest Thursday in support of our Official Charity of Choice; The Leukaemia Foundation. With the fundraising goal set for \$400 and almost \$1000 raised so far, we are pretty happy with how this is tracking – please check out who is shaving and who is colouring! <https://secure.leukaemiafoundation.org.au/registant/TeamFundraisingPage.aspx?teamID=102413>



On April 8<sup>th</sup> there is an ATV course organised for Quercus Park in the afternoon – please RSVP to Karen ([generalmanager@ruralyouth.com.au](mailto:generalmanager@ruralyouth.com.au)) if you wish to participate in this – cost is \$90 without your Rural Youth training subsidy.

Our next meeting is April 21<sup>st</sup> at Quercus Park 8pm onwards – all welcome to attend. Every weekend between now and the few weeks after Agfest is a working bee out on site – please let us know if you wish to attend.



Thank you to all that have supported and made contribution towards this years event – exciting times ahead as 2017 Agfest gets closer!

**Kate Birch**

## Agfest Volunteers

Due to technical errors with the previous survey monkey we have recreated the form for you to complete!

Go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Agfest2017>

Thank you for understanding and working with us cooperatively!

**Jacqui Hodgkinson**